Immigrant Diversity and Long-Run Development: Evidence from the Age of Mass Migration in Brazil

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- Whether diversity is instrumental or detrimental to development is a question relevant for understanding the development process and to inform discussion about migration policies today.

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 - Some mechanisms might be more relevant in the short and medium-term, others in the long-term.
- Empirical evidence on birthplace diversity is either based on cross-country studies or it focuses on short and medium-run effects.

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- ► Focus on the large immigration wave experienced by Brazil between 1880 and 1920. Immigrant inflow into the State of São Paulo during the period was twice the size of initial population.
- Do municipalities that received a more diverse mix of immigrant population ended up having better long-term economic outcomes and why so?

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- Preview of results. A 1 SD increase in accumulated immigrant diversity in 1920 is associated with a 7-8% percent higher income per capita in 2000.
- Mechanisms. Municipalities with a more diverse stock of migrants experienced (i) faster structural transformation; (ii) higher municipal spending on education.

Literature and Contribution

- Empirical literature on the effect of cultural and birthplace diversity:
 - Mostly based on cross-country studies or rather descriptive in nature: Alesina and La Ferrara (JEL 2005); Alesina Harnoss Rapoport (JEG 2016); Bove and Elia (WD 2017); Bahar Rapoport Turati (Research Policy 2020); Docquier et al. (JoEG 2020).; Montalvo and Reynal-Querol (Restat 2022).
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- Literature on the long-run effects of migration.
 - Usually the focus is the mass migration episode in the US and the size of immigrant shock rather than its composition: Sequeira Nunn Qian (Restud 2019); Tabellini (Restud 2020); Giuliano and Tabellini (unpublished 2021).
 - Exceptions: Ager and Bruckner (EER 2013); Burchardi Chaney Hassan (Restud 2019); Fulford Pwtkov Schiantarelli (JEG 2020); Droller (EJ 2017).

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- Literature on nation building:
 - Bandiera et al. (EJ 2019); Murard and Sakalli (unpublished 2019).

Brief Historical Context

- Brazil has received about 4.1 million immigrants between 1872 and 1920, of which nearly 3 million came from Italy, Portugal, Spain, Germany and Japan, and the rest from around 70 other countries.
- This wave of immigration drastically changed the makeup of Brazilian population: in 1872 the total population was about 10 million with less than 400 thousand foreigners or naturalized.

Brief Historical Context

- Pull factor: Expansion of coffee production driven by growing international demand
- Pull factor: Shortage of labor supply also because of slave trade abolished (Law of the Free Womb 1831, enacted 1871, final slave abolished in 1881).
- Push factor: European population grew from 144 to 486 million between 1800-1920. Hunger and poverty in rural areas.
- Push factor: Decrease in cost of the trip (steam ships)

Appendix

Focus: São Paulo State



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Data: Immigrant's Hospedaria in São Paulo

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- Individual level information: first and last names, gender, civil status, intrafamily kinship, nationality, profession, religion, last country of residence, last country of residence, information about the financing of their travel (If subsidized migrants or not), and destination in Brazil (municipality, train station or farm).

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- Use the data to construct a database with the annual numbers of immigrants by origin country and destination municipality.

Data: other data

- Census data for 1872, 1920, 1940 and 2000 at the municipal level. 1872 used for baseline characteristics; 1920, 1940 and 2000 for outcome variables.
- Geographic characteristics of municipalities: Ipeadata.
- Information about the expansion of railroad infrastructure: historical data from www.estacoesferroviarias.com.br.

Immigrant Diversity Index

To measure birthplace diversity among the immigrant population we follow Alesina, Harnoss e Rapoport (2016):

$$Div_{m,1920} = 1 - \sum_{j} (s_{m,j,1920})^2$$
 (1)

Where s_j indicates the proportion of immigrants with origin j among the total number of foreigners in municipality m.

