Immigrants and the Making of America

Sandra Sequeira, Nathan Nunn, and Nancy Qian

December 9, 2019

Introduction

- Impacts of immigration is an important issue both in the U.S. and around he world.
- Short-run effects have been fairly well studied.
 - e.g., Card (1990), Goldin (1994)
- However, we know much less about the long-run effects of immigrants.
- This is particularly important since the short-run and long-run impacts could be very different in magnitude or even in sign.

Annual immigrant arrivals to the U.S., 1820–1940



Age of Mass Migration: 1850–1920

- In the 1830s, approx. 99.5% of the U.S. population had been born in the U.S.
- This was followed by an immigration boom, where approx. 25 million Europeans came to the U.S. from 1850–1920.
 - Largest groups: German, UK, Scandinavian.
 - Over time, immigrants increasingly from Southern and Eastern Europe (e.g., Italy, Poland, Russia).
- Immigrant flows were halted by the 1921 Emergency Quota Act and the 1924 Immigration Act (country-specific flows restricted to 2% of 1890 stock).

Research question

- How much of the economic success of the U.S. is due to the immigration that occurred during during the Age of Mass Migration (1850–1920)?
- Are locations that had more immigrant settlement during this time more economically successful today?

1. Provision of unskilled labor.

- Majority of immigrants worked in unskilled occupations.
- Important for the growth of industry.
- Large proportion of immigrants had worked in industrial occupations in their origin country.

2. Provision of important skills for industry.

- Many immigrants worked in skilled occupations.
- E.g., carpenters, blacksmiths, brewers, distillers, barbers, tailors, machinists, jewelers, clockmakers, bakers, etc.
- In 1870, 37% of German-born workers were employed in skilled occupations.

3. Provision of agricultural know-how.

- Immigrants were well represented among farmers (mostly owner operators): 10–15%.
- Often brought with them knowledge and techniques from the homeland.
- Also brought new seeds, crops (e.g., alfalfa) and animal breeds (e.g., the Conestoga horse).

- 4. Provision of knowledge and innovation.
 - Significant proportion of engineers were immigrants.
 - John A. Roebling who designed and built the first major suspension bridges in the country, including the Brooklyn bridge.
 - John F. O'Rourke who built seven of the tunnels under the East and Hudsons Rivers.
 - Many important inventors were immigrants.
 - Alexander Graham Bell, born in Scotland, invented the first telephone.
 - Many business innovators were immigrants.
 - Andrew Carnegie, born in Scotland, founded the Carnegie Steel Company, which established the steel industry in the US.
 - In the Dictionary of American Biography, 12.5% of the individuals since 1790 are foreign-born, despite foreign born accounting for less than 10% of the total population.

Causal inference

- Can examine the relationship between historical immigrant settlement in a location and economic performance today.
- However, obtaining credible estimates is difficult due (in part) to the endogeneity of location choice by immigrants.
 - Migrants may have wanted to go to the locations with the best future growth prospects.
 - Despite this, migrants may have only been able to locate in more marginal locations with poor growth potential.
- Omitted factors, like geography or location, may also affect both historical settlement and economic performance today.
- Thus, the direct of the bias due to selection is unknown.

Annual immigrant inflows, 1820–1940



Immigrant inflows, normalized and by decade, 1820-1939



Identification: Basic intuition

- During the Age of Mass Migration, the flow of immigrants varied significantly over time.
- After arriving at the coast, immigrants typically moved to their eventual destination using the newly constructed railway network.
- Therefore, when a county became integrated into the railway network affected the number of foreign migrants that settled in the county.
 - Counties that were connected earlier received more immigrants (we do not use this for identification).
 - Conditional on length of time connected, counties that were connected during high immigration periods received more immigrants.
 - Equivalently, counties that became connected just before an immigration boom received more migrants than counties that became connected just prior to an immigration lull.

Examples illustrating the source of identification



Examples illustrating the source of identification



Balance between boom and lull periods

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
	Bo	om-Conne	ction	Lı	ıll-Conne	ection	Equality
		Counties			Counti	es	of Means
	Obs	Mean	Std Err	Obs	Mean	Std Err	p -value
Panel A: Demographic Composition							
Foreign Share of the Population, 1820	392	0.005	(0.0006)	312	0.004	(0.0005)	0.622
Foreign Share of the Population, 1830	524	0.004	(0.0005)	408	0.004	(0.0007)	0.482
Panel B: Economic Characteristics							
Urban Share, 1840	626	0.975	(0.470)	496	0.695	(0.172)	0.575
Population Density, 1830	670	0.147	(0.0480)	531	0.131	(0.022)	0.754
Share of the Population in Commerce, 1840	653	0.004	(0.0002)	509	0.005	(0.0003)	0.374
Share of the Population in Agriculture, 1840	653	0.259	(0.005)	509	0.260	(0.005)	0.916
Share of the Population in Mining, 1840	654	0.0009	(0.0002)	511	0.001	(0.0002)	0.582
Value of Agricultural Output per Capita, 1840	663	46.332	(1.092)	527	44.253	(1.412)	0.244
Value of Agricultural Crops per Capita, 1840	663	42.300	(1.076)	527	40.354	(1.404)	0.272
Post Offices per 1,000 Inhabitants, 1840	672	0.698	(0.022)	536	0.652	(0.050)	0.403
Newspapers per 1,000 Inhabitants 1840	242	0.175	(0.020)	120	0.112	(0.024)	0.048
Water Connection Indicator, 1840	670	0.467	(0.019)	531	0.514	(0.022)	0.106
Panel C: Geographic Characteristics							
Latitude	1,305	38.115	(0.125)	1,502	38.469	(0.124)	0.045
Longitude	1,305	-90.029	(0.306)	1,502	-92.164	(0.281)	0.000
Share of Counties in the Midwest and West	1,305	0.474	(0.014)	1,503	0.476	(0.013)	0.942
Share of Counties in the South	1,305	0.436	(0.014)	1,503	0.460	(0.013)	0.195

Notes: "Boom-Connection Counties" are counties that we observe as connected to the railway for the first time in either 1850, 1880, or 1900. "Lull-Connection Counties" are counties that we observe as being connected to the railway for the first time in 1860, 1870, 1890, or 1910. Column 7 reports the p-value from a test of equality of means with unequal variances.

