Immigration, Integration and Return Migration:
The Swedish Experience.

Martin Klinthäll, Lund University
The importance of return migration

• Return migration was for long a neglected issue within migration research
The importance of return migration

• Return migration was for long a neglected issue within migration research

• Return rates among labor migrants frequently higher than 50%.
The importance of return migration

- Return migration was for long a neglected issue within migration research

- Return rates among labor migrants frequently higher than 50%

- Large social, economic and cultural impact
1990s: An increased interest

- Refugee crises after the end of Cold War
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- Economic downturn in receiving countries
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• Refugee crises after the end of Cold War
• Economic downturn in receiving countries
• Search for new refugee reception models
1990s: An increased interest

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➤ Focus on temporary protection
1990s: An increased interest

Shortage of high-skilled workers
1990s: An increased interest

Shortage of high-skilled workers

New labor migration flows
1990s: An increased interest

Shortage of high-skilled workers

New labor migration flows

Population aging
Rates of return migration have decreased since the early 70s

- Restrictions on labor immigration
Rates of return migration have decreased since the early 70s

- Restrictions on labor immigration
- Increased refugee immigration
Rates of return migration have decreased since the early 70s

- Restrictions on labor immigration
- Increased refugee immigration

- Gradual change in the composition of immigrant populations
Accumulated rates of return migration from Sweden by immigration cohort and years since immigration

![Graph showing accumulated rates of return migration from Sweden by immigration cohort and years since immigration.](image)
Accumulated rates of return migration from Sweden by immigration cohort and years since immigration

1970
1980
Non-Nordic
Accumulated rates of return migration from Sweden by immigration cohort and years since immigration
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GDP per capita 1970-2000, Finland and Sweden
1990 international dollars
GDP per capita 1970-2000, Denmark and Sweden
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GDP per capita 1970-2000, Norway and Sweden
1990 international dollars
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Forced migration</th>
<th>Permanent residence rights</th>
<th>Temporary residence rights</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Voluntary migration</td>
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Probability of return migration from Sweden by income category. Odds ratios.

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<th>Income category</th>
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<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>1.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medium-low</td>
<td>1.39</td>
<td>0.01</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>1.51</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium-high</td>
<td>1.58</td>
<td>0.03</td>
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<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>1.87</td>
<td>0.02</td>
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Probability of return migration from Sweden by income category. Odds ratios.
Germany and the United States 1968-1996.

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium-high</td>
<td>2.63</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>4.69</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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Accumulated rates of Greek return migration from Sweden by immigrant cohort and years since immigration
Accumulated rates of Turkish return migration from Sweden by immigrant cohort and years since immigration
Conditional probability of return migration from Sweden 1990-1996 by years since immigration, country of origin and immigration cohort.
Cohort 1 = 1973-84. Cohort 2 = 1985-1990
Conditional probability of return migration from Sweden 1990-1996 by years since immigration, country of origin and immigration cohort.

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Conditional probability of return migration from Sweden 1990-1996 by years since immigration, country of origin and immigration cohort.
Cohort 1 = 1973-84.  Cohort 2 = 1985-1990
Unemployment rates 1989-1996, Chile, Poland and Sweden. Percent of the workforce
Conclusion

• Return migration highly sensitive to economic circumstances

-- refugee return migration too!

--political as well as economic security needed for return migrants
Conclusion

• Immigration and return migration generally positively selected

-- development potential!
Conclusion

• Low impact of migration on age structure of host societies

-- Return migration decreases the effect of immigration on age structure of host societies
Conclusion

• Temporary residence models lead to economic inefficiency

-- hampers economic integration of immigrants

-- may even hinder return migration