Descriptive Statistics

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)			
VARIABLES	Avg.	St.Dev.	Min	Max	N			
A. Diversity e Share of Foreigners								
1920 Birthplace Diversity Index	0.431	0.284	0.000	0.821	202			
1872 Share of Foreigners	0.012	0.016	0.000	0.081	202			
1920 Share of Foreigners	0.125	0.096	0.000	0.357	202			
1872 Dummy railway	0.024	0.156	0.000	1.000	202			
1920 Dummy railway	0.738	0.441	0.000	1.000	202			
C. 1872 Census Variables								
Proportion of slaves	0.154	0.086	0.039	0.531	202			
Proportion of literate (>6 y.o.)	0.202	0.110	0.048	0.452	202			
Proportion of children enrolment	0.145	0.101	0.027	0.764	202			
Population (x 1,000)	11.147	7.198	1.566	41.751	202			
Proportion in agriculture	0.594	0.099	0.351	0.908	202			
Proportion in industry	0.109	0.044	0.020	0.244	202			
Proportion in services/retail	0.296	0.091	0.058	0.569	202			

Descriptive Statistics

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
VARIABLES	Avg.	St.Dev.	Min	Max	Ν
D. 1920 Census Variables					
Proportion of literate (>6 y.o.)	0.296	0.099	0.103	0.699	202
Schools/school-age child (x 1,000)	0.387	0.377	0.000	1.863	202
Professors/school-age child (x 1,000)	9.562	6.938	0.826	45.955	202
Population (× 1,000)	22.635	43.101	2.917	577.621	202
Proportion in agriculture	0.784	0.133	0.071	0.957	202
Proportion in industry	0.091	0.071	0.005	0.495	202
Proportion in services/retail	0.125	0.072	0.035	0.549	202
Proportion of catholics	0.849	0.182	0.098	1.000	202
Proportion of protestants (1940)	0.019	0.015	0.000	0.076	202
E. 2000 Census Variables					
Proportion of literate (>6 y.o.)	0.952	0.016	0.854	0.989	202
Proportion of children enrolment	0.962	0.018	0.863	0.991	202
Schools/school-age child (× 1,000)	0.387	0.377	0.000	1.863	202
Professors/school-age child (x 1,000)	82.833	21.228	19.670	152.683	202
Years of schooling (>5 y.o.)	5.538	0.660	3.532	7.109	202
Population (x 1,000)	183.329	818.392	2.867	11,086.8	202
Per capita income (log)	5.693	0.272	4.791	6.392	202
Proportion in agriculture	0.197	0.134	0.003	0.595	202
Proportion in industry	0.252	0.087	0.097	0.545	202
Proportion in services/retail	0.533	0.098	0.254	0.784	202

Preliminary Evidence: OLS

We start by estimating the following OLS equation:

$$Y_{m,2000} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 Div_{m,1920} + X'_m \gamma + e_m$$
(2)

- > $y_{m,2000}$: per capita income in 2000 of municipality m.
- Div_{m,1920}: birthplace diversity index of immigrants.
- ► X_m: includes geographic characteristics, such as latitude, longitude, distance from the capital and elevation, soil type. Socioeconomic characteristics at baseline (1872 census): the proportion of slaves, children enrolled in school, literacy rate of the total population, the proportion of workers occupied by sector, and population density.

Preliminary Evidence: OLS

Dependent Variable:	Ln per capita Income in 2000						
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	
1920 Immigrant Diversity Index	0.097	0.096	0.085	0.074	0.074	0.071	
	(0.014)***	(0.014)***	(0.015)***	(0.021)***	(0.021)***	(0.021)***	
Observations	202	202	202	202	202	202	
R-squared	0.566	0.566	0.576	0.573	0.573	0.579	
Geographical Controls	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	
Socioecon Controls (1972)	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	
Share of Foreigners (1872)		YES			YES		
Share of Foreigners (1920)			YES			YES	
Railway Connection Timing				YES	YES	YES	

- Estimates robust when controlling for immigrant population size.
- Railway Connection Timing controls for the time elapsed since the municipality was connected to the network.
- A 1 SD increase in the Diversity Index in 1920 is associated with a 7.1-7.4 percent higher income per capita in year 2000.

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- One the one hand, destinations with high economic potential might attract many migrants, regardless of their origin country, ending up with both high migrant share and high diversity index. Positive spurious correlation between diversity and growth.
- On the other hand, early arrived migrant groups in high economic potential destinations might prevent other immigrant groups from coming in. Negative spurious correlation between diversity and growth.
- Finally, migrants might endogenously sort into areas with high/low diversity according to their characteristics and productivity.