Railroads and immigration

Immigration and railroads are closely tied in the U.S. historically:

- Railway were awarded land grants beginning in 1862.
 - Given over 175 million acres of public land, much of it sold to immigrant settlers.
- Railway companies set up offices in Europe that promoted immigration.
- Also coordinated with steamship companies to sell bundled transportation packages.





Railroads, 1850



Railroads, 1921



























Zero-stage estimating equation

$$\begin{array}{ll} \mathsf{Immigrant\,Share}_{i,t} &= & \alpha_t + \alpha_i + \gamma \, \mathsf{Immigrant\,Share}_{i,t-1} + \delta \, I^{\mathsf{RR}\,\mathsf{Access}}_{i,t-1} \\ & & + \beta \, \mathsf{Immigrant}\,\mathsf{Flow}_{t-1} \times I^{\mathsf{RR}\,\mathsf{Access}}_{i,t-1} \\ & & + \theta \, \mathsf{Industrialization}_{t-1} \times I^{\mathsf{RR}\,\mathsf{Access}}_{i,t-1} \\ & & + \phi \, \mathsf{GDP}\,\,\mathsf{Growth}_{t-1} \times I^{\mathsf{RR}\,\mathsf{Access}}_{i,t-1} \\ & & + \mathsf{X}_{i,t-1}\mathbf{\Gamma} + \varepsilon_{i,t} \end{array}$$

- ▶ i indexes counties, t decades (1860-1920).
- Immigrant Share_{i,t}: share of the population that is foreign-born living in county i and decade t.
- Immigrant Flow_{t-1}: flow of immigrants arriving in the U.S. between t - 1 and t, normalized by total population in t - 1.
- ► RR Access_{i,t-1}: indicator variable that equals one if county i was connected to the railway in decade t − 1.

Zero-stage estimating equation

$$\begin{array}{ll} {\rm Immigrant\,Share}_{i,t} &= & \alpha_t + \alpha_i + \gamma \, {\rm Immigrant\,Share}_{i,t-1} + \delta \, I^{{\rm RR\,Access}}_{i,t-1} \\ & & + \beta \, {\rm Immigrant\,Flow}_{t-1} \times I^{{\rm RR\,Access}}_{i,t-1} \\ & & + \theta \, {\rm Industrialization}_{t-1} \times I^{{\rm RR\,Access}}_{i,t-1} \\ & & + \phi \, {\rm GDP\,Growth}_{t-1} \times I^{{\rm RR\,Access}}_{i,t-1} \\ & & + {\rm X}_{i,t-1} {\bf \Gamma} + \varepsilon_{i,t} \end{array}$$

- Industrialization_{t-1}: average log industrial production index between t - 1 and t.
- GDP Growth $_{t-1}$: growth in national GDP between t-1 and t.

► **X**_{*i*,*t*-1} includes:

- Lagged population density.
- Lagged urban county indicator (city \geq 2500).
- Lagged urban county \times Immigrant Flow_{t-1}.

Constructing the instrument

Avg Immigrant Share_i =
$$\frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^{T} \text{Immigrant Share}_{i,t}$$

where:

$$\widehat{\mathsf{Immigrant}\,\mathsf{Share}_{i,t}} = \hat{\beta}_1 \operatorname{Immigrant}\,\mathsf{Flow}_{t-1} \times I_{i,t-1}^{\mathsf{RR}\,\mathsf{Access}}$$

2SLS equations

Avg Immigrant Share_{*i*,s} = $\zeta_s + \mu$ Avg Immigrant Share_{*i*,s} + ω RR Duration_{*i*,s} + $\mathbf{X}_{i,s}\mathbf{\Omega} + \epsilon_{i,s}$

$$Y_{i,s} = \xi_s + \psi \operatorname{Avg} \operatorname{Immigrant} \operatorname{Share}_{i,s} \\ + \pi \operatorname{RR} \operatorname{Duration}_{i,s} + \mathbf{X}_{i,s} \mathbf{\Pi} + \nu_{i,s}$$

- i indexes counties, s states.
- ζ_s , ξ_s : state fixed effects.
- $Y_{i,s}$: outcome of interest, measured in 2000.
- ▶ RR Duration_{*i*,*s*}: years connected to RR (as of 2000).
- ► **X**_{*i*,*s*}:
 - Cubic polynomial in latitude and longitude (baseline)
 - Additional covariates (robustness)

Threats to inference

- 1. Differential effect of the railway depending on aggregate immigration may also be correlated with how early a location was connected to the railway.
 - In all specifications, we control (linearly) for date of connection to the RR.
- 2. The differential effect of the railway may also depend on aggregate economic conditions, which may be correlated with immigration.
 - Control for differential effects depending on level of industrialization or recent economic growth.
- 3. Timing of connection to the RR may be correlated with a county's geographic location.
 - All specifications flexibly account for latitude and longitude, and include state fixed effects.

