Seminario de Microeconomía Aplicada - Migration, Climate Similarity, and the Consequences of Climate Mismatch

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Resumen: This paper examines the concept of “climate matching” in migration—the idea that migrants seek out destinations with familiar climates. Focusing on the US, we document that temperature distance between origin and destination predicts the distribution of migrants across counties. This pattern holds for internal and international migration in the past (1850-1940) and today (2011-2019), and is not explained by the spatial correlation of climate or the persistence of ethnic networks. We provide suggestive evidence for two mechanisms driving climate matching: climate-specific skills and climate-as-amenity. Then, we study the implications of climate matching for migrants. Leveraging plausibly exogenous variation in climate mismatch, we document that climate distance reduces life expectancy among immigrants, and increases mortality rates for their US-born children. We calculate an individual-level mortality cost of a 1°C change in climate to be $5,250.

Acerca del expositor: Charles Taylor is an assistant professor at the Harvard Kennedy School, an NBER Faculty Research Fellow, and previously an S.V. Ciriacy-Wantrup postdoc at UC Berkeley ARE. He conducts applied research on environmental topics. He has taught environmental economics at Columbia, City College of New York, and Fordham University. Before academia, he worked at McKinsey & Company, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation as an agricultural consultant, and The Earth Partners LP, a land and environmental investment company. He also advises a niche agri-commodity exporting company. Additionally, he co-founded the Drylands Natural Resource Centre, a farmer-owned cooperative and research center.

Tiempo de exposición: 1 hora