



Public Lecture

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Monday, 26 October 2020

**Does Immigration Increase Crime? Migration Policy and the
Creation of the Criminal Immigrant**

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Prof. Francesco Fasani, Queen Mary University of London

Moderation: Michaela Slotwinski, University of Basel

18:15 – 19:45 h

The Public Lecture will be held online

A hyperlink to join the online session and further details will be provided later on the website of the
nccr – on the move: <https://nccr-onthemove.ch/events/does-immigration-increase-crime/>

Abstract

Francesco Fasani presents and discusses his work "Do migrants lead to an increase of crime rates in their host societies?" that he co-authored with Giovanni Mastrobuoni (University of Essex), Emily G. Owens (University of California), and Paolo Pinotti (Università Commerciale Luigi Bocconi). This highly contentious issue has become a mainstay in the political debate and a lightning rod for the galvanization of populist movements, despite often lacking any empirical support. In this game-changing book, the authors examine what the existing data actually says, and provide their own novel evidence on the immigration-crime connection. Taking the unusual approach of analyzing the subject from an economic perspective, the authors build on the pioneering work of Nobel Prize winner Gary Becker to construct their innovative arguments. By considering evidence from different countries, with a focus on establishing causal relationships, the authors are able to analyze not only if migrants do cause crime but also whether migration policies can play a role in shaping incentives for migrants to engage in crime.

Curriculum Vitae

Francesco Fasani is an Associate Professor at the School of Economics and Finance, Queen Mary University of London. He is a Research Affiliate at CEPR (Centre for Economic Policy Research) and a Research Fellow at CReAM (Centre for Research and Analysis of Migration) and IZA (Institute for the Study of Labor, Bonn).

Selected Publication

- Bell, Brian, Francesco Fasani and Stephen Machin (2013). Crime and Immigration: Evidence From Large Immigrant Waves, *The Review of Economics and Statistics* 95(4), 1278-1290.
- Christian Dustmann, Francesco Fasani, Biagio Speciale (2017). Illegal Migration and Consumption Behavior of Immigrant Households, *Journal of European Economic Association* 15(3), 654-691.
- Devillanova, Carlo, Francesco Fasani, and Tommaso Frattini (2018). Employment of Undocumented Immigrants and the Prospect of Legal Status: Evidence from an Amnesty Program, *Industrial and Labor Relations Review* 71(4), 853-881.
- Fasani, Francesco, Giovanni Mastrobuoni, Emily G. Owens, Paolo Pinotti (2019). *Does Immigration Increase Crime? Migration Policy and the Creation of the Criminal Immigrant*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Fasani, Francesco (2018). Immigrant Crime and Legal Status: Evidence from Repeated Amnesty Programs, *Journal of Economic Geography* 18(4), 887-914.