

## *International Handbook on the Economics of Migration*

edited by Amelie F. Constant and Klaus F. Zimmerman  
Cheltenham (UK) and Northampton MA: Edward Elgar 2013

ISBN 978-1-84542-629-3

Hardcover, \$227.70, 584 pp.

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There are currently many disruptive social and economic trends: globalization, aging populations, climate change, the rise of the BIC countries (Brazil, India, and China), and increasing ethnic diversity. These trends are forcing international and domestic labour markets to undergo major changes, which affect international and internal migration. This volume offers a stimulating, authoritative discussion of various aspects of the economics of migration, dealing with new areas of study and the latest research.

This 28-chapter volume deals with frontier topics in immigration research. Although economics is well-known for the study of the labour outcomes of immigrants and their effect on domestic labour markets, such topics receive scant attention in this volume. Rather, it offers survey papers that introduce many new and novel research topics related to migration, such as child labour, interethnic marriages, human trafficking, obesity, natural disasters, and the relationship of migration and happiness. This volume is likely to emerge as a reference volume for future researchers on these new topics.

The two editors and most of the chapter authors have an affiliation with the highly regarded Institute for the Study of Labor or IZA (Institut zur Zukunft der Arbeit) in Bonn, Germany. One of the editors, Professor Klaus F. Zimmerman, is IZA's director. The IZA relationship helps understand that the chapter authors reside primarily in Europe and North America. Of the volume's 44 authors, 22 are from the US, 6 from Germany, 6 from the UK, 4 from Canada, 2 from Israel, and one each from Hungary, Russia, Spain, and Turkey.

The study areas covered in the chapters are diverse. Chapters dealing with immigrant settlement and integration mainly consider the major immigrant-destination areas: United States (14 chapters), Europe (11 chapters), and Canada (1 chapter). In addition, 3 chapters examine OECD countries, which include Australia, Japan, Korea, and New Zealand, as well as Europe and North America. There are several chapters dealing with countries of immigrant origin, such as Bangladesh and Mexico, as well as 10 chapters that consider worldwide migration.

International migration can be considered in terms of three broad topics: immigrant selection, immigrant integration, and immigration effects. Immigrant selection involves the study of immigrants at the time of arrival: which potential migrant actually moves, what are the selection criteria for the country of destination and possibly for the country of origin, and how has the basis for immigration selection changed over time? Immigrant integration occupies the central focus for much of current immigration research. It deals with the progress of immigrants (and their children) after arrival. Finally, immigration effects deal with the social and economic effects of immigration on the origin and destination societies. This volume includes chapters that deal with each of these three broad areas. There are 12 chapters covering immigrant selection, 19 chapters discussing immigrant integration, and 7 describing immigration effects.

Rather than a detailed discussion of the 28 chapters, I highlight those chapters that are likely to interest population scholars.

Several chapters (1, 10, 12, 14, and 15) deal with ethnic identity, with new work by economists that will interest other researchers. Neumark's chapter on ethnic hiring (10) offers an excellent review of how economists view and study discrimination, and why they are skeptical of wage regressions based on individual-level data. He makes a strong case for taking two other factors into account in the study of discrimination: (a) spatial mismatch can lead to hiring barriers if ethnic minorities live where there are limited employment opportunities; and (b) racially or ethnically stratified networks may help understand why there are fewer minorities in some lower-skill occupations. Constant and Zimmerman's chapter (14) suggests a conceptual basis of ethnic and national identity that is helpful for understanding contrasting models of identity formation. They argue, for example, that it is "easier" for an immigrant to acquire a national identity of "American" because it is a weak "ethnic" identity than to identify as "French" as a national identity because it is also a strong ethnic identity. Furtado and Trejo consider the economic effects of inter-ethnic marriages (chapter 15), and provide useful ideas for further study. They make the useful observation that inter-ethnic marriages of immigrants are affected jointly by their endogamy preferences as well as the availability of desirable same-ethnicity potential spouses residing within close proximity. More interethnic marriages are likely to occur when there are lower exogamy preferences and fewer potential same-ethnicity spouses. In terms of economic effects of inter-ethnic marriages, one special challenge for analysis is that many immigrant marriages are also cross-nativity, which has beneficial effects for children that may be different than the inter-ethnic effects.

Fairlie argues that limited access to financial capital is an important restriction of business creation for minority and immigrant businesses (chapter 8). He offers the intriguing idea that lower rates of homeownership of immigrants may help us understand why there are lower rates of new businesses. His chapter concludes with suggestions for further research on additional barriers to capital access for minority- and immigrant-owned businesses.

Piracha and Vadean (chapter 9) present a competent review of definitional and measurement issues for the economics of educational mismatch, including a comprehensive survey of the incidence and measurement methods for major empirical studies. Their discussion of measurement issues, and the reasons for educational mismatches among immigrants, is excellent. Their analysis of the wage effects of educational mismatch among immigrants and natives merits attention.

