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## Scientific mobility and knowledge transfer at the interregional and intraregional level

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**Scientific mobility and knowledge transfer at the interregional and intraregional level**

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3 Scientific mobility and knowledge transfer at the interregional and intraregional level  
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6 Abstract  
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10 The aim of this paper is to explore the extent and nature of knowledge flows which result  
11 from the international mobility of elite scientists. Based on the findings from a worldwide  
12 survey of 'star scientists' (i.e. authors of highly-cited journal articles in different research  
13 areas), it is shown that these top researchers establish manifold interregional knowledge links  
14 between their sending and receiving areas and embed themselves in their location of choice  
15 by creating connections to regional actors. Furthermore, the paper identifies a set of crucial  
16 factors that determine whether or not star scientists engage in intraregional knowledge  
17 transfer activities.  
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31 Keywords: star scientists, scientific mobility, interregional and intraregional knowledge  
32 transfer  
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38 JEL classification: J61, O30, R10  
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## 1. Introduction

Migration and international movements of highly-skilled people in general and scientists in particular have grown considerably in the last years (OECD, 2005; SKELDON, 2009). It is widely recognised that well-educated individuals are important 'carriers of knowledge', transferring expertise and know-how from place to another by means of their mobility. The international mobility of skilled people and the knowledge flows related to their movements can have far reaching effects on the innovation capacities of the regions involved in such processes. Despite a growing interest in this topic, the key features of knowledge circulation through mobile talent and the specific modes of interregional and intraregional knowledge transfer remain poorly understood, however.

The focus of this paper is on international scientific mobility, more precisely on movements of the world's 'star scientists'. Star scientists are defined here as authors of highly-cited research papers, identified by the number of citations they generated in journals in the ISI databases in the period 1981-2002. These outstanding individuals are possessors of unique cutting-edge scientific knowledge and expertise. However, only few scholars have looked at the international mobility of elite scientists and little is known about the extent and character of knowledge transfer which result from their movements.

The central aim of this paper is to contribute to a deeper understanding of this phenomenon by exploring the link between the international mobility of world-class researchers and knowledge flows. Based on the findings from a survey of 720 star scientists (including 375 internationally mobile stars) the paper investigates the extent and nature of interregional and intraregional knowledge transfer activities performed by these stars. Both scientific linkages and connections to the industrial sector will be analysed. More specifically, the following research questions will be dealt with.

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- To what extent do mobile star scientists create or maintain knowledge links to the scientific community and to firms at their prior locations? What are the dominating modes of interregional knowledge transfer between the sending and receiving areas of these stars?
  - To what degree and in which ways do star scientists engage in intraregional knowledge transfer activities at their current location? Which factors influence whether or not stars embed themselves in their current region of choice by establishing knowledge linkages to regional actors and organisations?

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The remainder of the paper is structured as follows. Section 2 presents a short literature on geographical movements of highly-skilled people and knowledge transfer. This is followed by the discussion of a simple ‘knowledge link model’ that illuminates in a conceptual way the relation between spatial movements of star scientists and resulting knowledge flows both at the interregional and intraregional level. Section 3 contains the description of the sample and some methodological notes. Section 4 presents the results of the empirical analyses. Finally, section 5 summarises the key findings and points to further research questions.

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## 2. Literature Review and Conceptual Approach

Academics and researchers play an increasingly important role in regional innovation and knowledge-based development (HOROWITZ, 1966; FURUKAWA and GOTO, 2006; THORN and HOLM-NIELSEN, 2008; BABA et al., 2009). Like other skilled people, scientists tend to be highly mobile at an international scale and their movements can involve a substantial transfer of knowledge and expertise. International scientific mobility is regarded as a normal phenomenon in the academic world (MEYER et al., 2001). LAUDEL (2003, p. 215) noted that ‘scientists ‘on the move’ bring their knowledge to other places, acquire new

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3 knowledge in the new place and thus promote new combinations of knowledge. This is  
4 especially important if knowledge is not communicated through other channels like  
5 publications ...' Movements of scientists and knowledge flows which result from their  
6 mobility can have far reaching effects for the regions involved in such processes. Scientific  
7 migration and mobility are a complex phenomenon. The effects of scientific mobility depend  
8 on factors such as the skill levels involved and the temporal character of such movements (see  
9 also ACKERS and GILL, 2005). However, empirical evidence about the international  
10 mobility of elite researchers is scarce (LAUDEL, 2005; HUNTER et al., 2009) and little is  
11 still known about the nature of knowledge flows and the regional consequences which result  
12 from the geographical mobility of outstanding researchers.  
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## 29 2.1 Mobility of highly-skilled people and knowledge transfer

30 Several authors have argued that the mobility of highly-qualified individuals represents a core  
31 mechanism for the spilling over and transfer of (embodied) knowledge (ARROW, 1959;  
32 ROSENKOPF and ALMEIDA, 2003; MOEN, 2005; DÖRING and SCHNELLENBACH,  
33 2006). Looking at the geography of knowledge transfer through mobile labour, empirical  
34 research has highlighted that both the regional and global levels matter.  
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46 Movements of skilled workers between local firms and universities are regarded to constitute  
47 a central mechanism of localised knowledge transfer (SAXENIAN, 1994; KEEBLE 2000;  
48 LAWTON SMITH and WATERS, 2005), underpinning the dynamic development of high-  
49 technology regions. Labour mobility, however, is not restricted to the local or regional level.  
50 Recent contributions in migration studies point to an increase of the global mobility of highly-  
51 skilled scientists, managers, and engineers (OECD, 2005, SKELDON, 2009). Migration and  
52 international mobility of top experts are acknowledged to be powerful mechanisms for the  
53 global diffusion of cutting-edge scientific, technical and managerial knowledge (WILLIAMS,  
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3 2007; OECD, 2008). The literature suggests that international knowledge flows through  
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5 mobile talent are far from being one way flows but tend to be multidirectional in nature,  
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7 leading to a sharing of the benefits of skilled migration between sending and receiving areas  
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9 (REGETS, 2007; KERR, 2008). This finding challenges the traditional dichotomy between  
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11 'brain drain' and 'brain gain' when assessing the consequences of international migration of  
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13 skilled workers. The notion of 'brain circulation' (SAXENIAN, 2005) seems to more  
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15 adequate to describe the current situation. The shift from longer-term migration to shorter-  
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17 term mobility (WILLIAMS et al., 2004) and the return of highly-qualified people to their  
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19 home countries (SAXENIAN 2005) represent important examples in this context. Recent  
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21 academic work demonstrated that the sending countries or regions might also benefit from  
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23 their top experts even if they do not return. The rise of diaspora networks which connect  
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25 skilled expatriates with their country of origin (ACKERS, 2005; GILL, 2005) is relevant in  
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27 this context. KERR (2008) highlighted potential benefits from high-skilled migration for  
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29 sending countries, showing that ethnic and entrepreneurial communities in the United States  
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31 play an important role for international technology transfer to their home countries. Thus, the  
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33 literature provides some indication that skilled people who relocate maintain or create  
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35 knowledge links to their home base. This idea is also supported by AGRAWAL et al. (2006)  
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37 who identified knowledge flows from the region that receives mobile employees to the region  
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39 that lost these people. Analysing patent data, AGRAWAL et al. (2006) demonstrated that  
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41 social ties that promote knowledge transfer persist even after formerly co-located inventors  
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43 are separated (see also OETTL and AGRAWAL, 2008). JÖNS (2009) investigated the long-  
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45 term effects of research stays spent by foreign academics in Germany. She demonstrated that  
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47 this kind of scientific mobility has led to subsequent academic movements and collaboration,  
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49 linking Germany to the visiting researchers' home countries. To summarise, there is a strong  
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51 claim in the literature that the mobility of talent is related to substantial international  
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53 knowledge flows. What remains somewhat unclear is the relative importance of different  
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3 modes of knowledge transfer that matter in this context. Furthermore, hardly any studies  
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5 investigated international movements of world-class scientists and flows of knowledge related  
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7 to their mobility.  
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12 Whilst there is little evidence on international knowledge flows set off by mobile top  
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14 scientists, a few scholars have looked at intraregional knowledge transfer activities performed  
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16 by elite researchers. ZUCKER and her colleagues have shown that direct involvement of star  
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18 scientists was pivotal for the rise and transformation of biotechnology and other high-tech  
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20 sectors (ZUCKER et al., 1998, 2002; ZUCKER and DARBY, 2006). SCHILLER and  
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22 REVILLA-DIEZ (2010) investigated knowledge transfer activities performed by highly-cited  
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24 scientists in Germany and provided evidence for rather strong intraregional knowledge links  
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26 between these stars and local actors. Scientific collaborations, new firm formation and  
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28 recruitment of staff and PhD students proved to be strongly localised in nature. Less evidence  
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30 was found that stars also engage in local collaborations with industry.  
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39 In the following an attempt is made to explore both in a conceptual way and empirically the  
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41 nature of knowledge transfer which results from spatial movements of elite researchers.  
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## 45 2.2 Interregional and intraregional knowledge transfer activities by the scientific elite: 46 47

