

REFEREE REPORT:

A Comparative Analysis of Forced Migration: Cold War Versus Post-Cold War Eras

Content:

The objective of this paper is to investigate and compare the determinants of refugee migration during the cold war and post-cold war eras in a panel dataset of 125 countries. The paper finds that factors explaining refugee migration differ between these two eras.

Overall Comment:

Although a comparative analysis that would provide a better understanding of refugee migration dynamics is potentially interesting, I have serious concerns with the authors' analysis/estimation strategy and my conclusion is that this paper should NOT be published, as I will explain why in detail below.

Problems with Estimation Strategy:

There are three main issues of concern.

1. The estimation strategy is not suitable because the measure of refugee migration used as the dependent variable is a count variable. The appropriate strategy in this case is to estimate the specification as a Poisson regression model by maximum likelihood to obtain valid results.
2. The authors have not clearly explained how they implemented the difference GMM. More importantly, the authors should use system GMM instead of the difference GMM which suffers from weak instruments.
3. Some of the variables are highly correlated and this could explain why some of the results are insignificant. The authors should pay more attention to this. Also selection of variables needs to be more clearly justified.