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## Self-selection and earnings of emigrants from a welfare state

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## Self-Selection and Earnings of Emigrants from a Welfare State

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# Self-Selection and Earnings of Emigrants from a Welfare State

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## ABSTRACT

### **Self-Selection and Earnings of Emigrants from a Welfare State<sup>\*</sup>**

Following a seminal contribution by Borjas (1987), a large literature has analyzed how income distribution and redistribution are related to immigration to various rich countries. In this paper, we take a look at the other side of the coin. We analyze emigration from Denmark, which is one of the richest and most redistributive European Welfare States. Using comprehensive register data on full population and a unique new representative survey, we analyze whether Danes with relatively high earnings ability favor countries with more unequal income distribution and lower taxes, like the United States.

JEL Classification: F22, J61, H2

Keywords: migration, emigration, redistribution, brain drain, education

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## 1. Introduction

In a seminal contribution, Borjas (1987) analyzed the effect of cross-country differences in income distribution on the self-selection and earnings of immigrants. His main thesis was that the immigrants to the United States tend to come from the upper end of the income distribution if there is a sufficiently high correlation between individual earnings in the country of origin and expected earnings in the United States, in case of migrating there, and if the country of origin has a more equal income distribution than the United States. Subsequently, Dahl (2002) has analyzed self-selected migration inside the United States and Chiquiar and Hanson (2005) migration from Mexico to the United States. All of these contributions use census data. Using micro panel data for Germany, Dustman (2003) presents and tests a model to analyze the optimal duration of stay for immigrants in Germany.

Immigration flows into one country are, by definition, emigration flows for another country. In this paper, we explore this other side of the coin. We analyze emigration from Denmark, which is one of the richest and most redistributive European Welfare States. We compare the characteristics of Danish migrants into different destination countries. In part of the analysis, we compare migration to different country groups, in other parts, we focus on Germany, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States, which together received 59.0 percent of Danes who emigrated between 1987 and 2002 and still stay abroad, and were aged 18 or more at the time of emigration.

Our first research question is to explore the main motivations for emigration for those Danes who stay abroad. The Borjas hypothesis suggests that those looking for higher salaries should be more likely to choose countries with a higher average level of earnings, and wider income differences, if they belong themselves on the upper end of earnings distribution. Higher wages and lower taxes should then be a more important motivation for those going to countries like the United States and the United Kingdom, than among those choosing other Nordic countries or Western Europe. Correspondingly, other motivations should be more important among migrants to other Nordic countries or Western Europe. In our survey, we ask respondents for their main purpose for emigrating, including a higher salary, being posted by the employer, other work-related considerations, studies and improving language skills, family-related motivations and search for adventure. We also ask for a number of economic and public service considerations (standard of living, wage level, taxation, health care, old-age care and income transfers) whether they were a reason in favor of or against emigrating. We take a look at gender differences, both generally and separately for main destination countries. Borjas (1987) analyzes only males.

Second, how do Danes who have migrated to various destination countries differ from each other, in terms of education and occupation before and after migration? Are there differences in the occupational choices of Danes going to different destinations? Again, we also look for gender differences, and also control for cohort effects. The Borjas hypothesis suggests that migrants choosing the United States and the United Kingdom should be more likely to have higher education and work in managerial or high-skilled positions than those going to other Nordic countries and Continental Europe. Third, what is the earnings distribution of the Danes who emigrate and stay abroad in different countries?

The Borjas hypothesis suggests that the Danes who emigrate should come from the upper end of earnings distribution, at least when it comes to Danes who migrate to the United States and other countries with a lower level of redistribution and wider income differences than in Denmark. To test this, we compare the educational qualifications and occupations of Danes living in various countries, most notably the United States, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Norway and Germany. Of these countries, the United States and the United Kingdom have lowest level of income redistribution and widest income differences, and are furthest away. Sweden and Norway are very close both culturally and geographically and also have extensive welfare states and narrow income distribution. The language spoken in those countries is very close to Danish. Germany is also a neighboring country, and locates between Scandinavian and Anglo-Saxon countries in the level of redistribution and earnings differences.

We also compare earnings in 2007 for Danes who live in different destination countries. Also this analysis is done separately for men and women, due to female average earnings being less than male average earnings in all countries we study. We also compare earnings when restricting the attention to those with Master's level of education or more. The observed earnings differences are then likely to capture both unobserved ability differences and cross-country differences in returns to education.

Our paper is organized as follows. Section 2 presents a literature review. Section 3 provides an overview of emigration and return migration of Danes from 1987 onwards. We present total emigration flows for 1987 to 2007, and then study shorter (less than five years) and longer (more than five years) stays for those who emigrated from 1987 to 2003, the data period being chosen to correspond with the survey data. Section 4 summarizes our survey data.

In section 5, we present survey results on the main motivation for emigration for Danes going to different destination countries. In section 6, we compare educational qualifications of Danes living in different destinations to each other and to Danes who live in Denmark in 2007. Section 7 reports primary occupations of Danish migrants who stay abroad before migration and in 2007.

In Section 8, we use survey data to examine 2007 pre-tax incomes of Danes living in different countries. Section 9 concludes.

## **2. Earlier Literature**

Following classical contributions by Roy (1951) and Sjaastad (1962), Borjas (1987) and Chiquiar and Hanson (2005) applied the Roy model to international migration and Dahl (2002) to migration between US states. Borjas (1987) concludes that the theory predicts that the emigration rate is a negative function of mean income in the home country, and a positive function of the mean income in the United States. Empirical results confirm this.

Furthermore, the theory proposed by Borjas predicts that the quality of migrants depends on the ratio of variances of the income distributions in the source and destination countries. If the correlation between productivity at the countries of origin and the destination country is sufficiently high, then immigrants from countries with less

income inequality than in the destination country tend to be of higher quality than immigrants from countries with more income inequality than in the destination country. Empirical analysis shows that while immigrants from countries with more income inequality have lower earnings when there is no control for GNP per capita, such relationship vanishes when the control for GNP per capita is added. This reflects the high negative correlation between income inequality and GNP per capita, driven by the difference between Western Europe and developing countries. Chiquiar and Hanson (2005) test the theory further using US and Mexican census data. They conclude that if Mexican immigrants in the United States were paid according to current skill prices in Mexico, they would be concentrated in the middle of Mexico's wage distribution. This is inconsistent with the negative selection hypothesis, contradicting findings in Borjas (1987) for immigration to the United States. Therefore, the empirical evidence is mixed.

Dahl (2002) uses the Roy model to explain why observed returns to a college education in local labor markets in the United States vary widely even though workers are highly mobile. His results suggest that self-selection of higher educated individuals to states with higher returns to education plays an important role in explaining observed differences.

Most of the literature on migration has focused on immigration into rich countries, or migration from poor to rich countries. Exceptions include Lundborg (1991), examining migration flows from Denmark, Finland and Norway to Sweden from 1968 to 1985. He concludes that migration flows react positively (negatively) to real income and unemployment benefits in the destination (source) country and the unemployment rate in the source (destination) country. Pirttilä (2004) analyzes emigration from Finland. Controlling for a number of other characteristics, highly educated Finns were five times more likely to emigrate than individuals with secondary education only. Using panel data on the number of migrants to 20 OECD countries from 1990 to 2000, Pirttilä concludes that tax rates have a low power in explaining migration flows.

### **3. Danish Emigration and Return Migration**

Denmark is a Scandinavian welfare state with a relatively high standard of living, a low level of income inequality, and one of the highest tax rates worldwide. As a member state of the European Union, Denmark participates in the common European labor market, which implemented free mobility of labor in 1993. Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden) had implemented free mobility already in 1954.

Figure 1 shows the number of emigrants with Danish citizenship in each year from 1987 to 2007. We restrict the attention to those who were aged 18 or more when they emigrated. As a background, one can notice that Denmark was in a recession from 1980's to 1993 with a small recovery from 1984 to 1987. From 1993 onwards, there was a long boom with a small recession from 2000 to 2002.

