Push or Pull: The Influence of ICT on Emigration Flows

A. Reyla and A. Montes

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Presentation Outline
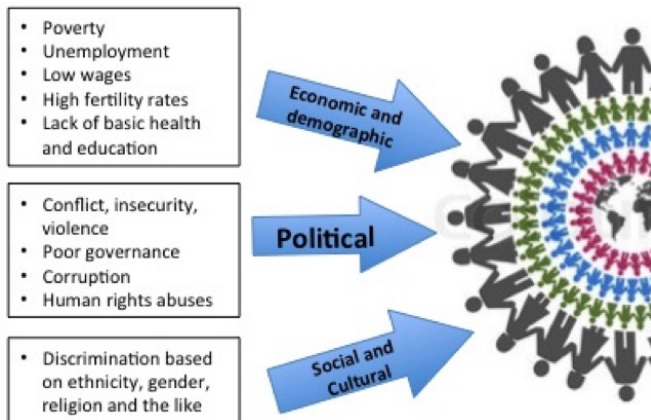
- Research Question
- Theoretical Framework
- Methodology
- Results
- Conclusion & Limitations
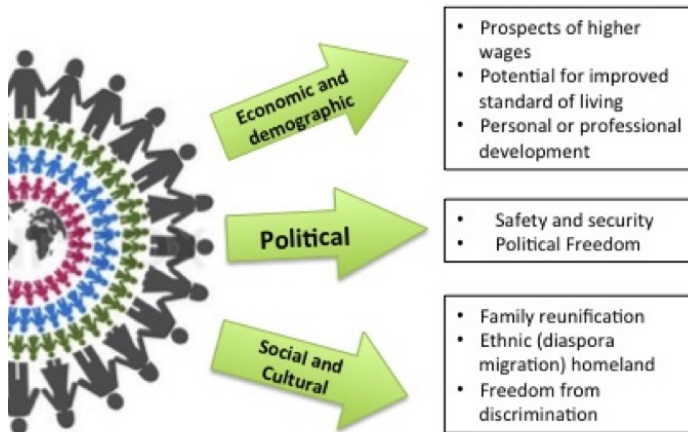
Motivation & Research Question

1. Computer mediated communication has created new possibilities for migrants to maintain strong linkages and ties with their home nations (Hiller, 2004)

2. Historical development of ICTs. Explore the time dimenstion in a panel data.

3. "With growing access to ICTs and the current state of mobility of people around the world, it easy to imagine that there exist relationships between access and sharing of information and the outcomes of migration" (Hamel, 2009)

Research Questions: Has the increase use of technologies, such as the Internet and mobile phones affected the flows of emigration?

Theoretical Framework - Push Factors

- Poverty
- Unemployment
- Low wages
- High fertility rates
- Lack of basic health and education

Economic and demographic

- Conflict, insecurity, violence
- Poor governance
- Corruption
- Human rights abuses

Political

- Discrimination based on ethnicity, gender, religion and the like

Social and Cultural

Theoretical Framework - Pull Factors

- Prospects of higher wages
- Potential for improved standard of living
- Personal or professional development

Economic and demographic

- Safety and security
- Political Freedom

Political

- Family reunification
- Ethnic (diaspora migration) homeland
- Freedom from discrimination

Social and Cultural

Methodology

Model 1: Cellphone Users

$$I_{\frac{Migration}{Poptotal}} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 Cell + \beta_2 FertRate + \beta_3 PoliStab + \beta_4 EmployProb + \epsilon_{it}$$

Model 2: Internet Users

$$I_{\frac{Migration}{Poptotal}} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 Net + \beta_2 FertRate + \beta_3 PoliStab + \beta_4 EmployProb + \epsilon_{it}$$
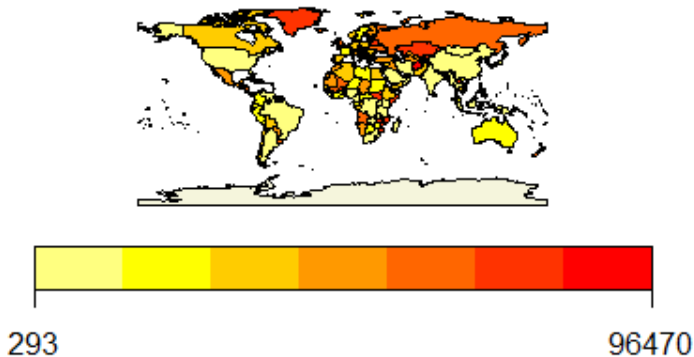
Datasets:

