data and description

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outline

misc

basic research design [repetition? making sure basics covered]

analytical methods for regional development (Blakely and Leigh, 2009, ch1, 6)

LQ

NECESSARY readings

- https://data.bls.gov/cew/doc/info/location_quotients.htm
  - [if need more reading, some descriptive examples for Indiana: http://www.incontext.indiana.edu/2006/march/1.asp]
- http://data.bls.gov/location_quotient/ControllerServlet–try to calculate LQ yourself

Blakely, E. and N. Leigh (2009): Planning local economic development: Theory and practice, Sage Publications, Beverly Hills CA.

Florida, R. (2008): Who's your city?, Basic Books, New York NY.

Mackie, J. (1980): The cement of the universe, Clarendon Press Oxford.

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presentation: be thorough, but simple; tell a story

- quote data source in detail; give url
- define variables; maybe table with definitions in the appendix
- describe sample in detail: time, location, sampling, etc...
- what is your contribution? how come everybody else got it wrong or missed it?
- there has to be some contribution in your paper! data? method? idea?
- avoid results padding: do not present tables, graphs if they do not tell a story or if you do not discuss them or if they do not help with argument

presenting results

- eg https://sites.google.com/site/adamokuliczkozaryn/pubs/livability-nov19_aok.pdf?attredirects=0&d=1
- avoid ugly tables
- graphs/tables need to have captions that are self-explanatory
- graphs/tables need to be referenced in text
- show 2 or 3 decimal points, no scientific notation, no vertical lines in tables
- do not say "increase by one unit"; what is the unit?
- all vars must be defined clearly (say key vars in text, others in appendix)
- annotate/label patterns in graphs

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a research design is a class itself

- a quick, useful and applied reference is
  `http://www.socialresearchmethods.net/kb/design.php`
- a more in-depth treatment is Lawrence B. Mohr, Impact Analysis for Program Evaluation

spurious correlation

- say, global warming...
  - we have it–we can measure temperature
  - but the cause: we may think it is CO_2, but actually it is Sun activity
  - or the other way round
- another way to say it: correlation is not causation
- need theory and mechanism, so called "causal path"

the gold standard: the experimental design

- only with experimental design you can confidently argue causality
- and it is because randomization takes care of the known and unknown predictors of the outcome (draw a picture of 2 groups of people)
- most of the time we cannot have an experimental design because it is unethical and politically impossible
  eg we cannot randomly assign kids to bad school or to smoking
- `http://www.socialresearchmethods.net/kb/desexper.php`

threats to internal validity

- history, maturation, regression to the mean
  - something else happened that caused Y
  - things develop over time in a certain way
- selection bias, self selection
  - does smoking causes cancer ?
  - maybe less healthy people select to smoke ?

you still can have a valid inference

- but you need to do more work...
- essentially you want to exclude alternative explanations
- so you act like a devil's advocate
- and try to abolish your story / find an alternative explanation
- if you cannot find any, then your story is right...until disproved

INUS condition (Mackie, 1980)

- a useful way of thinking about causality

  Insufficient but Non-redundant part of Unnecessary but Sufficient Condition

- many, if not most causes are INUS conditions
- eg a cigarette as a cause of forrest fire
  - it's Insufficient, because by itself it is not enough, eg you also need oxygen, dry leaves, etc
  - it is contributing to fire, hence Non-redundant
- and along with other stuff (oxygen, dry leaves etc) it constitutes Unnecessary but Sufficient Condition
  - it's not necessary for fire, it can be lightening, etc
  - but it's sufficient – it's enough to start the fire

two basic designs

- you can look over time (PRE, POST) (draw a graph)
  eg you can trace unemployment over time in Camden
  - and, say, you can find that it increased during Reagan administration...
  - but you cannot argue causality right away !
  - there may be lots of alternative explanations, eg shift away from manufacturing during the same time, etc etc
- and you can look across space
  - eg you can compare Philadelphia to Camden

comparing Camden, NJ and Plano, TX

- a quick way is to use QuickFacts
- `https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/`
- `https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/planocitytexas,camdencitynewjersey,TX,NJ/PST045217`
- what's interesting here?
- Camden: about 7x more Blacks and 8x fewer Asians
- homeownership rate: 20% lower in Camden
- Plano: only 7% of population in poverty; Camden: 36%
  - TX v NJ: almost 2x people in poverty: 17% vs 9%

full census data

- census is a good source of data, even at neighborhood level!
- for city/neighb lev probably want 5-yr ACS
- `https://geomap.ffiec.gov/FFIECGeocMap/GeocodeMap1.aspx` [find census tract]
- `https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/searchresults.xhtml?refresh=t`
- say topics-people-poverty
- for 2 census tracts in Philly: 137 and 138 (Brewerytown)
- always show map of an area! eg

