The complex processes of post-student migration and returning to the parental home

Innovative Perspectives on Population Mobility: Mobility Immobility and Wellbeing

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Introduction

Two foci

1. Patterns and processes of post-student migration.
    - Online survey of University of Southampton alumni – capturing retrospective data on migration trajectories across five-year period after leaving university.

2. Impacts of returning to the parental home after university.
    - Semi-structured interviews with post-students and their parents (identified via survey).

Post-student migration and returning to the parental home – why is this of interest?

- The movement of upwardly socially mobile graduates has been recognised as central to:
  - Regional economies (Bond *et al.*, 2010; Faggian and McCann, 2009a).
  - Human capital flows (Faggian *et al.*, 2007; Faggian and McCann 2009b).
  - Internal migration patterns in the UK – the SE Escalator (Fielding, 1992).
  - International skilled migration flows (Findlay, 2010).
- Graduate retention programmes – regional and local.
- Global economic downturn 2008
  - In 2011, graduate unemployment reached its highest level for 15 years, with 1 in 5 university leavers failing to find a job (ONS, 2011).
  - Is post-student labour-motivated migration slowing?
  - Are more post-students returning to the parental home?
- 'Boomerang generation' (Turcotte 2006; Mitchell 1998; *The Times*, 12/6/2007)
  - **Monday 25th June 2012 - David Cameron set out plans to scrap housing benefit for 380,000 young people under 25.**
  - UK - KIPPERS (Kids in Parents Pockets Eroding Retirement Savings – *The Independent*, 28/12/2008)
  - Intergenerational exchange frameworks within family households
    - 'Sandwich Generation' (Grundy and Henretta, 2006)
    - Positive impacts on family relations?

Data gap – young adult internal migration

- There is no official register of moves internal migration.
- Internal migration flows in the UK (short and long-distance) are estimated by the Office for National statistics (ONS) using GP registers.
- This methodology systematically *under-estimates* young adult migration.
  - Young adults have low GP registration rates.
  - Young adult migration events are often *complex* (to / from university; and during transition from studenthood to financial / residential independence).
  - GP registers and other secondary data sets do not capture this complexity
- Higher Education Statistics Agency microdata have been used to adjust ONS internal migration estimates for student migration
- No such data source exists for post-students – data gap.

Why do we need a new data set?

Migration rate per 1000 age standardised population
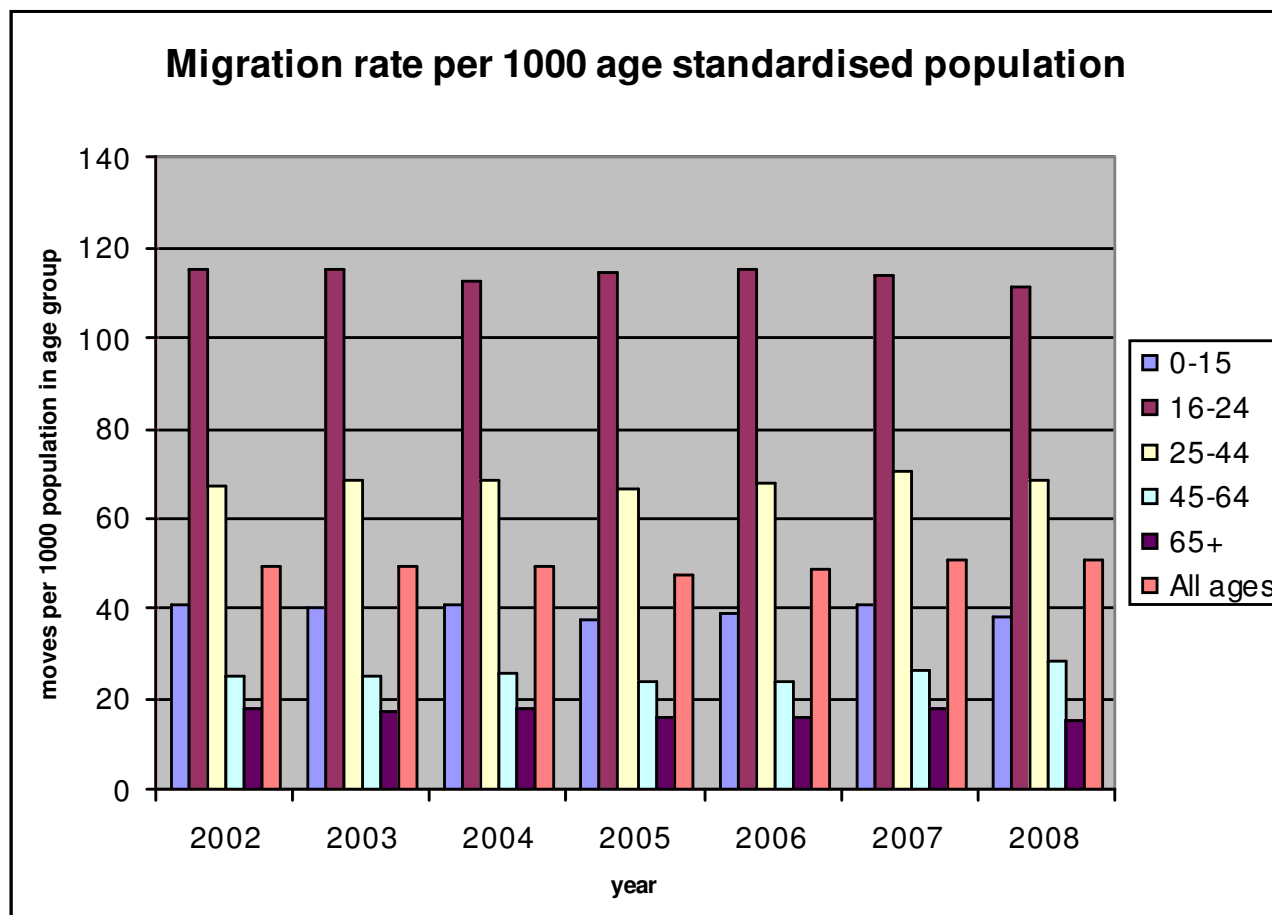
From Smith, Sage and Hubbard (forthcoming)

