

How is the Mobility of the “Highly Skilled” monitored?



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Little is known about the various intermediaries that organise, support and control the mobility of individuals with a high level of education and/or socioeconomic capital. Yet, these intermediaries can play a major role at different stages of a migration process by providing various forms of support to those with access to their services, and by excluding others from certain advantages. Their involvement also raises new questions about the way migration and mobility are co-managed by actors from the public and private sector.

Goals

- Improve our understanding of the role of intermediaries in migration governance.
- Show how the notion of “highly skilled migrant” is co-constructed by different actors.
- Investigate the interactions between state and market actors.

Methods

- Ethnographic field research in the French-speaking Lake Geneva and German-speaking Northwestern regions of Switzerland.
- Mixed-mode survey on migration towards Switzerland in collaboration with the NCCR On the Move.

Questions

How do migration intermediaries structure the mobility of people with a high socioeconomic capital?

How do the practices of these intermediaries contribute to creating a category of “highly skilled migrants”?

How do these intermediaries contribute to migration governance?

Key elements



Preliminary results

“Skill” is not the only parameter involved in the construction of “highly skilled migrants”.

The notion of “migration intermediaries” can be applied to a large variety of institutions with various goals and interests.

The frontier between public and private is often fuzzy in the case of high-skilled migration management.

Companies play a key role in monitoring the mobility of the “Highly Skilled”.

Key references

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