Migration- Trade Nexus: Immigrant Educational Attainments and Source-Destination Conjunctions

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Abstract

This study investigates the different pro-trade impacts of immigrants (1) with heterogeneous levels of skills and (2) at varied source-destination country conjunctions With developed countries as the destination of both migrants and goods, we find that only skilled migrants promote exports if they are originated from a developed source country whereas only unskilled migrants promote exports if they are originated from a developing source country. These findings advance extant knowledge about mechanisms underlying the migration-trade linkage and offer significant policy implications.

Keywords: skilled vs. unskilled migrants, north-north vs. south-north trade, effect of migration on trade, gravity modelling