Data gap - DLHE and Longitudinal DLHE

- Destination of Leavers from Higher Education - Census at 6 months after graduation, Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

- Longitudinal DLHE - sample of DLHE at 3.5 years after graduation.

- Key limitations
  - Cross-sectional surveys - do not capture the complexity of post-student migration trajectories.
  - 6 months is relatively soon after graduation to shed light on transitions from studenthood to residential and financial independence.
  - DLHE and LDLHE are focused on *employment* trajectories of graduates; not migration.

- DLHE has been used to examine graduate migration (Faggian and McCann 2007; 2008; 2009)
  - employment-migration focused, examines transition from university into *first* employment (at 6 months after graduation).

Capturing complex post-student migration events using an **event history calendar**

Year		2004	2005	2006
Season		J F M A M J Jy A S O N D	J F M A M J Jy A S O N D	J F M A M J Jy A S O N
Age		22	23	24
Enter each change	1st change of address			
of address between	2nd change of address			
2004 and 2008	3rd change of address			
	4th change of address			

Enter your employment
travel / education status
between 2004 and 2008

Please answer some questions about your move.

1). What was the postcode of the address you moved to? (e.g. SO16, SW4, BN3)

RH13 8BJ   ☐ Can't remember: select nearest town   Aberdeen ▼

1B). If you moved outside of the UK, please enter the city and country you moved to:

City: [   ]   Country: [   ]

2). What was the postcode of the address you moved from?

[   ]   ☑ Can't remember: select nearest town   Aberdeen ▼

| Brighton |
| Bristol |
| Bromley |
| Cambridge |
| Canterbury |

2B). If you moved from a location outside the UK, please ent
you moved from:

City: [   ]   Country: [   ]

Enter your
partnership status
between 2004 and
2008

3). What were your reasons for moving from your previous addres
Please list 3 reasons below in order of importance (1 being the most important, 3 being the
least important)

1: [Tenancy ended at shared student house   ]

2: [returned to parents home to live rent free while travelling   ]

3: [   ]

NEXT   Previous

Cancel

Enter your child-bearing
history between
2004 and 2008

I41 = 0

Time_interval	DOB	Graduation_date	Age	Migration	employment	partnership	child_bearing	destination Pcode	international city	international country	Origin Pcode	Reasons for moving1	Reasons for moving2	Reasons for moving3	4_Housing_type	4B_Lived_with	5_Ownership	5A_Landlord	Landlord_other	5B_W_own
1	Jan-85	Aug-07	22	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Jan-85	Aug-07	22	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	Jan-85	Aug-07	22	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Jan-85	Aug-07	22	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	Jan-85	Aug-07	22	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	Jan-85	Aug-07	22	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	Jan-85	Aug-07	22	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	Jan-85	Aug-07	22	1	9	2	0	BH8 0PQ	0	0	SO17 3AR	Contract expired	Looking for work	0	4	5	3	1	0	0
9	Jan-85	Aug-07	22	0	9	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Jan-85	Aug-07	22	2	3	2	0	OX	0	0	0	New job	0	0	7	2	5	3	0	0
11	Jan-85	Aug-07	22	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	Jan-85	Aug-07	22	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13	Jan-85	Aug-07	23	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	Jan-85	Aug-07	23	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	Jan-85	Aug-07	23	3	3	2	0	OX3 7TR	0	0	0	Cost	Didn`t like living on my own	4	8	6	4	0		
16	Jan-85	Aug-07	23	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	Jan-85	Aug-07	23	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	Jan-85	Aug-07	23	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	Jan-85	Aug-07	23	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	Jan-85	Aug-07	23	4	3	2	0	OX4 2HQ	0	0	0	Unhapy with current house mates			5	7	6	4	0	
21	Jan-85	Aug-07	23	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22	Jan-85	Aug-07	23	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23	Jan-85	Aug-07	23	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24	Jan-85	Aug-07	23	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	Jan-85	Aug-07	24	5	4	2	0	ST19 5SW	0	0	0	New Job	0	0	2	8	6	5	0	0
26	Jan-85	Aug-07	24	6	4	2	0	WV3 8SW	0	0	0	To be closer to work	0	2	8	3	1	0	0	
27	Jan-85	Aug-07	24	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
28	Jan-85	Aug-07	24	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29	Jan-85	Aug-07	24	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30	Jan-85	Aug-07	24	7	4	2	0	WV3 9SE	0	0	0	Wanted to have my own space			7	2	6	4	0	
31	Jan-85	Aug-07	24	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
32	Jan-85	Aug-07	24	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33	Jan-85	Aug-07	24	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
34	Jan-85	Aug-07	24	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35	Jan-85	Aug-07	24	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
36	Jan-85	Aug-07	24	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
37	Jan-85	Aug-07	25	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
38	Jan-85	Aug-07	25	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
39	Jan-85	Aug-07	25	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
40	Jan-85	Aug-07	25	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
41	Jan-85	Aug-07	25	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
42	Jan-85	Aug-07	25	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
43	Jan-85	Aug-07	25	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
44	Jan-85	Aug-07	25	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45	Jan-85	Aug-07	25	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
46	Jan-85	Aug-07	25	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
47	Jan-85	Aug-07	25	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Sheet1 | Sheet2 | Sheet3

