ANDRÉE SURSOCK

ACADEMIC CAREER PATHWAYS IN FRANCE



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Some facts and figures

Three French characteristics:

- The elite part of the HE system is in the "grandes écoles", specialised in business and engineering for the most part:
 - Their students exit with a masters and get the best job offers
 - Private R&D: 55% hold a master in engineering
 - But grandes écoles and universities are intertwined: many grandes écoles academic staff have a university doctorate 56% of doctoral students in 2014 come from a grande école
- Research: coexistence of NROs and universities
- The CNU (Conseil national des universités): national body that plays a role in recruitment and promotion

Doctoral enrolment:

- In 2014, 4% of students were enrolled in a doctoral programme
- 48% are women (lower than for the Bachelor and Master)
- 41% are international students (12% international students overall), the bulk of whom hold a
 French Bachelor and Master degree

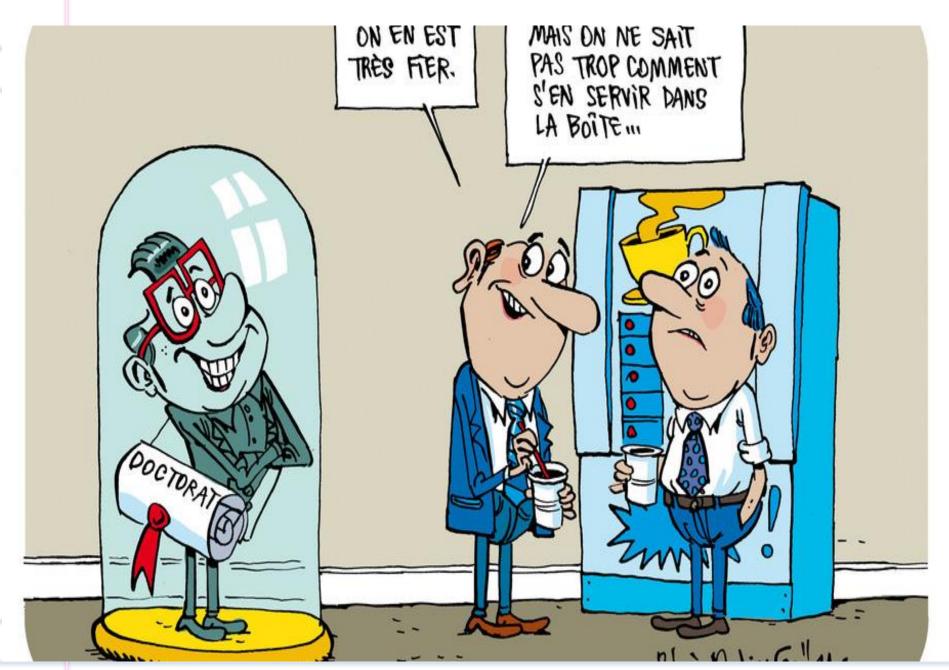


Employment patterns for doctorate holders (first five years)

 Academic jobs (60%): more likely to be short-term contracts for the first two years

- Non-academic jobs: more likely to be permanent than academic jobs
 - After five years, they compete successfully with grandes écoles graduates for managerial positions
 - After five years (STE fields), their salaries are ≈2500 EUR (vs. 2000 EUR for university master students and ≈ 3000 for medical PhD)





Employment of doctorate holders in the private sector

 Students who have done their doctorate with private funding or co-funding find good jobs in the private sector

 Students who have done their doctorate with public funding tend to seek short-term academic jobs. They will have more problems securing long-term contracts in the private sector

 Doctorate holders in math/physics/chemistry are the one encountering most challenges (43% are in academic jobs)



Doctoral researcher (3 years)

Funding: research grant

Doctoral researcher (3 years)

Funding: industry (collaborative doctorate)



Temporary

Permanent

1-4 year contract in a university

Associate professor (MCF)
University (junior grade)

Junior researcher

2-4 year research contract with a NRO

Researcher (CR2 grade)
NRO



Associate professor (MCF)

Senior associate professor (MCF)

Researcher (CR1 grade)



Full professor (professor second and first class)

Senior research

Scientific director



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