**Figure 1:** Danish migrants aged 18 or more, 1987 to 2007

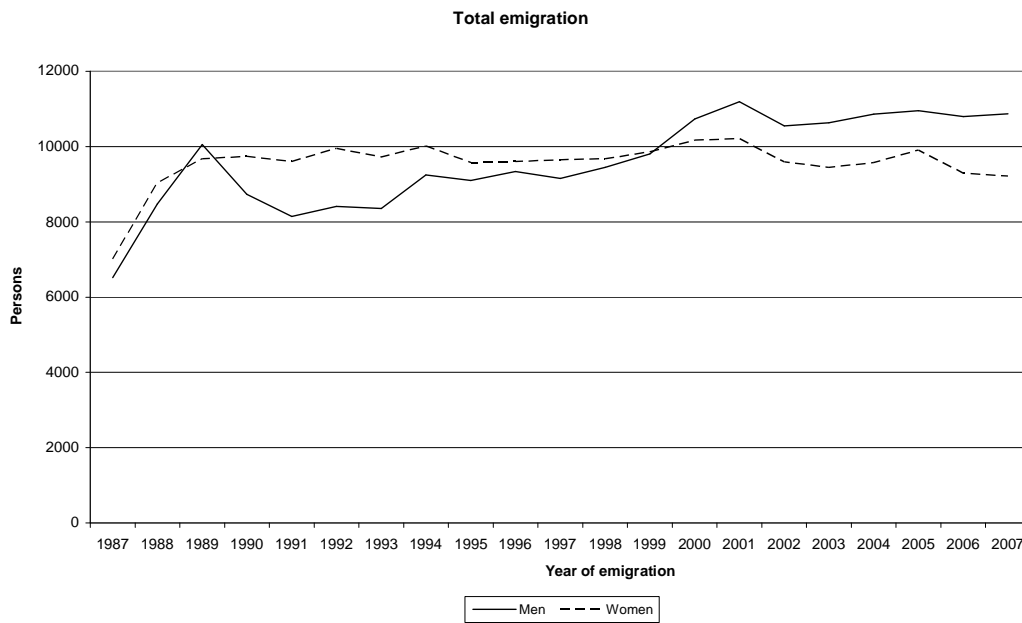
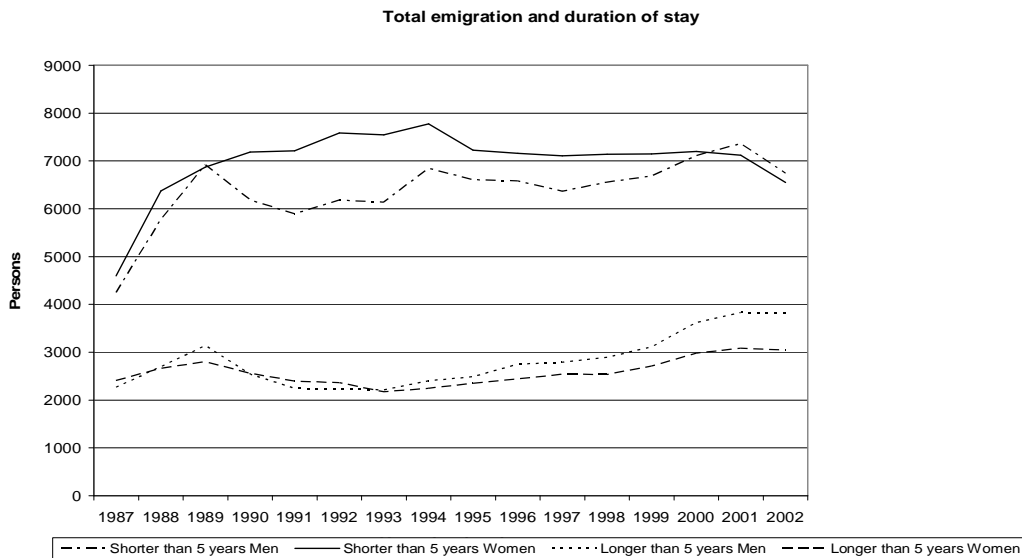


Figure 2 reports the number of male and female adult emigrants from 1987 to 2002, according to whether they stayed abroad at least 5 years (including those still abroad) or returned within 5 years. Majority of emigrants in each year have returned within 5 years. Staying abroad for at least five years suggests a relatively high likelihood of permanent emigration: from 1980 until 1998, 88 percent of those who had not returned within five years stayed abroad still after ten years. And among emigrants who left between 1980 and 1993, 82 percent of those who had not returned within five years had not returned within 15 years, either. Furthermore, we see much more fluctuation in emigration among those who returned within 5 years. The number of women going abroad for at least 5 years has fluctuated between 2,000 and 3,000 in almost every year. There has been a steady increase in long-term emigration from 1993 onwards, especially among men whose annual emigration rate reached almost 4,000 in 2001 and 2002, while the rate for women was about 3,000.

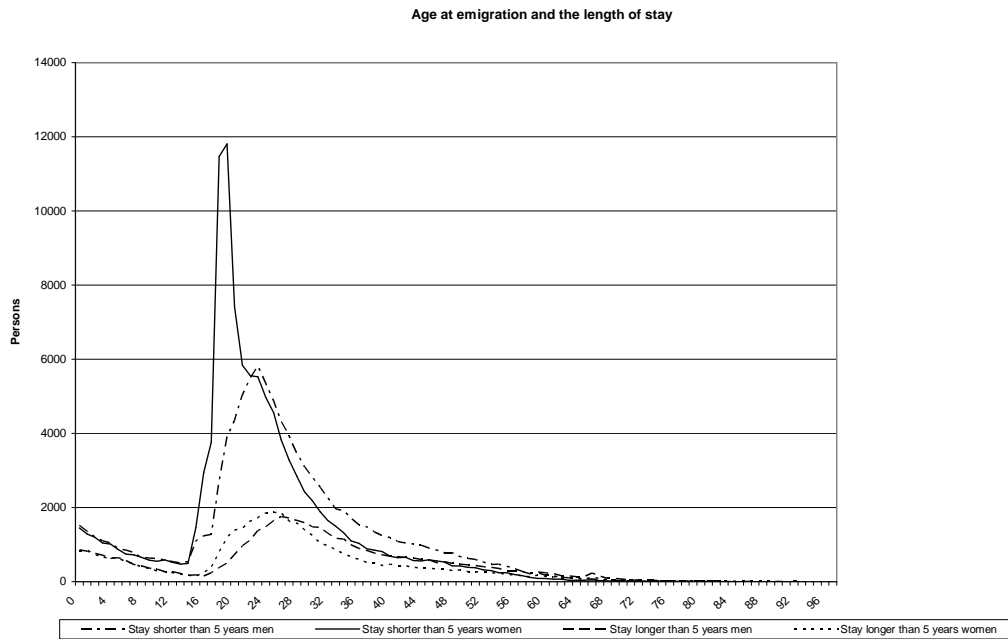
**Figure 2:** Duration of stay abroad for Danish migrants aged 18 or more, 1987 to 2002





In Figure 3, we report for each age at the year of emigration the number of male and female emigrants from 1987 to 2002, according to whether they stayed abroad at least 5 years (including those still abroad) or returned within 5 years. In that figure, we include also children as this is indicative of family migration. We see that the probability of emigration declines in the age of children until late teenage. At the age of 18, an enormous increase in female short-term emigration is taking place. These women are mainly emigrating for a job as ‘au pair’.

**Figure 3:** Age at emigration and the length of stay, 1987 to 2002



#### 4. Survey and Register Data

Our main register data sources are the population register, income tax register, education register, register on wages that gives occupation before emigration, and migration register. Data from various registers is combined using social security number (CPR number). By law, all residents in Denmark have to have a social security number which is also necessary in everyday life, including opening a bank account, receiving wages and salaries or social assistance, visiting doctor or being registered at school. From the migration register, we have dates of migration and country of destination. Even though it is possible to migrate without registering, we expect that these numbers are small. First of all, it is mandatory to report migration. Second, tax laws are likely to induce individuals to register. However, some income transfers could have the opposite effect, as individuals are supposed to be available for a job in Denmark to be eligible. We combine migration and household data by merging on (anonymous) CPR numbers.

In 2008, Statistics Denmark carried out for us two surveys among Danes who had emigrated in 1987, 1988, 1992, 1993, 1997, 1998, 2001 and 2002. One survey targeted Danes who still stay abroad, and another Danes who had subsequently returned to Denmark. We obtained a representative sample of 3,079 Danes who have emigrated and later returned to Denmark, and 4,260 Danes who have emigrated and still

live abroad. The response rate in the survey for Danes who have returned to Denmark was 67 percent. In the survey of Danes who stay abroad, the response rate was 61 percent. The response rates are exceptionally good in international comparison. In this paper, we focus on the survey for Danes who stay abroad. For more on this survey, please see Appendix A. A significant fraction of Danes who have returned from abroad were sent abroad by their employer, or were in student exchange, or the like. For them, there is no reason to expect that the Borjas hypothesis would hold. Also, the earlier literature on which we compare our results focuses on long-term migration. The survey also included 134 Danes who had migrated to Greenland or Faroe Islands, which are autonomous regions but still part of Denmark. We have excluded them as many of these migrants could originally come from Greenland or Faroe Islands, and actually be returning home rather than emigrating. Therefore, all remaining results are for those 4,126 Danes who did not emigrate to Greenland or Faroe Islands.

We report as Tables 1a and 1b how the respondents were distributed between different destination country groups, and where they live currently. English-speaking countries stand out as the main destination (38 percent of male and 40 percent of female respondents), followed by other Nordic countries (21 percent of male and female respondents), Western Europe and German-speaking countries. Together, Western Europe and German-speaking countries received 28 percent of male and 32 percent of female respondents. Percentages are quite similar when looking at the current country group of residence. The reason why we have 55 respondents who report to live in Denmark in Table 1b is that they have returned to Denmark after the summer 2007 when the sampling was made. The group Rest of Europe includes also Turkey and Israel, which both received only a few Danes.

