

Consequences of Cambodian Refugees

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Abstract

Using the complete count Census microdata, this paper examines consequences of Cambodian refugees who emerged around the collapse of the Pol Pot regime (1975-1979). Our focus is the two major returnees from the neighboring countries, Thailand and Vietnam, who had a distinct repatriation process: The former stayed and received humanitarian assistance in camps prior to repatriation and the latter did not. Paying attention to social contexts, our analysis reveals substantial heterogeneity in the impacts of forced displacement on the educational and labor market outcomes between and within the two returnees. The findings uncover the whole picture of their subsequent economic lives and behaviors that have been constrained by the underlying structure and social situations. Policy implications for refugee assistance in camps, repatriation, and peacebuilding process are discussed.

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Keywords: conflict, refugees, repatriation, Cambodia

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