Free Movement of Inventors: Open-Border Policy and Innovation in Switzerland

Seminar Series 2018 - 19
Professor Francesco Lissoni

Monday 21 January 15:30 - 17PM

We study the effects of immigration on the inventive performance of Switzerland, which, in between 1999 and 2007, first signed then gradually implemented an open border policy agreement with the European Union. During the transition phase, Switzerland progressively lifted all restrictions concerning foreign commuters from nearby countries, mostly highly skilled workers, whose visas were valid only for selected regions and whose employers were disproportionately located close to its international borders. Based on a rich dataset of patent applications led at the European Patent Office (EPO) and a difference-in-differences estimation strategy, we find that the policy shock changed the migrant-native composition of the inventive workforce, did not displace native inventors, and increased the quality, albeit not the quantity, of Swiss patents.

Francesco Lissoni is Professor of Economics at Bordeaux University (France) and a Fellow of CRIOS, the Center for Research on Innovation, Organization, and Strategy of Bocconi University (Milan, Italy). His research activity covers the economics of science, innovation adoption, intellectual property, university-industry technology transfer, and the geography of knowledge diffusion. He is a member of scientific committees at EPiP (European Policy for Intellectual Property) and OST (Observatoire des Sciences et Techniques, Paris), and consults for ANVUR, the Italian National Agency for the Evaluation of Universities and Research. He is Associate Editor of Industry & Innovation and Advisory Editor for Industrial & Corporate Change and Research Policy. As of recent, he chaired the research programme on Academic Patenting in Europe (APE-INV), funded by the European Science Foundation. Besides publishing a large number of academic papers, Prof. Lissoni has co-authored several pieces of technical documentation on patent and inventor data.

The Manchester Institute of Innovation Research holds a series of regular seminars given by visiting speakers to Manchester, discussing key issues in science, technology and innovation policy and management. All are welcome.

SEMINAR VENUE:
3.006b, AMBS Building
Oxford Road, Manchester
M13 9PL

www.manchester.ac.uk/mioir

Twitter: @MIOIR