One apparent feature of many large cities is the presence of immigrants. Immigrants participate in a city's economy: their skills and characteristics impact the features of the local labor force and labor market, and their preferences as consumers shape local consumption. There is still considerable debate about the effect of the resulting ethnic diversity on labor market outcomes, but also about the returns derived from living and consuming in ethnically diverse cities. This dissertation focuses on furthering our understanding about whether ethnic diversity affects productivity and the utility derived from immigrant-induced amenities. The research focuses on the interrelated regional labor and housing markets in the Netherlands to describe the effects of immigrants and ethnic diversity on productivity and utility. Amsterdam and The Hague, two major cities in the Netherlands, are the focus of analyzing the economic value of immigrant-induced consumer amenities and the role of ethnicity in residential sorting across neighborhoods.

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