

Abstract

Title:

Does Foreign Human Capital Help Immigrants Find Jobs Related to their Education?

The purpose of this paper is to investigate the portability of immigrants' foreign human capital in the Canadian labour market. I consider the portability of foreign education and work experience in terms of its ability to provide immigrants with jobs related to their education. Questions on the portability or recognition of foreign human capital are typically answered in the literature with estimated variants of the standard human-capital-adjusted earnings function. Hence portability is typically based solely on pecuniary disparities offering little in-sight as to whether immigrants are working in jobs that employ their foreign acquired skills. Furthermore, I construct indicator variables of foreign and Canadian education credentials without relying on the assumption that immigrants have no disruptions throughout their entire education career - a necessary identification assumption in related census-based studies. I find that non-traditional immigrants with trade or other non-university certificates endure significant difficulties in transferring their foreign education. In contrast, all immigrant groups' foreign bachelor degrees are relatively transferable into the Canadian labour market.