Averett, Argys, and Kohn state in chapter 13 that the worldwide obesity epidemic affects all countries, and therefore have implications for the "healthy immigrant" effect. They survey the large number of studies of the relationship between obesity and labour market outcomes; most establish the causality from obesity to labour market outcomes, with the most robust finding that obese employees earn less than their non-obese counterparts. There are, however, important obesity wage penalties associated with race and ethnicity. Because immigrants tend to gain weight after they migrate, the latest research is focusing on immigrant wages in their new destination country if they are obese (or become obese).

Previous research on the effect of migration on the family left behind has largely dealt with remittances. Antman's chapter (16) suggests a broader research interest on the effects of nuclear family separation from extended families, or a parent left behind when a child migrates with other family members. His chapter raises questions about health, education, and other social effects of migration, and economic effects of reliance on the migrant for support. He discusses methodological problems and reviews the scarce current research.

Climate and weather-related events have long affected human migration. And, increasingly, human activity is altering the conditions for natural disasters—which, in turn, affect migration. Belasen and Polachek's chapter (17) notes some recent important natural disasters affecting human settlement, including the scientific literature that has studied migration effects. Their chapter includes a meta-analysis of 52 natural disasters—ranging from hurricanes to droughts to tsunamis—occurring within the past decade. They estimate that natural disasters in developing countries are 60 percent more likely than those in developed countries to lead to international emigration. It is worth noting that Hurricane Katrina in 2005 was the most expensive recent disaster, yet it did not lead to any international out-migration. They offer helpful suggestions for methodology and for improving estimates of the effect of natural disasters on migration.

Garcia-Muñoz and Neuman offer a useful chapter (18) on the current heated debate around the costs and benefits of ethnic and religious diversity. They argue that ongoing debates assume that immigrants' religious

behaviour is fundamentally different from the native-born, and that generational transmission processes will create persistent ethnic/religious cleavages in society. They review the current ethnic and religious landscape in Europe and the United States, and examine whether intensive religiosity retards immigrant integration. They acknowledge that Europe and the United States are in the midst of deep social changes, and we have only circumstantial evidence at the moment concerning these changes. Their chapter provides a good starting point for further thought and study.

Along with concerns that “immigrants are taking jobs from natives” or that “immigrants get more public benefits that they pay for,” another persistent public image is that “immigrants cause crime.” In fact, there is little empirical literature on crime and immigration. There are two special data limitations for the study of crime and immigration. First, there are relatively few large datasets that include nativity of those arrested or convicted for crimes. Second, data on the incarcerated population, especially in the United States, include a large number of individuals who were arrested at the border for immigration or drug violations; these individuals were not resident at the time of arrest and should be excluded from studies of the relationship between immigration and crime. Bell and Machin’s chapter (19) is an excellent survey of the economic model of crime and the available empirical evidence of crime and immigration. Their survey is comprehensive for the limited number of current studies, and presents a balanced interpretation. Overall, it is worth noting, they conclude that “there is little evidence of the crime-increasing impact of total immigration that some quarters of public opinion stress” (p. 369).

The relationship between income and happiness has been a productive area of research since Easterlin’s seminal work in 1974, which found that increases in GDP are *not* associated with improved happiness over time within a country. Within a country, however, people with higher incomes are happier. Debate has focused on the *Easterlin paradox*, as it is called, of why happiness does not increase over time as income improves, and why rich countries are not always happier than poor countries. A related research literature on happiness and migration is now emerging. One might think that voluntary migrants would want to move to countries where they are happier. But richer countries are not necessarily happier, and early evidence is that migrants are usually less happy than natives. Indeed, the happiness levels of immigrants are best predicted by the happiness levels in their country of origin. More research is needed on this interesting topic. Simpson’s chapter (19) explores initial research, noting possible datasets for analysis, special measurement problems, and significant methodological challenges.

Not all immigrants decide to seek citizenship in their new country of settlement. Moreover, citizenship acquisition rates vary greatly for immigrant-receiving countries, ranging from high rates of naturalized citizens in Canada (more than 70 percent) to average rates in the United States (between 40 and 50 percent) to relatively low rates in New Zealand (less than 30 percent). DeVoretz’s chapter (25) presents a fine discussion of the economics of citizenship, with a comprehensive list of the benefits and costs of citizenship acquisition and the empirical evidence from several countries, including Canada. He provides a useful discussion of the “citizenship premium,” usually measured by economists as the wage benefit to immigrants that is explained by acquiring citizenship. DeVoretz’s chapter provides interesting interpretations of various positive and negative selection effects for the citizenship premium.

In sum, this *Handbook* is an indispensable book for those interested in international migration. It will surely serve as a reference volume for migration scholars for years to come.