



Institute for the Study of International Migration
Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service
at
Georgetown University



POLICY BRIEFING

Temporary Workers and Innovation, or H-1Bs and the Supply Side of Ethnic Invention

Who

William R. Kerr, Assistant Professor at the Harvard Business School

Jacob Funk Kirkegaard, Research Fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics

Immigrant contributions to US innovation seem to work largely through ethnic channels. Professor Kerr uses unique data to measure the impact of temporary specialty workers (H-1Bs) on US patent awards. He finds that H-1Bs strongly increase patents by Indian and Chinese inventors, but the effect on native invention is much weaker. At the same time, ethnic ties contribute to global patterns of innovation.

When

Friday, February 13, 2009
8 AM, Continental breakfast
8:30 to 10:00 Program

Where

Georgetown University Law Center
McDonough Hall, Room 437
600 New Jersey Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC, 20001

RSVP & Directions

Please RSVP to <http://www12.georgetown.edu/sfs/rsvp/index.cfm?Program=ISIM>

For questions, please contact Alexander R Gee, arg29@georgetown.edu

For a link to directions: <http://www.law.georgetown.edu/directions/>

Media Notice

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Bio

William Kerr is an Assistant Professor at Harvard Business School, where he teaches the Entrepreneurial Manager course in the MBA program. One of the strands of his research examines the role of immigrant scientists and entrepreneurs in US technology development and commercialization, as well as the diffusion of innovations to immigrants' home countries. Professor Kerr serves on the NSF's Expert Panel for Science and Engineering Human Resources, is a research associate of the Center for Economic Studies, a Fellow of the Innovation Policy and the Economy forum, and he is regularly involved with the NBER Entrepreneurship program. He received his Ph.D. in Economics from MIT and his B.S. in Systems Engineering from the University of Virginia.

<http://drfd.hbs.edu/fit/public/facultyInfo.do?facInfo=bio&facEmId=wkerr%40hbs.edu>

Jacob Funk Kirkegaard is a research fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics. Previously he worked with the Danish Ministry of Defense, the United Nations in Iraq, and in the private financial sector. He is author of *The Accelerating Decline in America's High-Skilled Workforce: Implications for Immigration Policy* and he contributed to *Accelerating the Globalization of America: The Role for Information Technology*. His research focuses on European economies, pension systems and accounting, demographics, offshoring, high-skilled immigration, and the impact of information technology. He is a graduate of the Danish Army's Special School of Intelligence and Linguistics with the rank of first lieutenant; the University of Aarhus in Aarhus, Denmark; and Columbia University in New York. http://www.iie.com/staff/author_bio.cfm?author_id=274

Reading

William R. Kerr and William F. Lincoln, 2008. "The Supply Side of Innovation: H-1B Visa Reforms and US Ethnic Invention," Harvard Business School Working Paper 09-005, http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1316942

William R. Kerr, 2006. "U.S. Ethnic Scientists and Entrepreneurs." Cleveland Federal Reserve Board Commentary Series, <http://www.people.hbs.edu/wkerr/kerr-cfrb.pdf>

Jacob Funk Kirkegaard, 2005. "Outsourcing and Skill Imports: Foreign High-Skilled Workers on H-1B and L-1 Visas in the United States," Peterson Institute for International Economics, Working Paper 05-15, <http://www.iie.com/publications/interstitial.cfm?ResearchID=590>