

Symbolic Capital and Identity Capital from International Student Mobility

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International student mobility (ISM) is widely discussed as determinant for labor market and personal outcomes (EHEA 2012). The participation in ISM programs seems to be highly socially selective (Netz & Finger 2016). This paper draws on the rising academic debate on returns on education (Villa 2000) from a sociological perspective. It addresses the following research question: Are there heterogeneous monetary and non-monetary returns to international student mobility in terms of wages and personal development? While human capital theory and signaling theory would propose similar positive wage effects, I draw on Bourdieu's theory of cultural reproduction and his concepts of habitus and symbolic capital to propose group differences in terms of positive wage effects only in case of academic background. Furthermore, I draw on Mead's identity theory of symbolic interaction to propose group differences in terms of positive personal effects only in case of non-academic background.

I operationalize ISM as a treatment and use propensity score matching to calculate the average treatment effect on the treated. I calculate matchings for graduates with and without academic background to assess heterogeneous effects. Data from the DZHW Graduate Panel 2013.1 are used with an analysis sample of more than 3.000 observations. The poster will present first evidence.