

## **Mobility beyond Europe: Mobility seen in a global context**

**Date:** 2004-08-27

**Time:** 14:15-16:45

**Venue:** Folkets Hus, 2nd floor, room 203/204

### **Synopsis:**

In addressing issues and challenges regarding international mobility, particularly for Early Career Researchers (ECRs), this session will draw upon a range of studies conducted in different countries. It will also draw on the personal experiences of two ECRs - one from China currently working as a mathematician in Sweden who went to Japan as a postdoc, and one from Romania who is a postgraduate in a medical school in the US.

### **Coordinators:**

Fiona Wood  
*Centre for Higher Education Management & Policy,  
University of New England, Armidale, Australia  
& Australasian Research Management Society*  
email: fwood@metz.une.edu.au

Dagmar M. Meyer  
*Marie Curie Fellowship Association  
Brussels, Belgium  
Chairperson*  
email: dmeyer@mariecurie.org

### **Speakers:**

Sami Mahroum (Department of Technology Policy, Systems Research GmbH, Austrian Research Centres)  
*"International policies of brain gain"*

Fiona Wood (Centre for Higher Education Management & Policy, University of New England, Armidale, Australia  
& Australasian Research Management Society)  
*"Attraction and retention of skilled scientists, engineers and technologists: an Australian perspective"*

Ma Li (Linköping University, Interim chairperson of the JSPS Alumni Club in Sweden)  
*"Read thousands of books & travel thousands of miles"*

### **Discussants:**

Sigi Gruber (Policy Officer, European Commission, DG RTD, Directorate D, Unit "Policy and Strategy")

Mihail Gabriel Chelu (Baylor College of Medicine, Houston/Texas)

# ABSTRACTS

## SAMI MAHROUM

Department of Technology Policy, Systems Research GmbH, Austrian Research Centres

### International policies of brain gain

Policymakers across OECD countries have become increasingly concerned with the international debate about brain drain and gain and have launched appraisal processes of the situations in their respective countries. The debates took different turns in different countries but, nevertheless, a number of issues, such as immigration legislation, traditions, reputation and image, etc. have emerged as issues of 'shared concern' across most countries.

This presentation will provide an overview of the various national responses to the issue of brain drain and brain gain and show how different perceptions of the challenges have yielded different policy actions.

## FIONA WOOD

Centre for Higher Education Management and Policy,  
University of New England, Armidale, NSW, Australia  
& Australasian Research Management Society

### Attraction and retention of skilled scientists, engineers and technologists: an Australian perspective

The centrality of knowledge to economic growth and international competitiveness is widely recognised. For a country such as Australia, which has a well-developed but comparatively small science base, it is essential to have access to global networks and the world's leading researchers and laboratories. It is also essential that it is competitive in recruiting and retaining the best Science, Engineering & Technology (SET) personnel.

This presentation will overview some of the main recruitment and mobility issues confronting Australia where a great deal of the R&D effort is concentrated in the public sector, particularly within the universities. Attention will also be directed to discussing strategies intended to overcome obstacles in attracting quality SET personnel, drawing in particular on the outcomes from a high-level invitational workshop entitled 'Beyond Brain Drain: Mobility, Competitiveness & Scientific Excellence' held at the Queensland Bioscience Precinct in February 2004 (<http://www.une.edu.au/sat/chemp/arms/>).

## MA LI

Linköping University, Interim chairperson of the JSPS Alumni Club in Sweden

### Read thousands of books & travel thousands of miles

A motto for a great number of scholars in ancient China was to read thousands of books, travel thousands of miles, and make friends from the "four directions". I am asked to speak from my own experience and (attempt) to give a more general view of mobility beyond Europe. I shall also give an account of some of my colleagues' view with a brief presentation of our alumni network.

## ABOUT THE SPEAKERS, DISCUSSANTS AND COORDINATORS

### SAMI MAHROUM

Department of Technology Policy, Systems Research GmbH, Austrian Research Centres

Dr. Sami Mahroum BA (Oslo), MSc. (Amsterdam), PhD (Hamburg) is a Senior Research Associate of *Systems Research GmbH*, part of the Austrian Research Centres (ARCS). His main research activities focus on innovation policy, including human resources for the knowledge economy. He has been especially active in the area of international mobility of highly skilled labour, giving numerous keynote speeches on the subject and publishing widely on it in international peer reviewed journals.

His current research interests are

- managing scientific diaspora for the mutual benefit of the sending and receiving nations, and
- measuring the impact of multicultural knowledge societies on innovation systems.

