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The brain drain between knowledge-based economies : the European human capital outflow to the US

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**Abstract**

This paper uses census data from 1980 to 2006 to study the new European emigration to the US. This emigration is about a small but rising number of individuals. Yet since 1990, emigrants are increasingly selected from the upper tail quality distribution of their source country workforce in terms of education, scientific knowledge and, unobservable skills. This nineties surge has been amplified by the fact that returnees were fewer, older and, if anything, relatively less educated. As for the rationales, I provide preliminary evidence showing that the brain drain reflects the weakness of

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demand for skilled labor in Europe. Lately, I show that the technological changes triggered by human capital losses could make these outflows increasingly costly for Europe in terms of productivity.

(HRK / Abstract übernommen)

**Signature**

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