

# **Educational Mismatch and Migrant Assimilation in Western Europe (discussion)**

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**Uğur Aytun<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Dumlupınar University & Middle East Technical University

- The authors analyze educational mismatch in Western Europe.
- Mismatch is used as a proxy for assimilation.
- They focus on the 2009 financial crisis.
- They use cross-sectional EU-LFS data.

## What they find

- They find that the timing of immigrants' arrival is key to explaining the differences between immigrants and natives.
- However, macroeconomic conditions and public attitudes toward migrants have little impact on assimilation.

## Comments

- They use the mean-based approach to measure mismatch. What about the mode-based approach suggested by Kiker et al.? I believe it is more credible.
- Mismatch studies generally focus on overeducation, where a worker has more education than the job requires. The descriptive analysis also shows that the overeducation rate is higher than other types of mismatch.
- They divide the sample to study the effect of the crisis year. However, even without worker fixed effects, you could append the cross-sectional data (repeated cross-sections) and use an interaction term:

$$y_{it} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \text{ migration status} \times D_{\text{year} \geq 2009} + X'_{it}\theta \quad (1)$$

- You should justify why you treat overeducation as a measure of assimilation, as it is influenced by many factors.