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- 2. The size and the composition of immigrant inflows display independent variation. quantities vs diversity
- 3. Period under study coincides with the expansion of the railway network in the São Paulo State. rail network expansion

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- ► Example: Municipalities connected to the network when migrant population inflow is more heterogeneous ended up with a more diverse pool of migrants in 1920.
- Advantage of combining two sources of variation: the interaction between the two produces variation that is unlikely to affect our contemporary outcomes of interest other than through historical immigrant composition to the municipality.
- Proceed in 3 steps: a zero-stage to construct the cross-sectional 1920 instrument from the 1880-1920 panel dataset, and the usual first and second stage.

Zero-Stage: Synthetic Diversity Index Construction

We estimate a set of zero-stage equations using yearly panel data at the municipality-country of origin level:

 $Imm_{m,t}^{c} = \alpha_{0} + \alpha_{1}ImmFlow_{t}^{c} \times RailAccess_{m,t} + \alpha_{2}RailAccess_{m,t} + \kappa_{m} + \mu_{t} + u_{m,t}^{c}$ (3)

- ImmFlow^c_t: the number of immigrants arriving into São Paulo from country c in year t
- RailAccess_{m,t}: an indicator for the municipality being connected to the railway network at time t
- The parameter α₁ captures the differential effect that connection to the railway has on immigrant settlement during periods of high aggregate immigration relative to periods of low aggregate immigration, from each specific country.

Zero-Stage: Results

Dependent variable	Number of immigrants arriving to the municipality						
	ITA	ESP	POR	GER	JAP		
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)		
Imm Flow x Rail Access	0.011	0.008	0.007	0.006	0.008		
	(0.002)***	(0.001)***	(0.003)**	(0.002)***	(0.003)**		
Rail Access	-18.826	-12.081	-9.484	-0.487	-0.312		
	(7.549)**	(10.786)	(11.703)	(0.611)	(2.217)		
Observations	7,878	7,878	7,878	7,878	7,878		
R-squared	0.456	0.381	0.210	0.274	0.113		
Year FE	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES		
Municipality FE	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES		

Zero-Stage: Synthetic Diversity Index Construction

We then predict, using only the interaction term, the number of immigrants who have settled by municipality and origin country, for all the years from 1882 to 1920 as follows:

$$\widehat{Imm}_{m,t}^{c} = \widehat{\alpha_1} ImmFlow_t^{c} \times RailAccess_{m,t}$$
(4)

- Add up the predicted number of immigrants over the entire period 1882-1920.
- ► Finally, calculate the Synthetic Diversity Index at the municipality level and use it as an IV for the observed Diversity Index.

TSLS and Identification

-

$$\frac{1stStage}{+\delta_2 ShareForeigners_m + \delta_3 RailTiming_m + X'\theta_m + v_m}$$
(5)

$$\frac{2ndStage}{2ndStage}: Y_{m,2000} = \gamma_0 + \gamma_1 Diversity_{m,1920} + \gamma_2 ShareForeigners_m + \gamma_3 RailTiming_m + X'\eta_m + \epsilon_m$$
(6)

- ShareForeigners_m: share of foreigners either in 1872 or 1920.
- ▶ *RailTiming_m*: number of years elapsed since railway connection.
- X': Same geographic and economic municipality controls measured at baseline as in OLS regressions.

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- ShareForeigners_m: share of foreigners either in 1872 or 1920.
- ▶ *RailTiming_m*: number of years elapsed since railway connection.
- X': Same geographic and economic municipality controls measured at baseline as in OLS regressions.
- Identifying assumption: SyntheticDiversity affects long-term outcomes only through observed diversity in 1920, once conditioning on municipality controls, the timing of railway connection, and the total share of immigrants.

