



Thesis summary

This thesis sheds light on the effects of reducing or escalating international policy barriers on emerging economies, and how these relate to international migration. In the first chapter, I analyze the effect of a protective FDI policy on international migration outflows from Indonesia. I find a substitution effect from FDI to international migration, but also an increase in skilled migrants. In the second chapter, I investigate the effect of a migration ban on the capacity of communities to absorb income shocks from natural disasters. In this case, I also find negative effects on communities in terms of an increase in poverty. Differently from the previous two chapters, the third chapter focuses on a context where barriers to international migration have been suddenly eliminated: I exploit the fall of the Communist regime in Albania in 1990s at the subsequent mass emigration of Albanians to identify the causal effect of migration on female labour force participation. I find that migration has positive effects on female employment, but this effect is only prevalent among women that reside in areas with high access to preschools. I dig more in-depth into this gender issue by analyzing the effect of fertility on female employment in Albania in Chapter 4. I show that an increase in the number children decreases women's labour supply.

The findings of this thesis have significant implications for policy-making at the international level. It suggests that imposing limitations on international flows could have unintended consequences, such as the exacerbation of brain drain, as highlighted in Chapter 1. Additionally, the results indicate that migration restrictions could make communities more vulnerable to climate shocks, as discussed in Chapter 2. Therefore, policymakers need to consider the long-term impacts of limiting international flows. On the other hand, relaxing migration barriers could lead to numerous benefits. Chapter 3 highlights the positive impact of such relaxation on female labour force participation, which is crucial for economic growth and development. However, it should be noted that women's participation in the workforce is dependent on favourable gender norms and access to childcare services, as discussed in Chapter 4. Without these factors, I show that women could be more likely to reduce their labour supply.