

March 27, 2015

Science System Assessment



Scientists on the move

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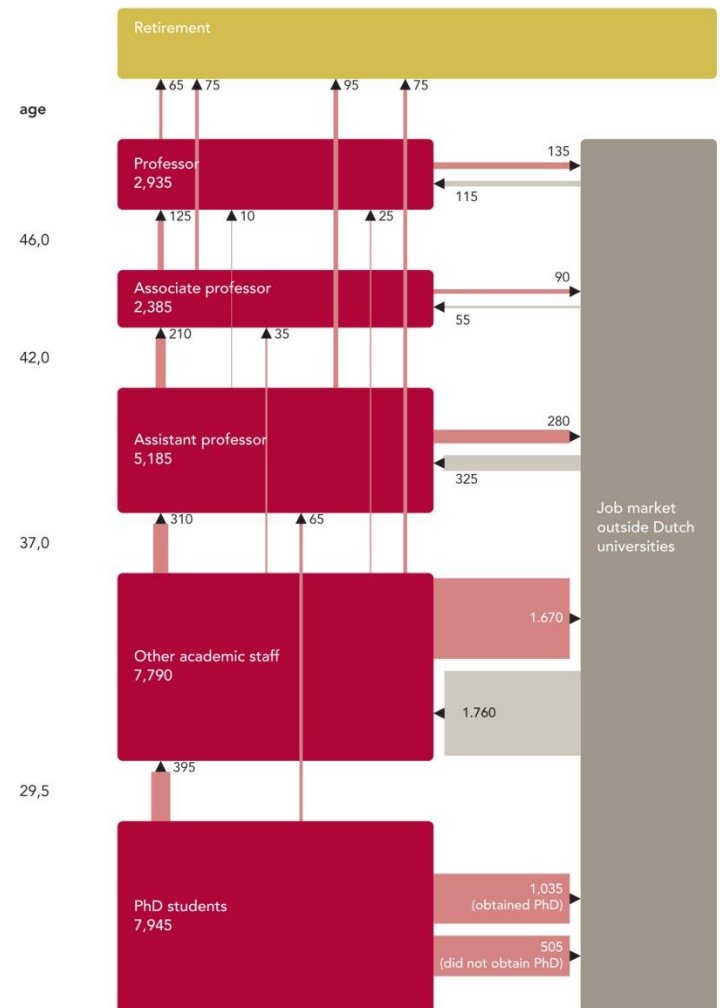
Observations

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Dynamics Careers

- At all levels
- At all types of assignments
- At all ages
- Assistant professors least
- Route straight up is very thin at every stage

Figure 3 Most significant job market mobility, yearly averages of number of people (period spanning 2003-2011)³



Source: VSNU (WOPI); PhD student data), CBS (MUP); figure by Rathenau Instituut

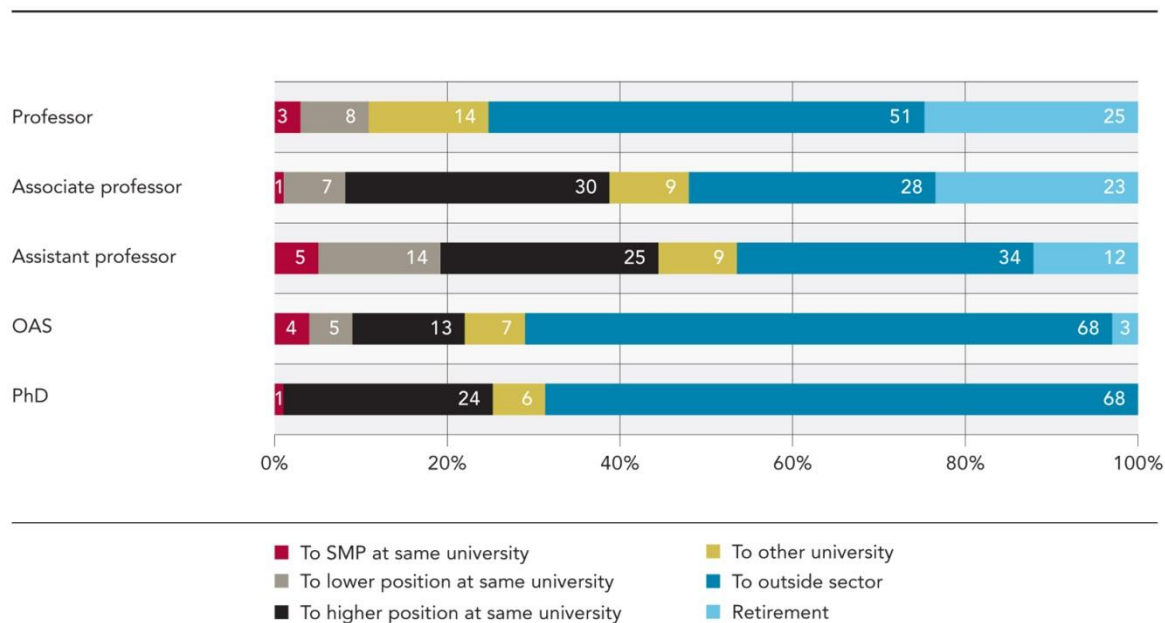
Rathenau Instituut

³ Please note – this infographic is a simplified representation of the data available. Values are based on the average of nine consecutive years of data. Net in- and out-flows of personnel are not equal, due to the infographic not including personnel stepping to 'lower' functions, and the infographic does not include support and management personnel. These data are available.

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Figure 5 Destination of departing academic staff
(average for the period spanning 2003-2010)



Source: VSNU (WOPI; PhD student data), CBS (MUP); figure by Rathenau Instituut

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Imbalance in the system

- In terms of numbers there is a serious imbalance; 300 – 400 new professors annually, 4000 new PhD's annually, and the latter is growing.
- If all PhD's would become postdocs, postdocs would become assistant professors etc, in a 15 year period you would have a science system that resembles a hydrocephalus; 8800 new PhD's per year, 83.000 postdocs, 47.000 assistant professors, 27.000 associate professors and 17.000 full professors. The system would be 10 times bigger.

Conclusions

- There isn't that much empirical data about postdocs and their opinions and priorities.
- If they resemble the PhD's they once were their first priority will be staying in science and doing research.
- Becoming a professor will mean that you are doing less and not more research
- The majority of postdocs won't be able to stay in science
- Plan B is crucial
- There are ways to come back; maybe it's the default

Choices

dyna kennis in
veranderende
informatie
de wereld
technologische
wetenschap
wetenschap
onderzoek
wetenschap
wetenschap

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Thank you

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