First-Stage Results

Dependent Variable	1920 Observed Diversity Index					
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1920 Synthetic Diversity Index	0.764	0.753	0.703	0.487	0.491	0.486
	(0.061)***	(0.061)***	(0.068)***	(0.076)***	(0.076)***	(0.076)***
Share of Foreigners (1872)		0.007			0.003	
		(0.004)*			(0.003)	
Share of Foreigners (1920)			0.575			0.026
			(0.238)**			(0.239)
Railway Connection Timing				0.009	0.008	0.008
				(0.001)***	(0.001)***	(0.001)***
Observations	202	202	202	202	202	202
Partial-F (Synthetic Diversity Index)	156.07	149.96	106.47	40.84	41.25	40.87
R-squared	0.548	0.560	0.560	0.650	0.651	0.650
Geo Controls	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Socioecon Controls (1872)	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

- The instrument is a strong predictor of actual birthplace Diversity Index in 1920.
 F-stat always above 40.
- Coefficients almost unaffected by the inclusion of share of foreigners: instrument loads on variation uncorrelated with the immigrant stock's size.
- Instrument remains strong also when controlling for Railway Connection Timing.

The Impact of Immigrant Diversity on Income (TSLS)

Dependent Variable:	Ln per capita Income in 2000					
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1920 Immigrant Diversity Index	0.107	0.106	0.087	0.081	0.081	0.068
	(0.018)***	(0.019)***	(0.023)***	(0.039)**	(0.038)**	(0.039)*
Share of Foreigners (1872)		0.004			0.002	
		(0.018)			(0.018)	
Share of Foreigners (1920)			0.048			0.040
			(0.028)*			(0.026)
Railway Connection Timing				0.002	0.002	0.002
				(0.002)	(0.002)	(0.002)
Observations	202	202	202	202	202	202
Partial-F (Synthetic Diversity Index)	156.07	149.96	106.47	40.84	41.25	40.87
R-squared	0.565	0.573	0.579	0.573	0.576	0.565
Geo Controls	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Socioecon Controls (1872)	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

- ► TSLS confirm positive long-term impact of Immigrant Diversity on income.
- SE gets larger when including Railway Connection Timing but size of impact fairly stable.
- A 1 SD increase in the Diversity Index in 1920 is associated with a 6.8 to 8.1 percent higher income per capita in year 2000.

Structural Transformation and Occupational Diversity

 Birthplace diversity might have enhanced productivity through complementarities among cultures, skills, professions and trades brought from the places of origin (Murard 2018; Menyhert 2018).

Structural Transformation and Occupational Diversity

- Birthplace diversity might have enhanced productivity through complementarities among cultures, skills, professions and trades brought from the places of origin (Murard 2018; Menyhert 2018).
- We test (using census data from 1920, 1940 and 2000,) whether municipalities with a more diverse mix of immigrants have shifted faster from agriculture to manufacturing and services, and if they have developed an higher degree of industrial occupational diversity.

Structural Transformation and Occupational Diversity

	1920	1940	2000	1920	1940	2000
	OLS	OLS	OLS	2SLS	2SLS	2SLS
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
	Panel A: Sh	are Agricultu	ıral Occupati	ion		
1920 Imm. Diversity Index	-0.023	-0.025	-0.036	-0.030	-0.033	-0.062
	(0.009)***	(0.012)**	(0.011)***	(0.019)	(0.028)	(0.024)***
	Panel B: Sho	are Industria	l Occupation	1		
1920 Imm. Diversity Index	0.012	0.004	0.000	0.009	0.027	0.034
	(0.004)***	(0.006)	(0.007)	(0.010)	(0.020)	(0.018)*
	Panel C: Sho	are Services/	Retail Occup	ation		
1920 Imm. Diversity Index	0.011	0.022	0.034	0.020	0.007	0.024
	(0.005)**	(0.008)***	(0.009)***	(0.011)*	(0.014)	(0.017)
	Panel D: Inc	lustrial Occu	pational Div	ersity		
1920 Imm. Diversity Index	0.006		0.010	0.058		0.052
	(0.009)		(0.008)	(0.019)***		(0.020)***
Observations	202	202	202	202	202	202

Schooling Investment and Human Capital Accumulation

- 1. The faster structural transformation might increase incentives to invest in human capital.
- 2. Higher public investment in schooling might also be a response to high birthplace diversity, a state-building tool to foster homogenization (Bandiera et al 2018).

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- 1. The faster structural transformation might increase incentives to invest in human capital.
- 2. Higher public investment in schooling might also be a response to high birthplace diversity, a state-building tool to foster homogenization (Bandiera et al 2018).
- We test the impact on government investment in schooling and educational outcomes.

