Bridging the literature on education migration

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“International education is **critical** to Canada’s success. In a highly competitive, knowledge-based global economy, ideas and innovation go hand in hand with job creation and economic growth. **In short, international education is at the very heart of our current and future prosperity.**”

[emphasis mine]

The Honourable Ed Fast, Minister of International Trade

*Canada’s International Education Strategy,* 2014
International education

- Globally framed as “war for talent”\(^1\) & “skills race”\(^2\)
- One of 22 priority sectors under Canada’s Global Markets Action Plan

International education consists of three waves:
- **international students / education migrants**
- partnerships with institutions abroad
- branch campuses / online courses
International students in Canada

- Approx. 305,000 students on visas (2013)
- Goal is to reach 450,000 students by 2022 (Canada’s International Education Strategy 2014)
  - Economic benefits – spending, jobs, tax revenues
  - Labour benefits – enhances skilled labour pool
Taking stock: A Canada-centred review

- Education migrant includes: elementary, secondary, and tertiary level students on visas; students not on visas (<6 months duration); unaccompanied children, transnational split-households
- English-language journal articles, books, reports published by August 2014
- Multidisciplinary: education, psychology, sociology, geography, economics, political science
- Out of approximately 170 documents (74% academic), by year published:
  - Pre-1990 (17%)
  - 1990-1999 (6%)
  - 2000-2009 (34%)
  - 2010-2014 (43%)
Main themes

1. Causes of international student mobility
   - Demand-side explanations / push-pull models / motivations
   - Supply-side explanations / structural conditions / institutional perspectives

2. Experiences of international students / education migrants
   - Academic, social, psychological well-being

3. Future intentions

4. Post-study transitions
   - Stayers
   - Returnees
The future: Policy implications

- Maintain/sustain (the reputation of) high quality Canadian education.
- Re-affirm social development and intercultural understanding as a priority.
- Support pathways to permanent residence and address barriers.
The future: A research agenda

- A comprehensive historical account of ISM to Canada
- ISM systems
- Employers’ knowledge and practices
- Students:
  - Definition of “Canadians”; definition of “quality”
  - Dissatisfied students, early leavers
  - Employment outcomes of returnees
  - Domestic students
- The effect of legal status on various outcomes
- Trajectories of IS who stay and comparisons with non-IS permanent migrants
Source: CUPE 3903, Total wages after tuition

- $125,000.00

- $6,001.05

Unit 1 TA, Domestic (PhD)*
Unit 3 GA, Domestic (MA)*

Unit 1 TA, International (PhD)*
Unit 3 GA, International (MA)*
References
