8TH RISIS RESEARCH SEMINAR

THE LABOR-MARKET PLACEMENT OF TRAINED PHDS OUTSIDE ACADEMIA: MEASUREMENT AND ANALYSIS

DISCUSSION

PHD TRENDS IMPORTANT FOR A NUMBER REASONS

❖ Social returns to PhD educations

❖ Career preferences for PhDs

❖ How are PhD skills utilized in the non-academic sector?

❖ Effects on science systems of increases in PhDs, temporary positions, and the sorting process that takes place as PhD choose career paths

❖ Differences across sectors, fields

❖ How does increased PhD production influence the economy? Does increased supply create demand?

❖ International in- and outflows of PhDs

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14 APRIL 2021 | PROFESSOR & CENTER DIRECTOR

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KEY QUESTIONS

Study is about:

❖ Comparison of different approaches for collecting data on doctoral holders?

❖ Main focus on the potential of a register-based approach

1. Could data that are already being collected by the national agencies of ERA countries provide reliable information about the (non-academic) labor-market placement of trained PhDs?

2. What would be needed to do so?

3. What would be possible if this could be done?

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WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW CAN INFLUENCE DATA COLLECTION (BUT A NUMBER OF PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS CAN ALSO PLAY A DECISIVE ROLE)

❖ Challenge for international data collection – how to achieve a certain degree of comparability across different approaches?

❖ Key factor is ability to link different data sources

❖ Surveys better able to cover "qualitative" aspects, e.g.;

    ❖ motivations for career choices

    ❖ to what extent skills from PhD utilized in current employment

    ❖ Surveys may also be only option

❖ Register data - broad (full?) coverage of population

    ❖ Linking with employment data

REGISTER-BASED APPROACH

Linking offers a number of options:

- ❖ Earnings
- ❖ Sector of employment
- ❖ Occupations
  - ❖ (data on academic position would also be useful here)
- ❖ Mobility
- ❖ International mobility
  - ❖ (though we can't track people after they go abroad)
- ❖ Combinations of education field and sector/occupation

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GENERAL ISSUES FOR PHD'S AND REGISTERS

- ❖ National doctoral register – reporting from national (PhD-awarding) universities
- ❖ Is it possible to link doctoral register data with other register data?
- ❖ How is data on foreign PhDs (PhD from foreign institution) collected? Is it included in registers?

NORWEGIAN EXAMPLE

❖ How are T1 and T2 defined?

   ❖ T1 – PhD from Norwegian HEI (regardless of nationality)

   ❖ T2 – in Norwegian labor market and PhD (from either Norway or abroad)

❖ Difference between T1 and T2:

   ❖ Norwegian PhDs (from NO HEI) leave Norwegian labor market (outflows)

   ❖ Foreign PhDs (PhD from abroad) enter Norwegian labor market (inflows)

❖ If this is correct, then

   ❖ outflows and inflows surprisingly similar

   ❖ Though with shift towards greater net outflow

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