Predicting Labor Force Participation Behaviors of Female Immigrants to the U.S.

Alison Harford, '09
Illinois Wesleyan University

Michael Seeborg, Faculty Advisor
Illinois Wesleyan University

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc
After World War II, the United States witnessed the permanent entry of women into the workforce. Similarly, the U.S. labor force has been shaped by immigration. This paper uses data from the 2008 Current Population Survey and 2007 World Development Indicators to examine the labor force participation behaviors of female immigrants in the United States labor market. Labor force participation is predicted as the dependent variable of an OLS regression in order to determine whether the reservation wage effect or the actual wage effect is stronger in determining participation behavior of female immigrants. This paper presents the findings and sets a foundation for future research on this subject.