

Attitudes Toward Internal and Foreign Migration: Evidence from a Survey Experiment in China

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Do prevailing arguments about attitudes toward international immigration also apply to the movement of people *within* a country? We explore attitudes toward internal and foreign migration in China using an original survey experiment. A previously untested implication of standard arguments about labor market competition is that that local residents will be opposed to migrants with skill levels similar to their own, regardless of whether the migrant is foreign or internal. If residents fear a dilution of their national identity, then they will be more opposed to foreign migration than internal migration. We tested these arguments by conducting a nationwide survey in China which randomly assigned respondents to answer questions about migrants with different skills levels and from either foreign countries or other provinces in China.

Our results challenge predictions from economic and nationality-based