**Table 1a.** *Main destinations in the survey for Danes who stay abroad*

<b>Country group</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>Women</b>	<b>Total</b>
English-speaking	762	844	1,606
Other Nordic	411	451	862
Western Europe	298	364	662
German-speaking	263	325	588
Rest of Asia	126	40	166
Rest of Europe	62	49	111
Rest of Africa	31	25	56
Latin America	35	17	52
Middle East and North Africa	16	7	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,004</b>	<b>2,122</b>	<b>4,126</b>

*Source: Register data*

**Table 1b.** *Main residence country groups in the survey for Danes who stay abroad*

<b>Country group</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>Women</b>	<b>Total</b>
English-speaking	761	833	1,594
Other Nordic	396	443	839
Western Europe	280	361	641
German-speaking	254	306	560
Rest of Asia	144	44	188
Rest of Europe	57	54	111
Latin America	41	16	57
Rest of Africa	29	19	48
Middle East and North Africa	20	13	33
Denmark	22	33	55
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,004</b>	<b>2,122</b>	<b>4,126</b>

*Source: survey and register data*

We report as Table 2a the number of respondents who emigrated to the main destination countries, and in Table 2b what are the current main countries of residence of respondents. The United Kingdom and the United States are by far biggest destinations, with more than 600 respondents from each, followed by Norway, Germany and Sweden. When looking at the current country of residence, the United States is slightly ahead of the United Kingdom.

For some countries, there are clear gender differences. Men are in majority among respondents from the United States, and women among respondents from France (64 percent), the United Kingdom (60 percent), Norway (57 percent), and Germany (55 percent). The number of male and female respondents is almost the same in Sweden, Switzerland, and Australia.

**Table 2a.** *Main destination countries in the survey for Danes who stay abroad*

<b>Country</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>Women</b>	<b>Total</b>
United Kingdom	276	407	683
United States	342	293	635
Norway	202	252	454
Germany	181	220	401
Sweden	187	182	369
France	66	106	172
Switzerland	73	89	162
Australia	79	73	152
Spain	63	51	114
Netherlands	53	60	113
Other	482	389	871
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,004</b>	<b>2,122</b>	<b>4,126</b>

Source: Register data

**Table 2b.** *Main countries of residence in the survey for Danes who stay abroad*

<b>Country</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>Women</b>	<b>Total</b>
United States	360	294	654
United Kingdom	255	393	648
Norway	191	251	442
Germany	161	200	361
Sweden	182	177	359
Switzerland	83	89	172
Australia	85	82	167
France	54	96	150
Spain	62	59	121
Netherlands	53	64	117
Denmark	22	33	55
Other	496	384	880
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,004</b>	<b>2,122</b>	<b>4,126</b>

Source: survey and register data

## 5. Main Motivations to Emigrate and Stay Abroad

### 5.1. Main purpose of Emigration

In our survey, we asked each respondent to pick his or her main motivation to emigrate. We have combined different motivations into those related to own work (includes being sent by employer, fixed-term appointment, obtaining a more interesting job, limited job opportunities in Denmark, or better pay abroad), studies and language, partner and other family considerations and other motivations (among which search for adventure was most prominent). In the table 3, we see that most Danes who emigrated and stay abroad were motivated by either job or family considerations. We find a big gender difference in emigration motivations. Majority of men (53 percent) list considerations related to own work as main motivation to emigrate, and 19 percent list family considerations. For women, the results are almost the opposite: 22 percent list work-related motivations, and 47 percent family considerations. Studies were initially main motivation for 9 percent of men and 11 percent of women.

**Table 3. Main purpose of emigration**

<b>Considerations related to:</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>Women</b>	<b>Total</b>	
	Pct.	Pct	Freq.	Pct.
<b>Own work</b>	<b>53.44</b>	<b>21.91</b>	<b>1,536</b>	<b>37.23</b>
Being sent by employer	19.06	4.76	483	11.71
Other work-related	34.38	17.15	1053	25.52
<b>Partner and family</b>	<b>18.61</b>	<b>47.17</b>	<b>1,374</b>	<b>33.30</b>
Migrating to live with a partner	11.78	30.11	875	21.21
Other family-related	6.84	17.06	499	12.09
<b>Studies and language</b>	<b>9.28</b>	<b>11.07</b>	<b>421</b>	<b>10.20</b>
<b>Adventure</b>	<b>11.63</b>	<b>11.88</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>11.75</b>
<b>Other motivations</b>	<b>18.66</b>	<b>19.84</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>7.51</b>
Total number of obs.	2,004	2,122	4,126	4,126

Source: Survey data

In Tables 4a and 4b, we report the main motivations to emigrate according to the destination, again separately for men and women. There are marked differences between different regions. Own work stands out as main motivation especially for Africa, Asia and Latin America, where 73 percent of men and 34 percent of women pick it. Partner and family is most important for 29 percent of men going to other Nordic countries, 18 percent of men going to English-speaking countries and Western Europe, and less for other destinations. Among women, partner and family is picked by 55 percent in the small group going to the rest of Europe, and quite evenly by 45 to 49 percent among women emigrating to all other destination groups. Studies and language stand out with 13 percent among men going to English-speaking and German-speaking countries. Among women, studies and language are the main motivation for 15 percent going to English-speaking countries, and 13 percent going to Western Europe or German-speaking countries. Somewhat surprisingly, both male and female emigrants to English-speaking countries list adventure as main motivation more often than those going to other destinations.

**Table 4a. Main purpose of emigration for Danish men**

<b>Motivations</b>	<b>English-speaking countries</b>	<b>Other Nordic countries</b>	<b>Western Europe</b>	<b>German-speaking countries</b>	<b>Other European countries</b>	<b>Africa, Asia and Latin America</b>
Own work	48.16	45.26	56.71	58.94	67.74	73.08
Partner and family	18.24	29.20	18.12	13.31	14.52	7.69
Studies and language	12.86	6.33	7.72	13.31	3.23	0.96
Adventure	14.44	8.27	10.74	10.27	8.06	12.02
Other motivations	6.30	10.95	6.71	4.18	6.45	6.25
Total number of obs.	762	411	298	263	62	208

Source: Survey and register data

**Table 4b. Main purpose of emigration for Danish women**

<b>Motivations</b>	<b>English-speaking countries</b>	<b>Other Nordic countries</b>	<b>Western Europe</b>	<b>German-speaking countries</b>	<b>Other European countries</b>	<b>Africa, Asia and Latin America</b>
Own work	16.82	23.73	26.65	24.31	20.41	33.71
Partner and family	45.50	48.56	46.15	49.23	55.10	48.31
Studies and language	14.93	2.88	13.46	12.92	4.08	3.37
Adventure	15.28	10.64	8.79	8.92	12.24	8.99
Other motivations	7.46	14.19	4.95	4.62	8.16	5.62
Total number of obs.	844	451	364	325	49	89

Source: Survey and register data

If restricting the attention to emigrants who were in the work force before emigration, the general patterns do not change much, apart from a smaller fraction picking studies and language as the main motivation, and more picking work. Those tables are in Appendix B.

When restricting the attention to the main destination countries (Tables 5a and 5b), we also find big cross-country differences. Work-related considerations are especially pronounced for men going to the United Kingdom (60 percent), while among men going to Sweden and Norway, work was main motivation for only 43 percent, and family considerations for 27-30 percent. Family considerations were main motivation for 56 percent of women going to the United States, 53 percent of women going to Sweden, and 48 percent going to Germany. All in all, this suggests that the selection effects of the Borjas hypothesis should be much more important for men than for women. A similar pattern arises when analyzing only those emigrants who were in the work force before emigration, as can be seen from tables in Appendix B.

**Table 5a. Main purpose of emigration for Danish men**

<b>Motivations</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>UK</b>	<b>Norway</b>	<b>Sweden</b>	<b>Germany</b>	<b>Other</b>
Own work	50.88	57.25	44.55	46.52	56.35	56.37
Partner and family	19.88	10.51	29.21	27.27	12.15	17.65
Studies and language	12.57	17.03	6.93	4.81	16.57	5.27
Adventure	11.11	10.87	14.36	2.67	10.50	13.73
Other motivations	5.56	4.35	4.95	18.72	4.42	6.99
Total number of obs.	342	276	202	187	181	816

Source: Survey and register data

**Table 5b Main purpose of emigration for Danish women**

<b>Motivations</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>UK</b>	<b>Norway</b>	<b>Sweden</b>	<b>Germany</b>	<b>Other</b>
Own work	17.06	17.20	26.59	19.78	25.00	24.35
Partner and family	53.24	36.61	46.43	52.20	49.09	48.96
Studies and language	11.95	20.15	2.78	3.30	13.18	9.90
Adventure	9.56	17.94	15.08	3.85	7.73	11.59
Other motivations	8.19	8.11	9.13	20.88	5.00	5.21
Total number of obs.	293	407	252	182	220	768

Source: Survey and register data

We also asked respondents on a number of considerations whether they were a reason in favor of or against emigrating. We report below for a number of questions related to income distribution and the welfare state which fraction of respondents considered each issue an argument in favor of or against emigrating.

