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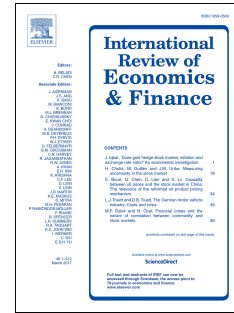
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Genetic Diversity and Economic Development: Evidence from Chinese Provinces*

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Abstract

This paper examines whether the genetic patterns among Chinese provinces are good predictors of provincial prosperity. Asfraf and Galor (2013) found genetic diversity has two offsetting impacts on prosperity. It lowers the interpersonal trust, which weakens collective actions. But it also brings a variety of ideas and ability that are conducive to innovation. Asfraf-Galor found a hump-shaped relationship between genetic diversity and prosperity. Our paper finds genetic diversity has a negative impact not only on trust but also on innovative activities among Chinese provinces. Hence, only part of Ashraf-Galor's predictions is supported. A collectivist culture might explain this difference.

JEL Classification: N35, N55, O1, O3, O4, O53

Keywords: Culture, Genetic Diversity, Prosperity, China

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