

# **Immigrants' Occupational Mobility in Sweden: The Value of Time**

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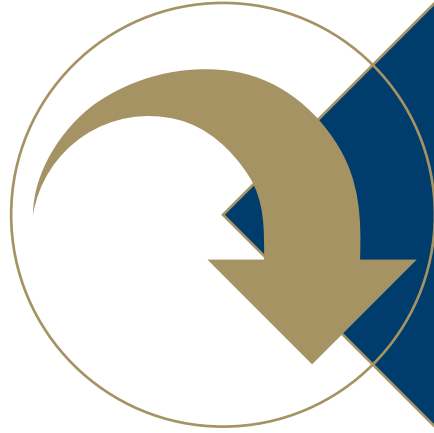
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# Background

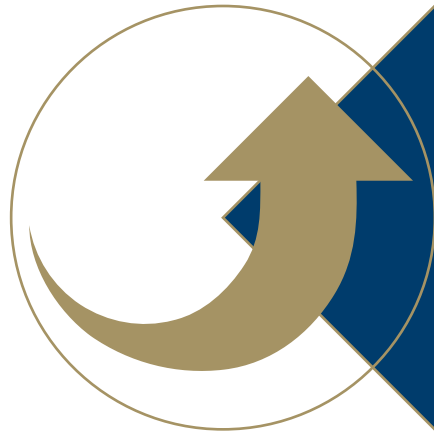
The stalled U-shape of immigrants occupational mobility

Is there a correlation between the time it takes to gain employment and the occupational position of that employment? Does this correlation depend on the occupational position of previous employments?

# Immigrants' occupational mobility



Human capital (HC) is not perfectly transferable; barriers to entry



Gaining Swedish-HC; recognising origin-HC; new networks; information

# Value of time



Mechanisms behind downgrade  
immediate due to change of context



Mechanisms behind upgrade  
happen with time



High-skilled will both fall more and  
have a larger effect of time

# Swedish context



15 percent foreign born (2010) – mix of origins and migration reasons



Comprehensive integration measures, including access to education



Low prevalence of low-skilled jobs

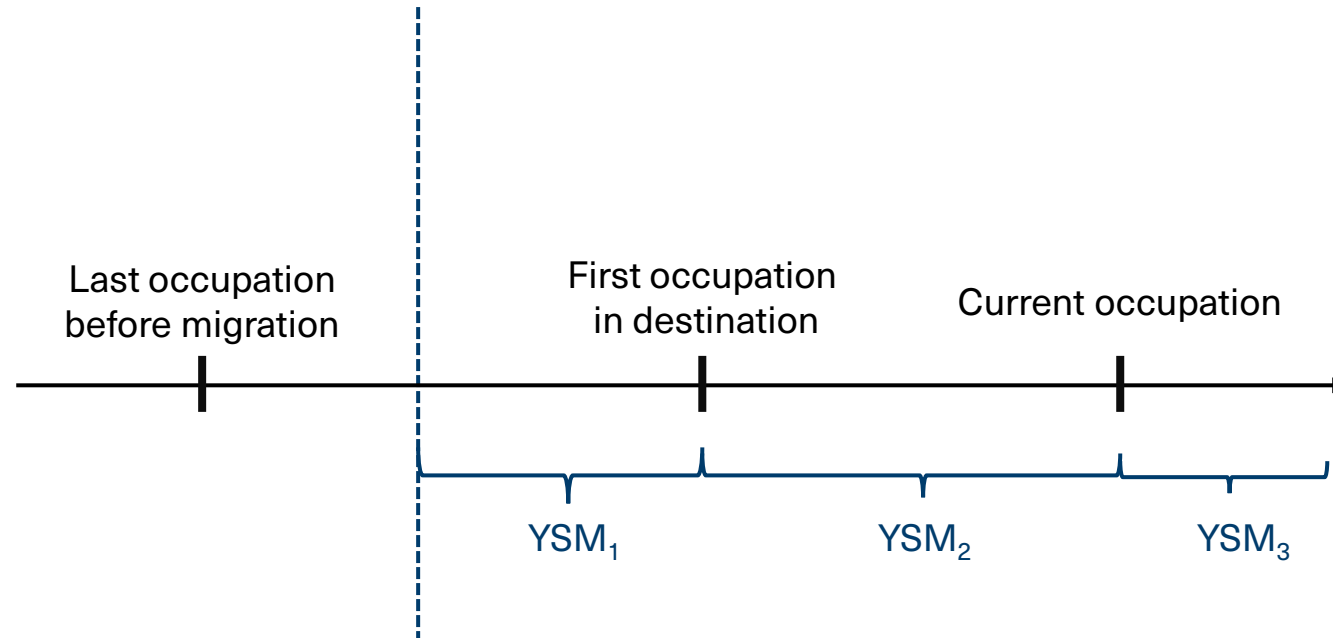
# Hypotheses

**H1:** The occupational position of the first employment in the destination country is positively correlated with the duration of the first transition.