### 48 Towards a knowledge link model 49

50 Focusing on movements of star scientists and drawing on the insights derived from the  
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52 literature dealing with mobility related knowledge flows discussed above, this subsection  
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54 presents a simple model (Figure 1) which lays the conceptual foundations for the empirical  
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56 analysis in section 4. The model recognises that mobile star scientists can give rise to a large  
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58 variety of interregional and intraregional knowledge flows and it explicates important types in  
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60 this respect. It should be alerted, however, that the strength of such flows as well as the

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3 consequences for the sending and receiving regions might depend on the scientific and  
4 economic specialisation and the knowledge bases of the involved areas, their absorptive  
5 capacity as well as the duration of time the star stays in a particular region.  
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#### 10 11 12 13 14 Interregional knowledge transfer

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17 Mobile star scientists can potentially set off manifold knowledge linkages between their  
18 sending and receiving regions. From a dynamic perspective it is useful to distinguish between  
19 'initial knowledge flows' and 'subsequent knowledge flows' in this context. Such a view  
20 allows for illuminating the complexity of the regional effects which might be related to the  
21 geographical mobility of stars. The knowledge link model proposed in this paper takes as a  
22 starting point the movement of a star scientist from Region 1 (sending region) to Region 2  
23 (receiving region). Arguably, such a movement leads to an interregional spilling over of  
24 knowledge. It would be misleading, however, to take into account only this initial knowledge  
25 flow. To eschew an oversimplification of the phenomenon dealt with here, the model assumes  
26 that the initial interregional knowledge spillover effect that is due to the movement of a star  
27 scientist could entail a range of further knowledge flows between the sending and the  
28 receiving region. Subsequent knowledge flows can take different forms. Members of the  
29 former research team of the star or talented students may follow the star scientist from region  
30 1 to region 2, thus, generating a further round of interregional knowledge spillovers from the  
31 sending to the receiving area. Furthermore, if the star maintains her or his relationships to the  
32 academic and industrial sector of the sending region, a backward transfer of knowledge from  
33 the receiving region to the sending one or the circulation of expertise between these areas  
34 could be released. Several authors (KEEBLE, 2000; SCHARTINGER et al., 2001;  
35 TÖDTLING et al., 2006) have elaborated on typologies of different modes (or mechanisms)  
36 of knowledge transfer within academia and from universities to industry, which can be  
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3 applied here. Modes of interregional knowledge transfer may include R&D co-operations,  
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5 contract research, as well as joint publications and patents. Moreover, a transfer of knowledge  
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7 via other mechanisms – such as jointly attending conferences and workshops, recruiting  
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9 research professionals, research visits and staff exchange – is likely. Consequently, there  
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11 might be a broad range of both formal and informal linkages leading to an interregional  
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13 transfer of knowledge and expertise. If mobile star scientists employ the modes of knowledge  
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15 transfer discussed above, they can pave the way for intense interregional flows of knowledge  
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17 across national borders.  
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#### 22 23 24 25 Intraregional knowledge transfer

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28 Mobile star scientists may also engage in knowledge transfer activities to actors and  
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30 organisations in their region of choice. By doing so, top researchers embed themselves in their  
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32 current location<sup>1</sup>. To conceptualise the role of ‘embedded star scientists’ the model identifies  
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34 various mechanisms which might be relevant for the transfer of know-how and expertise from  
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36 these top researchers to regional actors (Figure 1). Top researchers may create linkages to  
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38 scientists and research organisations located in the region, thus promoting a transfer of their  
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40 advanced expertise within the regional academic sector. The model distinguishes between two  
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42 core modes of knowledge transfer within the regional science system. The first mode of  
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44 knowledge transfer considered here is related to the classic educational function of star  
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46 scientists. Top scientists are regarded to play an essential role in attracting the best young  
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48 talents and they guide them into fruitful research areas (MAHROUM, 2003; LAUDEL,  
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50 2005). Elite scientists, thus, generate the new scientific elites. If scientific talents trained by  
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52 star scientists do not move away after having finished their studies but continue to stay in the  
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54 region to work for other research organisations, the regional academic sector might  
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56 experience positive effects.  
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[Figure 1 about here]

The second key mode of knowledge transfer is associated with scientific collaborations. The more cooperative linkages star scientists maintain with other researchers present in the region, the more vividly will the advanced knowledge possessed by stars circulate at the regional level. Star scientists may also be engaged in knowledge transfer activities to regional companies (see particularly ZUCKER et al. 1998, 2002; SCHILLER and REVILLA-DIEZ, 2010). The model identifies several key mechanisms by which star scientists can supply their knowledge to the regional industry sector. Star scientists might act as a source of highly-qualified workers for regional firms. Movements of skilled students who have been educated by stars to companies constitute a significant mode of knowledge transfer, supporting the regional diffusion and commercial application of new scientific expertise. Formal and informal collaborations (R&D projects, university-industry partnerships, etc.) between star scientists and companies represent another key mode of intraregional knowledge transfer. Moreover, the region might also benefit from more direct forms of commercialisation of the scientific knowledge embodied in top researchers. This holds in particular true if stars sell patents to regional firms, work part of their time for regional companies as member of the management or advisory board, or even establish their own business in the region. Arguably, the latter three mechanisms require high levels of engagement by stars.