**Table 6a.** *Economic and public service considerations related to migration for Danish men*

<b>Considerations related to:</b>	<b>In favor of emigrating</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Against emigrating</b>	<b>Not relevant</b>	<b>Total no. of obs.</b>
Standard of living	47.36	28.84	7.04	16.77	2004
Wage level	58.43	21.06	6.19	14.32	2004
Taxation	54.84	20.66	2.45	22.06	2004
Daycare	14.33	36.26	21.05	28.36	342
Schools	32.75	32.75	18.71	15.79	342
Health care	10.08	35.23	22.50	32.19	2004
Old-age care	1.80	27.15	19.46	51.60	2004
Public pensions	1.25	26.50	16.87	55.39	2004
Other transfers	1.65	26.50	14.42	57.44	2004

*Source: Survey data*

**Table 6b.** *Economic and public service considerations related to migration for Danish women*

<b>Considerations related to:</b>	<b>In favor of emigrating</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Against emigrating</b>	<b>Not relevant</b>	<b>Total no. of obs.</b>
Standard of living	32.09	26.15	9.38	32.38	2122
Wage level	28.84	25.78	12.91	32.47	2122
Taxation	27.80	22.48	2.78	46.94	2122
Daycare	16.82	26.79	22.12	34.27	321
Schools	34.27	24.92	16.82	23.99	321
Health care	9.05	26.25	18.57	46.14	2122
Old-age care	1.46	21.21	17.44	59.90	2122
Public pensions	0.80	20.69	16.02	62.49	2122
Other transfers	1.18	21.87	11.59	65.36	2122

*Source: Survey data*

For men, wages, taxation and the standard of living stand out as considerations in favor of emigrating. These are also considerations in favor of emigration for women, though for a smaller fraction. The considerably larger fraction of women reporting these considerations as less relevant is related to a large fraction of women emigrating because of a partner.

Tables 6a and 6b tell that the Danish welfare state is viewed as a reason against emigrating especially when it comes to old-age care, public pensions and other transfers. Among both men and women, less than 2 percent see any of these as a reason in favor of emigrating, and 14-19 percent of men and 12-17 percent of women as a reason against emigrating. Concerning health care, opinions are more divided, with 23 per-

cent of men and 19 percent of women seeing health care as a motivation to stay in Denmark, and 10 percent of men and 9 percent of women seeing it as a motivation to emigrate.

We also asked parents with children about schools and daycare. Here, the results for the Danish welfare state are less positive than concerning old-age care and transfers. 21 percent of men and 22 percent of women see daycare as an argument against emigrating, and 14 percent of men and 17 percent of women as an argument in favor of emigrating. Schools are an argument in favor of emigrating for 33 percent of men and 34 percent of women, and an argument against emigrating for 19 percent of men and 17 percent of women. When interpreting the figures, it is important to highlight that these are opinions of Danes who stay abroad, and that the answers reflect the respondent's personal situation.

We also analyzed main economic and public service considerations, according to the destination country group. These are reported as Tables 7a and 7b.

**Table 7a.** *Economic and public service considerations related to migration for men according to destination*

Considerations related to:	English-speaking countries		Other Nordic countries		Western Europe		German-speaking countries		Other European countries		Africa, Asia and Latin America	
	For	Against	For	Against	For	Against	For	Against	For	Against	For	Against
Standard of living	48.4	9.6	37.5	4.6	51.7	6.4	45.6	4.6	43.6	12.9	60.1	4.8
Wage level	62.9	4.7	39.9	8.0	58.1	10.1	59.7	6.5	79.0	4.8	71.6	2.4
Taxation	60.9	2.1	34.6	3.4	53.0	3.4	57.0	1.5	67.7	3.2	68.6	1.4
Health care	5.9	31.4	13.1	7.3	15.4	20.1	16.4	10.7	3.2	35.5	5.8	34.6
Old-age care	0.8	26.4	4.1	6.3	1.3	16.8	2.7	12.9	0.0	27.4	1.0	29.8
Public pensions	0.8	23.6	3.2	3.9	1.3	16.1	0.8	10.7	0.0	27.4	0.0	23.6
Other transfers	0.8	20.5	2.2	4.4	1.7	13.4	3.0	8.4	1.6	22.6	1.9	18.8

Source: Survey and register data

**Table 7b.** *Economic and public service considerations for women according to destination*

Considerations related to:	English-speaking countries		Other Nordic countries		Western Europe		German-speaking countries		Other European countries		Africa, Asia and Latin America	
	For	Against	For	Against	For	Against	For	Against	For	Against	For	Against
Standard of living	31.3	14.1	29.3	2.7	34.9	10.2	31.1	4.3	30.6	18.4	47.2	9.0
Wage level	30.3	14.5	24.2	6.7	26.1	19.0	35.1	10.5	14.3	22.5	34.8	9.0
Taxation	33.3	4.2	21.7	2.0	25.3	1.9	27.1	1.5	16.3	2.0	25.8	2.3
Health care	5.2	30.8	6.9	5.1	13.7	15.7	18.2	6.8	4.08	22.5	6.7	23.6
Old-age care	1.0	27.7	2.4	3.6	1.7	15.4	1.9	10.5	0.0	24.5	0.0	20.2
Public pensions	0.1	26.3	1.6	2.9	1.1	14.0	1.2	8.9	2.0	24.5	0.0	14.6
Other transfers	1.2	19.7	1.8	2.2	0.8	9.6	0.9	5.9	2.0	12.2	0.0	11.2

Source: Survey and register data

Tables 7a and 7b reveal that the tax side is a consideration in favor of emigrating for more than half of men going to all other destinations than other Nordic countries, and

even among men going to other Nordic countries, 35 percent saw differences in taxation as a reason to emigrate and 3 percent as a reason not to emigrate. For women, differences are smaller, taxation being a reason to emigrate for 33 percent and a reason against emigrating for 4 percent of women going to English-speaking countries.

Old-age care, public pensions and other income transfers are seen as a reason against emigration for those going outside the Nordic countries. Opinions about health care are more mixed. Those going to other Nordic countries or German-speaking countries see health care more often as a reason in favor of than against emigration, while those going to English-speaking countries, rest of Europe or Africa, Asia and Latin America see health care predominantly as an argument against migration. Tables 8a and 8b present corresponding results for the 5 main destination countries.

**Table 8a.** *Economic and public service considerations for men according to destination country*

<b>Considerations related to:</b>	<b>US</b>		<b>UK</b>		<b>Norway</b>		<b>Sweden</b>		<b>Germany</b>	
	In favor	Against	In favor	Against	In favor	Against	In favor	Against	In favor	Against
Standard of living	56.43	4.39	40.58	17.39	33.66	3.47	43.85	6.42	39.23	6.08
Wage level	69.30	2.63	65.94	5.80	50.50	2.48	31.55	12.83	53.04	8.84
Taxation	60.23	2.05	61.59	2.54	41.58	3.96	27.81	3.21	51.93	2.21
Health care	8.19	31.58	3.99	36.23	9.41	5.94	17.65	8.56	14.36	11.60
Old-age care	0.58	27.49	1.09	27.90	2.48	5.45	5.88	6.42	1.66	14.36
Public pensions	0.88	24.56	0.36	23.19	2.97	4.46	3.21	2.67	0.55	11.05
Other transfers	0.58	19.59	0.72	21.74	2.48	3.96	2.14	3.74	2.21	6.63

Source: Survey and register data

**Table 8b.** *Economic and public service considerations for women according to destination country*

<b>Considerations related to:</b>	<b>US</b>		<b>UK</b>		<b>Norway</b>		<b>Sweden</b>		<b>Germany</b>	
	In favor	Against	In favor	Against	In favor	Against	In favor	Against	In favor	Against
Standard of living	41.30	6.83	20.39	20.88	23.81	1.19	39.01	4.40	26.82	4.09
Wage level	35.15	7.17	30.22	17.20	32.14	0.79	14.84	14.29	29.55	12.73
Taxation	32.76	3.07	32.19	5.16	22.22	1.19	21.98	3.30	24.55	1.36
Health care	9.90	34.13	1.97	29.73	4.37	3.97	10.44	7.14	17.27	6.36
Old-age care	1.02	31.06	0.74	26.78	2.38	3.17	2.75	4.40	2.27	11.36
Public pensions	0.00	31.40	0.25	23.10	2.78	1.98	0.00	4.40	1.36	9.55
Other transfers	2.39	22.87	0.49	18.67	2.38	1.19	1.10	3.85	1.36	6.36

Source: Survey and register data

The standard of living is viewed more often as a reason to migrate to the United States than to the United Kingdom. Among men who migrated to the United States, 56 percent viewed the standard of living as a reason to migrate and 4 percent against migrating, while the corresponding numbers to the United Kingdom were 41 and 17 percent. Among women who migrated to the United States, 41 percent viewed the standard of living as a reason to emigrate and 7 percent against emigrating, while the corresponding numbers to the United Kingdom were 20 and 21 percent. When comparing Sweden and Norway, a larger fraction views the standard of living as a reason to migrate to Sweden, while a larger fraction views wage level and taxes as a reason to migrate to Norway.