**H2:** The size of the upward mobility in the second transition is positively correlated with the duration of the second transition

**H3:** There is a positive interaction of the size of the occupational downgrade of the first transition and the duration of the second transition on the effect of the position of the current employment.

# Modelling occupational transitions



# Analytical model

Level-of-Living-Survey for the Foreign Born and their children (2010-2011), N=749

Occupational status = ISEI

## First transition

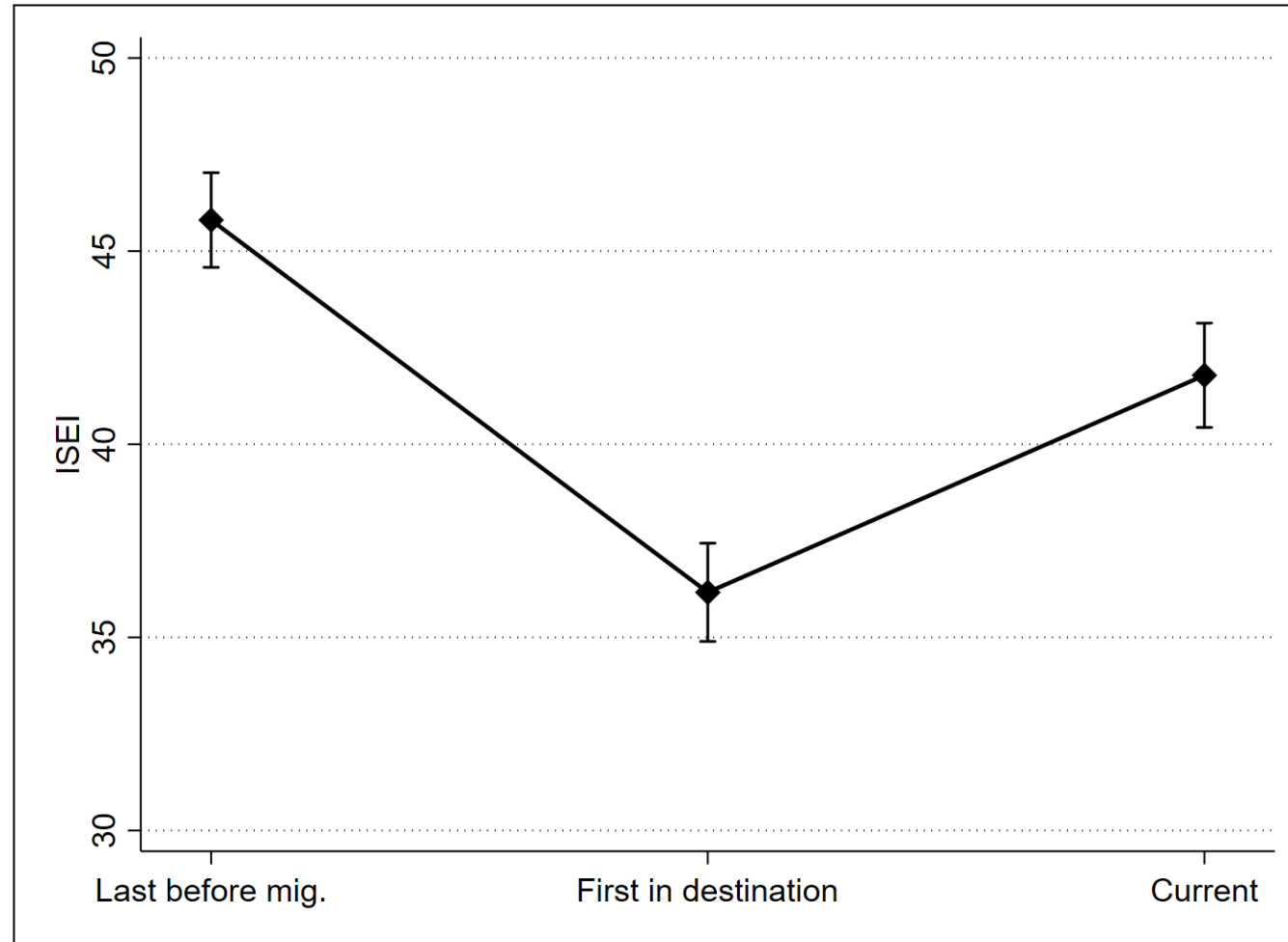
$$ISEI_{FD} = ISEI_{LM} * ISEI_{LM} * YSM_1 + \text{Migration age} + \text{Education level} * \text{Place of highest education} + \text{Region of origin} + \text{Migration reason} + \text{Gender}$$