  `https://www.policymap.com/maps`

levels of analysis

- you are probably familiar with term Unit of Analysis (U/A)
- in regional development a peculiar thing is that there are many levels
- there are states, counties, metropolitan areas, cities, etc
- and you often get different and even opposite conclusions depending on what level you are looking at

different levels, different effects

- variables at different levels may have opposite effects
- eg if i increase your salary, you'll be happier
- but if i increase salary of everybody in your county you'll be less happy
- would you like to live in a world where:
  - you make $100k and the average is $150k, or:
  - you make $75k and everybody and the average is $50k
  - (people chose the second scenario)
- "a rich guy is a one who makes $100 more than his wife's sister's husband"

contextual effects

- a closely related concept: contextual effects
- whatever you study it takes place somewhere and place matters!
- so it is not only characteristics of the U/A that predict your outcome
- but also the context (characteristics of larger units in which U/A is nested)
- student is nested within a classroom, a classroom within school, a school within a district, etc etc
- a firm is nested within a city/metropolitan area/town, which is nested within a state, which is nested within a country

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data and development

- development planning begins with understanding of the local economy
- if you cannot measure it, express it in numbers, your knowledge is of 'meager kind' (Lord Kelvin)
- and you also want to keep on measuring to see what is going on:
  - is the situation improving?
  - any interesting trends ?
  - how are we doing compared to other similar localities?

some performance measures

- population, employment, income (Census Quick Facts)
- earnings, wages, labor force participation
  (`http://www.bls.gov/bls/blswage.htm`)
- firm births, deaths, and relocations
  (`http://www.bls.gov/web/empsit/cesbdhst.htm`)
- property values and tax revenues
  (`https://www.zillow.com/research/data/`, census, `https://taxfoundation.org`)
- analyze over time; and across space:
  - compare to state, metro area, nearby cities
  - variation among demographic subgroups and sub-areas
  - link indicators to key goals & track over time

labor force characteristics

- this is key ! jobs are key !
- especially in those difficult times
- key in attracting new employers
- you want to have people in occupations that have good prospects
- a great resource is BLS occupation outlook: `http://www.bls.gov/ooh/`

labor force characteristics

- low labor force participation for a specific demographic group may suggest lack of opportunity, discouraged workers, discrimination, etc
- median commute time is interesting indicator
  - if high it suggests a mismatch between housing and job markets
  - and it produces congestion, pollution and unhappiness (people are most unhappy when commuting)

businesses, job supply

- you also want to look at job suppliers–businesses
- interesting thing is that many businesses cannot find people to fill open jobs
- and there is unemployment and underemployment of course, so there is s mismatch
- `http://www.forbes.com/sites/jacquelynsmith/2012/05/29/the-10-hardest-jobs-to-fill-in-america-2/`
- `http://www.nytimes.com/2012/06/28/business/smallbusiness/even-with-high-unemployment-some-small-businesses-struggle-to-fill-positions.html?pagewanted=all`

BEA

- a terrific website!
- under regional data you will states and metros
- and even some smaller areas like counties!
- `http://www.bea.gov/iTable/iTable.cfm?reqid=70&step=1&isuri=1&acrdn=5#reqid=70&step=1&isuri=1`

wages

- http://www.bls.gov/bls/blswage.htm
- by census division

  http://www.bls.gov/ncs/ocs/compub.htm#Division
- by state http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oessrcst.htm
- metro http://www.bls.gov/ncs/ocs/compub.htm

  http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oessrcma.htm

living wage, poverty

- Families working in low-wage jobs make insufficient income to live locally given the local cost of living.
- Recently, in a number of high-cost communities, community organizers and citizens have successfully argued that the prevailing wage offered by the public sector and key businesses should reflect a wage rate required to meet minimum standards of living.
- living wage calculator by county

