

The effect of inventor mobility on invention complexity

ETIG Course Term Paper

Ashwin Iyengar

Corporate Strategy and Policy
Indian Institute of Management Bangalore

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Outline

Theory

Data and Method

Future Work

Research Question

- What is the relationship between the movement of some inventors into or out of a region and the average complexity of inventions from those inventors?

Hypotheses

- H1: An increase in the average mobility of inventors in a region increases the average complexity of innovation generated
- H2: The effect in H1 is moderated positively by the relative strength of the intellectual property rights regime of the region

Addressing Potential Issues

- Direction of Causality
- Alternative measures of complexity
- Cluster Standard Errors at Region - Assignee
- Control for Inventor - Technology Class
- IPR measures - Ginarte Park Index

Methodology

- Data Source: Patents from USPTO, source: patentsview.org
- Unit of Analysis: Inventor-Year
- Dependent Variable: Complexity of innovation
- Primary Explanatory Variable: Mobility of innovators (Between-Region Mobility, Between-Country Mobility)
- Moderating Variable: IPR Strength
- Control Variables: Technology classes, Firm effects, Year effects

Results

Limitations and Future Work

- Causal forces in determining mobility effects on invention complexity

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