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Total Factor Productivity Convergence in German States since Reunification: Evidence and Explanations

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Highlights

- East German labor productivity continues to lag West, 25 years after unification
- Labor productivity gap due to systematically lower TFP relative to "frontier" state
- Convergence in TFP stopped around 1995, compensated by higher capital intensity
- Regression analysis links TFP growth to frontier, firm size and managers, less so R&D
- Low TFP could be due to disorganization or disruption of social capital in communism

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