

Workshop May 31th, 2024

***MIGRATIONS FROM THE MENA REGION:
A BLESSING OR/AND A CURSE?***



***Osmosis within the MENA Countries:
Have migration root drivers changed?***

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Comments

This paper estimates the migration flows between the MENA Countries. They consider the “OsmosisModel” which is based on natural determinants of human migration. They hypothesize that migration from North Africa to the Middle East can be explained by the Osmosis Model rather than the development of the oil industry in the Gulf countries. According to the Osmosis Theory people migrate from low migratory pressure countries to high migratory pressure countries. The natural determinants are water stock, temperature, security, population density. They estimate migration flows from (Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt) to (Iraq, UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Jordan) using panel data for the period 1990-2020. They estimate FE model and they find that migration pressure in the origin countries are negatively correlated with migration and migration pressure in the destination countries are positively correlated with migration confirming Osmosis Model.

Questions

In Table 2 give the full names of all of the variables rather than acronyms. Explain what are in the parenthesis and denote the significance of the estimates at the conventional levels.

There are multiple items in the references list. Give only the ones that are referred to in the text. Some of the references are incomplete. Complete them

Define the FE variables.

Give a formal definition of the Osmosis Model Who introduced it? Where was it introduced for the first time? Which applications to which countries are made? Where it was confirmed and where did it fail?

In the appendix Tables there is a Hausman test where it was decided to use FE model. Include this test in the main text and explain it.

There are other estimates in the appendix tables. What are these? Why they are done? Do they confirm the results in the text or do they refute them. Explain these all.

In the appendix tables there is an unweighted r-square . It is negative. Why? Does this not indicate poor fit?

Data sources can be explained and given more clearly.

They test stationarity of the panel data variables. Indicate the source of each of these tests and explain them. Since they find that all of the variables are integrated of order 1, they used first differenced variables in further estimations rather than levels. If so, this must be clearly stated.