Knowledge flows related to movements of star scientists may have far reaching effects for both the sending and receiving regions. It can be assumed that the receiving region of a star scientist benefits from a strengthening of the science base and the industry sector, whilst the sending region is likely to experience a weakening of its scientific and economic capabilities. This initial effect is reinforced if the 'follower phenomenon' is quantitatively and

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3 qualitatively strong. Provided that the mobile star scientist does not cut all ties to her or his  
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5 former home region a backward knowledge transfer and interregional circulation of  
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7 knowledge can set in, stimulating scientific progress and economic development in both the  
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9 sending and receiving area. The receiving region will in particular benefit from the  
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11 immigration of star scientists, if their knowledge diffuses locally. As noted above, this  
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13 requires an embedding of the star into the regional scientific community and an intensive  
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15 knowledge transfer to regional firms. Consequently, only 'embedded stars' who establish a  
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17 range of contacts to actors in the host region can act as an engine of growth, whilst 'isolated  
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19 stars', i.e. those who lack such essential linkages will probably set off fewer economic effects.  
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21 It is beyond the scope of this paper to measure the regional effects just outlined above. Rather  
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23 the paper aims at analysing to what extent star scientists *potentially* contribute to regional  
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25 development by engaging in interregional and intraregional knowledge transfer activities.  
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### 34 3. Data and Methodology

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36 In order to identify top researchers the database 'ISI Highly Cited' was used. This database  
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38 contains information about 5,600 'star scientists' (defined as authors of highly-cited research  
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40 papers), who belong to the world's most renowned scientists. The importance of contribution  
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42 to scientific progress made by these stars is identified by the number of citations they  
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44 generated in journals in the ISI databases. The information in ISI Highly Cited is based on  
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46 publications and citations from the period 1981-2002. ISI Highly Cited distinguishes between  
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48 21 different areas of research (subject categories) such as clinical medicine, engineering,  
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50 physics or social sciences and identifies approximately the 250 most cited individuals in each  
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52 category.  
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To gather data on the mobility of top researchers and their knowledge sharing activities a  
worldwide web-based survey of ISI highly cited star scientists was employed. The survey was

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3 conducted in the year 2008. All 3,274 star scientists who provide their contact information  
4 (email address) in the database have been requested to participate in the study. 433 stars could  
5 not be approached due to invalid email addresses. Out of the remaining 2,841 star scientists,  
6 720 filled in the questionnaire, yielding a response rate of 25.3%. The respondents include  
7 181 expats (25%), 194 returnees (27%) and 345 non-movers (48%). Consequently, 52% of  
8 the responding star scientists have an international mobility background<sup>2</sup>. Expatriates are  
9 referred to here as scientists who left their home countries to work at a foreign location.  
10 Returnees are defined here as researchers who relocated back home after having lived and  
11 worked at a foreign location for a substantial period of time. Finally, non-movers are  
12 scientists who have so far not relocated internationally for professional purposes but have  
13 stayed in their home countries. Breakdown of the data by mobility type results in small  
14 sample sizes. This represents some limitation to this study which has to be kept in mind when  
15 discussing the empirical findings (section 4). For data analysis methods of descriptive  
16 statistics and multivariate analyses were applied.

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38 [Table 1 about here]  
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43 Table 1 shows key sample characteristics of the surveyed top researchers. The sampled  
44 mobile stars are predominantly male and more than 50% of them are older than 60 years. A  
45 sizeable fraction of expatriates and returnees (70%) is employed by universities and about  
46 20% of them are working for a non-university research institution. The proportion of mobile  
47 star scientists from the corporate sector is negligible<sup>3</sup>. The mobile top researchers (44% of  
48 expats, 54% of returnees) included in the sample are strongly oriented towards basic research.  
49 Looking at the scientific disciplines<sup>4</sup> one can observe some differences between the two  
50 groups of mobile scientists. More than 55% of the sampled expatriates are working in the  
51 field of natural sciences, about 14% in engineering and technology and another 16% in  
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3 medical and health sciences. Like expatriates, 56% of the responding returnees are natural  
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5 scientists. However, compared to expats, a lower share of returnees is working in engineering  
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7 and technology (9%) and a higher share in medical and health sciences (25%). Other  
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9 categories (social science, agricultural science) play only a minor role. Chi-square tests show  
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11 that differences among expatriates and returnees regarding gender, type of research, type of  
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13 institution, and science groups are not statistically significant. For reasons of comparison  
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15 Table 1 also contains characteristics of non-movers. This group of stars does not differ in  
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17 statistically significant ways from their mobile counterparts in terms of gender, age, affiliation  
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19 and type of research. Chi-square tests indicate that only the hypothesis that the distribution of  
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21 expats, returnees and non-movers across science groups is the same can be rejected (at the 5  
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23 % level of significance). In contrast to mobile stars, the share of non-movers working in the  
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25 field of natural sciences is lower whilst the proportion of non-movers engaged in medical and  
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27 health sciences is higher, particularly when compared to expats.  
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36 Table 1 also provides data on the temporal aspect of mobility of expatriates and returnees,  
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38 pointing to considerable differences between these two groups of stars. The average time  
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40 period that expats have already spent away from their home regions amounts to 30 years. This  
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42 reflects a pattern of permanent migration. Returnees, in contrast, have spent on average six  
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44 years abroad before returning to their home countries and regions. Movements of returnees  
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46 are thus best described as temporary migration.  
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53 The star scientists included in the sample are strongly concentrated in a few places  
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55 worldwide. US cities and regions – in particular global centres of scientific excellence such as  
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57 Cambridge, MA, Stanford, New York and Boston – are successful in retaining non-movers  
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59 and attracting expatriates (see Tables 7 and 9 in the annex). At the same time they are  
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amongst the key sending regions of returnees, i.e. the places where foreign stars worked for a



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3 while before relocating back home (Table 8 in the annex). The top 8 host areas (i.e. receiving  
4 regions) of expats are all located in the United States and host not fewer than 22% of all  
5 surveyed expatriates. Interestingly, only seven places (including scientific powerhouses in  
6 Europe such as London and Cambridge) account for the outflow of nearly one quarter of all  
7 expats (see Table 7 in the annex). Looking at the geography of returnees, a different picture is  
8 found. It is particularly cities and regions in Japan (Tokyo and Kyoto) and various places in  
9 Europe (such as Munich, Copenhagen and London) where a strong inflow of star scientists  
10 who move back home could be observed. Also returnees show a pattern of strong  
11 agglomeration. The top 8 ranked home regions (i.e. receiving regions) account for 21% of all  
12 sampled returnees (Table 8 in the annex).  
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#### 29 4. Empirical Results

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31 This section investigates the degree and nature of interregional knowledge transfer activities  
32 (i.e. international knowledge flows between the sending and receiving areas) of mobile stars.  
33 Furthermore, it will be examined to what extent these stars are engaged in knowledge transfer  
34 activities at the intraregional level, i.e. in their current region of choice (defined as the sub-  
35 national area where they are currently located). Finally, this section also identifies a set of  
36 factors that influence whether or not stars engage in intraregional knowledge transfer  
37 activities.  
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##### 51 4.1 Interregional knowledge transfer

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53 To what extent do mobile top researchers sustain or create linkages to the scientific  
54 community and to the industrial sector at their former location, thus propelling an  
55 interregional flow of knowledge between their sending and receiving regions? The stars  
56 included in the sample keep close connections to the science system of their sending regions.  
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60 Not fewer than 82% of the surveyed expatriates reported maintaining knowledge linkages to



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3 the scientific community in their home regions. Returnees are even more engaged in  
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5 interregional knowledge exchange with scientists at their prior host region. Not less than 90%  
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7 still have contacts with the scientific community at their former location. A Chi-square test  
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9 shows that these differences between expats and returnees are statistically significant (at the  
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11 5% level). To summarise, there is a substantial interregional knowledge transfer between  
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13 distant research systems triggered by the surveyed world-class scientists. Obviously, returnees  
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15 play a more powerful role in this respect than expatriates.  
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22 Which mechanisms are employed by star scientists to promote an interregional knowledge  
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24 flow between their sending and receiving regions? As revealed in Table 2, the joint attendance  
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26 of international scientific conferences and workshops (71% of expatriates, 82% of returnees)  
27  
28 and research visits and staff exchange (70% of expatriates, 82% of returnees) play the most  
29  
30 important role, but also joint publications (64% of expatriates, 79% of returnees) are rather  
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32 common modes of scientific knowledge transfer. Similar shares were found to exchange  
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34 knowledge with scientific actors from the sending regions via research co-operations and joint  
35  
36 participation in workshops. As illustrated in Table 2 a range of other modes of knowledge  
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38 transfer also matters. Furthermore, Table 2 shows that a sizeable fraction of stars is even  
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40 strongly engaged in interregional knowledge transfer activities, i.e. they adopt various  
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42 mechanisms regularly or frequently. Only joint patenting activities are rather uncommon.  
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51 [Table 2 about here]  
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55 As noted earlier, mobile top researchers might also set in motion movements of other research  
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57 talent, if former colleagues and students follow the stars to their new location. This specific  
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59 type of ‘subsequent knowledge flow’ which has been referred to as ‘follower phenomenon’  
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(see section 2.2) seems to be quite common for the sampled star scientists. Remarkably, more

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3 than 30% of the expatriates and 45% of the returnees stated that their own movement abroad  
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5 (expatriates) or back home (returnees) triggered further movements of followers (scientists or  
6  
7 students) from their previous location.  
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12 In a next step it is intriguing to explore whether or not the surveyed star scientists also have  
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14 connections to firms at their former location, thus contributing to the industrial exploitation of  
15  
16 scientific research at the international scale. A sizeable fraction of expatriates (19%) reported  
17  
18 maintaining knowledge links to companies in their home regions. Looking at the group of  
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20 returnees it can be observed that about 35% of them have linkages to firms in their prior host  
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22 region. A Chi-square test shows that these differences between expatriates and returnees are  
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24 statistically significant at the 1% level.  
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32 Analysing the modes of knowledge transfer highlights that star scientists tend to employ a  
33  
34 large variety of different mechanisms to exchange knowledge with companies at their prior  
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36 location (Table 3). Similar to scientific ties there is no single dominant type of knowledge  
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38 flow but manifold modes of interregional knowledge transfer to companies matter. Key  
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40 modes include research co-operations (15% of expats, 26% of returnees), consulting services  
41  
42 (16% of expats, 24% of returnees) and contract research (12% of expats, 22% of returnees),  
43  
44 Similar shares of expats and returnees transfer knowledge to firms at their previous location  
45  
46 via research visits and staff exchange as well as the joint participation in scientific  
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48 conferences and workshops. However, hardly any mechanisms listed in Table 3 are used in  
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50 strong ways, i.e. on a regular or frequent basis.  
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58 [Table 3 about here]  
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3 The evidence provided above suggests that mobile star scientists give rise to a large variety of  
4 interregional knowledge linkages, implying that both their sending and receiving regions  
5 potentially benefit from the stars' movements through enhanced knowledge transfer. A  
6 considerable share of the surveyed top researchers creates or maintains connections to the  
7 scientific community at their former locations and to a lesser extent star scientists are also  
8 linked to firms at these places. Furthermore, it was shown that stars employ a wide spectrum  
9 of different modes of knowledge transfer. Returnees proved to be significantly more involved  
10 in such knowledge transfer activities than expatriates. It is beyond the scope of this paper to  
11 look at these differences in detail. There might be various reasons for this pattern, such as the  
12 long period of time that many expats have already spent abroad (this would indicate a  
13 decrease of social proximity over time) or the lack of appropriate partners in the home regions  
14 of expatriates.  
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#### 34 4.2 Intraregional knowledge transfer

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36 As argued in section 2.2 the inflow of top researchers might have far reaching effects for the  
37 receiving region. Apart from gaining access to distant knowledge sources through the stars'  
38 interregional knowledge links, the receiving region might take additional advantages from the  
39 arrival of stars, if they engage in intraregional knowledge transfer activities. In this section it  
40 will be analysed as to what extent mobile star scientists embed themselves in their region of  
41 choice (defined as the sub-national area where they are currently located) by creating  
42 knowledge linkages to regional actors and organisations. Furthermore, the relative importance  
43 of different modes of intraregional knowledge transfer will be analysed. Here data availability  
44 allows for comparing intraregional knowledge transfer activities performed by mobile top  
45 researchers with those performed by non-movers. In the following, a very simple definition of  
46 'embeddedness' is used. Stars who adopt at least one of the seven mechanisms of  
47 intraregional knowledge transfer shown in Table 4 in strong or weak ways are referred to as  
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3 'embedded stars'. The results suggest that a large majority of the surveyed star scientists can  
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5 be classified as embedded stars.  
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10 [Table 4 about here]  
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15 The sampled elite researchers are strongly engaged in knowledge transfer activities within the  
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17 scientific community of their regions of choice. Nearly all expats and returnees collaborate  
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19 with academic institutions at the regional level; more than 60% of them even do so in a quite  
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21 strong way. A considerable share of both expatriates (85%) and returnees (89%) also  
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23 indicated that some of their former students are employed by research organisations in the  
24  
25 region. There is thus a knowledge transfer via the mobility of talented students educated by  
26  
27 the surveyed top researchers. As shown in Table 4 the sampled stars also employ a range of  
28  
29 mechanisms to transfer their knowledge and expertise to the regional industry sector. Key  
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31 modes in this context include R&D partnerships with firms located in the same region (73%  
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33 of expatriates, 76% of returnees) and the provision of skilled graduates (67% of expatriates,  
34  
35 79% of returnees). However, it should also be mentioned that a relatively large number of star  
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37 scientists use these modes in quite sporadic and weak ways. Some star scientists are also more  
38  
39 directly engaged in the commercialisation of their scientific discoveries by selling patents  
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41 (28% of expatriates, 32% of returnees) to regional firms (however, only very few stars carry  
42  
43 out this activity regularly or frequently), acting as a member of the management or advisory  
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45 board of regional firms (28% of expatriates, 27% of returnees) or even running their own  
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47 regionally based business (15% of expatriates, 14% of returnees). Consequently, star  
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49 scientists are strongly embedded in their regional economies. There is a large variety of  
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51 mechanisms by which star scientists potentially influence regional growth and innovation.  
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3 A comparison of the two groups of mobile top researchers reveals that returnees seem to be  
4 slightly more engaged in intraregional knowledge sharing activities than expatriates. Chi-  
5 square tests show, however, that these differences between expatriates and returnees are only  
6 statistically significant (at the 1% level) for the category 'source of highly-qualified labour'.  
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8 Another interesting result shown in Table 4 that will be discussed further below (see section  
9 4.3.) concerns the finding that mobile stars do hardly differ in their regional knowledge  
10 transfer activities from non-movers.  
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#### 22 4.3 Determinants of intraregional knowledge transfer activities

