

Philipp Moskopp

Max Planck Institute for Behavioral Economics · University of Cologne

✉ moskopp@econ.mpg.de ·  LinkedIn ·  Bluesky

Research Interests

Development, Migration, Education, Evidence-Based Policy Making

Education

Ph.D. in Economics 09 2024 – present
Max Planck Institute for Behavioral Economics / Cologne Graduate School, Bonn / Cologne, Germany
Supervisor: Matthias Sutter · Second Supervisor: Pia Pinger · External Advisor: John List

MSc in Economics 09 2020 – 03 2023
University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany

BSc in Business Management 09 2016 – 08 2020
University of Applied Sciences Bonn-Rhein-Sieg, Bonn, Germany

Stays Abroad

MSc Visiting Student 01 2022 – 05 2022
EDHEC Business School, Nice, France

BSc Visiting Student 01 2019 – 06 2019
Universidad de Valencia, Valencia, Spain

Work in Progress

Moving to Opportunity Abroad: The Effects of International Educational Migration
with Toman Barsbai, Merve Demirel, Marcello Perez-Alvarez, and Matthias Sutter

Abstract: This project evaluates the effects of international educational migration, a novel approach to reducing global inequality by helping individuals from low-income countries to study and work in high-income countries. We partner with Malengo, an NGO that supports Ugandan students to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Germany. We conduct a randomized controlled trial, exploiting that Malengo randomizes admission among qualified applicants, and compare the outcomes of applicants who are selected by Malengo and those who are not, as well as their families and communities in Uganda. Here, we focus on short-term outcomes within the first three years of students' arrival in Germany, i.e. before they complete their degrees and enter the labor market. We measure the effects of the intervention on objective and subjective wellbeing, cognitive skills, and aspirations of applicants and their social networks in Uganda.

Educational Migration Prospects and Human Capital Investments: Evidence from a Uganda-Germany College Access Program

with Toman Barsbai, Merve Demirel, Marcello Perez-Alvarez, and Matthias Sutter

Abstract: How does the opportunity of international educational migration affect human capital investments in the country of origin? We inform high school students in Uganda about a new merit-based

study-abroad program and analyze how the experimentally induced changes in knowledge about the opportunity to study abroad shape their human capital investments. The Malengo program offers mentoring and financial support to young adults in Uganda who want to complete a university degree in Germany and could not otherwise afford to study at a university. Acceptance to the program combines the returns to higher education with the returns to migration and thus offers a life-changing opportunity. To be eligible, applicants must obtain a sufficiently high score in the high-stakes Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education examination. Our primary research question is whether and how educational migration prospects lead to increased human capital investments amongst students who eventually go abroad as well as those who remain in Uganda.

International Migration and Identity Formation: The Perception of the Self and Others

with Toman Barsbai, Merve Demirel, Marcello Perez-Alvarez, and Matthias Sutter

Abstract: This project examines how international migration influences identity formation, particularly in shaping the perception of the self and others. We partner with an NGO that supports secondary school graduates from Uganda with limited financial means in pursuing a bachelor's degree in Germany. Admission to the program offers students a transformative opportunity to acquire higher education and increase their earnings. At the same time, students are exposed to a vastly different environment, characterized by distinct economic systems, political institutions, cultural norms, and racial compositions. We leverage the randomized admission among shortlisted applicants and conduct a randomized controlled trial. By tracking the outcomes of applicants and their families and friends in Uganda, we aim to uncover the direct effects of international migration on the perception of the self and others, as well as the spillover effects on those who remain in the country of origin. Our primary outcomes include universalism, gender attitudes, and racial identity.

Digitizing Post-War Address Books to Study the Economic Consequences of "Guest Worker" Migration in Germany

with Helena Rahaas, and Tillmann Spindeldreier

Conferences & Presentations

2025

- SEEDC: Symposium on Economic Experiments in Developing Countries, Bonn
- MPI-NHH Workshop, FAIR NHH, Bergen, and Max Planck Institute, Bonn
- MPI-CREED Workshop, CREED University Amsterdam, and Max Planck Institute, Bonn
- EEG Workshop in Behavioral Economics, Max Planck Institute, Bonn
- Behaviorally Smart Institutions, IMPRS Summer School, Ellwangen
- Data Science for Economics: Mastering Unstructured Data, cemfi, Madrid

2024

- Empirical Analysis of Social and Legal Institutions, IMPRS Topics Workshop, University of Bologna
- MPI-NHH Workshop, Max Planck Institute, Bonn, and FAIR NHH, Bergen

Nonacademic Work Experience

Predoctoral Research Fellow

Max Planck Institute for Behavioral Economics, Bonn

12 2023 – 09 2024

Intern Monitoring and Evaluation

GIZ, Bonn

06 2023 – 12 2023

Research Assistant University of Cologne	09 2022 – 09 2023
Student Research Assistant German Institute for Development Evaluation (DEval)	08 2022 – 03 2023
Associate Public Sector Consultant]init[AG	12 2020 – 12 2021
Business Operations Associate Accenture GmbH	08 2018 – 11 2020

Skills

Communication

German (C2), English (C1), Spanish (B2), French (B2), Italian (A2)

Coding

Stata, R, Python, L^AT_EX