Survey sample

- 13,700 University of Southampton alumni invited to take survey (graduated between 2001-2007).

- Data collection 8th March 2012 - 8th May 2012.

- 2,777 respondents (20.3% response rate).
  - 1,121 completed surveys (every question answered).
    - Completed response rate 8.3% (1,121 respondents).
    - 971 with robust event history data (150 insufficiently completed calendars).
  - 1,656 partially completed surveys (some data entered).

- 56% female; 43% male.

- 75.8% White British; 10% White Other; 3.2% Chinese; 1.5% Indian.

- On Monday 6th March 2012
  - 88.7% employed (FT/PT).
  - 2.4% unemployed.
  - 2.9% study/training.
  - 2.5% on maternity/paternity leave.
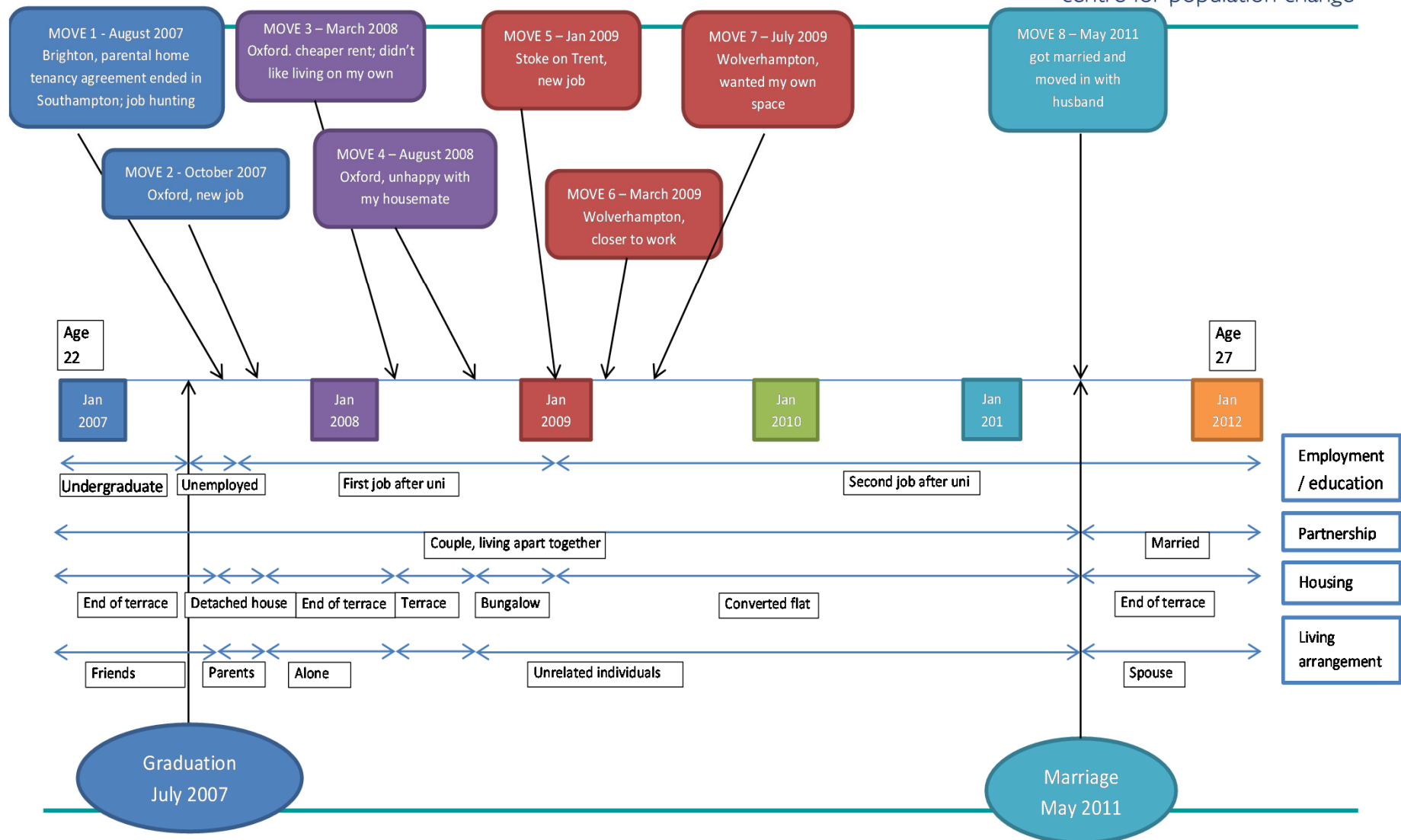 - 3.4% doing something else (retired; travelling; looking after family).

