

Highly-skilled migration and new destination countries : how government policies shape destination choices

Citation for published version (APA):

Hercog, M. (2014). *Highly-skilled migration and new destination countries : how government policies shape destination choices*. [Doctoral Thesis, Maastricht University]. Boekenplan. <https://doi.org/10.26481/dis.20140625mh>

Document status and date:

Published: 01/01/2014

DOI:

[10.26481/dis.20140625mh](https://doi.org/10.26481/dis.20140625mh)

Document Version:

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Please check the document version of this publication:

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HIGHLY-SKILLED MIGRATION AND NEW DESTINATION COUNTRIES

door

METKA HERCOG

1. *Policies and objectives.* Immigration policies have a direct goal of attracting or repeling certain types of migrants and can therefore be reassessed if found inappropriate. (Chapter 1)
2. *Objectives of migration policies.* The ways in which the governing actors view the world plays a decisive role in shaping migration policies and creating categories of migrants that are either wanted or unwanted. This is more likely to be connected to the way they are viewed by interest groups in receiving countries than by the characteristics migrants actually possess. Recent encouragement of skilled immigration also needs to be seen from this standpoint. (Chapter 2)
3. *Convergence vs. divergence.* Nation-states remain in control over immigration policy changes and do not necessarily have consistent policy reactions when confronted with similar conditions. (Chapter 3)
4. *Persistence through time.* The current state of migration in receiving countries is the result of policies spanning several decades, not all of which promote contemporary objectives. Overcoming this entrenchment takes sustained effort and time. (Chapters 2, 4 and 7)
5. *Criteria and merit.* Though non-meritocratic and outside of individual control, age is increasingly considered a criterion of quality. (Chapters 2, 3 and 6)
6. *New destinations.* Migration to new destinations often entails higher costs and risks which can be overcome by informed networks, higher income levels and better language skills. These attributes enable potential movers to overcome their lack of information about new destinations and can catalyze movement to less common destinations. (Chapter 7)
7. *Types of desirability.* Being considered desirable as a destination country for short-term migration is not equivalent to acting as a desirable destination for probable long-term stays abroad. (Chapter 3 and 7)
8. *Truth.* Sanity is not statistical.

Winston in George Orwell (1992). Nineteen Eighty-Four. London: Everyman's Library, p.227

9. *The dissertation.* You have to draw the line somewhere. (Chapter 8)