

# International sanctions and migration

**Jerg Gutmann**

University of Hamburg & CESifo

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## What are the effects of sanctions?

- ▶ Sanctions harm the economy, increase inequality, reduce life expectancy, international trade, and capital flows.
- ▶ Sanctioned leaders violate political and civil rights, basic rights, and property rights.
- ▶ More on this in a few minutes by Mark!

# First cross-country study on migration effects

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Research paper

## International sanctions and emigration<sup>☆</sup>

Jerg Gutmann<sup>a,b</sup>, Pascal Langer<sup>c</sup>, Matthias Neuenkirch<sup>b,c,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> University of Hamburg, Germany

<sup>b</sup> CESifo, Germany

<sup>c</sup> Trier University, Germany



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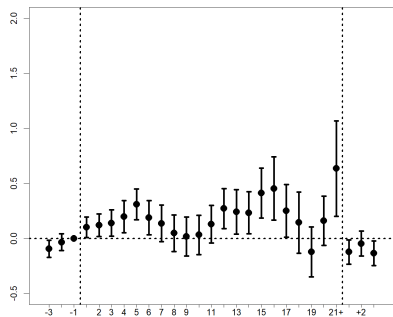
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### ABSTRACT

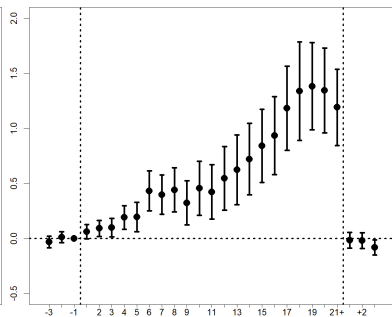
In this first statistical analysis of how international sanctions affect international migration, we apply two estimation strategies, a panel difference-in-differences model and an event study approach. Our dataset covers 79,791 dyad-year observations, reflecting migration flows from 157 origin countries to 32 industrialized destination countries between 1961 and 2018. We find that UN and joint EU-US sanctions increase emigration from target countries by around 20 percent. Our event study results for joint EU-US sanctions imply a gradual increase in emigration throughout a sanction episode. The impact of UN sanctions on international migration is smaller and less persistent. Moreover, the effects are driven by target countries with limited freedom of political expression, where emigration substitutes for the costly voicing of dissent. Finally, there appear to be no systematic gender differences in the migration effect of sanctions.

# How do these effects look like?

UN sanctions



US & EU sanctions



## Detailed results

- ▶ Emigration from a sanction target increases by **18% under UN sanctions**, and by **23% under simultaneous US & EU sanctions**.
- ▶ US & EU sanctions cause a gradual increase in emigration with a peak increase of pre-sanction migration by 80–86%.
- ▶ The impact of UN sanctions is smaller and less persistent, with a peak effect of 30–31%.

## Detailed results

- ▶ Migration flows return to pre-sanction levels once sanctions are lifted.
- ▶ This is, although we find that sanction targets tend to increase the legal barriers to emigration.
- ▶ Careful: What I have presented are **average** effects, but we find that the migration effect is larger the more **political freedoms** in a target country are restricted!

Thank you for your attention!