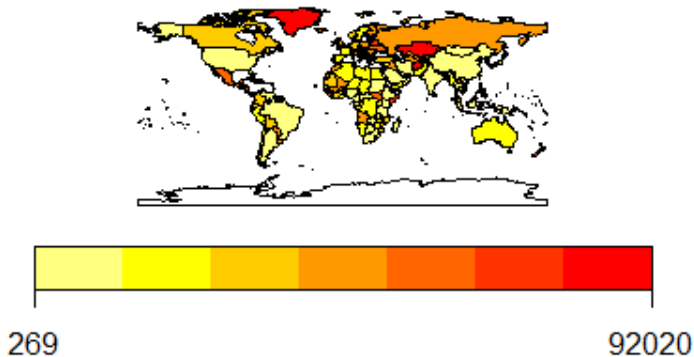- UN Migration Stock 2000,2010, 2013 and World Bank Indicators

Methodology:

- Panel regression with fixed effects
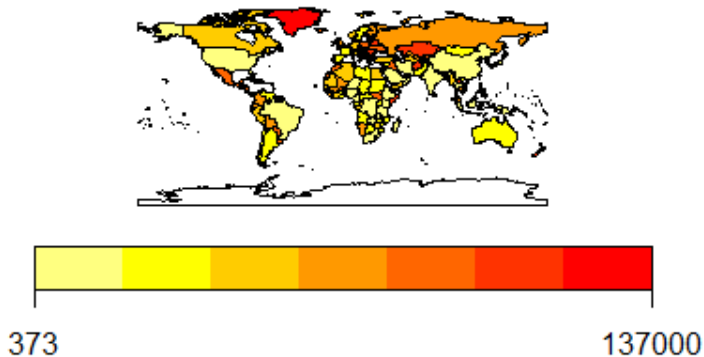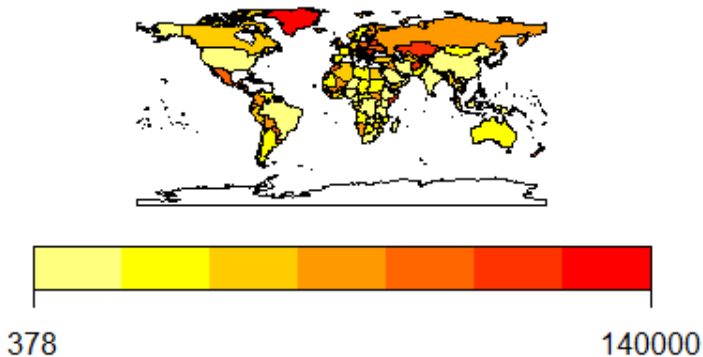
Number of emigrants per capita 1990

293   96470

Number of emigrants per capita 2000

Number of emigrants per capita 2010

373 137000

Number of emigrants per capita 2013

378   140000

Results: Model 1, Cellphone Users as proxy

Table 1: Fixed effects regresion

	Dependent variable:
	logemigrationpercap
CellphoneUsers	0.001***
	(0.0002)
FertilityRate	0.040
	(0.032)
PoliticalStability	−0.059**
	(0.029)
employmentprob	0.015***
	(0.005)

Results: Model 2, Internet Users as proxy

Table 2: Fixed effects regresion

	Dependent variable:
	logemigrationpercap
InternetUsers	0.002***
	(0.001)
FertilityRate	−0.010
	(0.030)
PoliticalStability	−0.062**
	(0.029)
employmentprob	0.020***
	(0.005)

Conclusion & Limitations

- Panel regression using within, between, pools estimators were used
- The results show that cellphone /or Internet usage is significant to explain the change in immigration inside a country.
- The more technology is introduced in the country, the more it will incentivize migration out of the country.
- This suggests that the technological differences across the countries are not a relevant factor to explain emigration across countries.
- Fixed model eliminates variables that are constant in time such as Distance, Common language, colonialism, Border.