Stage-zero panel estimates

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Dependent Variable		Immig	rant Share of To	otal County Popu	lation	
-	All	Excluding		Excluding		Midwest
	Counties	Northeast	Northeast	South	South	and West
Interaction of Interest:						
Lag Rail Access	0.172***	0.183***	0.046	0.239***	0.051*	0.292***
x Lag Immigrant Inflow/ Total US Pop	[0.045]	[0.051]	[0.107]	[0.076]	[0.027]	[0.085]
Other Variables:						
Lag Rail Access	-0.002	0.010	0.087***	-0.056	-0.007	-0.038
	[0.015]	[0.015]	[0.015]	[0.036]	[0.009]	[0.040]
Lag Rail Access	-0.005	-0.009	-0.042***	0.014	0.002	0.007
x Lag Log Industrialization Index	[0.006]	[0.006]	[0.006]	[0.014]	[0.004]	[0.016]
Lag Rail Access	-0.001	-0.008	0.022	-0.023	-0.010	-0.028
x Lag GDP Per Cap Decadal Growth	[0.010]	[0.010]	[0.027]	[0.027]	[0.008]	[0.027]
Lag Immigrant Share	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lag Urban Indicator	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lag Urban Indicator x Lag Immigrant Inflow/ Total US Pop	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Log County Population Density	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
County Fixed Effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Decade Fixed Effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	16,386	14,903	1,483	8,612	7,774	7,129
R-squared (within)	0.408	0.408	0.652	0.463	0.414	0.495
Mean Dependent Variable	0.085	0.080	0.138	0.144	0.021	0.145
SD Dependent Variable	0.109	0.109	0.088	0.112	0.057	0.116

Notes: OLS estimates are reported. An observation is a county in a time period (1860, 1870, 1880, 1890, 1900, 1910 or 1920). The dependent variable "Immigrant Share of Total County Population" is the proportion of a county's population that is foreign born in period t. "Lag Rail Access" is an indicator variable that equals one if a county has a railway in period t-1. Coefficients are reported, with Conley standard errors in square brackets. **, **, and * indicate significance at the 1,5 and 10% levels.

Zero stage findings

- 1. There is more immigration settlement in a county if it is connected to the railway network *and* immigrants are arriving in the U.S.
- 2. The railway on its own does not result in more immigration settlement.
- 3. No differential effect of the railway on immigration depending on the level of industrialization or GDP growth.

Gaining intuition for the instrument

 $\begin{array}{ll} \operatorname{Immigrant}\operatorname{Share}_{i,t} &= & \alpha_t + \alpha_i + \gamma_j \operatorname{Immigrant}\operatorname{Share}_{i,t-1} \\ & + \sum_{j \in \mathcal{T}} \beta_j \, I_{i,t-1}^{\operatorname{RR}\operatorname{Access}} \times I_{t-1}^{j=t} \\ & + \theta \operatorname{Industrialization}_{t-1} \times I_{i,t-1}^{\operatorname{RR}\operatorname{Access}} \\ & + \phi \operatorname{GDP}\operatorname{Growth}_{t-1} \times I_{i,t-1}^{\operatorname{RR}\operatorname{Access}} \\ & + \mathbf{X}_{i,t-1}\mathbf{\Gamma} + \varepsilon_{it} \end{array}$

- We can then examine the effect of being connected to the railway network in different decades, β_j.
- And check their relationship with aggregate immigrant inflows.
- Question: Does being connected to the RR have larger effects on immigrant settlement in a county in decades when more immigrants arrive to the U.S.?

Estimated effect of the railway on immigrant settlement and aggregate U.S. in-migration



Historical immigration and economic prosperity

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
	Log Average	Share of			Average
Dependent Variable	per Capita	Pop. Below	Unemployment	Urbanization	Years
	Income,	Poverty Line,	Rate,	Rate,	of Schooling,
	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000
		A	A. OLS Estimates		
Average Immigrant Share,	0.243*	0.015	0.020	0.949***	0.020
1860-1920	[0.130]	[0.028]	[0.015]	[0.184]	[0.307]
		E	3. Reduced Form		
Predicted Average Imigrant Share,	11.942***	-2.229***	-1.876***	22.382***	41.925***
1860-1920	[3.629]	[0.777]	[0.500]	[6.820]	[10.562]
		С	. 2SLS Estimates		
Average Immigrant Share,	2.619***	-0.489**	-0.411***	4.909***	9.195***
1860-1920	[1.022]	[0.209]	[0.151]	[2.008]	[3.392]
		D. Fi	irst Stage Estimate	s	
	Depe	ndent Variable: A	Average Immigran	t Share, 1860-19	920
Predicted Average Immigrant Share,	4.559***	4.559***	4.559***	4.559***	4.559***
1860-1920	[1.311]	[1.311]	[1.311]	[1.311]	[1.311]
Kleibergen Paap F-statistic	21.222	21.222	21.222	21.222	21.222
Controls (in all Panels):					
Industrialization-Based Predicted Immig. Share	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Business Cycle-Based Predicted Immig. Share	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Date of RR Connection (Log Years as of 2000)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cubic Polynomial for Latitude and Longitude	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
State Fixed Effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	2.935	2.935	2.935	2.935	2.935
Mean of Den. Var. (OLS. Reduced Form. and 2SLS)	10.022	0.136	0.047	0.401	11.445
SD of Dep. Var. (OLS, Reduced Form, and 2SLS)	0.203	0.054	0.025	0.305	0.558

Notes: An observation is a county. Panel A reports OLS estimates, Panel B reports reduced-form estimates, Panel C reports TSLS estimates, and Panel D reports first-stage estimates. Coefficient estimates are reported, with Conley standard errors in square brackets. ***, **, and * indicate significance at the 1,5 and 10% levels. Magnitudes of the long-run benefits of immigration

Per capita income:

- Movement from zero to the 50th percentile of the Average Immigrant Share (1860–1920) is 0.049.
- The estimated coefficient in the ln per capita income equation is 2.62.
- Therefore, a movement from zero to the 50th percentile results in an increase in income of 0.128 or 12.8%.

