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“Essays on Occupation Mobility with Evidence from Full Population Data”

This thesis is a collection of papers about occupational mobility. The papers use data from the full Danish population and find evidence of new patterns of occupational mobility, which cannot be explained by existing theories. The main new pattern of occupational mobility is that workers' probability of switching occupation is U-shaped in their wages within an occupation. This means that both high and low wage workers in an occupation have higher probability of switching occupation than middle-wage workers in the same occupation. The thesis also examines the long run effects of graduating during a recession or an expansion in terms of working in the occupation that the individuals trained for. Using a sample of individuals with a painting apprenticeship the thesis shows that graduating during a recession has negative long run effects on the probability of working as a painter. The thesis further shows that if all individuals who finished a painting apprenticeship would have a job in their first year after graduation, this would help the painters who graduate during high unemployment. The painting apprentices who graduate during high unemployment get an average of 8 percentage points higher employment rate in the painting occupation over their life time in the labor market if they had a job as a painter in the first year after they graduate.