

The influence of migration policies in Europe on return migration to Senegal

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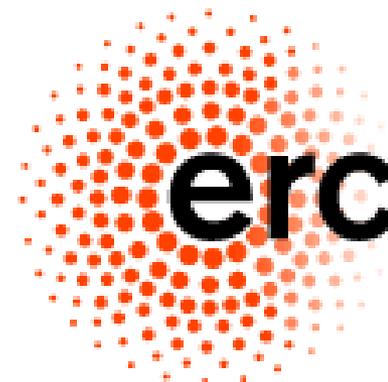
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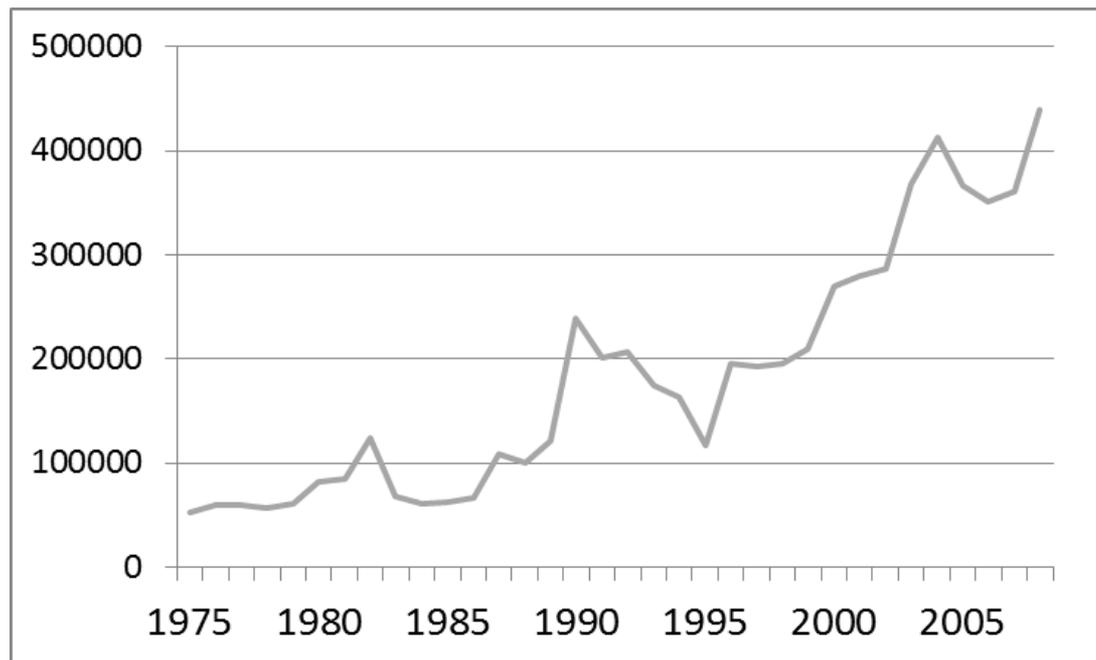
Support for Frontier Research



- ❖ African migration often perceived as permanent in Europe
 - Impression that migrants never return unless they are encouraged or forced
- ❖ Return migration has generated increasing policy attention in Europe
 - Return of undocumented migrants = a priority
 - Implementation of measures:
 - Re-admission agreements
 - Removals
 - 'Voluntary' return programmes,...

- ❖ Restrictive migration policies have targeted African migrants in the last decade
- ❖ Increase of African flows to Europe

Evolution of African flows to Europe (source: DEMIG C2C database)



Source: Flahaux and de Haas: Migration from, to and within Africa: the role of development and states, DEMIG Working paper, forthcoming.

Conceptual framework

- ❖ Conception of return migration as a function of migrants' aspirations *and* capabilities to return
 - Migrants will return if they perceive good opportunities in their origin country...
 - ...and they must have the capability to return
 - sufficient earnings
 - ability to circulate