## 6. Education of Danes Abroad and in Denmark

How does skill distribution of emigrants to various countries differ? Do Danes with higher education tend to emigrate more to countries with larger income differences? To answer these questions, we have asked in our survey respondents to report also their current highest level of education. In Table 9a, we report the educational qualifications of Danish men and women who stay abroad, and were aged at most 58. We decided to exclude three persons aged 61, 66, and 68, in order to have a narrower age group to compare with Danes living in Denmark. In Table 9b, we report the educational qualifications of Danes aged 25 to 57 who stayed in Denmark in 2007. The age group is chosen to match closely the age range in table 9a; in the latter, there is just one respondent aged 24 and 3 aged 58, outside the range.

**Table 9a.** Education of Danes abroad in 2007; survey for stayers

<b>Highest level of education</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>Women</b>
Basic school	2.40	2.59
General upper secondary	6.30	8.34
Vocational upper secondary	3.80	4.01
Vocational education and training	14.14	11.92
Short higher	8.50	7.78
Medium higher	6.80	17.15
Bachelor degree	16.34	17.81
Long higher	32.73	25.49
Doctoral degree or equivalent	9.00	4.90
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>

*Source: Survey and register data*

**Table 9b.** Education of Danes aged 25-57 in 2007

<b>Highest level of education</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>Women</b>
Basic school	22.92	21.70
General upper secondary	4.57	4.90
Vocational upper secondary	2.06	2.10
Vocational education and training	41.25	34.99
Short higher	7.35	5.16
Medium higher	9.87	20.67
Bachelor degree	1.97	2.45
Long higher	8.00	6.75
Doctoral degree or equivalent	0.63	0.34
Unknown	1.37	0.95
<b>Total number of obs.</b>	<b>1,165,570</b>	<b>1,140,658</b>

*Source: Register data*

Comparing Tables 9a and 9b, we notice that the Danish respondents abroad are much better educated than the Danes who stay in Denmark. In Denmark, 23 percent of men and 22 percent of women aged 25-57 have only basic education. Among Danes abroad, the fraction is only 2-3 percent. At the other end, less than one percent of men and women aged 25 to 57 in Denmark have doctoral degree, and the total number of those with Master's degree is 8 percent for men and 7 percent for women. Among

Danes abroad, 33 percent of men and 25 percent of women have Master's degree and 9 percent of men and 5 percent of women doctoral degree.

In Tables 10a and 10b, we report the distribution of highest completed education for Danish men and women who responded our survey and live abroad, according to where they live. For point of comparison, we have included as last column the group of Danes who have returned to Denmark, but still responded to our survey.

**Table 10a. Education of Danish men abroad**

Highest level of education	English-speaking countries	Other Nordic countries	Western Europe	German-speaking countries	Other European countries	Africa,Asia and Latin America	DK
Basic school	1.97	5.05	2.52	0.79	1.75	1.29	0.00
General upper secondary	6.18	5.56	5.04	4.72	3.51	11.59	9.09
Vocational upper secondary	4.20	3.28	3.60	4.33	1.75	3.43	4.55
Vocational education and training	12.35	21.72	8.27	12.99	26.32	13.73	0.00
Short higher	6.96	8.08	9.35	10.63	17.54	9.01	4.55
Medium higher	3.81	11.62	10.43	6.30	5.26	4.72	9.09
Bachelor degree	18.40	9.60	12.23	20.08	17.54	21.46	18.18
Long higher	33.38	27.78	39.93	33.07	22.81	31.76	40.91
Doctoral degree or equivalent	12.75	7.32	8.63	7.09	3.51	3.00	13.64
Total no. of obs.	761	396	278	254	57	233	22

Source: Survey and register data

**Table 10b. Education of Danish women abroad**

Highest level of education	English-speaking countries	Other Nordic countries	Western Europe	German-speaking countries	Other European countries	Africa,Asia and Latin America	DK
Basic school	2.76	2.26	2.49	2.61	3.70	3.26	0.00
General upper secondary	8.28	7.90	8.86	7.84	18.52	6.52	3.03
Vocational upper secondary	3.84	2.48	5.54	5.56	3.70	2.17	3.03
Vocational education and training	10.56	11.74	8.86	19.28	12.96	10.87	15.15
Short higher	7.80	6.32	9.14	8.82	7.41	4.35	12.12
Medium higher	14.05	27.09	13.02	15.36	20.37	13.04	30.30
Bachelor degree	24.13	12.87	16.62	10.78	16.67	17.39	6.06
Long higher	22.09	23.48	33.24	27.12	16.67	35.87	24.24
Doctoral degree or equivalent	6.48	5.87	2.22	2.61	0.00	6.52	6.06
Total no. of obs.	833	443	361	306	54	92	33

Source: Survey and register data

Interestingly, we find that those who have returned to Denmark have a somewhat higher level of education than those who stay abroad. This runs counter to what the theoretical model by Borjas and Bratsberg (1996) predicts and what their empirical analysis for the United States suggests, namely that return migration intensifies the type of selection that generated the immigrant flow in the first place. If that were the case, Danes who returned to Denmark should be of lower educational level than those who stay.

Tables 10a and 10b suggest that there are big differences in the level of education of Danes abroad living in different countries. The differences are especially pronounced among men. Danish men in English-speaking countries, Western Europe and German-speaking countries are especially well educated. Among women, the fraction of those with doctoral degree or long higher education is, somewhat surprisingly, highest among those living in Africa, Asia and Latin America. However, the number of women living in those countries is only 92, while the number of men is 233. In all other destinations, gender differences are smaller, pointing to a strong selection effect.

We report educational qualifications for Danish men and women in the five main destination countries in Appendix C. When taking into account both doctoral degrees and Master's degree or corresponding, the fraction of Danish men with long higher education reaches 48 percent in the United States, 47 percent in the United Kingdom, and 34-36 percent in Norway, Sweden and Germany. Among women, the fraction varies from 31 percent in the United States and the United Kingdom to about 29 percent in Norway, Sweden and Germany. To sum up: the fraction of Danes with higher education is clearly larger in the United States and in the United Kingdom than in Norway, Sweden and Germany, or in the rest of the world in average. The finding that the Danes with higher education are more likely to migrate to Anglo-Saxon countries with higher returns to education and less income redistribution is very much in line with the logic suggested by the Borjas model.

In table 11a, we report for various country groups the fraction of men and women who have a university degree earned abroad. This fraction is especially high in English-speaking countries, Western Europe, and Asia, Africa and Latin America. In all other country groups but the rest of Europe, consisting of Eastern European countries, Turkey and Israel, a larger fraction of women than of men have obtained a university degree abroad.

**Table 11a.** *Fraction of Danes with a university degree from abroad*

	<b>English-speaking countries</b>	<b>Other Nordic countries</b>	<b>Western Europe</b>	<b>German-speaking countries</b>	<b>Other European countries</b>	<b>Africa, Asia and Latin America</b>	<b>DK</b>
Men	22.86	11.36	16.19	10.63	12.28	15.02	13.64
Women	33.37	12.87	17.17	12.75	11.11	17.39	18.18

*Source: Survey and register data*

**Table 11b.** *Fraction of Danes with a university degree from abroad*

	<b>US</b>	<b>UK</b>	<b>Norway</b>	<b>Sweden</b>	<b>Germany</b>	<b>Other</b>
Men	23.06	25.88	8.90	13.19	8.70	15.49
Women	33.33	38.68	10.76	14.12	13.00	16.85

*Source: Survey and register data*

Table 11b reports that when studying the five main countries of residence, the fraction of degrees earned abroad (usually in the country of residence) is especially high for women in the United Kingdom (39 percent) and in the United States (33 percent). Also the fraction of Danish men with a foreign university is higher in the United Kingdom (26 percent) and in the United States (23 percent).

## 7. Occupations of Danish Migrants

In the survey, we also asked respondents their primary occupation just before migration, and currently. As seen in table 12a, there are four about equally large groups among men before migration: high-skilled workers (23 percent), medium-skilled workers (19 percent) low-skilled workers (21 percent) and students (19 percent, of whom about one percent are apprentices). Table 12b reports that among women, the largest occupational categories before emigration are students (37 percent), low-skilled workers (24 percent) and medium skilled workers (19 percent).

