



Habilitation Thesis Reviewer's Report

Masaryk University	Faculty of Economics and Administration
Faculty	Economics
Procedure field	Mgr. Martin Guzi, Ph.D.
Applicant	Department of Public Economics
Applicant's home unit, institution	Faculty of Economics and Administration Masaryk University
Habilitation thesis	Migration and Labor Market Imbalances: Do Immigrants Move to Where Their Labor is Needed?
Reviewer	Prof. Alessandra Venturini
Reviewer's home unit, institution	Department of Economics University of Torino

Review Report Habilitation Martin Guzi by Alessandra Venturini

The thesis of Martin Guzi on the mobility of migrants driven by labour market imbalances is a very interesting and excellent research.

The research project is very accurate and develops step by step and becoming at every stage more convincing. It starts with an accurate survey on the empirical definition of skills shortage which reveals the deep knowledge of the author about the empirical complexity and the theoretical implication of the issue.

The accurate data description supports the empirical approach and sets out the frame of the proxy for skills shortage used. The model is simple but carefully described and the empirical tests are presented straightforward. If the baseline estimates provide more puzzles than answers as for instance in showing a stronger effect for more settled migrants YSM 6 and YSM 11+ than for the new arrived YSM1-5 (table 4.1), the subsequent analyses solve the main doubts.

The section on the effect of the individual characteristics such as age, gender, education and number of children is very interesting, in particular the role of children which is reducing mobility, in one word only singles move. This last point has many important implications for the family reunification policies adopted by destination countries -family members are in general about 50% of the new inflows - and for the fertility rate which is one of the demographic pulling factors of immigration. Their higher fertility which makes them appealing for the destination country, makes them as well less flexible and more similar to natives.

But the most convincing and interesting section is the next one, where the author controls the results by the institutional setting and the policies adopted by different countries. The results point out that low welfare state countries present more mobility; at the same time, higher (relative to native) mobility is present in low GDP and low GDP growth countries and in high

unemployment rate areas. In addition, migrants are more relatively mobile where the migration policy is more liberal. Other dimensions are examined which are not worthwhile to present here not to repeat the entire research project.

The last section is on the effect of recession on relative migrants' mobility which stresses a different behaviour among the high and low educated.

To conclude, the research is very broad, carefully developed and it contributes to the enhancement of the knowledge on the role of the migrants in the destination countries' economy.

Reviewer's questions for the habilitation thesis defence (number of questions up to the reviewer)

Of course there are additional questions or characteristics to analyse as, for instance, the channel of entrance of the migrants: is he/she a labour migrant, a family member or a refugee? Understanding the link between channel of entrance and internal mobility would be very important to design appropriate migration policies, but this could be the subject for another research.

In another paper I would also suggest to look more deeply into the endogeneity and reverse causality issue and to better enquire into the appropriate number of lags to strength the results.

Conclusion

The habilitation thesis entitled "*Migration and Labor Market Imbalances: Do Immigrants Move to Where Their Labor is Needed?*" by Martin Guzi largely *fulfils* requirements expected of a habilitation thesis in the field of Economics.

In Turin, Italy on 2 August 2018



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