

Summer Term 2021**Master Seminar Economic History (Economics of Migration: Past and Present)**

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1. Summary

Do immigrants lower the wages of low-skilled workers? How quickly do immigrants integrate into the labour market? And which policies foster integration? These questions do not only figure prominently in today's, often heated policy debates on immigration. They were already relevant in the past. This course will review and discuss recent research on historical migrant flows, relating past to current debates. Students will learn key facts and empirical evidence on the economics of migration from a historical perspective. Topics include the integration of migrants and their children, the effect of immigration on wages and employment of native workers, the effects of immigration on political outcomes, and the economic effects of emigration for origin countries. The course will focus on migration to Europe and North America since the mid-19th century. A specific focus will be on the Age of Mass Migration (1850-1913) from Europe to the USA and forced displacements in Europe after World War II.

2. General Information

This course will take place **online** and gives **6 ECTS (3 SWS)**. The course will be taught in **English**.

Zoom link:

<https://uni-bayreuth.zoom.us/j/3501324927?pwd=NEptUkx1SmcxTWJ4Vm9DQVnkV2RoZz09>

Target Groups:

- Master's students in History and Economics, Economics and related degree programmes
- Advanced undergraduate students with a profound knowledge of econometrics

Prerequisite: good knowledge of empirical methods and applied econometrics; basic knowledge of Stata is recommended but not compulsory

Enrolment is restricted to 15 students. Please sign up for the course on campus online (first come, first serve). Registration opens on 15.03.2021 and closes on 18.04.2021. After your registration, please send an

email to sebastian.braun@uni-bayreuth.de (subject line: EH Seminar) with the following information: last name, first name, matriculation number, degree, semester, email address, and **your three preferred papers for the presentation**. I will make slides and papers available via e-learning.

3. Assessment

- Presentation (40 minutes): 35%
- Term paper (max. 5000 words): 65%

In addition, students are expected to participate in class discussions on the papers.

4. Presentation

In the four main sessions of the seminar, each student presents a paper. The presentation should last for approximately 40 minutes and should discuss:

- (1) the research question, motivation, contribution, and relationship to the background literature
- (2) the data
- (3) the empirical strategy
- (4) the main results
- (5) conclusions and generalizability
- (6) strengths and weaknesses of the paper
- (7) future directions for research on the topic.

Each presentation will be followed by 15 minutes of questions and discussion led by the presenter. I will discuss some guideline for the presentations during the compulsory preparatory meeting.

5. Term paper

Word limit: 5000 words (references and do file excluded)

Text format: Times New Roman, 12-point font size, 1.5 line spacing

Instructions and tasks

Choose ONE of the following papers

- (1) Erik Hornung (2014). Immigration and the Diffusion of Technology: The Huguenot Diaspora in Prussia. *American Economic Review* 104(1): 84-122. The underlying data is available here: <https://www.aeaweb.org/articles?id=10.1257/aer.104.1.84>.
- (2) Sebastian Braun and Toman Mahmoud (2014). The Employment Effects of Immigration: Evidence from the Mass Arrival of German Expellees in Post-war Germany. *The Journal of Economic History*, 2014, 74 (1): 69-108. The underlying data is available here: <https://doi.org/10.3886/E118364V1>

OR any other paper on the list at the end of the syllabus that identifies a causal relationship (do not choose a descriptive paper). You must not write your term paper on the paper you discussed in your presentation.

Moreover, you should be familiar with the paper's empirical method(s). If in doubt, please talk to the lecturer.

Perform ALL of the following FIVE tasks and describe them in your term paper:

- (1) Discuss the research question and place the paper in the literature, highlighting its contribution.
- (2) Replicate the paper's main results in Stata. Focus on the main 2-3 figures/tables of the paper. Use your results to describe the main findings of the paper. Briefly comment on whether you could successfully replicate the findings reported in the paper.
- (3) State and critically discuss in some detail the main identifying assumption of the paper.
- (4) Conduct at least one robustness check. Carefully motivate your robustness check(s) and discuss the results in your term paper.
- (5) Provide a conclusion with future directions for research on the topic.

Include your Stata do file in the Appendix of your term paper.

What is a replication? What is a robustness check?

	Same specification	Same sample/dataset	Objective
Replication	Yes	Yes	Verification of code: Can we replicate exactly the same results? Are there coding errors? Is the data available to you the same as the data used in the paper?
Robustness (reanalysis)	No	Yes	Reanalysis using different specifications, recorded variables or econometric techniques: Are the results robust?
Robustness (extension)	Yes	No	Extension of analysis dropping outliers or using subsamples: Are the results robust? Is there effect heterogeneity? Could there be other mechanisms at work?

Source: Adopted from Table 1 of Michael Clemens (2015). The Meaning of Failed Replications: A Review and Proposal. *Journal of Economic Surveys* 31(1): 326–342.

Hints and tips

- Write your term paper for someone who has not read the paper.
- Please generally cite academic sources, not newspaper articles or Wikipedia. Remember that you are writing an academic paper.
- You can use any commonly accepted referencing system, but please use the same system throughout your essay! Check that you only list cited references and cite only listed references.
- Number tables and figures. Refer explicitly to them in the main text ("Figure 1 shows that...").
- Be specific, coherent and clear. Be precise in your statements. Use simple language.
- Focusing on one or a few well-motivated and well-described robustness check(s) is better than reporting many robustness checks that are not well motivated or described.

