

International Students in Switzerland

Who stays in Switzerland after graduation and why?

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Should I stay or should I go?  
Every graduating international student is confronted with this decision.

This research project aims to identify factors which influence international students in their mobility/migration behaviour. To answer the first research question by describing international students, a newly created data set will be analysed.

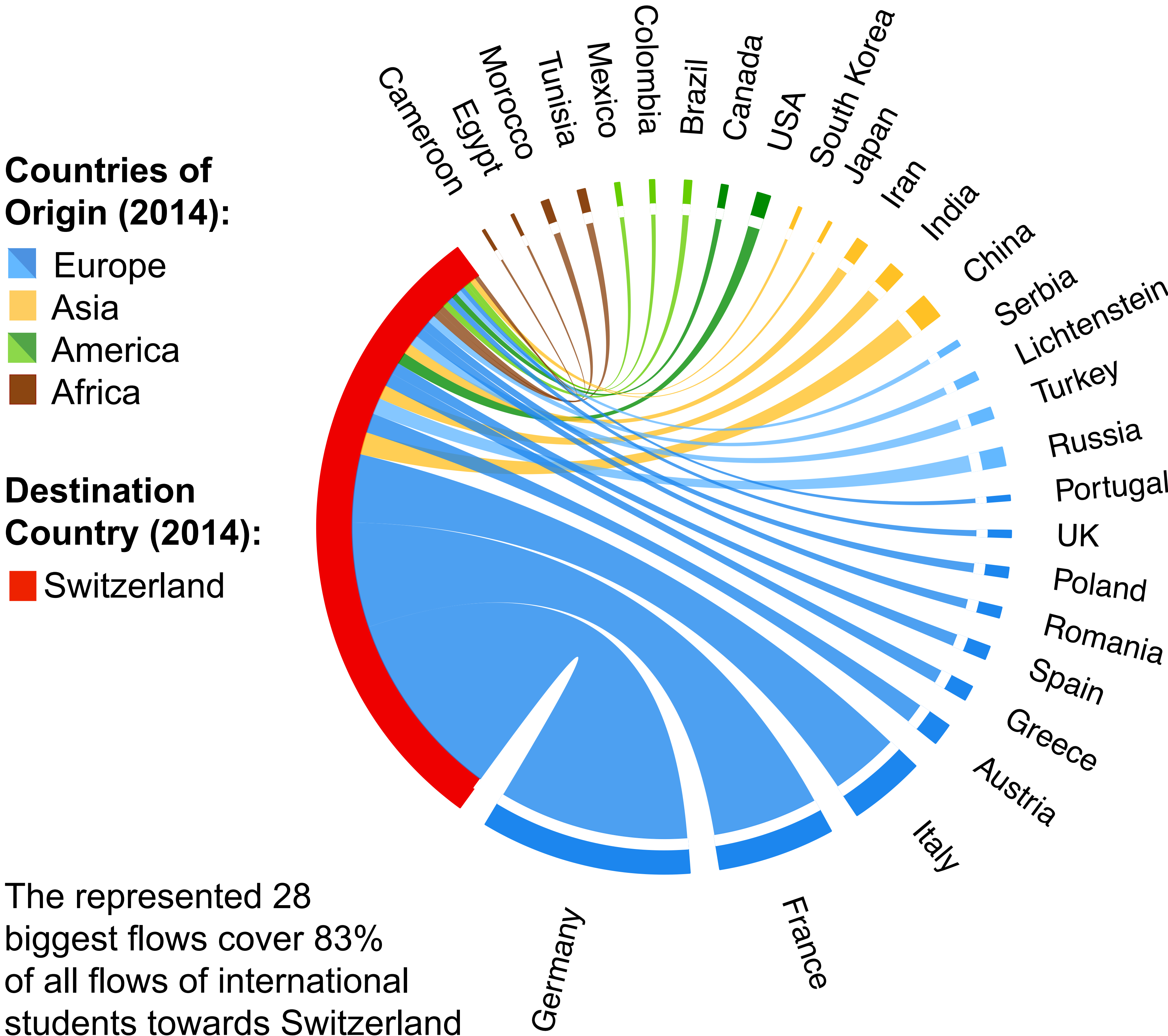
Research Questions

- 1) What are **socio-demographic characteristics** of international students staying in Switzerland after graduation?
- 2) What patterns of **trajectories** can be identified during their stay in Switzerland?
- 3) What are influencing **factors** for international students to stay or to leave Switzerland?

Possible Factors

- Socio-demographic differences
- Cultural and linguistic proximity
- Social ties (marriage & children)
- Legal status (EU/non-EU)
- Labour market demand and conditions for specific disciplines
- Bilateral agreements and policies
- Duration of stay in Switzerland
- Order of events in trajectories

Main Origins of International Students in Switzerland



The represented 28 biggest flows cover 83% of all flows of international students towards Switzerland

Data: Swiss Federal Statistical Office / SHIS, 2015

Statistical Analysis

Creation of a new statistical data set by linking two registers:

– the foreigner register (**ZEMIS**)

– the student register (**SHIS**)

ZEMIS		SHIS
country of origin	social security n°	prior degrees
resident permit	date of birth	university
employment	gender	study field
civil status	nationality	enrolment
birth of child	country of birth	graduation

Some Facts & Numbers

- **25%** was the share of international students in 2014
- **31'105** international students were enrolled at Swiss universities
- **29%** of the international students came from non-EU countries:

