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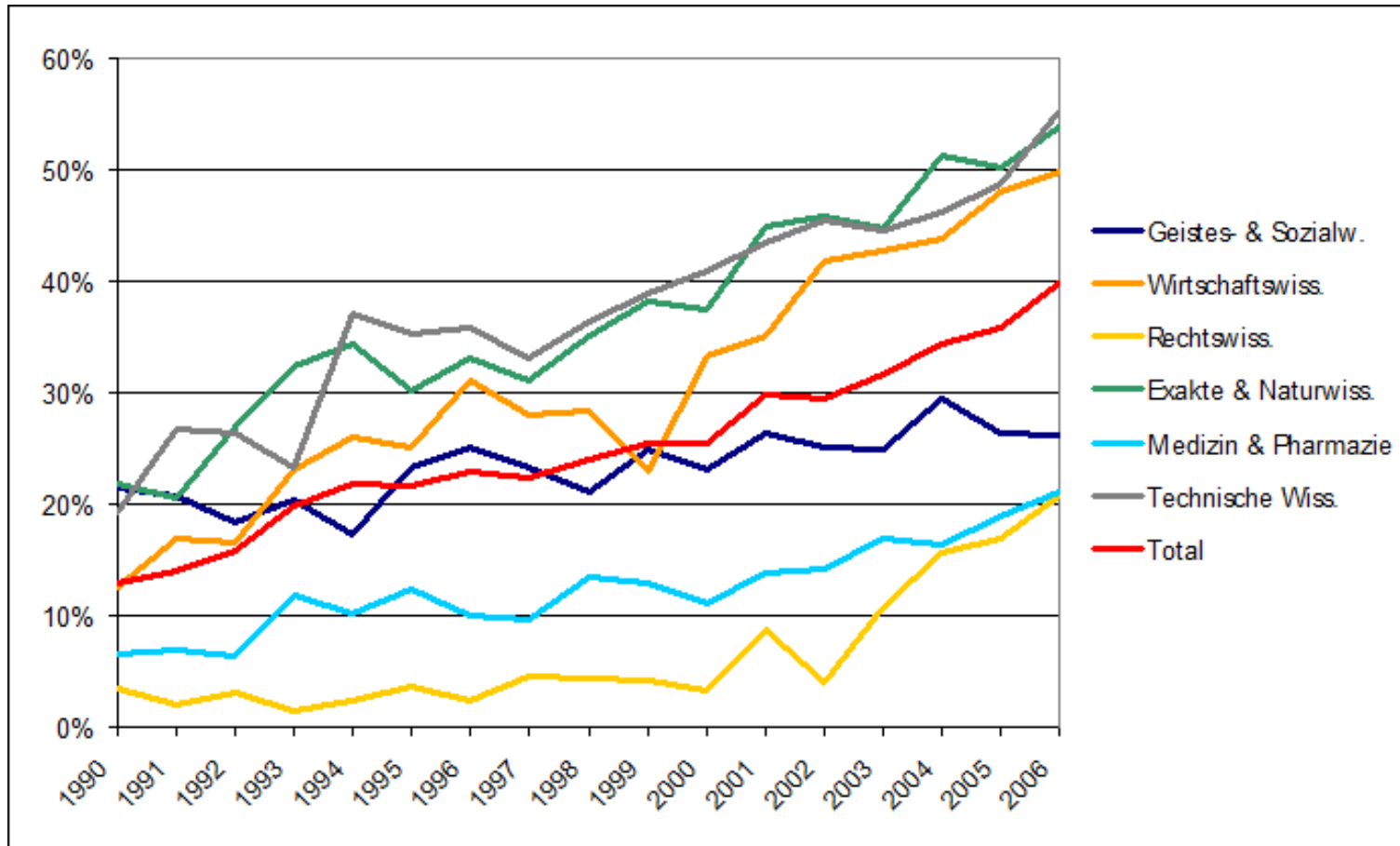
Institutionalisation of transnational mobility in academia and the ideal type of academic entrepreneur

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Topics

1. Theoretical explanations for (growing) pressure in academia to be geographically mobile and for inequalities in mobility patterns
2. Gender and social inequalities in mobility patterns of upcoming researchers in Switzerland (empirical study)

Figure: Proportion of doctorates with a Master's degree from abroad.



Source: Swiss Higher Education Information System (Federal Statistical Office, calculations by Philipp Dubach, GEFO)

Starting Question

- Why to be mobile in academia?
- Why to request and promote geographical mobility?

Answer 1: Functionalist View

- Data, field, sources on site
- Technologies, devices, equipments on site (e.g. particle accelerator, hubble-telescope)
- Object of research (e.g. international relations, romance studis)
- Communication and cooperation on site -> networks, «excellence»
 - cannot explain **growing** mobility pressure
 - in conflict with possibilities by ICT
 - cannot explain **inequalities** in mobility patterns

Answer 2: Institutional approach and socialisation theories

- Initiation, integration of young researches into the academic field (norms, rules, habits, customs) (Robert K. Merton)
 - cannot explain **explosive** growing mobility pressure
 - cannot explain **inequalities** in mobility patterns

Answer 3: Perspective of (re-)production of social inequalities (1)

- Academia as a battle field (competition, struggles for power and recognition)
 - producing social inequalities (Pierre Bourdieu)
 - e.g. female academics get less support by a mentor (Leemann, Boes & Da Rin, 2010)
- **Transnational social capital:** contacts/cooperation with researchers around the world
 - Transformation into cultural and symbolic capital

Answer 3: Perspective of (re-)production of social inequalities (2)

- With growing competition: Transnational social capital as the small but significant difference between competitors
 - Explanations for **growing** mobility pressure and for **inequalities** in mobility patterns: increasing competition, new forms of social distinction (Bourdieu 1992, Schultheis 2008, Münch 2007)
- **Networks** of female researchers: significantly fewer academic contacts with academics abroad (Leemann, Boes und Dubach 2010).

