

LSE Economics PhD Placement: Job Market Candidates

Placement Officer: Professor Leonardo Felli

NAME: Ana Damas de Matos

ADVISOR: Prof. Alan Manning

PRIMARY FIELDS: Labour Economics
Applied Econometrics

SECONDARY FIELDS: Development

REFERENCES: Prof. Alan Manning
Prof. Barbara Petrongolo
Prof. David Card

JOB MARKET PAPER:

The Careers of Immigrants

ABSTRACT:

I use linked employer employee panel data covering all wage earners in the private sector in Portugal to analyse the careers of immigrants. In the first ten years in the country, immigrants close one third of the initial immigrant-native wage gap. One third of this wage catch up is accounted for by firm heterogeneity: Immigrants remain in the same occupations but get jobs in better paying firms. I follow immigrant cohorts over time and show that immigrants move to bigger, more productive firms and with a higher share of native workers. These patterns are very similar for all the recent immigrants irrespective of their origin and in particular of whether their mother tongue is the host country's language. The literature on immigrant assimilation has mainly focused on human capital explanations of the wage catch up. I suggest an alternative mechanism which highlights the role of firms. I build an employer learning model with firm heterogeneity and sorting. The initial uncertainty on immigrants' productivity prevents them from getting access to the best jobs. Over time, productivity is revealed and immigrants obtain better firm matches. I derive predictions on the immigrant and native wage distributions over time, on their mobility patterns and on the productivity distribution of firms they are matched with. The predictions of the model are in line with the data and are not trivially derived from a competing search and matching explanation

HOME:

Ana Damas de Matos
50 Thornhill Road
Flat 3
N1 1JY London

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7609 1002
Cell: +44 (0) 7 515 411 554
Email: a.s.matos@lse.ac.uk

OFFICE:

Ana Damas de Matos
Center for Economic Performance
LSE
Houghton Street
WC2A 2AE London

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7955 7010
Cell: +44 (0) 7 515 411 554
Email: a.s.matos@lse.ac.uk