

Economic Inequality and the Geography of Activity Space Segregation

Abstract

This seminar combines large-scale human mobility data collected via mobile devices and the American Community Survey to create comprehensive measures of activity space segregation across geographic areas in the United States. The study extends conventional measures of spatial segregation to incorporate exposure in individuals' routine activities, weighted by the flows of individuals between census block groups. The analysis reveals three key findings. First, metropolitan areas vary significantly in the degree of activity space segregation. Second, individuals exhibit a lesser degree of income and racial segregation in their activity space than in their residential space. Third, MSA-level income inequality is associated with greater isolation for both lowest and highest income groups; economic inequality exerts a more substantial influence on activity space isolation compared to residential segregation.