Calendar data: migration trajectories

- 963 respondents submitted robust calendars.

- 482 (50.1%) undergraduate.
- 481 (49.8%) postgraduate.

- Mean age of respondents at survey = 31.
  - Youngest = 24.
  - Oldest = 72.
- Mean age at graduation / leaving university = 26.
  - Youngest = 19.
  - Oldest = 62.

- 318 (33.0%) sample were aged 21+ when enrolled - 'mature students' (UCAS, 2012).
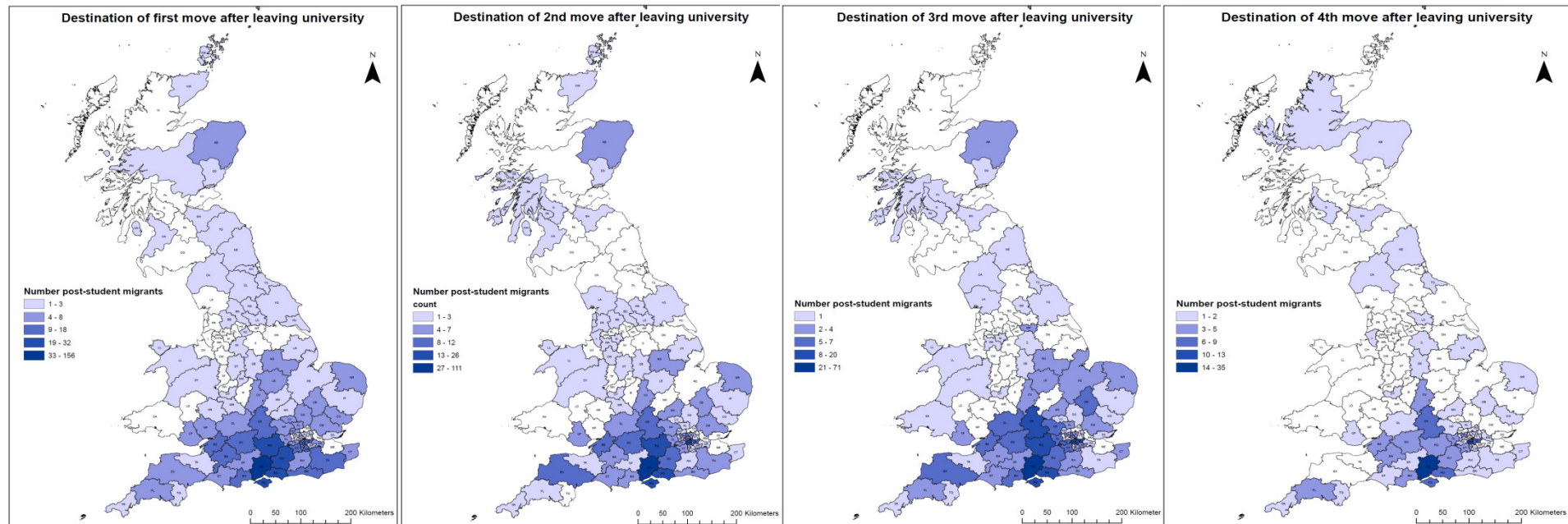- 645 (67.0%) were < 21 years of age at enrolment – 'traditional student'

Number of moves across five year period after leaving university

- 'Traditional students' (645 aged 18-20 at first enrolment).
  - Highest number of moves = 8.
  - Lowest number of moves = 0.
  - Mean average moves = 2.6.
  - 74 (11.4%) non-migrants (did not move during 5-year period).
  - 200 (31%) highly mobile (migrated 5+ times during 5-year period).
    - complex migration patterns.

- 'Mature students' (318 aged 21+ at first enrolment).
  - Highest number of moves = 6.
  - Lowest number of moves = 0.
  - Mean average moves = 1.3.
  - 117 (36.8%) non-migrants (did not move during 5-year period).
  - 24 (7.5%) highly mobile (migrated 5+ times during 5-year period).

