



Does working abroad change our world views? Lessons from Moldovan return migrants.

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Motivation

World views matter:

individual choices

collective choices

How are world views determined?

education

life experiences :

...

migratory experiences?

Implications for migration policies (soft power)?

Research Question

How do migratory experiences affect people's world views?

Related literature

Transmission of values from destination to home countries:

Spilimbergo (2009).

Batista & Vicente (2011).

Mahmoud et al. (2013).

Data

Survey, representative sample, N=1237, Moldova.

November 2012, Moldovan Institute of Public Policy.

Variables:

working experience abroad

socio-economic characteristics

opinions on a wide range of issues

Moldova

Europe



Moldova

People: 4 mln

Moldovan/romanian:78%; Russian: 6%; Ukranian: 8%.

Economy:

GDP/capita 2012 (PPP): \$3500

Politics:

pro Russia communist party : 2001-2009

pro-European coalition, 2009-

Migration:

currently abroad: 800.000

main destinations: Russia (60%) , EU (29%)

Empirical framework: variables

Dependent variables:

1) European Union Support (0/1)

“If next Sunday there was a referendum on Moldova’s EU accession, would you vote in favor?”

2) Customs Union Support (0/1)

“If next Sunday there was a referendum on Moldova’s adherence to the Customs Union with Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan, would you vote in favor?”

Empirical framework: variables

Main control variables:

Worked_{west}(0/1)

Worked_{east} (0/1)

West: Greece, Romania, Holland, Germany, USA, Italy, Austria, Portugal, France, Great Britain, Canada, Australia, Sweden, Spain, Check Republic, Lithuania, Ireland, Belgium, New Zealand, Hungary and Croatia.

East: Russia, Ukraine, Iraq, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan.

Non classified : Turkey, Israel.

Empirical framework: variables

Other control variables:

Gender

Age (categorical)

Education (categorical)

Revenue (categorical)

Language (binary)

Internet_information (binary)

Local western diaspora (% of population): 2004 pop census

Local eastern diaspora (% of population): 2004 pop census

Descriptive Statistics

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Russia	213	17,2	61,6	61,6
	Greece	7	,6	2,0	63,6
	Romania	18	1,5	5,2	68,8
	Ukraine	19	1,5	5,5	74,3
	Holland	1	,1	,3	74,6
	Germany	5	,4	1,4	76,0
	Turkey	10	,8	2,9	78,9
	USA	7	,6	2,0	80,9
	Italy	37	3,0	10,7	91,6
	Portugal	8	,6	2,3	93,9
	France	4	,3	1,2	95,1
	Great Britain	2	,2	,6	95,7
	Israel	8	,6	2,3	98,0
	Belorussia	1	,1	,3	98,3
	Spain	1	,1	,3	98,6
	Byelorussia	1	,1	,3	98,8
	Tchec Republic	1	,1	,3	99,1
	Lithuania	1	,1	,3	99,4
	Belgium	1	,1	,3	99,7
	New Zealand	1	,1	,3	100,0
	Total	346	28,0	100,0	
Missing	System	891	72,0		

Descriptive statistics

Worked_west * EU_support Crosstabulation

			EU_support		Total
			,00	1,00	
Worked_west	,00	Count	358	579	937
		% within Worked_west	38,2%	61,8%	100,0%
		% within EU_support	96,0%	89,1%	91,6%
		% of Total	35,0%	56,6%	91,6%
Worked_west	1,00	Count	15	71	86
		% within Worked_west	17,4%	82,6%	100,0%
		% within EU_support	4,0%	10,9%	8,4%
		% of Total	1,5%	6,9%	8,4%
Total		Count	373	650	1023
		% within Worked_west	36,5%	63,5%	100,0%
		% within EU_support	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%
		% of Total	36,5%	63,5%	100,0%

