

2010 School Seminar Series

Waikato Management School
Te Raupapa



Immigration, Ethnic Diversity and Innovation in Europe

Friday, 4 June 2010
1.00pm – 2.00pm
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Abstract:

The pooling of people with diverse backgrounds in particular areas may boost the creation of new ideas, knowledge spillovers, entrepreneurship and economic growth. In this paper we measure the impact of the density, skills and diversity of immigration on innovativeness of host regions. For this purpose we construct a panel of data on 170 regions in Europe (NUTS 2 level) for the period 1991-2001. Innovation outcomes are measured by means of the number and types of patent applications. Given the geographical concentration and diffusion of innovation activity, and the spatial selectivity of immigrant settlement patterns, we take account of spatial dependence and of endogeneity of immigrant settlement in the econometric modelling. We find that an increase in the share of foreign born in a region or in the average skill level of migrants increases patent applications. The size of this effect varies between types of patents. Besides migrant density and migrant skills, innovation levels are also positively associated with migrant diversity.

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