

Abstract

The current literature on international migration is diverse, and there is an ongoing debate as to the size and magnitude of the development-migration nexus, and no consensus about this effect has been reached. In this thesis, I explore quantitatively the effect of GDP (as a measure of development) on migration using a meta-analysis approach by synthesizing the empirical findings on this effect, adjusting for the biases, and controlling for the design of the studies. To examine the phenomenon in a systematic way, I collected 179 regression coefficients from 40 different articles, where the results suggest a weak presence of publication selection. Nevertheless, when correcting for publication bias, the effect of development on migration is rather small. Additionally, to explain the inherent model uncertainty, the Bayesian model averaging (BMA) was conducted. The results suggest that studies controlling for the variables of direct foreign investment and age results in a larger effect of development on migration and that the presence of country-level differences boosts migration inflows, particularly in OECD countries.