**Table 12a. Primary occupation for Danish men before migration**

<b>Primary occupation</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>UK</b>	<b>Norway</b>	<b>Sweden</b>	<b>Germany</b>	<b>Other</b>
Farmers and craftsmen	0.29	0.72	0.99	0.53	0.00	1.23
Self-employed in a profession	0.88	0.72	0.99	0.53	1.66	0.74
Self-employed in trade	0.58	0.36	0.50	1.60	1.10	1.23
Another type of self-employed	3.51	2.17	0.50	2.14	0.55	2.70
Management	8.48	9.06	1.98	6.42	6.63	7.23
High skilled worker	23.68	23.55	21.29	21.39	16.02	22.43
Medium skilled worker	17.54	12.32	14.85	19.79	16.57	24.75
Low and unskilled workers	16.67	19.57	36.14	23.53	14.36	17.40
Spouse taking care of children	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.53	0.00	0.00
Apprentice and student	21.93	26.09	14.36	13.90	32.04	16.79
PhD student	5.26	1.81	1.49	1.07	2.21	1.35
Retired and unemployed	1.17	3.62	6.44	8.56	8.84	4.17
<b>Total number of obs.</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>816</b>

Source: Survey and register data

**Table 12b. Primary occupation for Danish women before migration**

<b>Primary occupation</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>UK</b>	<b>Norway</b>	<b>Sweden</b>	<b>Germany</b>	<b>Other</b>
Farmers and craftsmen	0.34	0.00	0.40	0.00	0.00	0.00
Self-employed in a profession	1.02	0.25	0.40	1.65	0.45	0.78
Self-employed in trade	0.34	0.74	0.40	0.00	0.45	0.13
Another type of self-employed	1.37	1.23	0.40	1.10	1.82	0.65
Management	2.39	0.98	0.00	2.75	0.91	1.04
High skilled worker	7.85	6.39	5.95	10.99	10.00	8.07
Medium skilled worker	19.45	14.00	23.41	28.02	15.45	17.84
Low and unskilled workers	24.23	24.57	21.43	19.78	20.91	24.61
Spouse taking care of children	1.71	0.98	1.59	1.65	1.82	1.17
Apprentice and student	36.86	44.72	34.92	21.43	41.82	38.41
PhD student	1.71	1.23	0.79	2.20	0.91	0.91
Retired and unemployed	2.73	4.91	10.32	10.44	5.45	6.38
<b>Total number of obs.</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>768</b>

Source: Survey and register data

When looking at occupational distribution in 2007, we see a distinct change in occupational categories. Not surprisingly, the number of students and PhD students has collapsed, being about one percent for men and four percent for women. Among men, there has been a distinct shift into higher occupational categories: 26 percent of all men work in management, and 30 percent are high-skilled workers. The number of medium-skilled workers has dropped to 15 percent, and low-skilled workers to 9 percent. Among women, biggest occupational categories are medium-skilled workers (23 percent), high-skilled workers (17 percent) and low-skilled workers (17 percent). 14 percent of women take care of home and children, while before migration, the fraction was only one percent. The fraction of men staying at home to take care of children or home is well below one percent both before emigration and in 2007.

**Table 13a.** *Primary occupation for Danish men in 2007*

<b>Primary occupation</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>UK</b>	<b>Norway</b>	<b>Sweden</b>	<b>Germany</b>	<b>Other</b>
Farmers and craftsmen	2.78	0.39	4.71	1.10	0.62	2.92
Self-employed in a profession	2.50	2.75	6.28	0.55	6.21	3.63
Self-employed in trade	3.06	3.14	2.09	2.20	9.94	5.26
Another type of self-employed	5.56	9.41	3.66	5.49	5.59	9.24
Management	29.72	27.84	18.32	18.68	21.74	33.10
High skilled worker	35.83	32.55	23.56	27.47	31.06	26.08
Medium skilled worker	12.78	14.51	21.47	22.53	16.15	12.16
Low and unskilled workers	5.00	6.67	16.75	15.93	8.70	4.21
Spouse taking care of children	0.28	0.78	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.58
Apprentice and student	1.39	0.39	1.57	0.55	0.00	0.58
PhD student	0.28	0.78	1.05	1.10	0.00	0.58
Retired and unemployed	0.83	0.78	0.52	4.40	0.00	1.64
Total number of obs.	360	255	191	182	161	855

Source: Survey and register data

**Table 13b.** *Primary occupation for Danish women in 2007*

<b>Primary occupation</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>UK</b>	<b>Norway</b>	<b>Sweden</b>	<b>Germany</b>	<b>Other</b>
Farmers and craftsmen	0.34	0.51	1.20	0.00	0.50	0.50
Self-employed in a profession	2.72	3.05	4.78	2.82	3.50	3.47
Self-employed in trade	2.38	2.29	1.99	1.13	2.00	5.20
Another type of self-employed	9.52	9.92	3.59	3.95	8.50	8.55
Management	6.46	9.41	5.58	12.43	3.50	6.94
High skilled worker	15.31	16.28	19.12	18.64	17.00	14.62
Medium skilled worker	18.37	24.68	37.45	26.55	23.00	19.95
Low and unskilled workers	12.24	16.79	14.74	20.34	19.00	15.49
Spouse taking care of children	26.53	12.21	3.59	4.52	18.00	19.70
Apprentice and student	3.40	2.04	3.59	3.39	3.00	2.23
PhD student	0.68	0.51	2.39	1.13	0.50	0.50
Retired and unemployed	2.04	2.29	1.99	5.08	1.50	2.85
Total number of obs.	294	393	251	177	200	807

Source: Survey and register data

Cross-country differences in 2007 are much larger than differences among emigrants going to different countries before migration. Most notably, the fraction of men belonging to management is much larger in the United States (29 percent) and in the United Kingdom (27 percent) than in Norway, Sweden and Germany (16-19 percent).

The fraction of high-skilled workers exceeds 30 percent in the United States (37 percent), the United Kingdom (32 percent) and Germany (31 percent), being 29 percent in Sweden and 25 percent in Norway. Also Danish men in all other countries work most often in management (29 percent) and as high-skilled workers (27 percent).

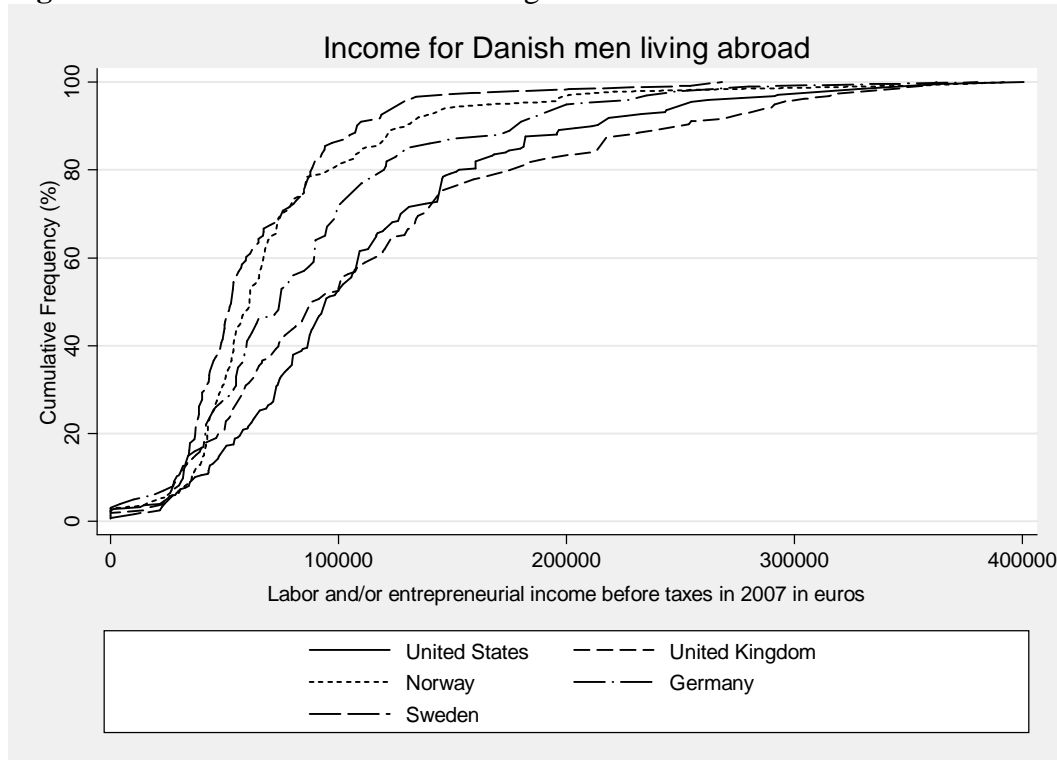
Among women, largest cross-country differences are in whether to stay at home or not. 26 percent of Danish women living in the United States stay at home. In Germany, the fraction is 15 percent, in the United Kingdom, 12 percent, and in Norway and Sweden, 4 percent. The fraction of women belonging to management is largest in Sweden (11 percent), and only 3-6 percent in the United States, Norway and Germany. A notable different is also that 36 percent of women in Norway are medium skilled, while the size of this group in the United Kingdom, Sweden, and Germany is 22-26 percent, and in the United States, 17 percent. This is driven mainly by nurses in Norway.