Education:

The same impact on the average years of schooling is 0.45 years of schooling.

Robustness checks

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Dependent Variable				Log Average	e per Capita In	come, 2000			
		Variants of	f Instrument		Addi	tional Covar	iates	Restricte	d Samples
		Average in	Immigrant						Counties w
	Baseline	Connected	Inflow in	No	Frontier	Civil	Internat	Removing	Constant
	Specification	Decades	First Decade	Covariates	Experience	War	Trade	Outliers	Borders
				A	. OLS Estimate	25			
Average Immigrant Share,	0.243*	0.246*	0.269**	0.395***	0.220	0.244*	0.235***	0.333***	0.607***
1860-1920	[0.130]	[0.133]	[0.130]	[0.134]	[0.128]	[0.130]	[0.129]	[0.087]	[0.193]
				в	. Reduced For	m			
Predicted Average Immigrant Share,	11.942***	287.404***	49.319***	12.719***	9.793***	12.183***	10.527***	14.684***	15.778***
1860-1920	[3.629]	[57.292]	[12.435]	[2.293]	[3.413]	[3.618]	[2.912]	[3.773]	[5.794]
				C.	2SLS Estimat	es			
Average Immigrant Share,	2.619***	8.532*	4.540***	2.865***	2.238***	2.693**	3.564***	3.831***	3.119**
1860-1920	[1.022]	[4.497]	[1.773]	[0.779]	[0.964]	[1.035]	[1.581]	[1.460]	[1.615]
				D E	ant Channe Patin				
			Depender	D. FI nt Variable: A	verage Immig	rant Share 1	1860-1920		
Predicted Average Immigrant Share	4 559***	33 686*	10.862***	4 439***	4 375***	4 524***	2 954***	3 833***	5.059***
1860-1920	[1.311]	[17.511]	[3,275]	[1.214]	[1.301]	[1.315]	[1.132]	[1.324]	[2.129]
Kleibergen Paap F-statistic	21.222	18.803	21.005	75.973	19.883	21.256	21.225	17.027	10.675
Controls (in all Panole):									
Never Connected to the Railroad [0-1]	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
Number of Years with Frontier Experience	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
County Connected During Civil War (1860)	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No
Trade-Based Predicted Immigrant Share	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
Industrialization-Based Predicted Immig. Share	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Business Cycle-Based Predicted Immig. Share	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Date of RR Connection (Log Years as of 2000)	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cubic Polynomial for Latitude and Longitude	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
State Fixed Effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	2,935	2,935	2,935	2,935	2,934	2,935	2,935	2,761	1,489
Mean of Dep. Var. (OLS, Reduced Form, and 2SLS)	10.022	10.022	10.022	10.022	10.022	10.022	10.022	10.013	10.021
SD of Dep. Var. (OLS, Reduced Form, and 2SLS)	0.203	0.203	0.203	0.203	0.203	0.203	0.203	0.170	0.205

Notes: An observation is a county. Panel A reports OLS estimates, Panel B reports reduced form estimates, Panel C reports 2SLS estimates, and Panel D reports the first-stage estimates from the 2SLS. Coefficient estimates are reported, with Conley standard errors reported in square brackets. ***, **, and * indicate significance at the 1,5 and 10% levels.

Potential social costs of immigration

- It is possible that there are long-run social costs of immigration.
- Concerns, historically and today, center around:
 - Erosion of socially-desirable values, such as civic mindedness.
 - Erosion of social cohesion.
 - Increase in crime.
- ▶ We also estimate long-run effects on these outcomes.

Historical immigration and social outcomes

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Dependent Variable	Social	Voting	Total Crime	Crimes Agains	t Crimes Against
	Capital,	Turnout,	Rate,	Persons,	Property,
	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000
			A. OLS Estimate	s	
Average Immigrant Share,	-0.048	-0.071	0.008***	0.002***	0.004***
1860-1920	[0.030]	[0.046]	[0.002]	[0.001]	[0.001]
			B. Reduced For	n	
Predicted Average Immigrant Share,	0.210	1.244	0.086	0.020	0.054
1860-1920	[0.958]	[1.662]	[0.070]	[0.013]	[0.053]
			C. 2SLS Estimate	es	
Average Immigrant Share,	0.046	0.271	0.019	0.004	0.012
1860-1920	[0.209]	[0.347]	[0.017]	[0.003]	[0.012]
1000 1920	[0:20 9]	[0.017]	[0.017]	[0.000]	[0:012]

	D. First Stage Estimates							
_	Depe	ndent Variable:	Average Immigr	ant Share, 1860	-1920			
Predicted Average Immigrant Share,	4.588***	4.596***	4.559***	4.559***	4.559***			
1860-1920	[1.329]	[1.330]	[1.311]	[1.311]	[1.311]			
Kleibergen Paap F-statistic	21.206	21.712	21.222	21.222	21.222			
Controls (in all Panels):								
Industrialization-Based Predicted Immig. Share	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Business Cycle-Based Predicted Immig. Share	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Date of RR Connection (Log Years as of 2000)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Cubic Polynomial for Latitude and Longitude	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			
State Fixed Effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Observations	2,934	2,925	2,935	2,935	2,935			
Mean of Dep. Var. (OLS, Reduced Form, and 2SLS)	0.182	0.535	0.006	0.001	0.004			
SD of Dep. Var. (OLS, Reduced Form, and 2SLS)	0.061	0.090	0.004	0.001	0.003			

Notes: An observation is a county. Panel A reports OLS estimates, Panel B reports reduced-form estimates, Panel C reports 2SLS estimates, and Panel D reports first-stage estimates. Coefficient estimates are reported, with Conley standard errors reported in square brackets.***, and * indicate significance at the 1,5 and 10% levels.