## Second transition

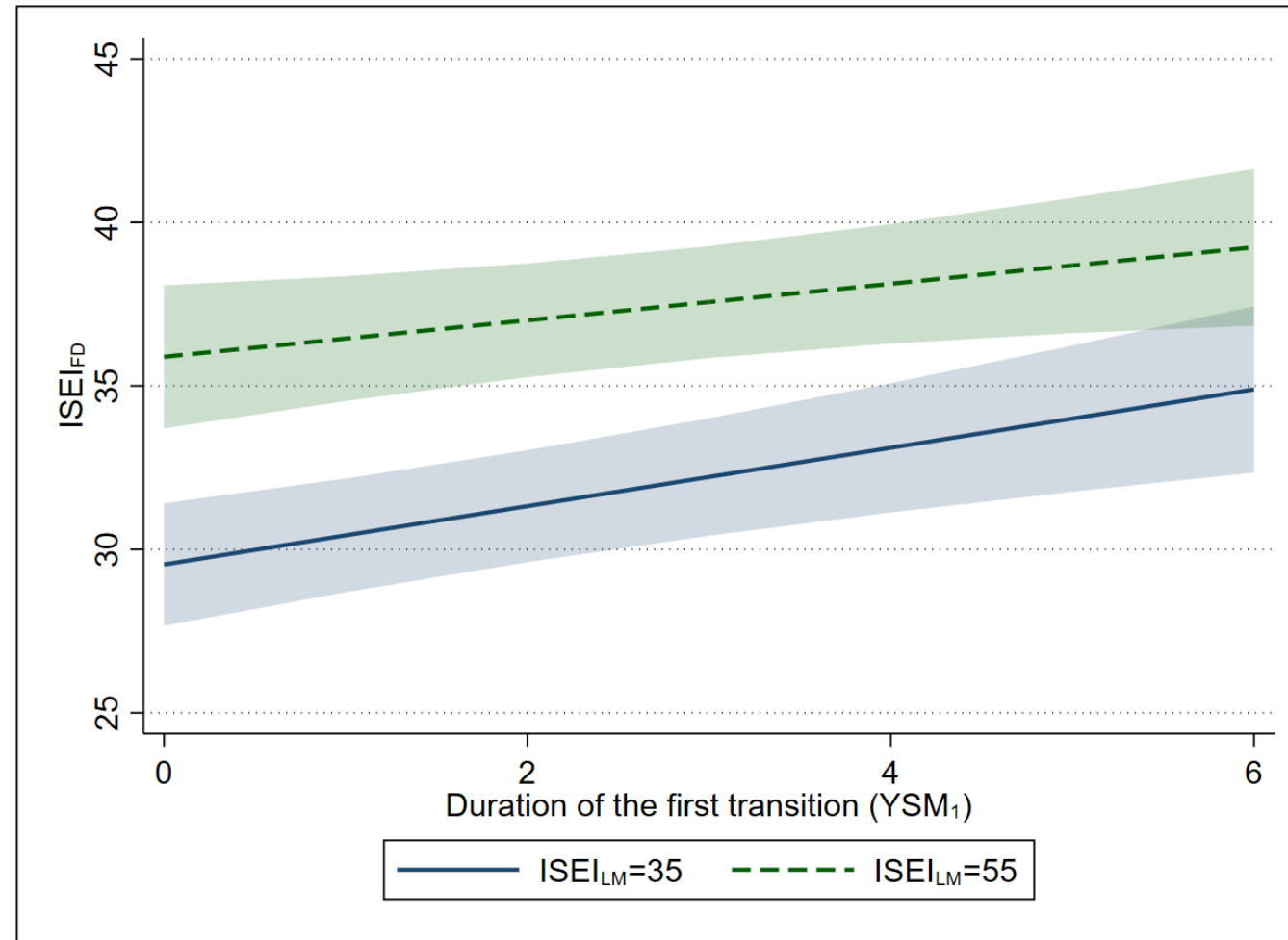
$$(ISEI_C - ISEI_{FD}) = ISEI_{FD} + (ISEI_{LM} - ISEI_{FD}) * YSM_2 + YSM_1 + YSM_3 + \text{Migration age} + \text{Education level} * \text{Place of highest education} + \text{Region of origin} + \text{Migration reason} + \text{Gender}$$