## **8. Earnings Distribution of Danes Abroad**

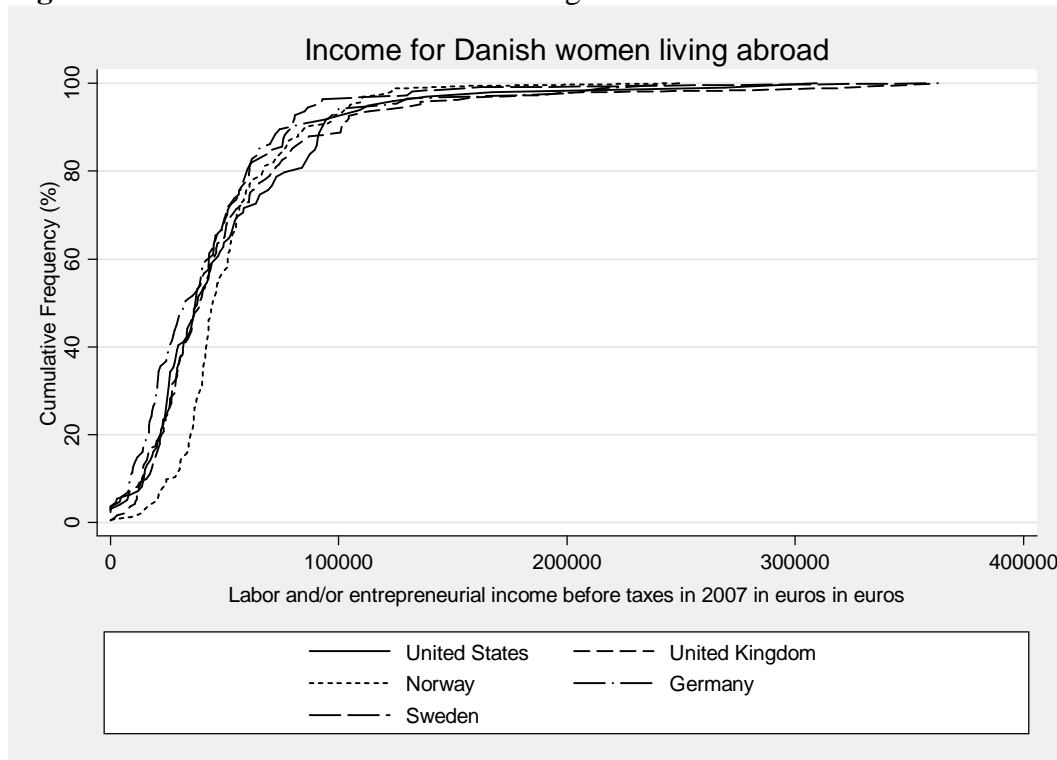
Our survey data allows us to test whether there are systematic earnings differences between Danes living in the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, Sweden and Norway. In all countries, the earnings distribution of men dominates the earnings distribution of women. That is, for any income threshold, the fraction of women below it is larger than the fraction of men below it. Therefore, we study men and women separately when looking for cross-country differences.

In Figures 4a and 4b, we report the cumulative earnings distribution of Danish men and women living in the five main destination countries in 2007, and being either workers (including management) or self-employed in a profession. For men, we find that the earnings distribution in the United States and in the United Kingdom dominates the earnings distribution in other countries, apart from the bottom decile in which the cumulative frequency curves are initially quite similar. In each income decile apart from the two lowest, earnings in Germany exceed those in Sweden and Norway. For women, cross-country differences are much smaller. The most notable exception is Norway, in which the earnings are higher than in the other countries for the bottom two thirds of income distribution.

**Figure 4a.** Income for Danish men living abroad in 2007

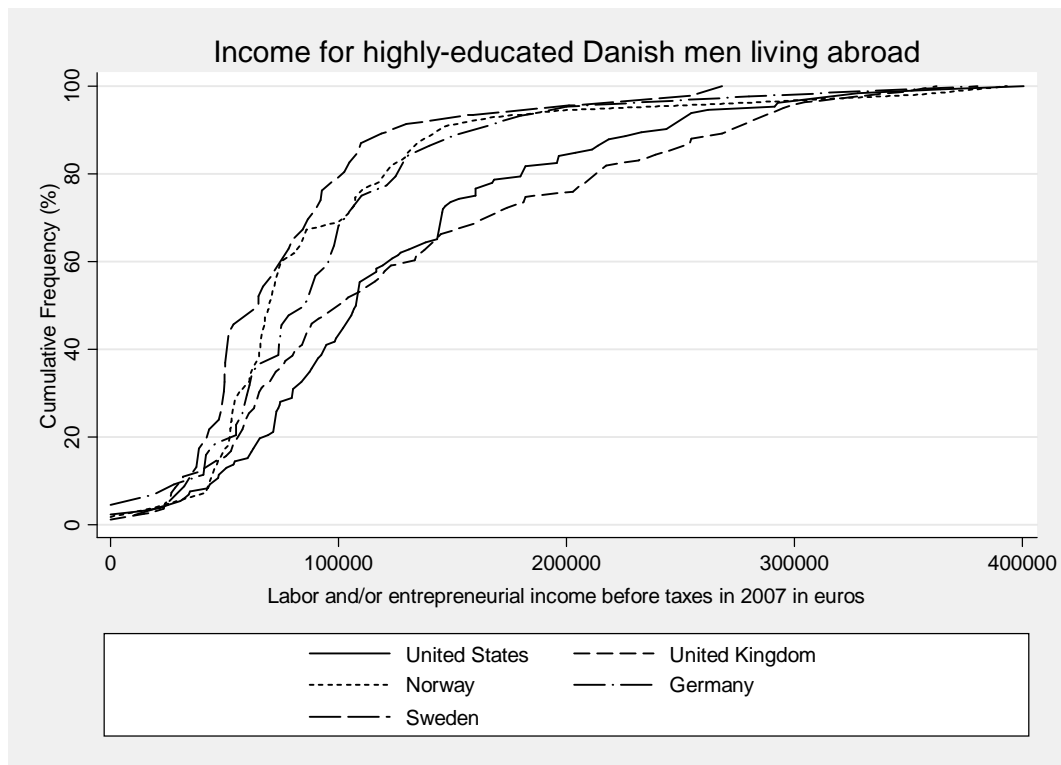


**Figure 4b.** Income for Danish women living abroad in 2007

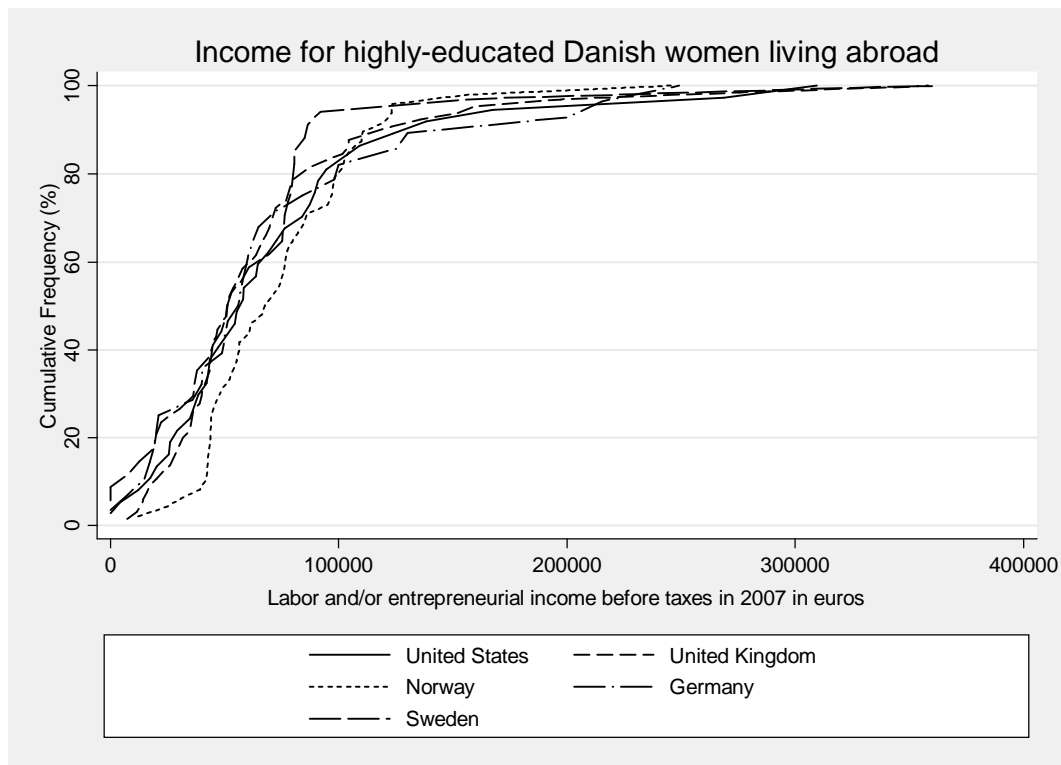


We have also examined earnings for those with different educational levels. In Figures 5a and 5b, we report the income distribution for those with Master's level of education or more, again restricting the attention to workers and the self-employed in a profession. These figures confirm that the Danish men living in the United States and the United Kingdom earn clearly more.

**Figure 5a.** Incomes for highly-educated Danish men living abroad in 2007



**Figure 5b.** Incomes for highly-educated Danish women living abroad in 2007





## 9. Conclusion

In this paper, we have studied how Danes who emigrate and stay abroad differ from Danes who stay in Denmark, in terms of educational qualifications and demographic characteristics. We then examined what were the main motivations of emigrating, as well as reported gender and cross-country differences in these motivations. Finally, we compared cross-country differences in educational qualifications and earnings.