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24 The previous subsection provided evidence that star scientists are rather strongly engaged in  
25 intraregional knowledge transfer activities. However, the factors which have an influence on  
26 whether or not top researchers embed themselves in their regions of choice by employing  
27 different modes of knowledge transfer remain unclear. Is the international mobility  
28 background of stars really irrelevant for their regional embeddedness as the descriptive  
29 analysis suggests? Data availability also allows for addressing a set of further questions. Do  
30 stars who maintain interregional knowledge links (see section 4.1) also show a high  
31 propensity to engage in intraregional knowledge transfer, i.e. is there a complementary or  
32 substitutive relation between interregional and intraregional knowledge transfer activities?  
33  
34 Which role do the stars' age, gender, affiliation, discipline and the type of research (basis  
35 versus applied research) play? One might expect, for example, that knowledge transfer  
36 activities are more likely in some disciplines than in others and that a focus on applied  
37 research has a positive impact on the embeddedness of stars. Finally, does location matter?  
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39 Do US-based stars supply more knowledge to regional actors than stars located elsewhere as  
40 some parts of the literature suggest (MOWERY et al., 2001)?  
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3 A multivariate model is used with indicators of the star scientists' employment of various  
4 modes of intraregional knowledge transfer as dependent variables and a set of factors as  
5 explanatory variables. Table 5 represents the description of the different variables. The  
6 dependent variables are binary indicators representing whether or not the respective star  
7 scientist adopts a specific mode of knowledge transfer. The explanatory variables include the  
8 factors interregional linkages, the mobility background of the surveyed stars, the type of  
9 institution they are working for, the degree of applied research, the scientific discipline, and  
10 the stars' gender, age and location. A binary logit model is employed.  
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25 [Table 5 about here]  
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29 The binary logit model presented in Table 6 is weak in explaining whether or not stars are  
30 engaged in intraregional knowledge transfer to the academic world in their current location.  
31 This has to do with the fact that such activities are ubiquitous in nature. The multivariate  
32 analysis, however, provides some interesting insights into those factors that have an influence  
33 on intraregional knowledge transfer activities to the industrial world.  
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43 [Table 6 about here]  
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48 The model provides some indication for the existence of a substitutive relation between  
49 interregional scientific linkages and intraregional knowledge transfer. It is, however, only for  
50 the activities 'selling patents to firms' and 'entrepreneur' where this pattern proves to be  
51 statistically significant (at a 10% level). Interregional linkages to firms, in contrast, have a  
52 positive and significant effect on regional knowledge transfer (via selling patents, becoming  
53 an entrepreneur or acting as a board member in firms). The type of institution, i.e. a star's  
54 affiliation, also matters in a statistically significant way for some modes of knowledge  
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3 transfer. As one might expect, stars working in a non-university research unit are less likely to  
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5 be a source of highly-qualified labour than university-based stars, and stars from the corporate  
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7 sector are more likely to become an entrepreneur than stars working at universities. Next, the  
8  
9 type of research has a significant effect on intraregional knowledge transfer to the industrial  
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11 world. The more applied the research done by star scientists, the likelier it is that they engage  
12  
13 in such activities. The scientific discipline also has an influence on whether or not stars  
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15 transfer their knowledge to regional firms. Star scientists working in natural sciences,  
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17 engineering & technology and medical & health sciences are more likely to engage in the  
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19 activities 'R&D projects with firms' and 'selling patents to firms' than top researchers  
20  
21 working in social sciences. Finally, gender has a significant effect on the activities 'source of  
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23 highly-qualified workers' and 'R&D projects with firms'. Female star scientists are thus more  
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25 engaged in these activities than male stars.  
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34 Other factors considered in the model do not play a role in explaining the embeddedness of  
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36 stars via intraregional knowledge transfer activities. The model confirms the finding reported  
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38 in the previous section that the international mobility background of star scientists has a non-  
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40 significant effect on such activities. This result allows for the conclusion that the sending  
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42 regions of mobile stars, indeed, lose a potential key source of regional development while the  
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44 receiving areas gain such a source. Given the finding that mobile and non-mobile stars do not  
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46 differ significantly in their embeddedness, one might even argue that attraction of mobile stars  
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48 may compensate for the lack of home-grown ones. Another instructive result is that the  
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50 location of stars hardly suggests significant impact. This result is surprising, given the view in  
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52 the literature that the United States offer more favourable conditions for and have a longer  
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54 history of knowledge flows from academia to industry and the commercialisation of scientific  
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56 knowledge than other parts of the world (see, for instance, MOWERY et al., 2001)<sup>5</sup>.  
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## 5. Summary and Conclusions

In this paper an attempt has been made to explore both conceptually and empirically the relation between movements of 'star scientists' (identified by the number of citations they generated in journals of the ISI databases) and knowledge flows. Star scientists are possessors of unique cutting-edge knowledge. It could be assumed that their mobility has a strong impact on regional development of their sending and receiving areas. However, empirical evidence about movements of the scientific elite is still scarce and, as a consequence, knowledge flows resulting from their mobility remain poorly understood.

The conceptual model proposed in this paper highlighted that mobile scientists can give rise to a substantial knowledge transfer, both at the interregional level (i.e. between the sending and receiving regions of star scientists) as well as at the intraregional level (i.e. in the receiving regions of stars). Empirically, the paper has drawn on the results of a worldwide survey of 720 star scientists. More than 50% (375 stars) of the sampled top researchers had an international mobility background, being either expatriates or returnees.

Applying methods of descriptive statistics both interregional and intraregional knowledge transfer activities performed by mobile star scientists were analysed. The empirical findings suggested that knowledge flows resulting from scientific mobility are far from being a sporadic phenomenon. The empirical analyses pointed to an important role played by mobile stars in creating knowledge linkages between distant areas. The large majority of both expatriates and returnees maintain linkages to the science system at their former location, thus promoting international transfer of knowledge between their sending and receiving regions. To a lesser extent the surveyed stars also retain connections to firms located in their sending regions. Common modes of interregional knowledge transfer both to scientific actors and firms include joint participation in conferences and workshops, joint publications, as well as



