Instructor: Giovanni Peri (UC Davis)

The goal of this course, is to survey frontier research in the area of Migration Economics with a focus on the adjustment of Labor Markets, Firms and analyzing the impact of immigrants and their assimilation. The course is structured to bring students to know the most recent research in this area and stimulate their ability and interest to engage in original research at the doctoral level.

While the literature covered is mainly empirical we will also analyze some theories and models that are useful to understand key implications tested in the data. We cover a variety of methods and models and the goal is to provide an overview of the exciting research, and discuss in depth some data, method and policy-related issues.

The tools used in the course and large part of its focus are related to applied economics and Labor. However, Immigration Economics is a sub-field of economics with implications in and insight from many other fields (international, development and public economics) and several other disciplines (demography, sociology, political science). As my research is related to this field I will cover a significant number of research articles that I produced in the last 10 years.

I structures this as a topical course that students would typically take after one year of PHD, while starting their applied research. Hence the course is all based on recent published papers and my presentations of those. Moreover, students are expected to know the most important methods and techniques in empirical economics. I will assume that they know Panel data analysis, Instrumental Variable Estimation, Difference-in-difference methods, regression discontinuity methods, event study methods and possibly (at least cursorily) the synthetic control method. We will cover, analyze and discuss several papers that use those techniques.

The homework assigned each day will consist in students reading a very recent paper, related to the topic we covered in the morning. Then we will discuss and critique more in details some features of methods and data that are used, and to stimulate new ideas for individual research, each student will write a short summary and suggestions/critique of the paper. All students will be asked to read and participate to the discussion.

Topics and readings for each day of class:

**Day 1: Facts on immigration and importance of economic agglomerations**

1.1: Chapter 4, IMF World Outlook 2020
1.2:

Homework:


Day 2: Immigration and Labor Markets, structural approach and dynamic responses

2.1:

2.2 Dynamic effects:

Homework:

Day 3: Identifying the causal Impact of Immigration, focus on methods

3.1:
Quasi-Experiments:
Shift-Share IV method:

3.2

Homework:

Day 4: Immigrants, productivity, technology and Firms:

4.1 technological choice and investments:

4.2 Firm-workers, matching and entrepreneurs:
Pierre Azoulay, Benjamin F. Jones, J. Daniel Kim, Javier Miranda “Immigration and Entrepreneurship in the United States, AMERICAN ECONOMIC REVIEW: INSIGHTS (FORTHCOMING)

Homework

Day 5: Economic integration of immigrants

5.1:

5.2:


No Homework, we end at 2 pm.
**Additional Background Readings**

**Day 1:**
G. Borjas Immigration Economics “Harvard University Press. (Background reading)

**Day 2:**

**Day 3:**

**Day 4:**

**Day 5:**