

Variations in the Educational Compositions of Immigration Flows

Quantifying the size and structure of immigration flows by education levels is fundamental to monitoring the impact of human capital mobility, including the brain gain of receiving countries and brain drain of sending countries and assessing the efficacy of immigration policies. However, previous research on human capital immigration usually simplifies education as a simplified binary variable of skill level (based on attaining a university degree or not) from migrant stock data. Data on immigration by more detailed education levels is scarce and the location of where the education was obtained is typically not evident. In this paper, we explore how education compositions of immigration flows vary by development level in the destination countries. Education-specific immigration data were obtained from the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series International (IPUMSI) repository. In total, data from 1,945,762 individual migrant records in 80 countries and 220 censuses were used as the basis for our analysis. Multinomial multilevel regression analyses are used to summarise the relationship in the education composition of immigration flows with the HDI (Human Development Index) of the destination countries and components of HDI (including standard of living, health and education). We also look at separate models by sex to see how education proportions of arriving migrants vary between males and females.