

IAB-Colloquium

zur Arbeitsmarkt- und Berufsforschung

Parental Education, Regional Labor Migration and Wages

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This presentation investigates competing hypotheses regarding the effects of parents' education on labor migration decisions and on personal income. The spatial-distance-promotes-social-distance model asserts that the impact of parents' education on wages reduces when persons move away for economic reasons. A competing explanation derived from a human-capital-migration model with incomplete information argues that parents' level of education results in higher migration propensities, higher returns from migration, and thus stronger effects of parents' education upon those moving for economic reasons. Results from event history and fixed-effects and growth curve models using data from the German Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP, 1985-2012) indicate that parents' level of education associates positively with labor-migration propensities and returns to labor migrations. The impact of parents' education on wages is therefore stronger for labor migrants than for immobile persons. The results are thus in line with hypotheses derived from the human-capital-migration model.

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