

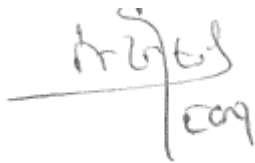
Referee report on “Essays on Migration and Trade” PhD thesis by Tomas Konecny submitted to CERGE-EI in Prague.

The first chapter is theoretically well-motivated and several mechanisms through which immigration affects trade patterns are considered in the empirical specification. Furthermore the data collection exercise is impressive. The chapter contends that the trade-facilitating effect of immigration declines with the GDP of source country and tends to be smaller compared to estimates reported in previous studies. I found the effort to derive trade diversion measures that are subsequently shown to lead to negative spillovers to host and source countries’ total exports commendable.

The second chapter shifts the focus on the impact on bilateral trade of expatriates from the OECD countries living in less developed economies. This is an interesting study and one that has not been thoroughly investigated in the existing literature. The chapter reports that the imports-facilitating role of expatriates’ network is most-pronounced in host countries with low institutional quality. Furthermore it documents evidence that the trade-enhancing effects of immigrants from past colonies residing in former imperial powers is not economically important.

The third chapter of the thesis consists of a theoretical analysis of the effects of Fair Trade schemes on world prices, including the income of non-participating farmers. A particularly useful feature of the model developed by the thesis is the distinction between the impact of the introduction of a Fair Trade practice and the effect of minimum price policies given that a Fair Trade market actually exists. The findings suggest that the claim that Fair Trade reduces world prices is likely to be unfounded.

Overall this is a well-motivated and well-written thesis. The first two empirical chapters are competently executed and in my view make significant contributions to the literature. I don't have an expert knowledge on the last theoretical chapter, so I will refrain from making further comments on the matter. But taking my experience of PhD dissertations I have come across in the UK as a reference point, it is my opinion that the work is worthy of dissertation defence, and upon successful defence, award of a doctorate title.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sourafel Girma', with a horizontal line underneath and the year '2009' written below the line.

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