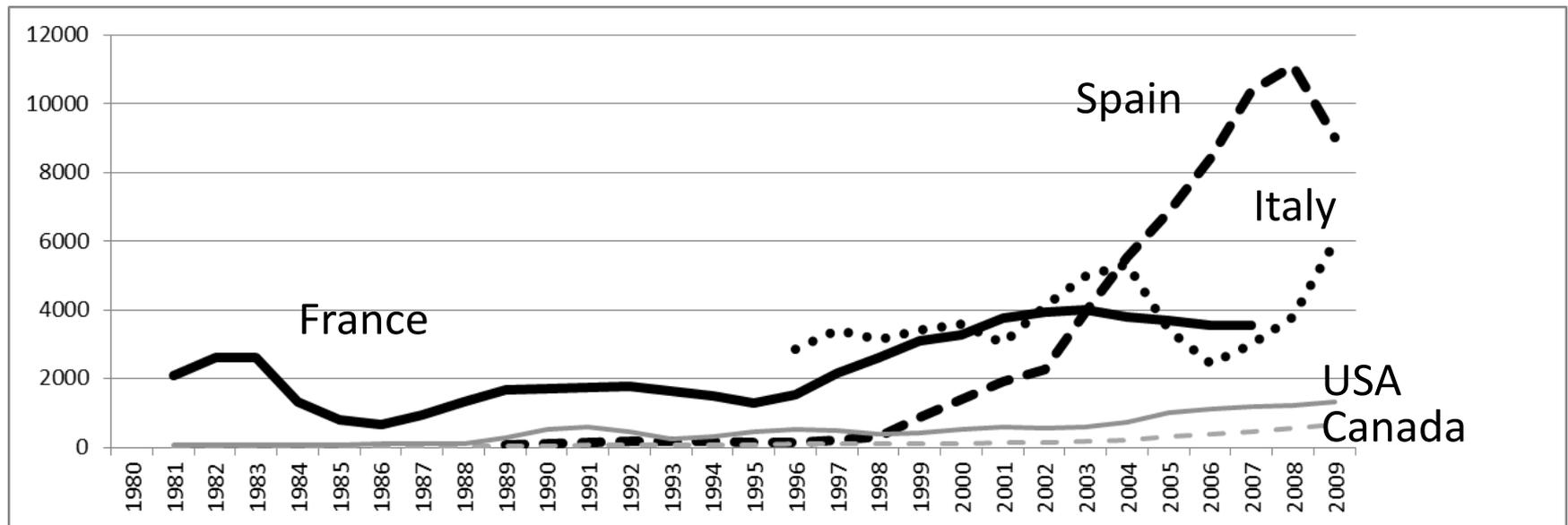
Objectives and hypotheses

- ❖ What is the effect of restrictive migration policies on return?
- ❖ 3 types of migration policies:
 - (1) Policies controlling the access of migrants
Hyp: The harder it is to migrate to a country, the less migrants return
 - (2) Policies controlling the stay of migrants
Hyp: If integration is difficult, migrants may prefer to return or they may postpone their return because they need more time to acquire the resources needed before returning.
 - (3) Policies encouraging/forcing migrants to return
Hyp: No impact because return policies not well implemented and because return is driven by other factors

Case study: Senegalese migrants in Europe

- ❖ France = first destination in Europe
- ❖ During the 1990's, Italy and Spain emerged as new destinations

Evolution of Senegalese flows to some countries (source: DEMIG C2C database)



- ❖ Population: Senegalese who migrated to France, Italy and Spain for at least one year

❖ Biographical survey 'MAFE-Senegal' (2008)

- Transnational data
- Longitudinal data

❖ DEMIG policy database:

- Re-codification of the major changes in migration policies for non-European migrants
- Distinguishing between the 3 types of migration policies
- Giving information on the level of restrictiveness of policies for the different categories of migrants
 - Undocumented migrants
 - Low-skilled workers / High-skilled workers
 - Asylum seekers
 - Students
- +1 when the measure intends to restrict the rights of a migrant category ; -1 when it intends to increase them

- ❖ Individual and contextual data merged, using the categories of migrants for each year of the migration
- ❖ Example of Amadou:

Ident	Dest. country	Year	Category	(1) 'Access' policies	(2) 'Stay' policies	(3) 'Return' policies
Amadou	SPAIN	2000	Irregular	7	0	0
Amadou	SPAIN	2001	Irregular	7	0	1
Amadou	SPAIN	2002	Irregular	7	0	1
Amadou	SPAIN	2003	Irregular	7	0	1
Amadou	SPAIN	2004	Low-skilled	0	-4	0
Amadou	SPAIN	2005	Low-skilled	0	-5	0
Amadou	SPAIN	2006	Low-skilled	-1	-5	0
Amadou	SPAIN	2007	Low-skilled	-1	-5	0
Amadou	SPAIN	2008	Low-skilled	-1	-5	1

- ❖ Event history logistic regression
- ❖ Variables of interest:
 - Intention to return
 - 3 types of migration policies (separately)
- ❖ Control variables
 - Age, sex, level of education, motive for migration, migration row, duration, visit, destination country, family situation, material situation, professional situation, economic situation, annual GDP growth in Senegal.
- ❖ Sample:
 - Number of observations: 6894 (person-years)
 - Number of returns: 91



Results

Effect of policies regulating the access of migrants to Europe

Modalities	Odd ratios
Negative and 0 scores (non-restrictive) (ref)	1
Scores of 1 to 4 (slightly restrictive)	0,98
Scores of 5 and more (very restrictive)	0,04***

When migrants face high level of restrictiveness in 'access' policies, they are less likely to return compared to periods of lower restriction.

Effect of policies controlling the stay of migrants in Europe

Modalities	Odd ratios
Negative and 0 scores (non-restrictive) (ref)	1
Scores of 1 to 4 (slightly restrictive)	0,95
Scores of 5 and more (very restrictive)	0,79

The level of restrictiveness of policies regulating the stay of migrants in Europe does not affect the return of migrants.

Effect of policies encouraging or forcing migrants to return

Modalities	Odd ratios
Negative and 0 scores (non-restrictive) (ref)	1
Scores of 1 to 4 (slightly restrictive)	0,98
Scores of 5 and more (very restrictive)	0,04***

When the level of restrictiveness of policies encouraging or forcing migrants to return is high, migrants are less likely to return than when this level is low.

Effect of initial intention to return

Modalities	Odd ratios
Intention to settle permanently in Europe (ref)	1
Intention to return	2,38**

Migrants who initially intended to return are more likely to return

Effect of other factors

- ❖ The probability to return is also higher for:
 - Students
 - Migrants in Europe for more than 3 years
 - Those who have never visited Senegal since their arrival
 - Those who have children and spouse in Senegal

- ❖ Important role of migrants' aspirations for return
- ❖ However, the preoccupation of migrants is not only the return, but also the possibility of a new migration after the return
- ❖ Policies aiming at limiting immigration discourage migrants to return and push them into a longer settlement in destination countries.



Thank you

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