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The Effect of Niche Occupations in Income: A Closer Look at Chinese, Filipino, and Asian Indian Immigrants

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Oral Presentation O1.1

**THE EFFECT OF NICHE OCCUPATIONS IN INCOME:
A CLOSER LOOK AT CHINESE, FILIPINO, AND ASIAN INDIAN IMMIGRANTS**

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As the number of high achieving immigrants in the United States is on the rise, the question as to how these immigrants are being rewarded in the U.S. labor market is interesting to consider. These high achieving immigrants are commonly entering the labor market in ethnic niche occupations, where a large number of their own countrymen are employed. By looking at the three largest high achieving immigrant groups in the U.S., the Chinese, Filipino, and Asian Indians, and their respective niches, we can see the effects of the niche occupations on immigrant earnings. Both human capital theory and network theory speak to immigrant occupations and earnings and are further discussed over the course of this study. Using census data a series of OLS regressions are conducted which identify the overall effects of not only immigrant status on income, but also how immigrant niche occupations affect income.

JEL codes: J31, J61, J82