  `http://livingwage.mit.edu/`

property values

- an indicator of place desirability
  - low in Camden–nobody wants to live here
  - high in Manhattan–everybody wants to live there
- also reflect job opportunities:
  - can afford Manhattan housing if have a Manhattan job
  - can afford Camden housing if have a Camden job

property values

- http://www.zillow.com/local-info/ interactive
- https://www.zillow.com/research/data/ download
- http://www.city-data.com/
- a useful calculator

  https://money.cnn.com/tools/homepricedata/

tax revenues

- a measure of local economy health
- state and local taxes `https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/qtax.html`

ecology: land, agriculture, etc

- everything takes place in some ecology
- and ecology matters
- `https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/`

basic analysis: understanding

- look by industry/sector over time and across space
- understand local economy's strengths and weaknesses and think about what may be driving them
- a useful concept is that of outcome line `http://books.google.com/books?id=GBxhOT8btfYC&lpg=PA16&pg=PA15#v=onepage&q&f=false` see general one, and then example

think of the larger context

- where are we in the business cycle
- what are the global trends ?
  - they do affect the local economies
  - outsourcing manufacturing jobs to China
- local economy is not simply a fraction of the national economy, though

  for instance if the there is drought in Latin America, Iowa will benefit more than Nevada (it produces more food)
- new police lowered crime? crime declining everywhere!

standardize

- if you go over time, you need to deflate dollar amounts

  `http://www.bls.gov/data/inflation_calculator.htm/`

  `http://www.duke.edu/~rnau/411infla.htm`

- if you go across, divide by population: otherwise you cannot compare, say Philadelphia to Camden

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basics to understand (Blakely and Leigh, 2009, p164)

- which local parts of the economy are most valued by locals
  - how locals compare themselves to others
  - (can do a survey, interview, focus group)
- what's the local economic base (LQ)
  - what accounts for most jobs and wealth
  - and what's growing/declining most rapidly
- multiplier effects: how growth/decline in one part affects other parts
  - eg organize LPGA tournament, superbowl etc, and bars, airbnb, trains etc will boom
- which firms are a part of interdependent cluster

economic base

- exporting industries are important:
  they bring the money to the locality
- imports are important to look at, too, there may be an opportunity for substitution
- it's businesses that generate wealth that should be targeted for attraction and nurtured
- we used to focus on industries, but now focus on people, eg creative class (Florida, 2008) – an occupation-centered economic base

LQ (Loc Quotient) (specialization index)

- $LQ = \frac{\frac{e_i}{e}}{\frac{E_i}{E}}$
- e_i local employment in industry i; e tot loc empl
- E_i national employment in industry i; E natl tot empl
- https://data.bls.gov/cew/doc/info/location_quotients.htm
  - [if need more reading, some descriptive examples for Indiana: http://www.incontext.indiana.edu/2006/march/1.asp][enlarge table, also perc change is useful]
- http://data.bls.gov/location_quotient/ControllerServlet–try to calculate LQ yourself https://data.bls.gov/cew/apps/data_views/data_views.htm#tab=Tables eg 2018 Annual Avg Private:
  - 101 Goods-producing, Autauga County AL
  - v 10 Total, all industries, All Counties

BLS LQ

- another example: eds&meds Camden county v NJ
- note: also useful to over time: eg employment this year v 10 years back

interconnectedness

- most things are produced from things that somebody else produces
- and hence my performance affects that of my suppliers and people whom i supply
- a similar idea is that of clusters

clusters are..

- geo concentrated
- have competitive advantage because they are concentrated
- share supplier and buyer (marketing) advantages
- are supported by advantageous infrastructure in a region eg universities, venture capital

paper

- again, a useful trick is to combine different types of data to come up with a contribution
- talk to your classmates!
  - eg food deserts and crime
  - eg weather and migration, etc, etc
- your paper does not have to be quantitative
  - but a good idea to approach your topic from different angles, eg quant and qual

next week

- we will always end the class by having a quick look at the next class