

Why Do Immigrants Choose Illegal Migration? Evidence from Return Migrants

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IMISCOE, Geneva, 27 June 2015

Migration Decisions

why do individuals leave?

- ▶ aspirations, capabilities and opportunities

why do they choose irregular migration?

- ▶ who chooses illegal border crossings?
- ▶ illegal border crossing as risk taking

perspective of sending country

Expectations

H1: individuals without social responsibilities

H2: younger individuals

H3: men

Methods and Data

Return Migration and Reintegration in Albania survey

- ▶ 2013
- ▶ $N = 1,878$
- ▶ $RR = 91\%$

return migrants

actual (reported) behaviour

no incentives to hide illegal border crossing

Dependent Variable

“Under what conditions did you go abroad?”

	of respondents	crossing
with official documents	46%	legal
no official documents	46%	illegal
with false documents	8%	illegal

- ▶ mechanism likely same elsewhere

Explanatory Variables

social responsibilities

- ▶ 1 if married or with dependent children (49% of respondents)
- ▶ 0 otherwise

sex (74% men)

age (median age: 27 years)

Results: Bivariate

	No Responsibilities	Responsibilities
Legal	38%	55%
Illegal	62%	45%

Note: all differences are statistically significant at $p < 0.01$

Results: Bivariate

	Women	Men	Median Age
Legal	73%	37%	28 years
Illegal	27%	63%	26 years

Note: all differences are statistically significant at $p < 0.01$

Logistic Regression Model

	Illegal border crossing
No Responsibilities (ref.)	
Responsibilities	0.916
Age	0.982
Women (ref.)	
Men	4.165
Preparations	0.402
Financial situation	1.855

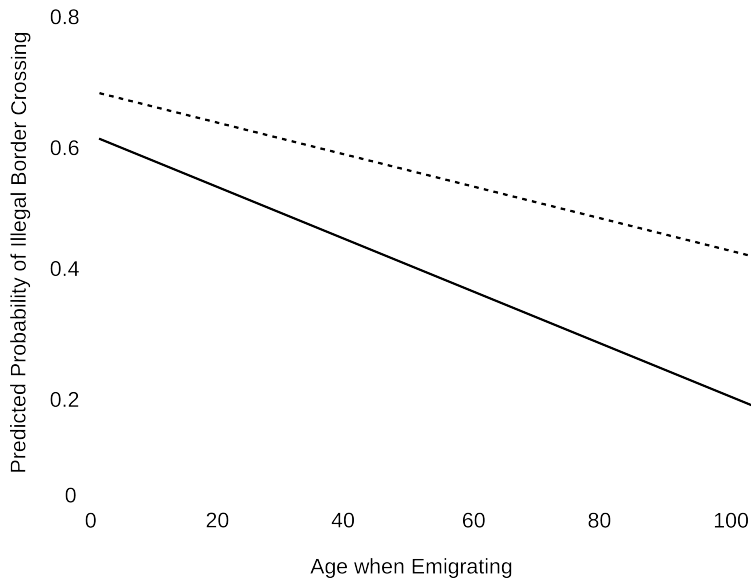
Notes: Dependent variable: illegal border crossing. Given are the odds ratios. All coefficients are significant at $p < 0.01$. $N=1,878$; $-2LL$ (Nagelkerke R^2) = 153,167 (0.278)

Logistic Regression Model: Robustness

	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3
No Responsibilities (ref.)			
Responsibilities	0.913	0.940	0.927
Age	0.982	0.980	0.981
Women (ref.)			
Men	4.156	4.171	4.065
Preparations	0.396	0.405	0.405
Financial situation	1.861	1.860	1.843
Education	1.009		
Migration period		1.115	
Reasons to migrate			1.138

Notes: Dependent variable: illegal border crossing. Given are the odds ratios. All coefficients are significant at $p < 0.01$. $N = 1,878$; $-2LL$ (Nagelkerke R^2) = 153,153 (0.278), 153,103 (0.279), and 152,766 (0.281), respectively

Interaction Effect



Notes: Interaction Effect Between Risk-Taking and Responsibilities; dotted line = no responsibilities, solid line = with responsibilities. Dependent variable: illegal border crossing; other variables as in model 2 above

Conclusion

illegal border crossing \propto risk taking, no social responsibilities

social responsibilities moderate impact of risk taking

pay more attention to risk taking

- ▶ migration decisions
- ▶ complements the role of aspirations, capabilities and opportunities