Complex migration trajectories

CPC
centre for population change

MOVE 1 - August 2007
Brighton, parental home
tenancy agreement ended in
Southampton; job hunting

MOVE 3 – March 2008
Oxford. cheaper rent; didn't
like living on my own

MOVE 5 – Jan 2009
Stoke on Trent,
new job

MOVE 7 – July 2009
Wolverhampton,
wanted my own
space

MOVE 8 – May 2011
got married and
moved in with
husband

MOVE 2 - October 2007
Oxford, new job

MOVE 4 – August 2008
Oxford, unhappy with
my housemate

MOVE 6 – March 2009
Wolverhampton,
closer to work

Age
22

Age
27

Jan
2007

Jan
2008

Jan
2009

Jan
2010

Jan
201

Jan
2012

| Undergraduate | Unemployed | First job after uni | | Second job after uni | | Employment / education |

Couple, living apart together | Married | Partnership

| End of terrace | Detached house | End of terrace | Terrace | Bungalow | Converted flat | End of terrace | Housing |

| Friends | Parents | Alone | Unrelated individuals | Spouse | Living arrangement |

Graduation
July 2007

Marriage
May 2011

Destination of moves 1-4 (internal migrants)

Destination of first move after leaving university

1.	Southampton (156)
2.	Portsmouth (32)
3.	Reading (24)
4.	Guildford (24)
5.	Bournemouth (18)
6.	London SW (14)
7.	Bristol (13)
8.	London SE (13)
9.	Oxford (12)
10.	Tonbridge (12)

(1)

Destination of 2nd move after leaving university

1.	Southampton (111)
2.	London SW (26)
3.	Portsmouth (19)
4.	Reading (17)
5.	Bristol (12)
6.	London SE (11)
7.	Oxford (11)
8.	Guildford (9)
9.	Swindon (9)
10.	Exeter (8)

(2)

Destination of 3rd move after leaving university

1.	Southampton (71)
2.	London SW (20)
3.	Reading (13)
4.	London SE (11)
5.	Oxford (10)
6.	Portsmouth (10)
7.	Bristol (11)
8.	Swindon (7)
9.	Guildford (9)
10.	Slough (6)

(3)

Destination of 4th move after leaving university

1.	Southampton (35)
2.	London SW (13)
3.	Portsmouth (9)
4.	London SE (8)
5.	Oxford (7)
6.	Bristol (5)
7.	Reading (5)
8.	Bournemouth (4)
9.	Kingston-upon-Thames (3)
10.	Plymouth (3)

(4)

Destination of moves 5 and 6-8 (internal migrants)

Destination of 5th move after leaving university
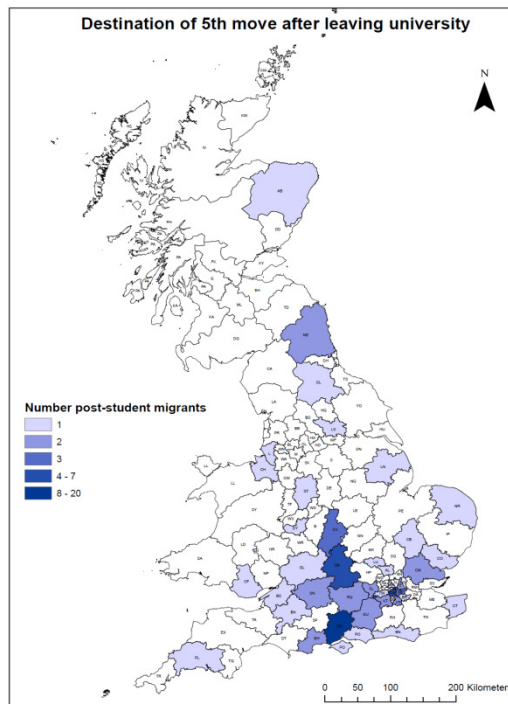
1. Southampton (20)
2. London SW (7)
3. Oxford (5)
4. Coventry (3)
5. London SE (3)
6. Newcastle (2)
7. Swindon (2)
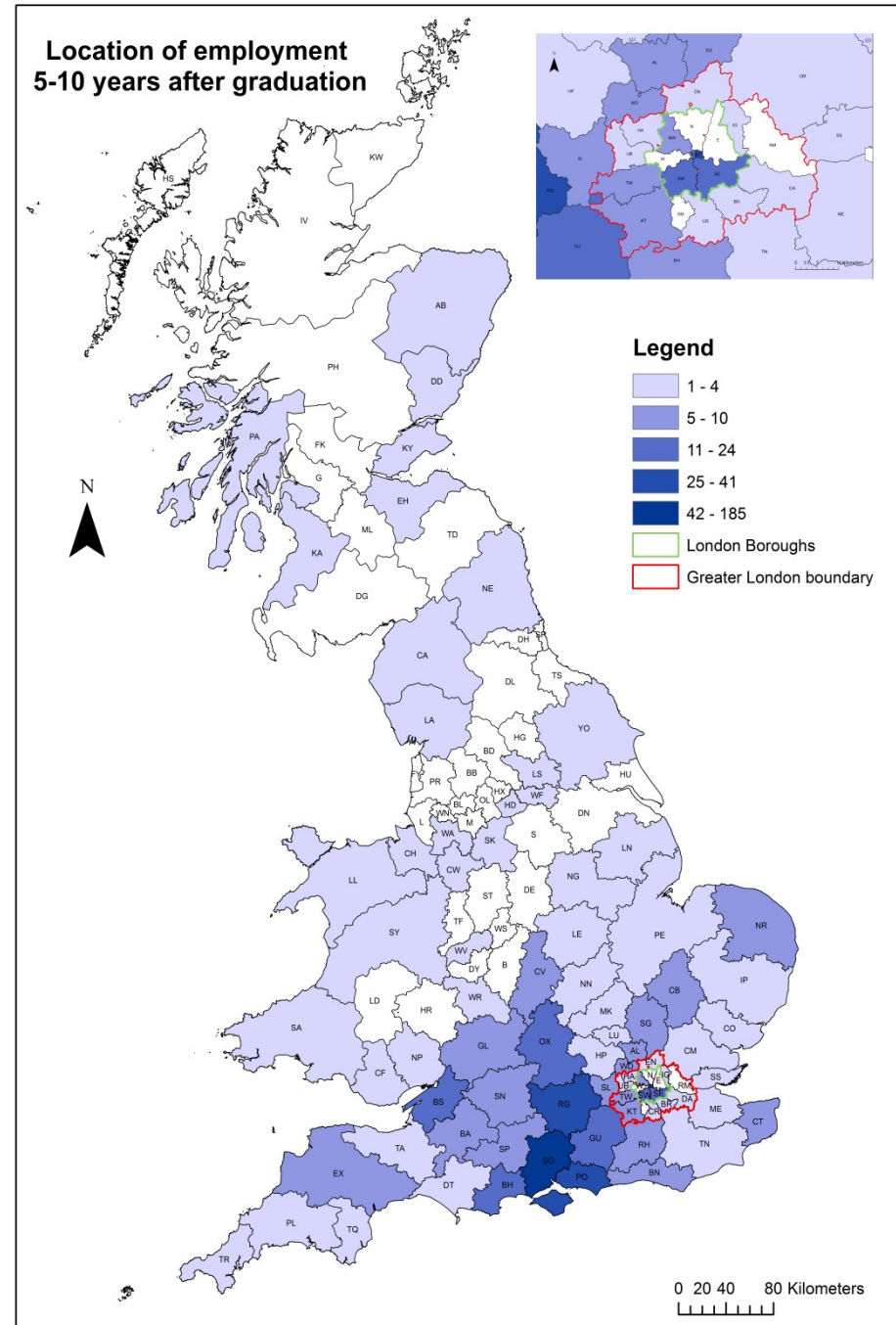8. Bournemouth (2)
9. Reading (2)
10. Guildford (2)

