

Heterogeneity in Activity Space Segregation Across Metro Areas in the United States

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Abstract

In this paper I conduct a comparative analysis of activity space segregation across metro areas in the United States. Recent work in public health, sociology, and geography has shown that activity spaces—the places people spend time during the day—meaningfully differ from neighborhoods of residence in both social and environmental characteristics. But this work has largely been conducted at the level of individual metro areas. Using the US Census LEHD data, which contains the work place and residence of all workers in the US who are covered by unemployment insurance, I am able to construct activity space measures that are comparable across cities. I use these measures to compare segregation levels in different parts of the country and discuss implications for economic and social mobility.

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