Mechanisms and dynamics behind the long-term effects

- When did the economic benefits of immigrants arise?
- Have they been increasing or decreasing overtime?
- We make progress on these questions by examining outcomes, measured:
 - 1. During the Age of Mass Migration (1860-1920)
 - 2. Immediately afterwards (1930)

Short-term effects of immigration on industry

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
	Log Av	erage	Log Av	erage	Log Nu	umber
Dependent Variable	Manufacturing Output		Manufactur	ing Output	of Establis	hments per
•	per C	apita	per Estab	lishment	10,000 In	habitants
	1860-1920	1930	1860-1920	1930	1860-1920	1930
			A. OLS Es	stimates		
Average Immigrant Share	3 476***	4 216***	3 301***	3 343***	0319**	0 783***
1860-1920	[0.631]	[0.796]	[0.537]	[0.648]	[0.249]	[0.248]
			B. Reduc	ed Form		
Predicted Average Immigrant Share	40.765	74.736***	20.778	71.924***	32.710***	2.079
1860-1920	[33.988]	[26.368]	[29.227]	[23.653]	[6.462]	[6.765]
			C. 2SLS E	stimates		
Average Immigrant Share,	9.014	16.197***	4.594	15.588***	7.253***	0.453
1860-1920	[8.460]	[7.343]	[6.838]	[6.868]	[2.389]	[1.467]
			D. First Stag	e Estimates		
	D	ependent Vai	riable: Average	Immigrant Sl	are, 1860-192	:0
Predicted Average Immigrant Share,	4.523***	4.614***	4.523***	4.614***	4.510***	4.590***
1860-1920	[1.381]	[1.466]	[1.381]	[0.927]	[1.381]	[1.463]
Kleibergen Paap F-statistic	16.584	17.729	16.584	17.729	16.376	17.456
Controls (in all Panels):						
Industrialization-Based Predicted Immig. Share	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Business Cycle-Based Predicted Immig. Share	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Date of BR Connection (Log Years as of 2000)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cubic Polynomial for Latitude and Longitude	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
State Fixed Effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	2.805	2.463	2.805	2.463	2.804	2.462
Mean of Den Var (OLS Reduced Form and 2SLS)	5,005	7 206	12 578	14.030	3 352	2,102
SD of Dan Var. (OLS, Reduced Form and 2SLS)	1 1 97	1 4 1 9	0.906	1156	0.536	0.509
50 of Dep. var. (015, Neudeed Form, and 2315)	1.197	1.719	0.900	1.130	0.550	0.509

Notes: An observation is a county. The decade of 1910 is missing from the Manufacturing Census. Panel A reports OLS estimates, Panel B reports reduced-form estimates, Panel C reports SLSS estimates, and Panel D reports first-stage estimates. Coefficient estimates are reported, with Conley standard errors reported in square brackets. "**, and * indicate significance at the 1,5 and 10% levels.

Short-term effects of immigration on agriculture

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Dependent Variable	Log Average Total	Farm Value (per Farm)	Log Average Total	Farm Value (per Acre)
	1860-1920	1930	1860-1920	1930
		A. OLS E	stimates	
Average Immigrant Share,	0.571	1.321***	1.866***	2.224***
1860-1920	[0.417]	[0.340]	[0.699]	[0.721]
		B. Reduc	ed Form	
Predicted Average Immigrant Share,	-1.771	32.991***	-12.372	14.961
1860-1920	[18.545]	[13.341]	[22.477]	[19.545]
		C. 2SLS E	stimates	
Average Immigrant Share,	-0.393	7.455***	-2.743	3.367
1860-1920	[4.116]	[3.485]	[5.005]	[4.519]
		D. First Stag	e Estimates	
	Depe	endent Variable: Average	Immigrant Share, 18	860-1920
Predicted Average Immigrant Share,	4.510***	4.425***	4.510***	4.443***
1860-1920	[1.381]	[1.360]	[1.381]	[1.359]
Kleibergen Paap F-statistic	16.376	15.543	16.376	16.065
Controls (in all Panels):				
Industrialization-Based Predicted Immig. Share	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Business Cycle-Based Predicted Immig. Share	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Date of RR Connection (Log Years as of 2000)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cubic Polynomial for Latitude and Longitude	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
State Fixed Effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	2,804	2,800	2,804	2,799
Mean of Dep. Var. (OLS, Reduced Form, and 2SLS)	10.420	11.513	5.907	6.558
SD of Dep. Var. (OLS, Reduced Form, and 2SLS)	0.913	0.829	0.701	0.793

Notes: An observation is a county. Panel A reports OLS estimates, Panel B reports reduced-form estimates, Panel C reports 2SLS estimates, and Panel D reports first-stage estimates. Coefficient estimates are reported, with Conley standard errors reported in square brackets. ***, **, and * indicate significance at the 1, 5 and 10% levels.

