

The Occupational Share of Foreigners and Attitudes to Equal Opportunities

Didier Ruedin, didier.ruedin@wolfson.oxon.org
Marco Pecoraro
University of Neuchâtel

5 September 2014
ECPR Annual Conference, Glasgow



Attitudes Towards Foreigners

Authoritarian personality

Threat

labour market

social cohesion

culture and lifestyle

Contact with foreigners

Egotropic v. sociotropic

Social desirability bias

Foreigners in Different Occupations

Labour market competition

Beyond *highly-qualified*

More nuanced than level of education or high/low skills level

Hypotheses

H₁a: Labour market competition \Rightarrow negative attitudes

H₁b: Labour shortage \Rightarrow positive attitudes

More recent immigrants \vdash *labour shortage*

H₂: Sorting on labour quality: demographic competition as a proxy for (measured and unmeasured) skills

Analytical Strategy

attitudes ~ **ethnic competition** + individual variables + controls

Analytical Strategy

Swiss Household Panel 2004-7; Swiss Labour Force Survey

ISCO, 4 digits (\approx 250 occupations)

Individual variables: Sex, age, age², education

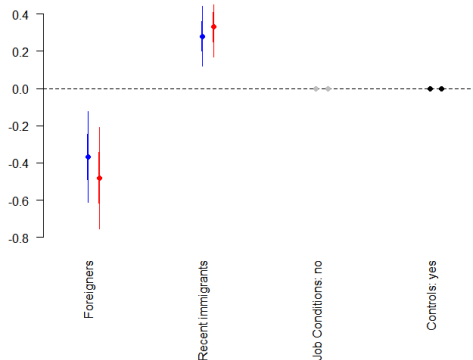
Controls: canton, year

Ordinary random effects, instrumental variable
(occupational mobility limited within job)

ISCO 3 digits (2 digits)

DV: in favour of offering foreigners same opportunities

Labour Force Competition

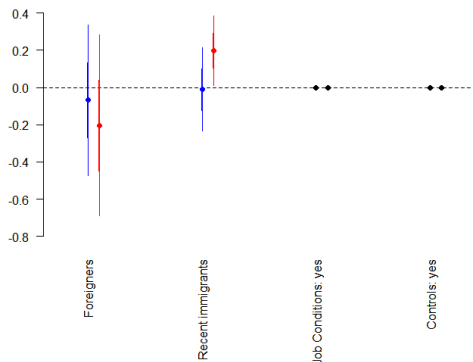


Against competition .: against foreigners

And labour shortage .: for recent immigrants

Recent immigrants: share of short term permits (≤ 5 years)

Sorting on Labour Quality



Sorting on labour quality

Women: self-selection into labour market?

Recent immigrants: share of short term permits (≤ 5 years)

Conclusion

Labour market effects

not only sociotropic
not only cultural threat

Different reasons to oppose foreigners and immigrants

Skills sorting, labour market participation