(5)

Destination of 6th-8th move after leaving university
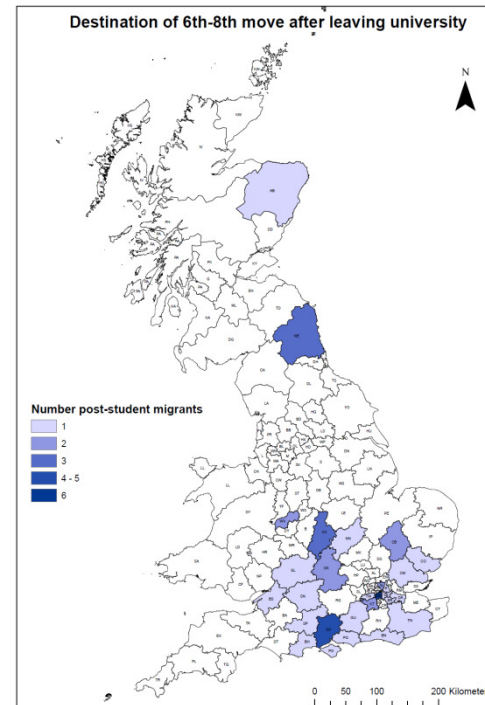
1. London SW (6)
2. Southampton (5)
3. Newcastle (3)
4. Coventry (3)
5. Wolverhampton (2)
6. Oxford (2)
7. Kingston-on-Thames (2)
8. London N (2)
9. Cambridge (2)
10. Aberdeen (1)

(6-8)

Address at time of survey (5-10 years after graduating)

1. Southampton (185)
2. Portsmouth (41)
3. London EC (36)
4. Reading (35)
5. Bristol (25)
6. London SW (23)
7. London SE (19)
8. Bournemouth (18)
9. Guildford (18)
10. Oxford (14)
11. London WC (13)
12. London NW (10)

Location of employment 5-10 years after graduation

Legend
- 1 - 4
- 5 - 10
- 11 - 24
- 25 - 41
- 42 - 185
- London Boroughs
- Greater London boundary

0 20 40   80 Kilometers

Reasons for 1ˢᵗ, 2ⁿᵈ and 3rd moves after university

1ˢᵗ move

Reason for first move	Count	%
Return to parents	217	32.7
Employment	182	27.5
End of tenancy	54	8.1
Moved in with partner	41	6.2
Purchased property	38	5.7
Higher Education	34	5.1
Better quality accommodation	26	3.9
Moved out of parental home	11	1.7
Employment - partner	8	1.2
Family home	8	1.2
Moved in with friends	6	0.9
Cheaper rent	5	0.8
Marriage	5	0.8
Travelling	5	0.8