Short-term effects of immigration on education and innovation

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
		Educationa	l Attainment		Innova	tion
Dependent Variable	Share E	nrolled	Sha	ire	Log Patents p Inhabita	er 10,000 ants:
	in Sc	hool	Illite	rate	All Nationalities	European
	1870-1920	1930	1870-1920	1930	1860-1920	1860-1920
			A. OLS	Estimates		
Average Immigrant Share,	-0.119***	-0.059***	0.103***	0.044***	1.379***	2.992***
1860-1920	[0.015]	[0.016]	[0.035]	[0.013]	[0.474]	[0.555]
			B. Red	uced Form		
Predicted Average Immigrant Share,	-3.350***	-1.314***	7.558***	1.415***	139.378***	38.047***
1860-1920	[1.009]	[0.451]	[3.190]	[0.781]	[21.909]	[9.336]
			C. 25L5	Estimates		
Average Immigrant Share,	-0.735***	-0.288***	1.658**	0.310**	30.366***	8.289***
1860-1920	[0.308]	[0.113]	[0.862]	[0.123]	[9.277]	[1.998]
			D. First St	age Estimates		
		Dependen	t Variable: Avera	ge Immigrant S	hare, 1860-1920	
Predicted Average Immigrant Share,	4.559***	4.559***	4.559***	4.559***	4.590***	4.590***
1860-1920	[1.311]	[0.849]	[0.849]	[0.849]	[1.332]	[1.332]
Kleibergen Paap F-statistic	21.222	21.222	21.222	21.222	21.151	21.151
Controls (in all Panels):						
Industrialization-Based Predicted Immig. Share	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Business Cycle-Based Predicted Immig. Share	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Date of RR Connection (Log Years as of 2000)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cubic Polynomial for Latitude and Longitude	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
State Fixed Effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	2,935	2,935	2,935	2,935	2,929	2,929
Mean of Dep. Var. (OLS, Reduced Form, and 2SLS)	0.190	0.217	0.104	0.041	3.561	0.312
SD of Dep. Var. (OLS, Reduced Form, and 2SLS)	0.035	0.026	0.104	0.042	1.263	0.589

Notes: An observation is a county. Panel A reports OLS estimates, Panel B reports reduced-form estimates, Panel C reports 25LS estimates, and Panel D reports first-stage estimates. Coefficient estimates are reported, with Conley standard errors reported in square brackets. ***, **, and * indicate significance at the 1,5 and 10% levels.

Historical immigration and urbanization, 1920-2000

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Dependent Variable				Urban F	opulation Sh	are in			
	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000
					OI C Estimate				
Average Immigrant Share	1 108***	1.085***	1 048***	0.998***	0.987***	0.002***	1.003***	1.016***	0.949***
1860-1920	[0.180]	[0.181]	[0.173]	[0.191]	[0.202]	[0.204]	[0.210]	[0.201]	[0.184]
	[0.200]	[0.101]	[0.0.0]	[]	[]	[0.201]	[0.210]	[0.202]	[0.10.1]
	B. Reduced Form								
Predicted Average Immigrant Share,	14.313***	12.570**	11.21	12.231*	16.011**	17.831***	18.946***	20.782***	22.382***
1860-1920	[6.403]	[6.412]	[7.192]	[7.369]	[7.837]	[7.627]	[7.239]	[7.336]	[6.820]
	2 1 2 0 **	0.05044	2 4508	C. 2	SLS Estimate	25		1 550333	1.000222
Average Immigrant Snare,	3.139**	2./5/**	2.459*	2.683**	3.512**	3.883**	4.155	4.558	4.909***
1860-1920	[1.011]	[1.510]	[1.002]	[1.11/]	[1.940]	[1.951]	[1.944]	[2.059]	[2.008]
				D. Firs	t-Stage Estin	nates			
			Dependent	Variable: Av	erage Immig	rant Share. 1	860-1920		
Predicted Average Immigrant Share,	4.559***	4.559***	4.559***	4.559***	4.559***	4.559***	4.559***	4.559***	4.559***
1860-1920	[1.311]	[1.311]	[1.311]	[1.311]	[1.311]	[1.311]	[1.311]	[1.311]	[1.311]
Kleibergen Paap F-statistic	28.201	28.201	28.201	28.201	28.201	28.571	28.201	28.201	28.201
Controls (in all Papels):									
Industrialization Raced Predicted Immig Share	Vor	Vor	Vor	Vor	Vor	Vor	Vor	Vor	Vor
Business Cycle-Based Predicted Immig. Share	Ves	Ves	Ves	Ves	Ves	Ves	Ves	Ves	Ves
Date of RR Connection (Log Years as of 2000)	Yes	Yes	Ves	Ves	Yes	Ves	Yes	Yes	Ves
Cubic Polynomial for Latitude and Longitude	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
State Fixed Effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	2,025	2.025	2.025	2 0 2 5	2 0 2 5	2 0 2 2	2 0 2 5	2 0 2 5	2 0 2 5
Observations	2.935	2.755	2.755	4.233	4.2.3.3	2.233	4.2.3.3	4.2.3.3	4.933
Mean of Dep. Var. (OLS, Reduced-Form, and 2SLS)	2,935	0.219	0.236	0.286	0.324	0.350	0.362	0.365	0.401

Notes: An observation is a county. Panel A reports OLS estimates, Panel B reports reduced-form estimates, Panel C reports 2SLS estimates, and Panel D reports first-stage estimates. Coefficient estimates are reported, with Conley standard errors reported in square brackets. ***, **, and * indicate significance at the 1, 5 and 10% levels.

Historical immigration and incomes, 1960-2000

2000
2000
0.04000
0.243**
[0.130]
0.133
11.942***
[3.629]
0.236
0 (10****
2.619***
[1.022]
1.427
)
4.559***
[1.311]
21.222
Yes
2,935
10.022
0.203

Notes: An observation is a county. Panel A reports OLS estimates, Panel B reports the reduced form, Panel C reports 2SLS estimates, and Panel D reports first-stage estimates. Coefficient estimates are reported, with Conley standard errors reported in square brackets. ***, **, and * indicate significance at the 1,5 and 10% levels.