Schooling Investment and Human Capital Accumulation

	Schools per capita 1920	Schools per capita 1940	Education expenditure per capita 1940	Enrollment rate 7-14 y.o 1940	Years of education 2000
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
	Panel A: OLS				
1920 Imm. Diversity Index	0.027	0.287	0.196	0.027	0.138
	(0.040)	(0.162)*	(0.068)***	(0.009)***	(0.049)***
	Panel B: 2SLS				
1920 Imm. Diversity Index	0.249	0.761	0.373	0.040	0.259
	(0.077)***	(0.392)*	(0.124)***	(0.024)*	(0.111)**
Observations	202	202	202	202	202

Immigrant Diversity and Inequality

Dependent Variable:	Gini coefficient in 2000						
	OLS	OLS	OLS	2SLS	2SLS	2SLS	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	
1920 Immigrant Diversity Index	0.007	0.007	0.009	0.004	0.004	0.011	
	(0.004)*	(0.004)*	(0.004)**	(0.010)	(0.010)	(0.010)	
Observations	202	202	202	202	202	202	
Geo Controls	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	
Socioecon Controls (1872)	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	
Railway Connection Timing	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	
Share of Foreigners (1872)		YES			YES		
Share of Foreigners (1920)			YES			YES	

- OLS: Positive relationship between Immigrant Diversity in 1920 and inequality in 2000.
- **•** TSLS: Coefficients still positive but imprecisely estimated.

Interaction between Size and Composition

Does the impact of diversity depend on the share of the immigrant population on the total?

Dependent Variable:	Ln per capita Income 2000						
	OLS	OLS	2SLS	2SLS			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)			
1920 Immigrant Diversity Index	0.114	0.092	0.140	0.144			
	(0.021)***	(0.025)***	(0.067)**	(0.071)**			
Diversity Index * Share of Foreigners	0.060	0.070	0.098	0.184			
	(0.053)	(0.053)	(0.189)	(0.205)			
Share of Foreigners	-0.030	-0.040	-0.055	-0.109			
	(0.031)	(0.030)	(0.112)	(0.122)			
Observations	202	202	202	202			
Geo Controls	YES	YES	YES	YES			
Socioecon Controls (1872)	YES	YES	YES	YES			
Railway Connection Timing		YES		YES			

Share of foreigners calculated in 1872 to avoid endogeneity.

The impact of diversity does not seem to be larger or smaller when immigrant share is large.

Conclusion and Next Steps

- This paper tackles the question: is migrant composition in terms of birthplace diversity beneficial for long-run development?
- Looks at the mass migration in Brazil 1880-1920 and uses newly available data about more than 1 million immigrants.
- ► Finds a positive effect on income today of birthplace diversity.

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- This paper tackles the question: is migrant composition in terms of birthplace diversity beneficial for long-run development?
- Looks at the mass migration in Brazil 1880-1920 and uses newly available data about more than 1 million immigrants.
- Finds a positive effect on income today of birthplace diversity.
- Next steps
 - What diversity is beneficial for development? Construct measures of language distance, cultural diversity, etc.
 - Explore heterogeneity in characteristics of countries of origin (policies individuals had been exposed to before migration, etc.)
 - Do migrants took values with them?

Appendix

Identification - Exogenous push factors

- Italy: Decreto Perinetti of 1902. Prevented the so-called subsidizes emigration directed especially to Brazil.
- Portugal: Republican revolution in 1910; Between 1908 e 1913 34% of the total inflow registered during the 77 years of the Hospedaria.
- ► Japan: Legislation change in 1912 allowed land acquisition. Alien Land Act of 1913 in the US would forbid it. Average annual inflow from Japan grows 8 times from 1912 on compared with 1908-1912 period.
- Germany: political instability between 1889-1893 (fall of Bismarck).
 Flow grows six fold.
- Spain: great drought between 1893-1897.

Identification - Volume VS. Diversity



Figure: Volume VS. diversity of immigrants between 1882 and 1920







Appendix

Identification - Railway network expansion





Immigrant Diversity and Long-Run Development: Evidence from the Age of Mass Migration in Brazil

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