

undocumented status. Chavez documents the political machinations associated with recent Hispanic immigration flows and raises important questions about the shifting meaning of "citizenship" in a world where evermore individuals are immigrants, both authorized and unauthorized.—D.H.

AMELIE F. CONSTANT AND KLAUS F. ZIMMERMANN (EDS.)

*International Handbook on the Economics of Migration*

Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar, 2013. 573 p. \$245.00.

This addition to the Elgar International Handbooks series in economics fills a significant gap. Although international migration is a subject of great and rising concern under the current globalization regime, there has been no comprehensive collection on the economic analysis of the phenomenon. This state-of-the art review, consisting of an introduction by the editors and 27 chapters by contributing authors, provides such an overview. The editors are affiliated with the Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA) at the University of Bonn.

Traditionally, migration research has focused on a relatively compact set of questions: why do people migrate, what and how well do they do when they arrive in countries of destination, and what are the implications for those left behind? This volume covers aspects of these broad questions, of course, but has a wider span.

The first section, covering the decision to move, contains the expected chapter on modeling individual decisionmaking (from a life cycle perspective), as well as chapters on circular migration, migration of health professionals, child labor migration (virtually new territory), and human smuggling. The last, often confused with human trafficking, involves a contract between the smuggler and the smuggled, and perhaps an employer at the end of the line. It is a chain phenomenon characterized by agents and intermediaries, with information asymmetries at every link. As such, it is subject to microeconomic analysis, summarized by the authors, but the lack of empirical data has prevented research from moving much beyond theory.

The second section of the book, on labor market performance of immigrants, covers much familiar ground. The lead chapter assesses the effects of the 2004 and 2007 European Union enlargements on labor markets in the EU 15 and the enlargement states. While perhaps not the landmark study promised in the Introduction, this summary of empirical research firmly rebuts the pessimists' fears of labor market disruptions. Wages and unemployment in the receiving countries were not affected, there was no "welfare migration," and sending states on balance have benefited from the improved distribution of human capital and brain circulation. A chapter on immigrant entrepreneurs finds that immigrant startups tend to be slightly better capitalized than non-immigrant ones, pointing out that this is largely the result of personal and family savings. Access to capital markets is limited, especially by the fact that fewer immigrants than natives own property. Other chapters deal with problems that immigrants face in the labor market such as educational mismatch (being overeducated for their job), ethnic discrimination in hiring, and consignment to risky occupations, albeit usually, as with native workers, with compensating higher wages. The final chapter in the section looks at a sub-section of immigrants: obese ones.

The third section of the book is devoted to new lines of research. Some of these, like ethnic identity and the nation-state, inter-ethnic marriages, and impacts of migration on families left behind, are perhaps not so new, but these chapters provide a specifically economic perspective. Individuals most likely to migrate following a natural catastrophe are those with enough capital to settle elsewhere. Religiosity has served as a bridge promoting integration for immigrants in the United States, whereas in Europe it has acted as a buffer or shock-absorber allowing immigrants to maintain cultural identity. Despite the public hysteria, there is no evidence that immigration increases crime overall. The only evidence of an impact occurs when immigrant labor market attachment and prospects are weak (e.g., low-wage immigrants to the US and asylum-seekers in the UK). Happiness research suggests that immigrants are generally less happy than natives (although happiness varies greatly among immigrant groups), and the happiness of families left behind falls as a result of emigration.

The title of the final section, "Policy Issues," is perhaps a misnomer since most of the chapters explore additional facets of the migration issue. One chapter describes the rising phenomenon of skill-based migration policies. A useful chapter charts the rise through the early 1990s and subsequent fall, via policy backlash, of refugee and asylum migration into the developed world. A chapter on "welfare migration" finds little evidence that the phenomenon is significant. Final chapters look at diaspora policies and the evaluation of immigration policies.

As would be expected in a book with 28 contributions, there is variability among the chapters. However, all are short and have been edited into reasonably consistent form. The diversity of topics covered, including a number for which the authors admit that the existing research base is thin, is an especially welcome feature of the volume.—L.MacK.

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*Understanding Family Change and Variation: Toward a Theory of Conjunctural Action*

New York: Springer, 2011. xix + 179 p. \$139.00.

This volume is an ambitious effort to re-define research on fertility. (The title of the volume notwithstanding, this is primarily a treatment of fertility, although other facets of family demography are touched on.) The authors propose a framework for research on fertility: the "theory of conjunctural action" (TCA). In developing this framework the authors draw heavily from theoretical work by sociologist William Sewall in the early 1990s. They show a good grasp of fertility theory developed during the past five decades, and attempt to subsume past frameworks in the TCA. In particular, TCA is intended as an alternative to the well-established theory of planned behavior (Ajzen). The TCA framework is articulated in the first chapter and developed at greater length in the second. Chapters 3–5 apply TCA to major topics in fertility research: fertility transition and low fertility (with particular attention to variation among low-fertility societies and to race and religious differentials in the US); the timing of fertility (with an emphasis on adolescent fertility and its sharp