Historical immigration and education, 1950-2000

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	
Dependent Variable	Media	n Years of Scl	ooling		Average Year	s of Schooling		
Dependent variable	1950	1960	1970	1970	1980	1990	2000	
			A	. OLS Estimates	6			
Average Immigrant Share, 1860-1920	-1.162**	-1.282**	-1.221**	-0.748**	-0.332	-0.120	0.020	
	[0.584]	[0.581]	[0.548]	[0.368]	[0.374]	[0.327]	[0.327]	
Standardized 'beta' Coefficient	-0.093	-0.098	-0.098	-0.085	-0.044	-0.020	0.004	
	B. Reduced Form							
Predicted Average Immigrant Share, 1860-1920	27.680	37.084	55.525***	41.040***	42.733***	44.084***	41.925***	
	[18.631]	[23.899]	[22.861]	[18.079]	[14.886]	[12.454]	[10.562]	
Standardized 'beta' Coefficient	0.081	0.104	0.163	0.171	0.206	0.266	0.304	
			B	2SLS Estimate	s			
Average Immigrant Share, 1860-1920	5.976	8.171	12.085**	9.001***	9.373***	9.669***	9.195***	
	[4.351]	[5.987]	[6.355]	[3.284]	[2.999]	[2.703]	[2.470]	
Standardized 'beta' Coefficient	0.479	0.625	0.968	1.026	1.233	1.590	1.822	
			D. Fit	rst-Stage Estim	ates			
		Depend	ent Variable: A	verage Immigr	ant Share, 18	60-1920		
Predicted Average Immigrant Share, 1860-1920	4.631***	4.539***	4.595***	4.559***	4.559***	4.559***	4.559***	
	[1.364]	[1.310]	[1.311]	[1.311]	[1.311]	[1.311]	[1.311]	
Kleibergen Paap F -statistic	21.20	21.74	21.82	21.22	21.22	21.22	21.22	
Controls (in all Danala)								
Controls (In all Panels): Industrialization Recod Bradicted Immig Share	Voc	Voc	Vec	Voc	Vac	Vac	Vac	
Rusinace Cucla-Based Predicted Immig. Share	Vec	Vec	Vec	Vec	Vec	Vec	Vec	
Date of PP Connection (Log Vears as of 2000)	Vec	Vec	Vec	Vec	Vec	Vec	Vec	
Cubic Polynomial for Latitude and Longitude	Ves	Ves	Ves	Yes	Ves	Ves	Yes	
State Fixed Effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Observations	2.889	2.933	2.933	2.934	2.935	2.935	2.935	
Mean of Dep. Var. (OLS, Reduced-Form, and 2SLS)	5.289	9.628	10.893	9.187	10.177	10.981	11.445	
SD of Dep. Var. (OLS, Reduced-Form, and 2SLS)	1.381	1.444	1.381	0.969	0.840	0.672	0.558	

Notes: An observation is a county. Panel A reports OLS estimates, Panel B reports the reduced form, Panel C reports ZSLS estimates, and Panel D reports firststage estimates. Coefficient estimates are reported, with Conley standard errors reported in square brackets. ***, **, and * indicate significance at the 1, 5 and 10% levels.

Historical and current immigration

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Donon dont Variable	Share of Foreign Born in:							
Dependent variable	1920	1930	1940	1950	1970	1980	1990	2000
	A. OLS Estimates							
Average Immigrant Share,	0.577***	0.428***	0.282***	0.203***	0.107***	0.112***	0.114***	0.141***
1860-1920	[0.033]	[0.035]	[0.029]	[0.023]	[0.021]	[0.029]	[0.037]	[0.048]
	B. Reduced Form							
Predicted Average Immigrant Share,	1.786***	1.566**	0.969**	0.480	0.358	0.034	-0.153	-0.784
1860-1920	[0.726]	[0.588]	[0.428]	[0.320]	[0.233]	[0.404]	[0.497]	[0.746]
	C. 2SLS Estimates							
Average Immigrant Share,	0.392***	0.344***	0.213**	0.105*	0.079*	0.007	-0.034	-0.172
1860-1920	[0.101]	[0.091]	[0.151]	[0.061]	[0.052]	[0.089]	[0.109]	[0.166]
	D. Plant Game Balloucher							
	D. FIRST-Stage Estimates							
Predicted Average Immigrant Share	4 550***	4 559***	4.550***	4 550***	1111111g1 an	A 550***	A 550***	4 550***
1860-1920	[1 211]	1 2111	[1 211]	F1 3111	F1 3111	[1 311]	[1 311]	[1 211]
Kleihergen Paan F-statistic	21 222	21 229	21 222	21 222	21 222	21 222	21 222	21 222
neibergen ruup r sudisde	21.222	21.227	21.222	21.222	21.222	21.222		21.222
Controls (in all Panels):								
Industrialization-Based Predicted Immig. Share	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Business Cycle-Based Predicted Immig. Share	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Date of RR Connection (years as of 2000)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Latitude	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Longitude	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
State Fixed Effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	2,935	2,934	2,935	2,935	2,935	2,935	2,935	2,935
Mean of Dep. Var. (OLS, Reduced-Form, and 2SLS)	0.068	0.055	0.037	0.028	0.015	0.020	0.021	0.033
SD of Dep. Var. (OLS, Reduced-Form, and 2SLS)	0.081	0.065	0.047	0.035	0.021	0.027	0.035	0.047

Notes: An observation is a county. Panel A reports OLS estimates, Panel B reports the reduced form, Panel C reports 2SLS estimates, and Panel D reports first-stage estimates. Coefficient estimates are reported, with Conley standard errors in square brackets. ***, **, and * indicate significance at the 1,5 and 10% levels.

Additional threat to causal inference

- Immigrants could have anticipated when the RR became connected to counties with high future growth potential and immigrated to the U.S. then.
- In this case, aggregate flows are endogenous to where the RR is connected.