6. Dates and deadlines

- Registration: 15.03.2021-18.04.2021 (first come, first serve)
- Introduction and preparatory session: 19.04.2021; 9 am—12 noon
- Assignment of presentations: 23.04.2021
- Submission of presentation slides: one week before the presentation
- Presentation sessions: 17./18.06.2021; 24./25.06.2021; 2 pm—6 pm
- Submission of term papers: 31.08.2021

7. Background Reading

For background reading on the economics of immigration, you may consult the following textbooks:

Bansak, Cynthia, Nicole Simpson, Madeline Zavodny (2021). *The Economics of Immigration*. 2nd edition. Routledge.

Borjas, George (2014). *Immigration Economics*. Harvard University Press.

Borjas, George (2020). *Labor Economics*. 8th edition. McGraw Hill. (esp. Chapters 4 and 8)

Van den Berg, Hendrik and Örn B. Bodvarsson (2009). *The Economics of Immigration: Theory and Policy*. Springer.

Topics and papers

1. Economic integration of migrants and their children

Abramitzky, Ran, Leah Boustan, Elisa Jacome and Santiago Perez (2021). Intergenerational Mobility of Immigrants in the United States over Two Centuries. *American Economic Review* 111 (2): 580–608.

Becker, Sascha O., Irena Grosfeld, Pauline Grosjean, Nico Voigtländer and Ekaterina Zhuravskaya (2020). Forced Migration and Human Capital: Evidence from Post-WWII Population Transfers. *American Economic Review* 110 (5): 1430–63.

- Braun, Sebastian T. and Nadja Dwenger (2020). Resettlement Location Shapes the Integration of Forced Migrants: Evidence from Post-war Germany. *Explorations in Economic History* 77: 101330.
- Fouka, Vasiliki (2020). Backlash: The Unintended Effects of Language Prohibition in U.S. Schools after World War I. *Review of Economic Studies* 87(1): 204–239.
- Fouka, Vasiliki, Shom Mazumder and Marco Tabellini (2021). From Immigrants to Americans: Race and Assimilation during the Great Migration. *Review of Economic Studies*, forthcoming.
- Sprengholz, Maximilian, Claudia Diehl, Johannes Giesecke and Michaela Kreyenfeld (2021). From “Guest Workers” to EU Migrants: A Gendered View on the Labour Market Integration of Different Arrival Cohorts in Germany. *Journal of Family Research*, forthcoming.

2. Labour markets effects of immigration

- Abramitzky, Ran, Philipp Ager, Leah Platt Boustan, Elior Cohen and Casper W. Hansen (2020). The Effects of Immigration on the Economy: Lessons from the 1920s Border Closure. *NBER Working Paper* 26536.
- Beerli, Andreas, Jan Ruffner, Michael Siegenthaler and Giovanni Peri (2021). The Abolition of Immigration Restrictions and the Performance of Firms and Workers: Evidence from Switzerland. *American Economic Review* 111 (3): 976–1012.
- Borjas, George and Joan Monras (2017). The Labor Market Consequences of Refugee Supply Shocks. *Economic Policy* 32(91): 361–413.
- Clemens, Michael A. and Jennifer Hunt (2019). The Labor Market Effects of Refugee Waves: Reconciling Conflicting Results. *ILR Review* 72(4): 818–857.
- Dustmann, Christian, Uta Schönberg and Jan Stuhler (2017). Labor Supply Shocks, Native Wages, and the Adjustment of Local Employment. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 132(1): 435–483.

3. Other economic, social and political effects of immigration

- Charnysh, Volha (2019). Diversity, Institutions, and Economic Outcomes: Post-WWII Displacement in Poland. *American Political Science Review* 113(2): 423–441.
- Dippel, Christian and Stephan Heblich (2021). Leadership in Social Movements: Evidence from the “Forty-Eighters” in the Civil War. *American Economic Review* 111 (2): 472–505.
- Hangartner, Dominik, Elias Dinas, Moritz Marbach, Konstantinos Matakos and Dimitros Xefteris (2019). Does Exposure to the Refugee Crisis Make Natives More Hostile? *American Political Science Review* 113(2): 442–455.
- Ochsner, Christian and Felix Roesel (2020). Migrating Extremists. *The Economic Journal* 130(628): 1135–1172.
- Sequeira, Sandra, Nathan Nunn and Nancy Qian (2020). Immigrants and the Making of America. *Review of Economic Studies* 87 (1): 382–419.

4. The effects of forced emigration on origin countries

- Huber, Kilian, Volker Lindenthal and Fabian Waldinger (2021). Discrimination, Managers, and Firm Performance: Evidence from “Aryanizations” in Nazi Germany. *Journal of Political Economy*, forthcoming.

- Teso, Edoardo (2019). The Long-Term Effect of Demographic Shocks on the Evolution of Gender Roles: Evidence from the Transatlantic Slave Trade. *Journal of the European Economic Association* 17(2): 497–534.
- Testa, Patrick A. (2021). The Economic Legacy of Expulsion: Lessons from Postwar Czechoslovakia. *The Economic Journal*, ueaa132, forthcoming.