

High-skilled workers in small towns are a 'waste of resources,' says controversial Princeton study

It would be more efficient if big cities like New York and San Francisco were transformed into “cognitive hubs” for white collar work, even if that meant paying other workers to stay away, according to a new study from economists at Princeton University and *the Federal Reserve*.

the Federal Reserve 美联储

While big cities would need to have some non-cognitive workers, and small towns would still need some professionals like doctors and lawyers, the economists say, overall the economy would be more efficient if brain workers were concentrated in big cities, which would become smaller and less *congested* after economic incentives were delivered to send workers to the designated type of community.

congest 拥塞; 充血

Critics on social media were quick to point out that such a policy could boost racial and class *segregation*. Already, studies have shown that where children are raised can have a significant impact on future income and opportunity for class mobility.

segregation 隔离; 分离

“Of course, we acknowledge that where workers with certain skill profiles live — especially when their concentration in specific cities might lead to social segregation — has profound implications that extend beyond more immediate economic welfare,” the economists wrote. “And importantly, our model does not directly address all of the underlying forces that influence individual labor market outcomes.”