Descriptive Statistics

Worked_east ^ CU_support Crosstabulation

			CU_support		Total
			,00	1,00	
Worked_east	,00	Count	468	535	1003
		% within Worked_east	46,7%	53,3%	100,0%
		% within CU_support	86,2%	77,1%	81,1%
		% of Total	37,8%	43,2%	81,1%
1,00	Count	Count	75	159	234
		% within Worked_east	32,1%	67,9%	100,0%
		% within CU_support	13,8%	22,9%	18,9%
		% of Total	6,1%	12,9%	18,9%
Total	Count	Count	543	694	1237
		% within Worked_east	43,9%	56,1%	100,0%
		% within CU_support	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%
		% of Total	43,9%	56,1%	100,0%

Regression results (endogeneity not dealt with)

	Dependent: EU support					
	(logit)	(logit)	(probit)	(probit)	(poisson)	(poisson)
Female	0.09 (0.56)	-0.02 (0.91)	0.05 (0.56)	-0.01 (0.871)	0.02 (0.668)	-0.01 (0.862)
Age	-0.06 (0.41)	-0.11 (0.18)	-0.04 (0.44)	-0.06 (0.198)	-0.02 (0.353)	-0.03 (0.168)
Education	0.126 (0.000)	0.13 (0.000)	0.08 (0.000)	0.08 (0.000)	0.04 (0.000)	0.04 (0.000)
Revenue	0.01 (0.89)	0.03 (0.73)	0.01 (0.89)	0.02 (0.715)	0.01 (0.791)	0.01 (0.654)
Romanian_language	1.81 (0.000)	1.82 (0.000)	1.11 (0.000)	1.11 (0.000)	0.85 (0.000)	0.85 (0.000)
Internet_info	0.05 (0.79)	0.08 (0.71)	0.03 (0.81)	0.05 (0.699)	0.01 (0.897)	0.01 (0.869)
Locality_west_migr	374.77 (0.03)	407.54 (0.019)	222.84 (0.03)	243.42 (0.017)	115.59 (0.022)	126.13 (0.012)
Locality_east_migr	-8.55 (0.03)	-8.62 (0.031)	-5.04 (0.03)	-5.09 (0.030)	-2.61 (0.038)	-2.64 (0.037)
Worked_east		-0.38 (0.046)		-0.22 (0.05)		-0.11 (0.081)
Worked_west	0.88 (0.000)		0.51 (0.003)		0.17 (0.001)	
Constant	-1.17 (0.000)	-0.93 (0.024)	-0.72 (0.003)	-0.58 (0.017)	-1.28 (0.000)	

N=1023. P-values based on robust standard errors in paranthesis.

Regression results (endogeneity not dealt with)

	Dependent: CU Support					
	(logit)	(logit)	(probit)	(probit)	(poisson)	(poisson)
Female	-0.30 (0.02)	-0.13 (0.33)	-0.18 (0.018)	-0.08 (0.138)	-0.12 (0.014)	-0.05 (0.338)
Age	0.05 (0.50)	0.12 (0.07)	0.03 (0.426)	0.08 (0.059)	0.02 (0.458)	0.05 (0.06)
Education	-0.06 (0.04)	-0.06 (0.04)	-0.04 (0.054)	-0.04 (0.053)	-0.03 (0.045)	-0.03 (0.045)
Revenue	-0.02 (0.75)	-0.03 (0.63)	-0.01 (0.731)	-0.02 (0.621)	-0.01 (0.849)	-0.01 (0.722)
Romanian_language	-1.54 (0.000)	-1.56 (0.000)	-0.92 (0.000)	-0.93 (0.000)	-0.51 (0.000)	-0.52 (0.000)
Internet_info	-0.04 (0.82)	-0.05 (0.76)	-0.02 (0.863)	-0.03 (0.787)	-0.02 (0.76)	-0.03 (0.658)
Locality_west_migr	-36.51 (0.79)	-75.76 (0.60)	-24.15 (0.784)	-50.42 (0.569)	-17.41 (0.776)	-37.66 (0.537)
Locality_east_migr	2.79 (0.38)	1.97 (0.54)	1.52 (0.437)	1.07 (0.588)	1.04 (0.424)	0.88 (0.497)
Worked_east		0.76 (0.000)		0.46 (0.000)		0.29 (0.000)
Worked_west	-0.60 (0.009)		-0.37 (0.009)		-0.31 (0.015)	
Constant	1.73 (0.000)	1.36 (0.000)	1.04 (0.000)	0.80 (0.000)	-0.11 (0.418)	-0.29 (0.044)