### FIONA WOOD

Centre for Higher Education Management and Policy,  
University of New England, Armidale, NSW, Australia,  
& Australasian Research Management Society

Fiona Wood is a senior research fellow and senior lecturer at the Centre for Higher Education and Management Policy, School of Professional Development and Leadership at the University of New England, Australia. She is also chair of the International Committee of the Australasian Research Management Society.

Her areas of research interest and expertise are:

- *science, engineering and technology policy*

the capacity of national research funding agencies to contribute to economic competitiveness and realise social priorities; the role of peer review; measures of research performance; institutional research management; international scientific networks and brain drain/gain/churn.

- *comparative higher education policy*

governance; management; funding; the role of the market; and diversity issues.

Fiona has been a keynote speaker at a number of international meetings including at the OECD, NWO, and provided expert testimony to the Canadian Parliament regarding its peer review system used for the allocation of research funds. Fiona also teaches a wide range of undergraduate and postgraduate courses both through her Faculty and also through the MBA Program in the Faculty of Economics, Business and Law. She teaches students within Australia and also delivers courses in 3 universities in Hong Kong, in Vietnam, and in New Zealand. She has supervision responsibilities for Honours, Masters and PhD students.

### MA LI

Linköping University, Interim chairperson of the JSPS Alumni Club in Sweden

Dr. Ma Li is a senior lecturer in mathematics at Linköping University, Sweden. She is a board member of the JSPS Alumni Club and the interim chairperson.

Ma Li was born and grew up in China. She came to Europe in 1988 "to study the masters" from ABC - Amsterdam, Berlin, Cambridge. In 1994 she was awarded her doctorate in Gothenburg and then conducted post-doctoral research in Kyoto until 1996.

Dr Ma has lectured at several universities in Europe and beyond. Her current interests include the comparison of mathematical traditions from a historical, educational, multicultural, as well as a gender perspective.

## **SIGI GRUBER**

European Commission, DG Research,  
Directorate D: "Human Resources, Mobility and Marie Curie Activities",  
Unit "Strategy and Policy"

Ms Sigi Gruber works for the Directorate General Research of the European Commission in Brussels. Her position includes major responsibilities in strategy and policy development for human resources in R&D including the general coordination of the follow-up initiatives proposed in the Commission Communication : *Researchers in the ERA: one profession, multiple careers*. She is also responsible for the overall coordination of the Researcher's Mobility Portal (<http://europa.eu.int/eracareers>).

Sigi Gruber has previously held various other high-level positions. She was the Secretary General of the European Association for the Education of Adults and Lifelong Learning from January 2000 – July 2001. Before that she had strategic management responsibilities for implementing the Leonardo da Vinci Programme at the European Commission, Directorate General Education and Culture, formerly know as DG XXII, and she contributed to the successful implementation of the LINGUA Programme from 1990 - 1995.

## **MIHAIL GABRIEL CHELU**

Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas

Mihail G. Chelu was born in Turnu Magurele, Romania. He graduated with a B.Sc. and M.Sc. in Physics and Theoretical Physics, respectively, from Babes-Bolyai University at Cluj-Napoca, Romania. He also completed his medical studies at the Iuliu Hatieganu University of Medicine and Pharmacy at Cluj-Napoca, Romania. He succeeded to combine his two interests in the Department of Molecular Physiology and Biophysics at Baylor College of Medicine in the United States, where he is currently pursuing his doctoral studies.

His interests are in the clinical aspects and the research into the mechanisms of human disease. In particular, he is interested in genetic cardiac and skeletal muscle human diseases. He is currently studying the molecular mechanisms of Central Core Disease and Arrhythmogenic Right Ventricular Dysplasia type 2 using genetically engineered mouse models for those diseases. The overall goal is to identify target molecules for drug development for patients with myopathies and cardiac arrhythmias.

Mihail G. Chelu was awarded a Socrates-Erasmus scholarship at Queen's University of Belfast and he is a member of the Biophysical Society.

## **DAGMAR M. MEYER**

Marie Curie Fellowship Association, Bruxelles

Dagmar M. Meyer studied mathematics at the Universities of Heidelberg and Cambridge. The work for her doctoral dissertation on a problem in Algebraic Topology was done mostly at the Autonomous University of Barcelona and the Max-Planck Institute for Mathematics in Bonn. After her PhD she spent two and a half years at the University of Paris 13, first with a fellowship from the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, then with a Community funded Marie Curie fellowship. In 2001 she returned to her native Germany where she currently holds a temporary position as Assistant Professor at the University of Göttingen. Since her time in Paris she has been actively involved in the Marie Curie Fellowship Association, first as one of the French national co-ordinators, then at European level holding various positions within the Administrative Board. She is currently the Chair of the association.

Dagmar is particularly interested in issues related to the career development of young reserchers and how to improve the framework conditions in this respect at a national and European level.