Estimating equation

$$\begin{array}{ll} \ln \operatorname{Immigrant} \mathsf{Flow}_{c,t+1} & = & \sum_{s \in S} \sum_{k \in K} \beta_{c,s,k} I_{c,t}^{\operatorname{Temp},s,k} \\ & + \sum_{s \in S} \sum_{k \in K} \gamma_{c,s,k} I_{c,t}^{\operatorname{Precip},s,k} + \varepsilon_{c,t} \end{array}$$

where

- In Immigrant Flow_{c,t+1} is the natural log of the flow of immigrants from country c in year t + 1.
- I^{Temp,s,k} an indicator variable that equals one if the average temperature in season s falls within temperature range k
 - *s* ∈ {Spring, Summer, Winter, Autumn}
 - k indexes a set K of six temperature categories: 3 or more standard deviations below the mean, 2–3 s.d. below the mean, 1–2 s.d. below the mean, 1–2 s.d. above the mean, 2–3 s.d. above the mean, and 3+ s.d. above the mean.

• And, similarly for $I_{c,t}^{Precip,s,k}$.

Actual vs. predicted migrant flows (all of Europe)



Estimates using predicted immigrant flows: Economic outcomes

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)			
	Log Average	Share of			Average			
Dependent Variable	per Capita	Pop. Below	Unemployment	Urbanization	Years			
	Income,	Poverty Line,	Rate,	Rate,	of Schooling,			
	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000			
	A. OLS Estimates							
Average Immigrant Share,	0.244*	0.015	0.020	0.948***	0.022			
1860-1920	[0.130]	[0.028]	[0.015]	[0.185]	[0.307]			
	B. Reduced Form							
Predicted Average Immigrant Share,	28.934***	-4.571	-4.402***	65.007***	115.574***			
1860-1920	[9.683]	[2.874]	[1.453]	[19.282]	[27.643]			
	C. 2SLS Estimates							
Average Immigrant Share,	2.792***	-0.441	-0.425***	6.273***	11.152***			
1860-1920	[1.249]	[0.298]	[0.195]	[2.651]	[4.397]			
	D. First Stage Estimates							
	Dependent Variable: Average Immigrant Share, 1860-1920							
Predicted Average Immigrant Share,	10.364***	10.364***	10.364***	10.364***	10.364***			
1860-1920	[3.058]	[3.058]	[3.058]	[3.058]	[3.058]			
Kleibergen Paap F-statistic	18.006	18.006	18.006	18.006	18.006			
Controls (in all Panels):								
Industrialization-Based Predicted Immig. Share	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Business Cycle-Based Predicted Immig. Share	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			

Business Cycle-Based Predicted Immig. Share	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Date of RR Connection (Log Years as of 2000)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cubic Polynomial for Latitude and Longitude	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
State Fixed Effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	2,935	2,935	2,935	2,935	2,935
Mean of Dep. Var. (OLS, Reduced Form, and 2SLS)	10.022	0.136	0.047	0.401	11.445
SD of Dep. Var. (OLS, Reduced Form, and 2SLS)	0.203	0.054	0.025	0.305	0.558

Notes: An observation is a county. Panel A reports OLS estimates, Panel B reports reduced-form estimates, Panel C reports 2SLS estimates, and Panel D reports the first-stage estimates. Coefficient estimates are reported, with Conley standard errors in square brackets. ***, **, and * indicate significance at the 1,5 and 10% levels.

Estimates using predicted immigrant flows: Social outcomes

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)		
Dependent Variable	Social	Voting	Total Crime	Crimes Against	Crimes Against		
	Capital,	Turnout,	Rate,	Persons,	Property,		
	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000		
	A. OLS Estimates						
Average Immigrant Share,	-0.048	-0.071	0.008***	0.002***	0.004***		
1860-1920	[0.030]	[0.046]	[0.002]	[0.0005]	[0.001]		
			B. Reduced Form				
Predicted Average Immigrant Share,	1.506	2.733	0.348	0.063	0.241		
1860-1920	[2.838]	[5.032]	[0.215]	[0.039]	[0.162]		
		0.054	C. 2SLS Estimates	6 0.000	0.022		
Average Immigrant Share,	0.144	0.254	0.034	0.006	0.023		
1860-1920	[0.278]	[0.460]	[0.024]	[0.005]	[0.018]		
	D. First Stage Estimates						
	Dependent Variable: Average Immigrant Share, 1860-1920						
Predicted Average Immigrant Share,	10.424***	10.776***	10.364***	10.364***	10.364***		
1860-1920	[3.097]	[3.161]	[3.058]	[3.058]	[3.058]		
Kleibergen Paap F -statistic	17.806	18.143	18.006	18.006	18.006		
Controls (in all Panels):							
Industrialization-Based Predicted Immig. Share	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Business Cycle-Based Predicted Immig. Share	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Date of RR Connection (Log Years as of 2000)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Cubic Polynomial for Latitude and Longitude	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
State Fixed Effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Observations	2,934	2,925	2,935	2,935	2,935		
Mean of Dep. Var. (OLS, Reduced Form, and 2SLS)	0.182	0.535	0.006	0.001	0.004		
SD of Dep. Var. (OLS, Reduced Form, and 2SLS)	0.061	0.090	0.004	0.001	0.003		

Notes : An observation is a county. Panel A reports OLS estimates, Panel B reports reduced-form estimates, Panel C reports 2SLS estimates, and Panel D reports first-stage estimates. Coefficient estimates are reported, with Conley standard errors reported in square brackets. ***, **, and * indicate significance at the 1,5 and 10% levels.

Conclusions

- We have estimated the long-run effects of immigrant settlement during the 'Age of Mass Migration'.
- Strong evidence for long-run economic benefits of immigration.
 - 2SLS benefits are always larger than correlation-based benefits.
 - Economic benefits arose almost immediately and persisted until today.
- No evidence for long-run social costs.