N=1237. P-values based on robust standard errors in paranthesis.

Empirical challenges

Binary endogenous variable + binary outcome

etpoisson

IVprobit?

Variables correlated with migration, but which do not directly affect values

Western migration:

- having a computer at home (0/1)
- family size

Eastern migration:

Regression results (endogeneity: etpoisson)

	Dependent: EU Support	Dependent: CU Support
Female	0.02 (0.665)	-0.12 (0.014)
Age	-0.02 (0.354)	0.02 (0.460)
Education	0.04 (0.000)	-0.03 (0.045)
Revenue	0.01 (0.794)	-0.01 (0.858)
Romanian_language	0.85 (0.000)	-0.51 (0.000)
Internet_information	0.01 (0.898)	-0.02 (0.764)
Locality_west_migr	115.43 (0.022)	-16.85 (0.783)
Locality_east_migr	-2.61 (0.039)	1.02 (0.434)
Worked_west_1	0.18 (0.001)	-0.32 (0.012)
Constant	-1.27 (0.000)	-0.109 (0.422)
N	1023	

Regression results (endogeneity: first stage etpoisson)

	Dependent: Worked_west (EU support regression)	Dependent: Worked_west (CU support regression)
Female	-0.35 (0.003)	-0.35 (0.002)
Age	-0.08 (0.217)	-0.06 (0.332)
Education	0.04 (0.156)	0.04 (0.201)
Revenue	0.11 (0.063)	0.11 (0.054)
Romanian_language	0.29 (0.07)	0.29 (0.049)
Internet_information	-0.15 (0.376)	-0.09 (0.573)
Locality_west_migr	378.67 (0.009)	352.30 (0.008)
Locality_east_migr	-11.01 (0.003)	-11.15 (0.001)
Cumputer at home	0.51 (0.001)	0.50 (0.001)
Family size	-0.08 (0.086)	-0.06 (0.185)
Constant	-1.49 (0.000)	-1.60 (0.000)
Rho	-0.88	0.90
Wald test of independence, chi2 p value	0.000	
N	1023	

Regression results (endogeneity: IV probit)

	Dependent: EU Support	Dependent: Worked_west (first stage)
Female	0.14 (0.12)	-0,05 (0,004)
Age	-0.01 (0.753)	-0,01 (0,245)
Education	0.05 (0.115)	0,01 (0,228)
Revenue	-0.04 (0.478)	0,02 (0,073)
Romanian_language	0.88 (0.000)	0,04 (0,04)
Internet_information	-0.00 (0.967)	-0,02 (0,50)
Locality_west_migr	110.77 (0.401)	48,96 (0,027)
Locality_east_migr	-1.44 (0.669)	-1,47 (0,001)
Worked_west_1	2.36 (0.019)	
Computer at home		0,07 (0,006)
Family size		-0,01 (0,017)
Constant	-0.74 (0.002)	0,09 (0,069)
Rho	-0,52	
Wald test of independence, chi2 p value	0,145	

Conclusion (preliminary)

Strong correlation between experience abroad and foreign policy preferences:

Moldovans who have been to western countries are more likely to support European Union path, those who have been to eastern countries are more likely to support Customs Union path.

Causality?

To do...

Causality.

Robustness (controls+interaction effects).

Other values:

domestic policy preferences

trust in institutions and politicians

attitudes towards minority groups