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## **International Student Mobility and Higher Education Capacity in Africa**

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**Mary M. Kritz**

**Department of Development Sociology**

**Cornell University**

**Ithaca, NY**

**Mmk5@cornell.edu**

### **Abstract**

African countries differ significantly in the numbers of students they send to other countries to do tertiary studies. This paper examines the sources of differentials across African countries in international student mobility and addresses the question of whether countries that have higher tertiary capacity at home send fewer students abroad. Data are drawn from UNESCO and other aggregate databases for this analysis of African countries. The findings show that countries that have higher enrollment levels at home have fewer students abroad and that increases in enrollments only have a positive effect on outward student mobility in small countries. In addition, student mobility correlates positively with GDP per capita. The paper suggests that strengthening tertiary education capacity at home may be a cost-effective way to retain human capital for governments concerned that study abroad leads to brain drain.

The revised paper can be requested from the author following the Conference.

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