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3 research visits and staff exchange. But also more formal linkages such as contract research  
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5 and R&D collaborations turned out to be relevant. Moreover, it was also demonstrated that  
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7 the 'follower phenomenon' is quite common, i.e., mobile stars attract further scientific talent  
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9 to the region.  
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15 The evidence provided in this paper suggested that mobile stars do not only promote  
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17 intraregional knowledge flows but they are also strongly engaged in intraregional knowledge  
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19 transfer activities. A considerable share of expatriates has embedded themselves in their host  
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21 regions by creating various connections to regional actors and organisations. Also returnees  
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23 are strongly involved in knowledge circulation in their home regions, after having worked for  
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25 some time abroad. Academic collaborations maintained by the surveyed stars within the  
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27 region were found to be almost ubiquitous, closely followed in level by providing talent for  
28  
29 the scientific labour market. However, the role of the star scientists is not restricted to these  
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31 classic academic roles. More than two thirds of the investigated stars act as a source of skilled  
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33 graduates for the regional industrial sector. Similar shares were found to also engage in joint  
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35 R&D projects with firms. But even rather specific activities like selling patents to firms and  
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37 being a regional entrepreneur or a board member were reported by a substantial share of the  
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39 top researchers.  
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48 To summarise, the findings reported in this paper confirm the view in the literature (see  
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50 section 2) that a substantial knowledge transfer is related to international movements of (star)  
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52 scientists. In contrast to some earlier work, in this paper a differentiated view of various  
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54 modes that matter for knowledge transfer to scientific and industrial actors both at the  
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56 interregional and intraregional level was provided. Finally, using a multivariate model, a set  
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58 of factors was identified that have an influence on whether or not star scientists embed  
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60 themselves in their location of choice by engaging in regional knowledge transfer activities. It

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3 was found that the international mobility background of stars does not suggest significant  
4 impact, i.e. mobile stars do not differ in their regional knowledge transfer activities from non-  
5 mobile stars. Other key variables had explanatory power; these being particularly  
6 interregional linkages to firms (pointing to a complementary relation between intraregional  
7 and interregional knowledge transfer activities), a focus on applied research and the stars'  
8 disciplines. Even more instructive was the finding that US-based stars do not differ in their  
9 intraregional knowledge transfer activities from top researchers located elsewhere.  
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22 Further empirical analyses are necessary to find out when and why location makes a  
23 difference and which characteristics of the regional environment of sending and receiving  
24 areas (such as elite universities, presence of innovative companies, high-tech sectors or  
25 industry clusters in fields related to the stars' disciplines, specific policy programmes, etc.)  
26 have an influence on intraregional and interregional knowledge transfer activities performed  
27 by top scientists. Another essential question concerns the impact of interregional and  
28 intraregional knowledge flows set off by stars on regional development of the sending and  
29 receiving areas. It was beyond the scope of this paper to measure the regional effects of  
30 knowledge transfer activities. Such an analysis is a key issue for future research and would  
31 essentially enhance our understanding of the regional consequences of international  
32 movements of scarce scientific brainpower. Finally, the results presented in this paper were  
33 based on rather small samples of elite researchers only. Analyses like those done in this paper  
34 could also be done for 'ordinary' scientists to see whether and how their mobility, knowledge  
35 transfer activities and regional impact differs from the pattern found for star scientists.  
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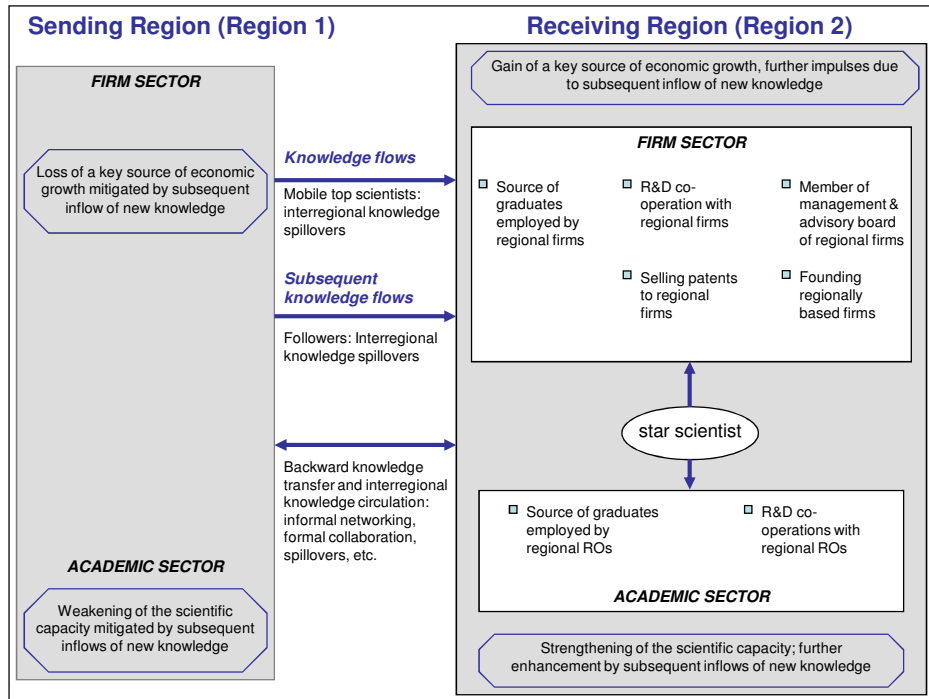
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Figure

Figure 1: Knowledge link model



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## Tables

Table 1: Sample characteristics (% of star scientists)

		Total (N=720)	Expats (N=181)	Returnees (N=194)	Non- Movers (N=345)
Gender	Female	5.6	5.0	4.1	6.7
	Male	92.6	92.8	94.3	91.6
	Missing	1.8	2.2	1.5	1.7
Year of Birth	Mean		1946.7	1945.7	1946.9
Type of Institution	University	70.4	71.8	68.6	70.7
	Non-university research entity	18.3	17.1	20.6	17.7
	Corporate research unit	2.1	2.2	1.0	2.6
	Other	5.8	6.1	6.7	5.2
	Missing	3.3	2.8	3.1	3.8
Type of Research	Exclusively / mostly basic research	50.5	44.2	53.6	52.2
	Rather basic research	11.3	11.6	13.9	9.6
	Basic and applied research	22.1	27.1	19.6	20.9
	Rather applied research	4.7	5.0	4.1	4.9
	Exclusively / mostly applied research	9.8	10.0	7.7	10.7
	Missing	1.7	2.2	1.0	1.7
Research Discipline	Natural Sciences	53.3	56.4	56.2	50.1
	Engineering & Technology	10.1	13.8	8.8	9.0
	Medical & Health Sciences	23.3	16.0	24.2	26.7
	Agriculture Sciences	3.1	4.4	4.1	1.7
	Social Sciences	7.6	7.2	5.2	9.3

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3		Missing	2.5	2.2	1.5
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6					
7	Expatriates:	Mean (Min. 0.7, Max. 60): 29.5			
8					
9	Years spent				
10	abroad				
11					
12					
13		1 – 10 years		11.6	-
14					-
15		11 – 20 years		8.8	-
16					-
17		21 – 30 years		29.8	-
18					-
19		31 – 40 years		30.9	-
20					-
21		More than 40 years		16.6	-
22					-
23		Missing		2.2	-
24					-
25					-
26					-
27	Returnees:	Mean (Min. 0.5, Max. 40): 5.9			
28					
29	Years spent				
30	abroad				
31					
32					
33		Less than 1 year		-	1.6
34					-
35		1 – 3 years		-	49.0
36					-
37		4 – 10 years		-	32.5
38					-
39		More than 10 years		-	12.9
40					-
41		Missing		-	4.1
42					-

Table 2: Modes of knowledge transfer to scientific community at the prior location (% of mobile star scientists)