There is a huge difference in the educational qualifications between Danes who stay in Denmark and those abroad. In 2007, 23 percent of Danes aged 30-59 in Denmark had only basic education. Abroad, the fraction was only 2 percent. In Denmark, less than one percent of men and women aged 30 to 59 have a doctoral degree, and 8 percent of men and 7 percent of women a Master's degree. Among emigrant men who stay abroad, 8 percent have a doctoral degree and 32 percent a Master's degree. The corresponding numbers for Danish women staying abroad are 5 percent and 25 percent.

We found remarkable gender differences when we requested the respondents to name their main motivation to emigrate. For 53 percent of men and 22 percent of women, considerations related to own work were the main motivation to emigrate. Family-related considerations dominated for 47 percent of women and 19 percent of men. Work-related considerations are especially pronounced for men going to the United Kingdom, and less so for men going to Sweden and Norway.

We then examined earnings and occupations of Danes in various countries. Danish men living abroad are most often high-skilled workers (30 percent) or in management (26 percent). Both groups are a considerably larger fraction of Danes living in the United States and the United Kingdom than in Norway and Sweden, with fractions in Germany in between. When looking at income distribution, we find that Danish men earn considerably more in the United States and the United Kingdom than in Norway, Sweden and Germany, again Germany being between Anglo-Saxon and Scandinavian destinations. These findings are in line with the Borjas hypothesis, which predicts that Danes of higher earnings capacity should be more likely to go to countries with wider income distribution, like the United States and the United Kingdom, than countries with relatively flat earnings distribution, like Sweden and Norway.

Among women, cross-country differences in earnings are considerably smaller. A notable difference is that 26 percent of Danish women living in the United States stay at home to take care of home and children. In the United Kingdom and Germany, the fraction of women at home varies between 12 and 15 percent, while in Sweden and Norway it is only 3-4 percent. The fact that cross-country earnings differences are smaller for women is well in line with women making their migration decisions more often based on considerations related to their partner, than the other way round, as we established when requesting main motivations.

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## Appendix A. Survey.

The stayers survey was designed with several steps. First, Statistics Denmark contacted parents and siblings for those who in the summer of 2007 were emigrated in one of the years 1987, 1988, 1992, 1993, 1997, 1998, 2001, 2002 registered being abroad at least 3 months. Emigrants are not registered less than three months. In the CPR-register is there information about destination country, and year of emigration. From the CPR-register is it possible to track emigrants through their parents and siblings, if parents and siblings still live in Denmark. Statistics Denmark has also a register with people who have returned from abroad. On the basis of this register and the eight selected years were all non-returned persons between 18-59 years drawn from the register. This selected group was then compared and connected to the CPR-register. Thereafter it was possible to contact at least one parent. If the two parents were not living together they were both contacted by Statistics Denmark. They mailed a letter containing information about the investigation to 16,000 parents and 500 siblings and obtained contact information for around 10,500 emigrants. Parents could either use the internet, mailbox or an attached stamped envelope to send the information about their children, now grown up adults living abroad. However we had only valid email addresses for 7,075 people. In the final set up only 6,889 were available. Through email they were asked to fill out a web based questionnaire constructed by us. 4,260 persons answered the web scheme from June 2008 to August 2008. Three reminders were sent out to obtain the best data quality. The response rate on 61 percent was quite high compared to similar kinds of investigations.

The three tables below report response rates in percentages according to gender, country of residence, and year of emigration. Overall, the rates are remarkably similar. Therefore, the respondents are highly representative of the target population in the dimensions of gender, country of residence, and year of emigration.

**Table A1.** Response rates of men and women

	Men	Women
Overall response rate	61	61

**Table A2.** Response rates of men and women in main destination countries

Country	Men	Women
USA	65	57
Great Britain	62	64
Norway	59	66
Sweden	54	62
Germany	63	62
Switzerland	70	68
Australia	66	53
France	66	52
All other countries	59	61

**Table A3.** Response rates of men and women according to the year of emigration

Year	Men	Women
1987	61	56
1988	62	62
1992	61	63
1993	59	56
1997	60	58
1998	62	62
2001	60	64
2002	63	63

Appendix B. Main purpose of emigration

**Table B1.** *Main purpose of emigration for Danish men in the workforce*

<b>Motivations</b>	<b>English-speaking countries</b>	<b>Other Nordic countries</b>	<b>Western Europe</b>	<b>German-speaking countries</b>	<b>Other European countries</b>	<b>Africa, Asia and Latin America</b>
Own work	52.64	47.66	62.39	67.20	67.31	76.11
Partner and family	17.96	29.24	16.37	12.90	15.38	6.67
Studies and language	5.11	3.22	3.10	7.53	1.92	1.11
Adventure	16.55	7.89	11.95	8.06	9.62	10.00
Other motivations	7.75	11.99	6.19	4.30	5.77	6.11
Total number of obs.	568	342	226	186	52	180

Source: Survey and register data

**Table B2.** *Main purpose of emigration for Danish women in the workforce*

<b>Motivations</b>	<b>English-speaking countries</b>	<b>Other Nordic countries</b>	<b>Western Europe</b>	<b>German-speaking countries</b>	<b>Other European countries</b>	<b>Africa, Asia and Latin America</b>
Own work	19.18	21.93	33.33	25.57	25.00	34.38
Partner and family	50.72	48.50	48.31	56.25	53.13	45.31
Studies and language	6.60	2.33	5.80	5.68	3.13	1.56
Adventure	16.08	11.63	7.73	9.66	9.38	10.94
Other motivations	7.42	15.61	4.83	2.84	9.38	7.81
Total number of obs.	485	301	207	176	32	64

Source: Survey and register data

**Table B3.** *Main purpose of emigration for Danish men in the workforce*

<b>Motivations</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>UK</b>	<b>Norway</b>	<b>Sweden</b>	<b>Germany</b>	<b>Other</b>
Own work	55.82	63.32	46.15	49.36	65.25	60.78
Partner and family	19.68	11.06	30.77	25.64	11.02	16.14
Studies and language	5.22	7.54	4.14	1.92	10.17	2.11
Adventure	12.05	13.07	13.61	2.56	8.47	14.03
Other motivations	7.23	5.03	5.33	20.51	5.08	6.94
Total number of obs.	249	199	169	156	118	663

Source: Survey and register data

**Table B4.** *Main purpose of emigration for Danish women in the workforce*

<b>Motivations</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>UK</b>	<b>Norway</b>	<b>Sweden</b>	<b>Germany</b>	<b>Other</b>
Own work	18.18	21.20	23.42	20.00	25.41	28.45
Partner and family	59.66	42.86	46.20	52.59	57.38	49.23
Studies and language	4.55	10.14	3.16	1.48	6.56	3.94
Adventure	10.23	17.05	18.99	2.22	8.20	12.69
Other motivations	7.39	8.76	8.23	23.70	2.46	5.69
Total number of obs.	176	217	158	135	122	457

Source: Survey and register data

Appendix C. Education of Danes in main countries of residence

**Table C1. Education of Danish men abroad**

<b>Highest level of education</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>UK</b>	<b>Norway</b>	<b>Sweden</b>	<b>Germany</b>	<b>Other</b>
Basic school	2.78	0.78	4.19	6.04	0.62	1.88
General upper secondary	5.28	9.41	2.62	8.24	5.59	6.34
Vocational upper secondary	3.89	5.10	2.62	4.40	6.21	3.05
Vocational education & training	8.61	10.98	25.13	18.68	14.29	13.97
Short higher	5.83	5.10	6.28	9.34	10.56	10.56
Medium higher	3.89	3.14	15.18	8.79	7.45	6.69
Bachelor degree	21.39	17.25	8.38	10.99	20.50	16.08
Long higher	32.78	37.25	28.80	26.92	29.19	34.15
Doctoral degree or equivalent	15.56	10.98	6.81	6.59	5.59	7.28
Total number of obs.	360	255	191	182	161	852

*Source: Survey and register data*

**Table C2. Education of Danish women abroad**

<b>Highest level of education</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>UK</b>	<b>Norway</b>	<b>Sweden</b>	<b>Germany</b>	<b>Other</b>
Basic school	2.72	2.29	3.19	1.13	2.50	2.85
General upper secondary	6.46	8.91	8.37	7.34	7.00	9.29
Vocational upper secondary	3.74	3.82	1.59	3.95	5.00	4.71
Vocational education & training	9.86	8.65	9.96	13.56	20.50	12.39
Short higher	8.16	7.38	3.19	10.73	8.50	8.43
Medium higher	13.61	13.74	31.08	22.03	19.00	14.25
Bachelor degree	24.83	24.68	12.75	12.99	8.50	16.85
Long higher	21.77	24.94	24.30	22.03	26.50	28.00
Doctoral degree or equivalent	8.84	5.60	5.58	6.21	2.50	3.22
Total number of obs.	294	393	251	177	200	807

*Source: Survey and register data*