

## **Risk attitudes and migration destination choices of young graduates**

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Cost-benefit models of migration suggest that individual attitudes towards risk affect destination choices of migrants. In the empirical literature, however, the destination choice is typically measured by pure geographic distance between origin and destination countries. However, there are psychic and informational costs to migration (Sjaastad, 1962) that are not only related to geographic distance. Using ROA School Leavers Survey 2008-2009, we examine to what extent the risk attitudes of young Dutch college and university graduates are correlated with their destination choice at the time they enter the labor market. We find that risk tolerance is positively correlated with migration to countries which are geographically distant from the Netherlands. We further show that risk tolerance is associated with migration to countries which are culturally more remote from the Netherlands and where the English-speaking ability of the adult population is low.