

IPW LECTURES

Measuring Immigration Policies and their Effects

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Abstract:

Despite a growing interest in migration questions, it has not been possible for a long time to systematically analyse immigration policies across time and a large number of countries. Most studies in this field have heretofore focused on individual cases or comparisons of a small number of countries. The aim of this talk is to present the Immigration Policies in Comparison (IMPIC) dataset, which proposes a new and comprehensive way to measure immigration regulations. The data set covers all major fields and dimensions of immigration policies for thirty-three OECD countries between 1980 and 2010. For the first time it will be possible to systematically investigate causes and effects of migration policies. Besides a presentation of how immigration policies have been conceptualized and measured first analyses will be presented in the talk. First it will be shown how policies evolved across time, to what extent regulations became more restrictive or liberal and whether or not they converged. Second, it will be shown how effective policies are, to what extent more restrictive policies lead to lower immigration rates and how important the effect is compared to socio-economic aspects that might attract or deter migrants.