**Title:** The labor market integration of immigrant women in Europe: Context, theory and evidence

**Bentley Schieckoff**

University of Konstanz

bentley.schieckoff@uni-konstanz.de

**Maximilian Sprengholz**

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

maximilian.sprengholz@hu-berlin.de

**Abstract**

Women represent an important component of the immigration population in Europe and have increasingly been a group of interest in academic studies, especially with regard to their integration outcomes. In this overview, we seek to provide a comprehensive resource for scholars of female immigrant labor market integration in Europe, to act both as a reference and a roadmap for future studies in this domain. We begin by presenting a contextual history of immigration to and within Europe since the Second World War, before outlining the major theoretical assumptions about immigrant women’s labor market disadvantage from economics and sociology. We then synthesize the empirical findings published between 2000 and 2020 and analyze how they line up with the theoretical predictions. We also present descriptive analyses with data from 2019, which expose any discrepancies between the current situation in European countries and the situation at the time the reviewed studies focus on.

As a group, immigrant women are often reported to experience significant disadvantages in their labor market integration, both compared to immigrant men and to native women. However, this type of approach glosses over the substantial heterogeneity in immigrant women’s experiences. Instead, our overview points to a selective disadvantage for immigrant women that is highly dependent on their country of origin and the reception context they encounter after immigration.

**Key words**

Labor market disadvantage; gender gap; nativity gap

**JEL**

J0 Labor and Demographic Economics • General

J61 Geographic Labor Mobility • Immigrant Workers

**About the authors**

Bentley Schieckoff is a current PhD researcher in the Faculty of Sociology at the University of Konstanz. He holds a Master’s degree in Public Policy from Sciences Po, Paris and the Hertie School of Governance in Berlin. His research primarily focuses on female labor market integration, particularly the different experiences that women from different origins have on the German labor market.

Maximilian Sprengholz is a PhD researcher in the Department of Social Sciences at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. His current research interests include social and political inequalities in Germany at the intersections of gender, nativity, and class.