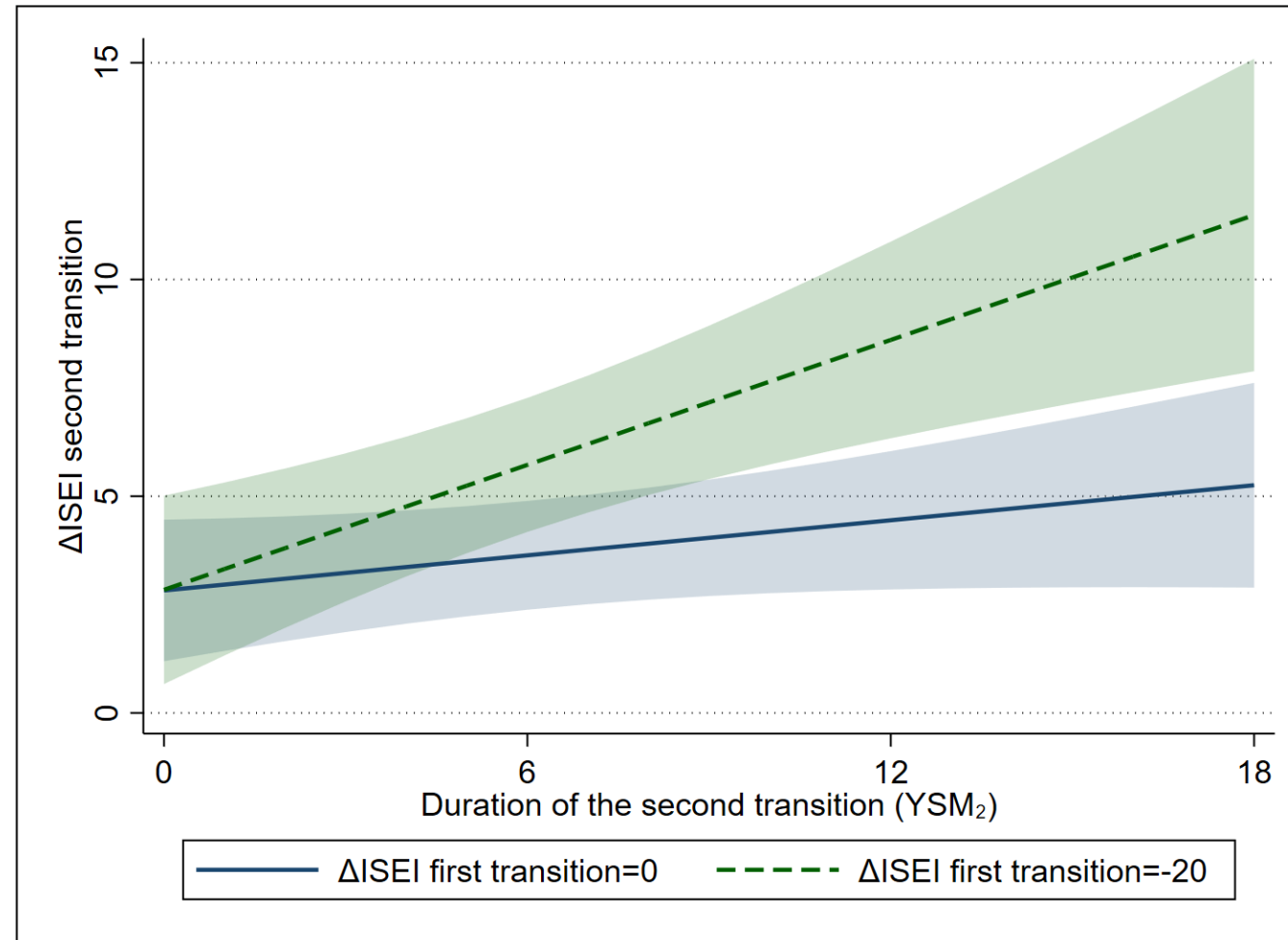
# Overview of occupational mobility



# Mobility over the first transition



# Mobility over the second transition



# Conclusions

Not a causal effect of time but rather a way to capture actual behaviour – seem to be a trade-off in real life

Individual capabilities and labour market structure work in tandem

Low prevalence of low-skilled jobs pushes everyone up

Immigrants with more origin-HC invest more destination-HC

Still, on average, only half of loss in status is recovered