

Abstract:

Migration presents a stark policy dilemma. Research has repeatedly confirmed that migrants, their families back home, and the countries that welcome them all experience large economic gains. Easing immigration restrictions is one of the most effective tools for ending poverty and sharing prosperity across the globe. Yet, we see substantial opposition in destination countries where migrants are depicted as the primary causes of many of their economic problems, from high unemployment to declining social services.

Moving for Prosperity: Global Migration and Labor Markets addresses this conflict. In addition to providing comprehensive data and analysis based on a voluminous literature, the book argues for a series of policies that work with rather than against labor market forces. Policymakers should aim to smooth short-run migration-related dislocations to ensure that we share the long-term benefits more evenly and avoid draconian policy restrictions that will hurt everybody.

Moving for Prosperity aims to inform and stimulate policy debate, facilitate further research, and identify prominent knowledge gaps. It demonstrates why existing income gaps, demographic differences, and rapidly declining transportation costs mean migration will continue to be a key feature of our lives for generations to come. Its audience includes anyone interested in one of the most controversial policy debates of our time.