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Emigration and Democracy

by Frédéric Docquier, Elisabetta Lodigiani, Hillel Rapoport, Maurice Schiff
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Abstract:

Migration is an important and yet neglected determinant of institutions. The paper documents the channels through which emigration affects home country institutions and considers dynamic-panel regressions for a large sample of developing countries. We find that emigration and human capital both increase democracy and economic freedom. This implies that unskilled (skilled) emigration has a positive (ambiguous) impact on institutional quality. Simulations show an impact of skilled emigration that is generally positive, significant for a few countries in the short run and for many countries in the long run once incentive effects of emigration on human capital formation are accounted for.

Text: See [Discussion Paper No. 5496](#)



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