

Selective out-migration and measures of immigrants' integration in France

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The Impacts of Challenges of Demographic Change

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Temporary migration: Selectivity issue in measuring immigrant assimilation

- Between 20 and 50% of migrants would leave the OECD countries where they live within 5 years after their arrival (OECD, 2008)
 - "leavers" can differ from "stayers"
 - **selectivity issue**
 - potential bias for classic analyses on immigrant assimilation with **cross-sectional data** (Chiswick, 1978)
 - Ex: cross-section estimates of immigrants' economic integration would be biased upward if long-term migrants performed better in the labour market

Empirical evidence on selective out-migration

- Long tradition of quantitative studies testing selective outmigration
- General idea: comparison between estimates from (repeated) cross-sectional and panel data
 - **cross-sectional** data: follow only cohorts
 - **longitudinal data** follow **individuals** rather than **cohorts**
- Mixed results:
 - upward bias in cross-sectional estimates in the US (Hu, 2000; Lubotsky, 2007; Abramitzky *et al.*, 2014) and Sweden (Edin *et al.*, 2000)
 - no evidence of a bias in Germany (Constant & Massey, 2003) or in Canada (Picot & Piraino, 2013)

Studying immigration in France

- Growing body of empirical studies on immigration over the past decades focusing on **integration** of immigrants and their children
- But temporary migration overall remains neglected in France
- Yet, recent evidence suggests that out-migration exists in France (INSEE, 2015)
- Gobillon and Solignac (2016): on the evolution of homeownership rates for immigrants

Research questions

- To what extent does ignoring out-migration flows lead to a **bias in traditional cross-sectional measures of immigrant integration** in France?
- In line with the literature, I focus on the **economic** dimension in this presentation

Data

- Data come from the INSEE's *Permanent Demographic Sample* (EDP)
 - **longitudinal data** tracking individuals over time by compiling successive **censuses** and information collected in **civil registers** since 1968
 - Representative sample of the population in France over time
 - 5 exhaustive censuses: 1968, 1975, 1982, 1990 and 1999
 - individuals can leave the panel by death or migration out of France
 - death certificates are collected for EDP individuals who died in France: out-migration as attrition not caused by death

Method

$$employment_{ijt} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 immigrant_{ijt} + \beta_2 immigrant_{ijt} * year_t + \beta' X_{ijt} + \epsilon_{ijt}$$

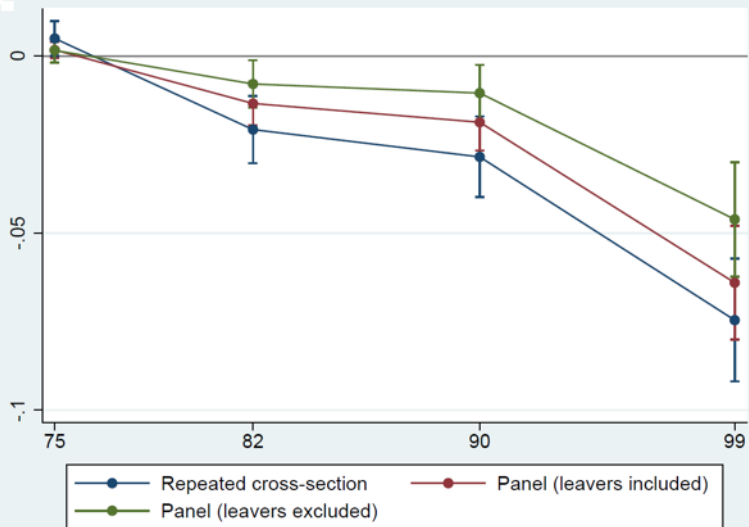
- Outcome: **being employed/unemployed** (no income in EDP)
- Variable of interest: **impact of being an immigrant on the labour market** over the period
- Control variables: marital status, education, size of urban unit
- Regressions run separately for men and women, only for individuals aged between 18 and 36 at the beginning of the period

Method

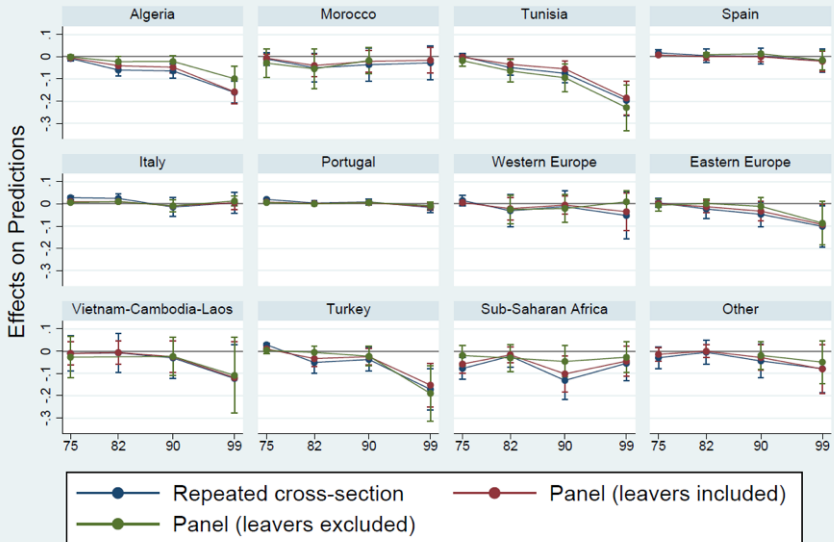
- I estimate the same equation in 3 different specifications:
 - 1 **Repeated cross-sectional models**: compare individuals from the same cohort but do not follow individuals
 - 2 **Unbalanced panel**: panel specification but "*leavers*" are still included in the sample (change in the econometric specification)
 - 3 **Balanced panel**: panel specification but on a restricted sample with only "*stayers*" (change in the sample)

⇒ Differences between estimates for duration of stay across the 3 specifications?

⇒ To make sure differences can be attributed to selective outmigration, regressions are run only on **one arrival cohort** (immigrants arrived between 1968 and 1975)



Average Marginal Effects with 95% CIs



Provisional Conclusion:

- No evidence of a bias regarding *access to employment*

Future research:

- Investigating other dimensions of integration: *segmented assimilation theory* in France (Safi, 2008):
 - Integration within the labor market: earnings trajectories
 - Cultural integration: inter-marriage
 - Spatial integration: housing market/spatial segregation

⇒ **Final aim:** investigating the **methodological and empirical consequences** of confining the sociology of immigration to a **static migration paradigm** in France