	Expatriates (N=181)		Returnees (N=194)	
	%	% (strong)	%	% (strong)
Research co-operation	60.8	(25.4)	79.4	(50.0)
Contract research	51.4	(18.8)	71.7	(31.5)
Co-operation in consulting and licensing	30.9	(7.7)	40.1	(9.2)
Joint publications	64.1	(18.8)	79.0	(43.8)
Joint patents	8.8	(0.0)	19.6	(3.1)
Recruitment of scientists and research professionals	48.1	(6.1)	56.7	(10.3)
Joint participation in workshops and other events	67.4	(19.9)	77.3	(41.2)
Joint attendance of international scientific conferences	70.7	(30.4)	81.5	(54.7)
Research visits and staff exchange	70.2	(21.0)	82.4	(37.6)

Strong: frequently or regularly (as opposed to weak: seldom or occasionally)

Table 3: Modes of knowledge transfer to firms at the prior location (% of mobile star scientists)

	Expatriates (N=181)		Returnees (N=194)	
	%	% (strong)	%	% (strong)
Research co-operation	15.0	(5.6)	26.3	(6.7)
Contract research	12.2	(6.1)	22.2	(6.2)
Consulting services	16.0	(5.0)	24.3	(8.8)
Licensing agreements	7.8	(2.2)	14.9	(2.5)
Joint publications	11.7	(2.8)	21.6	(3.6)
Joint patents	5.1	(1.2)	8.7	(0.5)
Recruitment of scientists and research professionals	9.4	(1.1)	11.3	(1.0)
Joint participation in industry fairs and exhibitions	3.9	(0.0)	6.6	(1.5)
Joint participation in workshops and other events	12.2	(3.9)	20.5	(4.6)
Joint attendance of international scientific conferences	12.8	(5.6)	24.2	(7.2)
Research visits and staff exchange	13.8	(5.0)	24.8	(2.1)

Strong: frequently or regularly (as opposed to weak: seldom or occasionally)

Table 4: Modes of intraregional knowledge transfer (% of star scientists)

	Expatriates		Returnees		Non-mobile stars	
	%	% strong	%	% strong	%	% strong
Academic Sector:						
Academic Collaboration	98.3	61.8 <sup>(1)</sup>	99.5	67.0 <sup>(1)</sup>	98.2	64.3 <sup>(1)</sup>
Source of talent for scientific labour market	84.8	21.9 <sup>(2)</sup>	88.9	18.9 <sup>(2)</sup>	86.9	25.5 <sup>(2)</sup>
Industrial Sector:						
Source of highly qualified workers	66.7	14.1 <sup>(2)</sup>	78.7	19.1 <sup>(2)</sup>	73.6	13.8 <sup>(2)</sup>
R&D projects with firms	73.0	25.3 <sup>(1)</sup>	75.8	27.4 <sup>(1)</sup>	79.8	26.0 <sup>(1)</sup>
Selling patents to firms	27.8	5.1 <sup>(1)</sup>	32.3	3.2 <sup>(1)</sup>	37.9	5.0 <sup>(1)</sup>
Entrepreneur	15.2		14.2		13.9	
Member of firm board	28.2		27.2		25.4	

<sup>(1)</sup> Strong: regular or frequent<sup>(2)</sup> strong: a lot or almost all

Table 5: Definition of dependent and explanatory variables

Variable name	Variable description
Dependent variables:	
ACO	A binary variable which is 1 if the respondent engages in the regional knowledge transfer activity 'academic collaboration' and 0 if not
SLM	A binary variable which is 1 if the respondent engages in the regional knowledge transfer activity 'source of talent for scientific labour market' and 0 if not
ILM	A binary variable which is 1 if the respondent engages in the regional knowledge transfer activity 'source of highly qualified workers' and 0 if not
RDP	A binary variable which is 1 if the respondent engages in the regional knowledge transfer activity 'R&D projects with firms' and 0 if not
PAT	A binary variable which is 1 if the respondent engages in the regional knowledge transfer activity 'selling patents to firms' and 0 if not
ENT	A binary variable which is 1 if the respondent engages in the regional knowledge transfer activity 'entrepreneur' and 0 if not
MEM	A binary variable which is 1 if the respondent engages in the regional knowledge transfer activity 'member of firm board' and 0 if not
Explanatory variables:	
IL_Sci	Dummy variable set to 1 if the respondent maintains international knowledge links to a scientific organisation at her/his prior location
IL_Ind	Dummy variable set to 1 if the respondent maintains international knowledge links to a firm at her/his prior location
Returnee	Dummy variable set to 1 if the respondent is a returnee (default – non-mover)
Expatriate	Dummy variable set to 1 if the respondent is an expatriate (default – non-mover)
Inst_NonUniv	Dummy variable set to 1 if the respondent is employed in a non-university research unit (default – university)
Inst_Corp	Dummy variable set to 1 if the respondent is employed in a corporate research unit (default – university)
Inst_Other	Dummy variable set to 1 if the respondent is employed in another non-university

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3		research unit (default – university)
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5	Type Research	Indicator which is larger the more applied the respondent's research is
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7	SG_Nat	Dummy variable set to 1 if the respondent is in natural sciences (default - social
8		sciences)
9		
10		
11	SG_Eng	Dummy variable set to 1 if the respondent is in engineering & technology
12		(default - social sciences)
13		
14		
15	SG_Med	Dummy variable set to 1 if the respondent is in medical & health sciences
16		(default - social sciences)
17		
18		
19	SG_Agr	Dummy variable set to 1 if the respondent is in agricultural sciences (default -
20		social sciences)
21		
22		
23	Gender	Dummy variable set to 1 for a female respondent (default – male)
24		
25	Age	The respondent's age in years
26		
27	Age2	The respondent's age in years squared (divided by 1,000) to allow for a U-
28		shaped or inverse U-shaped relationship
29		
30		
31	US	Dummy variable set to one if the star is located in a US region (default – rest of
32		the world)
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35	Europe	Dummy variable set to one if the star is located in a European region (default –
36		rest of the world)
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Table 6: Binary logit model

	ACO	SLM	ILM	RDP	PAT	ENT	MEM
IntLink_Sci	-0.38	-0.61	-0.52	-0.53	-0.65 *	-0.79 *	-0.02
IntLink_Ind	0.22		0.07	0.51	0.85 ***	1.24 ***	1.18 ***
Returnee	0.33	1.66	0.52	0.07	0.07	0.32	-0.20
Expatriate	0.18	0.70	0.02	-0.12	-0.12	0.43	-0.03
Inst_NonUniv	-0.69 **	0.13	-0.68 ***	0.23	-0.01	-0.44	-0.22
Inst_Corp	-1.16 *		-1.08	0.81	0.12	1.79 ***	0.96
Inst_Other	-0.33	-1.47	-0.44	0.38	0.81 **	0.42	0.41
Type Research	0.03	-0.06	0.19 ***	0.37 ***	0.13 **	0.36 ***	0.22 ***
SG_Nat	-1.01	0.79	0.13	1.06 ***	1.96 ***	0.24	-0.11
SG_Eng	-0.63		1.28 **	2.43 ***	2.86 ***	-0.64	0.15
SG_Med	-0.46	1.50	0.28	1.48 ***	2.70 ***	0.68	0.61
SG_Agr	-1.04		-0.76	1.36 **	1.19	-0.89	-1.16
Gender	0.23	0.90	1.12 ***	0.92 **	0.68	0.14	0.11
Age	0.05	-0.09	0.07	0.00	-0.10	0.01	-0.04
Age2	-0.00	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	0.00	-0.00	0.00
US	-0.42	1.91 *	-0.45 *	-0.05	0.12	0.20	0.28
Europe	0.62	-0.13	0.50	0.50	-0.03	0.13	0.28
Constant	0.66	4.75	-3.94	-2.61	-0.97	-3.82	-1.50
Obs.	650	484	654	654	647	652	654
Likelihood	24.76	11.41	88.45	88.45	88.29	74.68	70.58
P(LR-Test)	0.10	0.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pseudo R2	0.05	0.14	0.13	0.13	0.11	0.14	0.09