2ⁿᵈ move

Reason for second move	Count	%
Employment	175	32.3
Purchased property	59	10.9
Higher Education	45	8.3
Moved in with partner	35	6.5
End of tenancy	29	5.4
Own space / independence	26	4.8
Moved out of parental home	25	4.6
Better quality accommodation	21	3.9
Travelling	17	3.1
Moved in with friends	14	2.6
Employment - partner	11	2.0
London	10	1.8
Marriage	10	1.8
Return to parents	9	1.7
Better location	7	1.3

3rd move

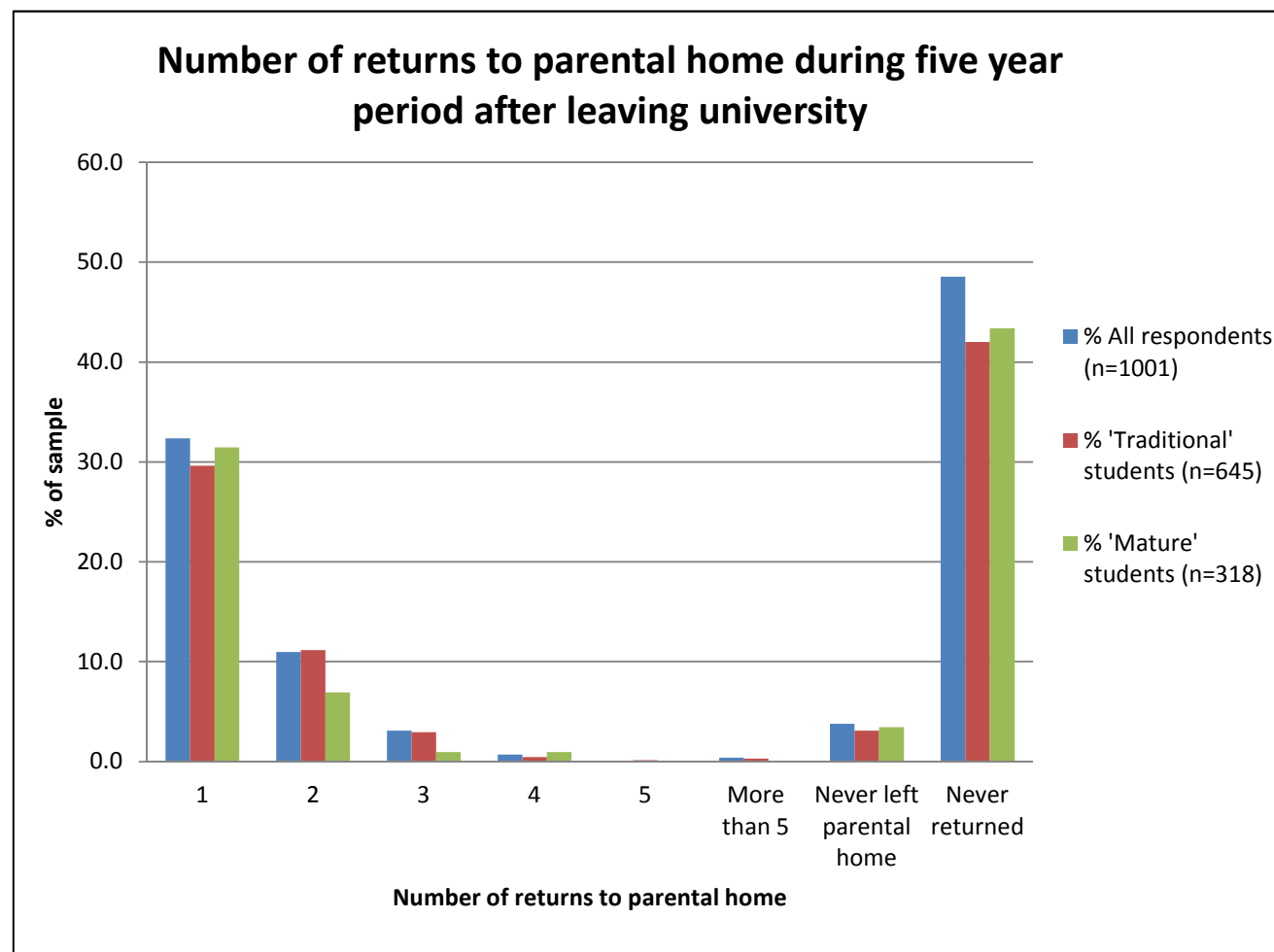| Reason for 3rd move	Count	%
Employment	92	24.9
Purchased property	37	10.0
End of tenancy	28	7.6
Moved in with partner	28	7.6
Better quality accommodation	27	7.3
Return to parents	20	5.4
Higher Education	15	4.1
End of house share	13	3.5
Unhappy sharing	11	3.0
Cost	10	2.7
Landlord sold property	8	2.2
better location	7	1.9
London	7	1.9
Moved in with friends	7	1.9
Own space / independence	7	1.9
Cheaper rent	6	1.6
Marriage	6	1.6
Unemployment	6	1.6

'Double boomerang'

"Moved out too soon and over-stretched myself financially so moved back home with parents".

"Had to move back home as couldn't afford place I moved out to – bills, council tax etc. were too high".

"Wife became pregnant, had to move back in with parents as not enough money or space".

