

CENTRE FOR APPLIED FINANCE AND ECONOMICS

Brown Bag Sessions/External Speaker



Associate Professor Deniz Gevrek

Texas A&M University Corpus Christi

Impact of Early-Life Conditions on Adult Outcomes: First-Generation American Immigrants

Abstract: This study examines the impact of early-life health and economic conditions in the home country on childhood academic performance, depression and adult education and economic outcomes among first-generation American immigrant children. Our sample from the Children of Immigrants Longitudinal Study consists of children from thirty-nine countries who came to the United States before the age of thirteen. Early-life conditions are measured by the infant mortality rate (IMR) and the GDP per capita in the respondents' country and year of birth while the childhood outcome variables are measured during both middle and high school and adult outcomes measured when these immigrant children were on average twenty-four years old. Our results indicate that infant mortality rate has a significant negative impact on adult personal earnings and income satisfaction. A 1-unit increase in IMR is associated with 4 percent reduction in adult earnings. We do not find any statistically significant relationship between GDP per capita and adult outcomes. Our results are robust to controlling for birth country fixed effects, birth year fixed effects, age-at-arrival fixed effects, six measures of academic performance including standardized test scores and a rich set of indicators from middle and high school. Our results are also robust to controlling for interaction effects between age-at-arrival and home country conditions. This study may have important policy implications in terms of designing sound policies to speed up assimilation and adaptation of immigrant children. The results may also help policymakers devise intervention mechanisms to close the immigrant-native gaps.

JEL Codes: I14; I31; J15; J24; J31.

Keywords: Immigrants; CILS; US; Infant Mortality; Immigrant Outcomes.

Biography: Deniz Gevrek is a tenured Associate Professor of Economics at the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. She attended the University of Texas at Austin to pursue PhD. in economics in 2003. She completed her PhD. and M.S. at the University of Texas at Austin in May 2008, and in May 2005. Her research fields are Applied Microeconometrics, Labor Economics, and Economic Demography. Her main research interests include education, migration, immigrant outcomes, race, and marriage. She joined IZA as a Research Affiliate in September 2008 and became a Research Fellow in December 2011.

Date: Wednesday 21 March 2018

Time: 11:30am – 1:00pm

Location: GK5.19 (Level 5, Room 19, Sir George Kingston Building) City West [[campus map](#)]