
IMMIGRATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

A SYMPOSIUM

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In this issue, our second in the “Symposium on Immigration and Economic Development,” we offer a collection of papers on immigrant entrepreneurship, location decisions and the brain drain.

Entrepreneurship

One concern in the immigration and economic development field is the extent to which immigrant entrepreneurs contribute to economic growth and development, how they go about making their contribution and how government can assist them. AnnaLee **Saxenian**, with help from her colleagues, Yasuyuki **Motoyama** and Xiaohong **Quan**, study Indian and Chinese immigrant entrepreneurs in Silicon Valley, California. Saxenian, et al., document the unprecedented contribution immigrant entrepreneurs made not only in California, but also to the U.S. economy on the whole. This is perhaps the most comprehensive analysis of how immigrants used networks to develop businesses, especially securing start-up capital, creating markets and building labor forces. Of special interest is how immigrant entrepreneurs built partnerships with others in their home countries to the benefit of both. Hadewijch **van Delft**, Cees **Gorter** and Peter **Nijkamp** examine ethnic entrepreneurship in several European cities looking

at successful strategies and programs employed by public decision-makers to expand or grow businesses.

Location Decisions

Immigration literature often talks about *pull* factors—reasons why immigrants are drawn to certain localities—and *push* factor—reasons why they leave their homelands. Sandra **Kaufman**, William **Olson** and Miron **Kaufman**, using a very innovative analytic technique borrowed from physics, try to determine whether immigrants to the United States located where they did either because of existing concentrations of people from similar ethnic backgrounds or because of employment opportunities. The authors draw the implications of trying to attract immigrant entrepreneurs as an economic development strategy. Paul **Gottlieb** provides an interesting study of internal migration of young people in the United States to determine whether economic or lifestyle factors better explain their distribution across the country. This article contributes to the growing economic development theory and practice that focuses on attracting groups of people to start businesses or to enter the labor force.

Brain Drain

The papers immediately above look at immigration from a receiving country perspective. Three papers that follow look at the impact on sending countries, from three vary different perspectives. Mark **Regets** looks at the positive and negative impacts of high-skilled worker immigration for sending countries and the United States. Hakan **Altintas** focuses on transient professionals—those who do not intend to remain abroad permanently—tying this into transnational corporations and global city financial centers. Per **Lundberg** and Calin **Rechea** hone in on the impact of out-migration on Eastern European countries.