Number of returns to the parental home

centre for population change

Number of returns to parental home during five year period after leaving university

- 49.5% respondents returned home after leaving university.

- 50.5% did not return.

- 3.9% never left home.

Length of stay in the parental home

Length of longest stay	Count	%
Less than 3 months	78	17.4
3-6 months	70	15.6
5+ years	55	12.2
12-18 months	54	12.0
2-3 years	47	10.5
9-12 months	41	9.1
6-9 months	34	7.6
18-24 months	31	6.9
4-5 years	23	5.1
3-4 years	16	3.6
Total	**449**	**100.0**

- 50.3% of respondents who returned home stayed for 1+ years.

- 12.2% stayed for 5+ years.

- 17.4% stayed for less than three months

- This does not include respondents who lived with their parents during university and remained there after completing their studies.

Reasons for returning to parental home

Reason for returning	count	%
Unemployment / job seeking	172	20.8
Following a period of study	128	15.5
To save for a deposit to buy a property	86	10.4
During transition between one rented property and another	80	9.7
To be close to family	72	8.7
Other	65	7.9
Unstable employment (e.g. short-term contract work)	52	6.3
During a period of study / training	43	5.2
To pay off debts	33	4.0
To be close to friends	30	3.6
During transition from rented accommodation to home ownership	29	3.5
Relationship break-down	18	2.2
Ill health (yourself)	9	1.1
Ill health (parents or other family members)	7	0.8
Don't know	3	0.4
Total	**827**	**100.0**

- 75.6% respondents were either satisfied or very satisfied with their living arrangements when they returned to the parental home

- 15% were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied.

- 9.4% were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied

Support received while living in the parental home

Type of support	count	%
My parent(s) allowed me to live rent-free	267	56.0
My parent(s) covered the cost of household bills	262	54.9
My parent(s) provided meals at no cost	261	54.7
I made a contribution to cover rent / food / household bills but this didn't reflect the true value	194	40.7
My parent(s) provided emotional support	177	37.1
My parent(s) provided me with a vehicle to use or gave me lifts / money for transport	127	26.6
My parent(s) provided me with help or advice with searching for / securing employment	100	21.0
My parent(s) provided care for me while I was in poor health	73	15.3
My parent(s) provided me with spending money	22	4.6
Other	5	1.0
My parent(s) did not provide me with any support while I lived with them	5	1.0
Don't know	0	0.0

Exchange?

Type of exchange	count	%
I provided help / support in kind in exchange for my parent(s) support (e.g. helping with household chores or cooking meals)	218	45.7
I expect to repay my parent(s) by supporting/ caring for them in the future	209	43.8
I made a financial contribution to my parent(s) while I was living with them to repay them for their support	156	32.7
I expect to make a financial contribution to my parent(s) in the future in exchange for their support	65	13.6
I do not expect to provide anything in exchange for my parent(s) support	57	11.9
Don't know	11	2.3
Other	7	1.5

Did returning to the parental home change quality of family relationships?

- Relationship with Mother
  - 50.2% no change
  - 35.7% stronger or much stronger
  - 8.1% weaker or much weaker

- Relationship with Father
  - 52.9% no change
  - 30.6% stronger or much stronger
  - 5.6% weaker or much weaker

- Relationship with siblings
  - 48.9% no change
  - 18.6% stronger or much stronger
  - 3.6% weaker or much weaker

Conclusions

- Evidence of graduate retention locally and regionally
  - South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) funded '*Graduate Jobs South*' in 2006 (retention initiative run by University of Southampton, Solent University and Winchester University).
  - Southampton City Council Local Development Framework Core Strategy (2008) strategic aim to "increase graduate retention and links between businesses and Universities".
- SE Escalator = *inter*-regional migration and social mobility.
- Our data shed light on *within*-region migration of upwardly socially mobile young adults
  - Evidence of gradual movement towards Greater and Inner London.
  - Stepwise migration – complex pathways.
  - Returning home linked with stationary or downward social mobility.
- Returning to the parental home is a common 1st/2nd/3rd/4th step in the post-student migration trajectory.
  - Respondents received significant support (financial, domestic and emotional) from parents when they returned.
  - Impact on intergenerational exchange frameworks in family households?
  - Evidence that respondents' relationships have improved or remained unchanged, and the vast majority were satisfied while living at home.

Phase 2: exploring the impacts of post-student return migration on intergenerational exchange frameworks

- 40% of Southampton sample returned to the parental home after university.

- 99% of these respondents received some form of support from their parents when they returned.

- Semi-structured interviews examining post-student experiences of re-integration following return migration to the parental home, and the experiences of their parents.

  - Sub-sample of 30 post-students
  - 30 parents
    - Family exchange frameworks
    - Are care transfers re-prioritised following the post-student's return to the parental home?
    - Are 'care trade-off's' occurring where demands on the resources of the mid-life 'sandwich generation' are made across multiple generations?
    - Positive impacts on family relations?

Future work

- A national study of post-student migration?
  - ESRC and other UK Research Councils.
  - Employment trajectories of MRes and Doctoral students.
  - Extend survey to other HEIs to increase sample size.