

Migration, development and politics in the homeland.

Migration has consequences on the homeland of those who leave. A rich literature documents these impacts, and suggests that migrants can become actors of the economic, social and human development of their country. This thesis addresses the effects of migration on the political economy of development in the homeland, a dimension that has been under-explored by the literature to date. It examines some of the mechanisms through which migration can play a role in the political and institutional dimension of development in migrants' origin country. The first part of the thesis is based on a case study of Mali. In the first chapter, we explore the impact of return migrants on political behaviors. The empirical results suggest the existence of transfers of electoral norms from Malian returnees toward non-migrants. The second chapter focuses on monetary transfers sent by migrants on a collective basis, through hometown associations created in their destination country. It shows that the provision of local public goods (schools, fountains, etc..) has increased relatively more rapidly in the Malian villages which have been targeted, since the 1990s, by hometown associations settled in France, and thus which have potentially received such transfers. The second part of the thesis leaves the Malian soil and adopts a more macro-economic approach. In the third chapter, we study the migration background of political leaders, and find that, between 1960 and 2004, developing countries headed by foreign-educated leaders reached higher average levels of democracy. Last, the fourth chapter presents a theoretical model that analyzes the effect of a diaspora on civil war in the homeland, and characterizes the circumstances under which diasporas can fuel violence or promote peacebuilding. The thesis thus highlights four different mechanisms through which migration can affect local political economy and opens numerous new research questions. It also emphasizes the importance of adopting different approaches, based on both theoretical and empirical tools, and of implementing innovative methodologies and data collection devices in order to investigate these questions.