\* ... significant at the 10% level    \*\* ... significant at the 5% level    \*\*\* ... significant at the 10% level



## Annex

Table 7: Sending and receiving regions of expatriates

Receiving Regions	Number of stars	% (cum.)	Sending Regions	Number of stars	% (cum.)
Cambridge, MA (US)	6	3.7	London (UK)	13	8.0
Stanford (US)	5	6.8	Buenos Aires (AR)	5	11.1
Boulder (US)	4	9.3	Christchurch (NZ)	5	14.2
Chicago (US)	4	11.8	Cambridge (UK)	4	16.7
Davis (US)	4	14.3	Melbourne (AU)	4	19.1
New York (US)	4	16.8	Paris (FR)	4	21.6
Philadelphia (US)	4	19.3	Toronto (CA)	4	24.1
Princeton (US)	4	21.7	Johannesburg (ZA)	3	25.9
Lausanne (CH)	3	23.6	Munich (DE)	3	27.8
London (UK)	3	25.5	Oxford (UK)	3	29.6
Oxford (UK)	3	27.3	Prague (CZ)	3	31.5
Vancouver (CA)	3	29.2	Sydney (AU)	3	33.3
19 regions each hosting 2 stars	38	52.8	Tokyo (JP)	3	35.2
76 regions each hosting 1 star	76	100.0	Vienna (AT)	3	37.0
Total	161		8 regions each sending 2 stars	16	46.9
			86 regions each sending 1 star	86	100.0
			Total	162	
Missing: receiving regions of 20 expats			Missing: sending regions of 19 expats		

Table 8: Receiving Regions and Sending Regions of Returnees

Receiving Regions	Number	%	Sending Regions	Number	%
	of stars	(cum.)		of stars	(cum.)
Kyoto (JP)	6	3.4	New York (US)	8	4.4
Tokyo (JP)	6	6.8	Berkeley (US)	6	7.8
Munich (DE)	5	9.6	Canberra (AU)	6	11.1
Copenhagen (DK)	4	11.9	Boston (US)	6	14.4
London (UK)	4	14.1	London (UK)	5	17.2
Seattle (US)	4	16.4	Bethesda (US)	4	19.4
Toronto (CA)	4	18.6	Chicago (US)	4	21.7
Zurich (CH)	4	20.9	Melbourne (AU)	4	23.9
Boulder (US)	3	22.6	Sydney (AU)	4	26.1
Cambridge (UK)	3	24.3	Los Angeles (US)	4	28.3
Canberra (AU)	3	26.0	Cambridge (UK)	3	30.0
Leuven (BE)	3	27.7	Copenhagen (DK)	3	31.7
Norwich (UK)	3	29.4	Palo Alto (US)	3	33.3
Sydney (AU)	3	31.1	San Francisco (US)	3	35.0
Tel Aviv (IL)	3	32.8	Stanford (US)	3	36.7
Wuerzburg (DE)	3	34.5	Toronto (CA)	3	38.3
14 regions each hosting 2 stars	28	50.3	Zurich (CH)	3	40.0
88 regions each hosting 1 star	88	100.0	Stockholm (SE)	3	41.7
Total	177		25 regions each sending 2 stars	50	69.4
			55 regions each sending 1 star	55	100.0
			Total	180	
Missing: receiving regions of 17 returnees			Missing: sending regions of 14 returnees		

Table 9: Regional Concentrations of Non-movers

	Number of	
	stars	% (cumul.)
New York (US)	13	4.3
Boston (US)	8	6.9
Austin (US)	7	9.2
Bethesda (US)	7	11.4
Baltimore (US)	6	13.4
Chicago (US)	6	15.4
London (UK)	6	17.3
Los Angeles (US)	6	19.3
Atlanta (US)	5	20.9
Oxford (UK)	5	22.5
Tokyo (JP)	5	24.2
Ann Arbor (US)	4	25.5
Cambridge, MA (US)	4	26.8
Charlottesville (US)	4	28.1
Davis (US)	4	29.4
Durham (US)	4	30.7
Irvine (US)	4	32.0
Madison (US)	4	33.3
Oak Ridge (US)	4	34.6
Philadelphia (US)	4	35.9
Cambridge (UK)	3	36.9
Kyoto (JP)	3	37.9
Lund (SE)	3	38.9
Millbrook (US)	3	39.9
Nashville (US)	3	40.8
New Haven (US)	3	41.8
Pasadena (US)	3	42.8

Salt Lake City (US)	3	43.8
Seattle (US)	3	44.8
Stanford (US)	3	45.8
32 cities each hosting 2 stars	64	66.7
102 cities each hosting 1 star	102	100.0
Total	306	

Missing: home regions of 39  
non-movers

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## Notes

<sup>1</sup> The knowledge link model suggested in this paper does not consider unintended spillovers which may result from the mere presence of star scientists in a region. Such spillovers do not require any form of engagement or activities by top researchers and might, thus, be observable even for 'isolated star scientists', i.e. stars who lack any ties at the regional level. The argument is not that unintended spillovers cannot play a critical role in regional development. Nevertheless, the focus of this paper is only on potential contributions by star scientists to regional dynamics which require deliberate efforts and actions, and, therefore, a certain degree of regional 'embeddedness' of stars.

<sup>2</sup> This is in line with the results of a recent study of 158 of the world's most highly-cited physicists who found that 50% of these stars work outside their country of birth (HUNTER et al., 2009).

<sup>3</sup> Responses by stars who indicated that they are retired, have established their own firm, work for the government or do consulting are summarised under the category 'other'.

<sup>4</sup> The 21 subject categories have been classified according to the Frascati Manual (OECD, 2006) into five broader fields of science and technology.

<sup>5</sup> Similar models were used for analysing the three groups of star scientists separately. In all three models the explanatory variables 'expatriate' and 'returnee' have been skipped. In the models dealing with expatriates and returnees the variable 'years spent abroad' has been added. Results are very similar to those reported in section 4.3. The same factors as those found for the overall sample turned out to be relevant. The model for expatriates showed that additionally the period of time these stars have already spent abroad has a positive and significant

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5 influence on the activities 'R&D projects with firms', 'source of talent for scientific labour market' and 'source  
6 of highly-qualified workers'. The more years expats have already spent in their new location, the likelier it is that  
7 they perform these activities, implying that embedding in the new location via these activities requires a  
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9 substantial period of time.  
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