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**Does the Study Abroad Experience Affect
Attitudes Towards other Nationalities?**

Discussant: Zoltán Hermann

On the Relationships Between Skills, Schooling and Labor Market Outcomes

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Summary of the paper

research questions:

Does Erasmus participation change

- preferences towards foreigners, due to a stronger European identity
- stereotypes about other nations, due to learning by experience and statistical discriminations ?

methods:

experiment: trust game, triple dictator game

comparing Erasmus participants student before and after

results:

no positive effect on European identity (measured by in-group bias)

effect on trust towards the North and South (learning)

self-selection into going North and South – can this bias the results?

a hypothetical case: two type of students

Naïve or idealist type – going South

Realist type – going North

the Naïve type will be disappointed in any case (– even if going North)

the Realist type has realistic expectations

assumption: exposure to the people of the country matters most

with self-selection: similar results

if there were no self-selection: smaller or no effect on the North-South diff.

learning still occurs (Naïve type), it changes trust,

but not necessarily consistent with stereotypes

a related question:

if changes in trust are about learning, **why participants do not learn by experience about the North?**

Why does trust towards foreigners from the North not increase?

more prior experience about the North (i.e. Germany) ?

Further questions

- why trust towards the East is omitted? (students do not go to the East, but they meet fellow Erasmus students from the East)
- heterogeneity: is the effect similar by gender?
- no time effect, external shock: can the Never Erasmus sample be used to add further evidence?
- DG: are preferences different for those going to North or South?
- an Erasmus effect not discussed: the average amount sent in the DG decreases – what can explain that?
- does trustworthiness depend on the partners nationality?
- does Erasmus participation affect also trustworthiness ?

About the structure of the paper

- presenting the results on the DG first?
- more descriptive statistics and/or results on the *level* of trust and preferences by region, not just the North-South difference