

Abstract

Differential treatment towards minority groups in host societies and labor markets may be a result of both a governmental registration system that fosters unequal rights based on the origins of individuals and the disadvantageous attitude of local employers and the general population towards non-locals.

In the first chapter, I test for differential treatment in the Chinese labor market towards rural migrants with and without urban registration, using data from the Rural to Urban Migration Survey in China. The findings indicate that despite its often-assumed large impact on the differential treatment towards rural migrants, the type of household registration (*hukou*) is not entirely responsible for the local-migrant differences in the total hourly earnings that are not attributable to personal characteristics. The results suggest that even the complete abolishment of the *hukou* system may at most eliminate only a portion of the disadvantageous treatment towards rural female migrants that is not attributable to differences in personal characteristics, and may even have no measurable impact on rural male migrants working in the paid-employment sector in Chinese urban labor markets.

In the second chapter, I conduct an empirical study in order to estimate the impact of naturalization on the labor market integration of first generation immigrants in two European countries, France and Denmark. This chapter contributes to the existing literature by: (1) comparing the employment opportunities and incomes of naturalized and non-naturalized migrants in European labor markets to those of the native population, and (2) attempting to estimate the impact of characteristics of a country's citizenship policy on this relationship. The results suggest the existence of high naturalization premiums and high socioeconomic integration of naturalized migrants in France, a country with relatively soft naturalization policies, but not for Denmark, which has strict naturalization policies.

Finally, in the third chapter, I conduct a descriptive empirical study on three waves of the European Social Survey (2010, 2012, and 2014), in order to estimate the relationships between the attitude of the native population towards immigrants and immigration (ATII) in 20 European countries and the level of social integration and perceived discrimination of first and second

generation immigrants in those countries. The stringency of naturalization policies in the host countries is also taken into consideration as a mechanism of the development of this relationship.

The results confirm that a country's naturalization policies fairly represent most ATII indicators, and that immigrants feel less discriminated against in more welcoming societies. However, no systematic relationship was revealed between the attitude of the native population and the social integration of immigrants. On the other hand, the results suggest lower perceived discrimination and higher social integration of first generation immigrants in countries where the naturalization status of immigrants is more secured, and the possibility of dual nationality is more restricted.

The results also show that the perceived discrimination of immigrants does not decline with the duration of residence in the host countries, but the latter revealed a positive relationship with the social integration of immigrants.