Do firms redline workers?

A controlled experiment in Bogotá

Discussant: Alessandro Maffioli

The paper

- Problem: labor market residential discrimination
 - reputation of the neighborhood of residence
 - productivity losses
- Methodology: correspondence test study
- Findings: very limited residential discrimination in Bogota. Employers from high crime area discriminate women:
 - -9.1% if they live in other crime areas;
 - - 12.1% if they far away.

The paper

- Problem: labor market residential discrimination
 - reputation of the neighborhood of residence
 - productivity losses
- Methodology: correspondence test study
- Findings: very limited residential discrimination in Bogota. Employers from high crime area discriminate women:
 - -9.1% if they live in other crime areas;
 - - 12.1% if they far away.

Discussion

- Sample size
 - Effect of 'pure' residential discrimination could be quite low.
- Interpretation of the results
 - Why only for women?
- Recommendations
 - Asymmetry of information
 - Discrimination, screening and signaling ("ban-the-box" example)