

War and Migration Patterns

Haylee Ham



How does war affect migrant flow
and the selection of migrant
destinations?



Data

Bilateral migration flows
between 196 countries
from 1990-2010¹

World Bank Development
Indicators²

Theory

Neo-classical: Harris-Todaro model, migrants maximize utility based on income and probability of finding work (Harris, 1970)

“Welfare magnate effect”: the generosity of the destination country’s welfare program is a main indicator (Borjas, 1987)

Network effects: relationships in the destination may be overcoming language and cultural barriers (Pedersen, 2008)

Where does this paper fit in: By including all bilateral relationships, I examine both close and far-proximity migration and also look at global effects of war

Methods

$$f_{i,j,t} = g(X_{i,t}, X_{j,t}, \text{dist}_{i,j}, \text{war}_{i,t}, \text{war}_{j,t})$$

Generalized Linear Regression: inference

- Comparing estimates in peacetime with estimates in wartime within the same i, j pair of countries

Decision Trees: prediction

- Identify predictive characteristics for number of migrants in peacetime and wartime

Questions?

References

¹ <http://data.worldbank.org/data-catalog/world-development-indicators>

² <http://www.global-migration.info/>

Harris, John R., and Michael P. Todaro. "Migration, Unemployment and Development: A Two-Sector Analysis." The American Economic Review, vol. 60, no. 1, 1970, pp. 126–142., www.jstor.org/stable/1807860.

Borjas, George J. "Self-Selection and the Earnings of Immigrants." The American Economic Review, vol. 77, no. 4, 1987, pp. 531–553., www.jstor.org/stable/1814529.

Pedersen, Peder J. , Mariola Pytlikova, and Nina Smith. "Selection and network effects—Migration flows into OECD countries 1990–2000." European Economic Review, vol. 52, no. 7, 2008, pp. 1160–1186., <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.euroecorev.2007.12.002>.