

“Looking Ahead in Anger. The effects of foreign migration on youth resentment in England”

Daria Denti

30% of students aged 13-15 experiences bullying globally. Among OECD countries the share amounts to 18%. Lately, figures show a sharp rise in the count of racism-based episodes of school bullying. Relating these figures to the existing evidence on the causal links between foreign migration and anti-immigrant behaviors enacted by adult cohorts, it appears that little is known about the effects of foreign migration on youth resentment. The issue deserves attention, since understanding how immigration contributes to shape young cohorts' behaviors undoubtedly matters for a better comprehension of how adult cohorts will behave.

This paper addresses this question through a statistic strategy which allows to assess a causal relationship. Exploiting the natural shock from migration which occurred in the UK after the 2004 European Union Enlargement and data on school bullying across English local authorities, the paper estimates a relevant causal effect exerted by the inflow of Eastern European on school violence. Moreover, existing language barriers act as channel for the effect of the migration shock. Together these results contribute to a better understanding of the determinants of resentful behaviors against culturally diverse groups.

Given the thriving research interest in the identification of the causes of hostile behaviors, this paper demonstrates that hostility against minorities does not intrude in people's life abruptly when reaching adulthood, and it supports the inclusion of young people's behaviors to the widespread analysis of hostile conducts. This finding entails also non-negligible policy implications, calling for policy interventions to counter hostility whose considered target has to broad to comprise young cohorts.