“Are migrants better off through migration? The what, why, and how of considering immigrant happiness”
by Hendriks and Bartram

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Overview

- Interesting paper that reviews happiness studies related to migrants
  - summarizes and digests the vast literatures in widely different fields incl. economics, sociology, psychology
  - identifies gaps & areas for further research
  - provides fresh & stimulating food for thoughts
Comments/ Questions (1)

• The various sections can perhaps be re-organized and numbered

Introduction
*Blind spots in research on the consequences of migration
Towards a happiness angle in evaluation migration consequences
  Concept and measurement
  Initial insights from the literature on migration happiness
  How important is happiness for migrants?
**Is happiness relevant when migration isn’t ‘voluntary’?
*Challenges, applications in other contexts, and future directions
  **To what extent does happiness work differently for migrants?
  Extending the happiness angle to natives and stayers
  Extending the happiness angle to migration behavior
  The instrumental role of happiness for improving domain outcomes

Conclusion
Comments/ Questions (2)

• A streamlined framework can help?
  • a flow diagram?

• some tables summarizing/comparing studies can be interesting
  • the happy peasants (Graham, 2009) vs. the hopeless beggar (Sen and Nussbaum, 1993)
  • migrants in more livable countries happier than those in less livable countries?
  • migrants with higher incomes happier than those with lower incomes?
→ Are these “stylized” facts? Can some patterns be made “stylized”?

• some graphs, i.e., “a picture is worth many words”? 
Comments/ Questions (3)

- Some other technical concerns...
  - a table can be provided to better compare studies that offer a causal relationship vs. a correlational relationship
  - review the techniques that identify causation
  - cross sectional data vs. panel data

→ these issues should be discussed in the text, rather than be mentioned for the first time in the conclusion

- Other minor issues
  - satisfaction scale of 1-5 vs. 0-10
  - review quantitative studies vs. qualitative studies