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EDUCATION

- European University Institute, Department of Economics, Florence, Italy
2005-Present
 - PhD Candidate (Degree expected July 2010)
Supervisor: Prof. Richard Spady
Thesis Title: Labour Market Integration of Immigrants in Germany:
Does Psychology Matter?
- Université Libre de Bruxelles, European Centre for Advanced Research in
Economics and Statistics (ECARES), Bruxelles, Belgium, 2010
 - Visiting Scholar
- Université de Lausanne, Department of Economics, Ecole des Hautes Etudes
Commerciales, Switzerland, 2003-2005
 - Master of Arts (Licence mention Economie Politique)
- University of Mannheim, Department of Economics, Mannheim, Germany,
2001-2003
 - Bachelor of Arts (Vordiplom)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Applied Microeconometrics, Economics of Migration

TEACHING INTERESTS

- Microeconometrics
- Labour Economics

AWARDS

- Postgraduate Research Grant, German Academic Exchange Service(DAAD)
2005-2010

RESEARCH PAPERS

- Separating Attitudes toward Risk from Non-cognitive Skills in Education
Choices, with Christian Belzil (Ecole Polytechnique, CREST, IZA), expected
2009
- Labour Market Returns of German Immigrants: The Role of Education and
Personal Traits, working paper for IZA summer school, 2007
- Frictional Unemployment in Switzerland: How Efficient is the Swiss Labour
Market?, 2005
- L'Immigration en Suisse: Chance ou Menace pour l'Emploi?, 2005

- Brain Drain or Social Cringe: New Zealand Immigration Policies, *update*, New Zealand Institute of Economic Research, 2004
- Should the Stability and Growth Pact be Scrapped?, 2004

TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Teaching Assistant “Econometrics”, European University Institute
For Professor Luigi Guiso, 11/2009
- Research Assistant, European University Institute
For Prof. Richard Spady, 04/2007 to 06/2007 and 04/2008 to 06/2008
- Consultant to the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Paris, France, 2008 to 2009
- Internship New Zealand Institute of Economic Research (NZIER), Wellington, New Zealand, 2004

CONFERENCES, COURSES AND SUMMER SCHOOLS

- University of Maastricht, invited seminar (presenting), Maastricht, The Netherlands, 10/2009
- The Labor Market Integration of Children of Immigrants, joint technical seminar co-organized by the European Commission and the OECD, Brussels, Belgium, 10/2009
- Advanced Programming in R: Item Response Models and Monte Carlo Markov Chain Estimation”, course, Interuniversity Graduate School of Psychometrics and Sociometrics, University of Twente, The Netherlands, 10/2007
- Summer school “The Mathematics of the Mind”, Institute of Applied Mathematics, University of California, Los Angeles, USA, 07/2007
- Measurement Matters, University College London and cemmap, conference, London, UK, 07/2007
- Heterogeneity in Microeconomic Models, workshop, Institute for the Study of Labor, Bonn, Germany, 06/2007
- 10th IZA summer school (presenting), Institute for the Study of Labor, Buch am Ammersee, Germany, 05/2007

SKILLS

- Languages: English (mother tongue), German (mother tongue), French (teaching language), Italian and Spanish
- Computers: SWP, STATA, R, Microsoft Office

PERSONAL INFORMATION

- Nationality: German, New Zealand
- Date of birth: 21 November 1982

JOB PREFERENCES

- Academia, Institutions
- Available from March 2010

REFERENCES

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JOB MARKET PAPER ABSTRACT

Labour Market Integration of Immigrants in Germany: Does Personality Matter?

The aim of this paper is to contribute to research on the determinants of labour market integration of immigrants. Educational attainment, length of stay, differences in national background and language skills play an acknowledged important role. But integration is also a social process, which suggests a relevance of psychological factors.

We study the effect of a measure of an individual's sense of control over their own life, known in psychology as "the locus of control", on the probability of employment for immigrants and their children. A high external locus of control indicates that the individual believes that his life is controlled by forces outside of his own influence and he or she does not have a high feeling for controlling his or her life. A high internal locus of control however indicates that the individual believes strongly in his ability to control his life. The locus of control is strongly linked to the concept of "motivation": if individuals feel they have control over his or her life, they believe in a causality between their actions and outcomes and this will motivate them to take actions.

Being an immigrant might induce a less strong sense of control over one's life since life in a new society might be perceived as generally less controllable at the beginning. Controlling for this fact, this paper finds that a high sense of being able to control the happenings of life reduces the immigrant-native gap in employment in Germany. Additionally, the paper finds that a high sense of control over one's life compensates language issues.