Selection in Return Migration: the Role of the Ethnic Networks

Majlinda Joxhe

Abstract

This paper attempts to identify the peer effects of the ethnic networks on the migration process among return migrants. Exploring a simple theoretical model I show how the size of the network reduce the re-migration cost at different level of education, thus determine a diverse selection process. As Borjas (1985, 1987) evidence, migration is not randomly drawn from the distribution of the home country population and this form of “self-selection” has implications for studying their assimilation. On the other hand, also the out-migration can be selective generating consequences on the performance of the immigrants (Borjas and Bratsberg 1996). Empirically, I find positive selection among districts with weak migration networks and negative selection among districts with strong migration network. Using micro data for the United Kingdom2, the empirical evidence reconfirms the theories advocated by Hanson (2005) and Borjas (1997) regarding self-selection on migration.

JEL classification: F22; J31; R12

Keywords: Migration; Wage Differential; Ethnic networks; Understanding Society (UK)

References:


1 University of Rome "Tor Vergata": contact: majlinda.joxhe@uniroma2.it; tel:0039/067011816
2 Understanding Society (Minority Ethnic Boost Sample) and Socio-Economic Position and Political Support of Black and Ethnic Minority Groups in Britain, 1971-2004