Answer 4: Neo-institutional approach (1)

- Norms, values, social beliefs, social expectations (= institutions)
 - Structure formal organisations (universities, research funding institutions, ...)
(Meyer and Rowan 1977)
- Social belief and expectation: «Mobility and internationality are unavoidable for good research and economic growth»
 - incorporated into the practices and procedures of supranational organisations (EU, OECD, ...) and national organisations (SNSF, universities ...)

Answer 4: Neo-institutional approach (2)

- Example:
European Initiative «European Partnership for Researches – better careers and more mobility»

«Improving the career prospects and mobility enhances the diffusion of knowledge (fifth Freedom) throughout Europe, balances demand and supply for researchers at European level, helps to create centers of excellence and improves the skills of researchers in Europe.»
- Lissabon Strategy, Europe 2020 of a «free circulation or movement of researchers knowledge, and technology in the European Research Area (ERA)»

Answer 4: Neo-institutional approach (3)

- Institutions: Social cognitive schemes and rationalised models, blue prints and reference framework for organisations
 - Legitimacy, credibility, resources, stability
 - Explanations for growing mobility pressure (supranational actors, growing diffusion of social beliefs)

The SNSF-study GEFO («Gender and Research Funding»)

- Quantitative data: Survey of 2002 doctoral graduates (panel 2003/2007)
 - Database 2007: Sample of 470 young researchers 5 years after PhD
- Qualitative data: In depth interviews with 45 young researchers
 - 30 interviews with researchers who graduated with a PhD in 2002
 - 15 interviews with researchers who had submitted their first application for a research funding to the SNSF between 2002 and 2006

Research questions:

- Social inequalities in mobility patterns and opportunities of young scientists?
- Role of research funding institutions (SNSF)?

Methods (quantitative data)

Statistical Analysis: Multivariate regression analysis (Logit)

Dependent variables (to be explained)

		<i>proportion in the sample</i>
■	Abroad: Once abroad (no control of time or region)	19.5%
■	Anglo: Minimum one year; USA, GB, Australia, Canada	11.3%
■	USA: Minimum one year; USA	4.4%

Methods (quantitative data)

Independent variables (explaining variables)

- Gender
- Age
- Previous geographic mobility (Master's degree abroad)
- Social origin (Father/Mother university degree?)
- Partnering (Domestic partnership, one year after the doctorate)
- Parenting (Birth of child within five years after the doctorate)
- Subject area (natural sciences, social sciences and humanities, ...)
- Career-oriented support during doctorate
- Support by research funding (e.g. Fellowship from SNSF approved)

Inequalities in mobility patterns of upcoming researchers in Switzerland

Results (quantitative data)

	Abroad	Anglo	USA
Probability of mobility	19.5%	11.3%	4.5%
Gender (woman)	- 4.6%	- 3.4%	- 0.6%
Age	- 0.9%	- 0.4%	- 0.2%
Master's degree abroad	+ 12.7%	+ 2.7%	- 0.1%
Father university degree	+ 3.0%	+ 3.8%	- 0.5%
Mother university degree	+ 8.5%	+ 5.6%	+ 0.8%
Domestic partnership, one year after the doctorate	- 7.4%	- 3.1%	- 0.8%
Birth of child within five years after the doctorate	- 6.1%	- 2.0%	- 0.4%
Subject area	controlled	controlled	controlled
Career-oriented support during doctorate	+ 6.4%	+ 3.0%	+ 0.2%
Fellowship from SNSF approved	+ 40.6%	+ 19.5%	+ 2.5%
Project participation funded by other Institution than SNSF	+ 15.4%	+ 6.8%	+ 0.6%

Interviews

» And this was difficult even for me, because my husband, he was here [in Switzerland] because he has his own (business). He was not able - for that reason I went to UK and not to the USA. Those are compromises, which one makes, which one makes willingly. We simply flew each weekend to and from. It was a strenuous time, but a good time too. «

(female physician)

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Interviews

» Presumably, it would have been difficult to be married or generally to live in a stable and long-lasting partnership because I lived at so many different places. I had a partner for many years but unfortunately the relationship broke down. I think what contributed to this disruption was the fact that both of us worked at different places and only for short periods. Most of these postdoc fellowships are for a year or two and then you have to move. For sure, this had some effects. The alternative would have been to say: “Okay, I put my career on the back burner and I follow my partner.” Or I require that my partner follows me and looks for a job nearby. This would have had the consequence that the respective partner wouldn’t have been able to continue in his or her specialist area.«

(female physicist)

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The ideal type of *academic entrepreneur* (Leemann 2010)

- Male
- Young
- Mobile
- Descending from an academic family
- Single, no dual career constellation
- Childless
- Supported by mentors
- Supported by research funding institutions

Academic socialisation fosters and produces subjects that are

- Socially and academically privileged
- Nomadic and monadic
- Deterritorialised, disembodied and disembedded (Kenway and Fahey 2007)

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- Thank you for your attention!