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Do Refugee-Immigrants Affect International Trade? Evidence from the World's Largest Refugee Case

(JEL classification: C32, F10, F22)

(Keywords: protracted refugees, international trade, vector error correction, developing countries, causality)

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Abstract

This paper investigates the impact of refugees on a developing host country's bilateral trade with the source country using a Vector Error Correction model and Granger causality tests. Using the largest case of refugee settlements in the world we look at how refugees moving over several decades from Afghanistan to Pakistan have affected bilateral trade both directly and indirectly. We find that changes in Afghani refugees do not Granger cause movements in bilateral trade between Afghanistan and Pakistan but foreign aid to Afghanistan does Granger cause trade between the two countries.

1. Introduction

There is avast literature on the impact that immigrants have on a developed host country's trade balancevia their knowledge of their home economies which lowers transactions costs of bilateral

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