Recent Migrant Peers and the School Performance of Incumbent

Abstract:
We study the impact of exposure to recent migrants and asylum seekers on incumbent student outcomes in Swedish schools from 2008 to 2022, a setting with comparably high migrant population, particularly high and growing refugee exposure. We use administrative student registers with data on school assignments from grades 0 to 9, and test score outcomes in years 3, 6, and 9 for all Swedish compulsory school students. A combination of school by year and family fixed effects is used to account for the sorting of both migrant and incumbent students in schools. We find no significant effects of contemporaneous exposure to recent migrants, but some evidence of positive effects of cumulative exposure, in particular for Nordic native students.