

Community (development)

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outline

“Community development”

hard v soft community development

“Community development” is a buzzword

- “a word or phrase, often an item of jargon, that is fashionable at a particular time or in a particular context”
- Cooper hospital, Wholefoods, our PhD program, classes
- usually “community development” doesn’t mean anything it just sounds good
- like we do development with community, but it is a mere ad/commercial to sell better whatever we do and sell
- it’s all about \$
- a similar catchphrases in business: “global” “leadership” “challenge” “solution”
- SWB research is not immune! we now have “happiness industry” (?)

levels of analysis and theorizing

- initial classes were mostly about persons or societies (countries or regions/provinces)
- the previous class (public policy) is also mostly about societies (countries or regions/provinces)
- we will look at some general theories
- those are often meant for countries , e.g. (?)
- but countries are comprised of localities (still, keep in mind that not always the whole is a simple sum of parts)
the so called atomistic and ecological fallacies
idea is simple:
- Rutgers is a good university, hence you guys are good

ecological fallacy

- it happens when you make conclusions about individual units based on group data
- e.g. You are on vacation in Hawaii and you meet a person from Camden, NJ
 - and you think: “she must be a criminal”
 - that Camden has the highest crime rate in the U.S. does not mean that everybody in Camden is a criminal
- now say, you meet a person that graduated from Harvard
 - and you think “she must be a genius”
 - again, just because Harvard is ranked as a best university (U.S. News) does not mean that every Harvard graduate is a genius

atomistic fallacy

- an opposite of ecological fallacy
- making inferences about groups based on individual data
- e.g. you found that rising individual income reduces risk of coronary heart disease (e.g. people stress out that they are relatively poor, they are missing out...)
- but it does not mean that increasing incomes of states would decrease coronary disease rate for a state ...
- http://www.paho.org/english/dd/ais/be_v24n3-multilevel.htm

community development \approx city/neighb development

- most of community development is about cities
- over 80 % of the US population is urban
- even more of production, R&D and innovation is urban
- we will have several classes about cities

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“hard development”

- as per previous (policy) class, it used to be about GDP (and jobs, consumption, etc), \$ amounts
- now it is, and becoming even more so, about SWB
 - but also about other things, eg:
 - social capital, engagement, community
 - freedom, self-expression, self-realization
 - equality (income, gender, race, etc)

Adam Smith

- “invisible market hand”
- oversimplifying: pub pol/adm should barely exist
- bc market regulates itself
 - http://tutor2u.net/economics/gcse/images/demand_supply_excess_demand1.gif
 - <http://www.pcecon.com/notes/noteimages/equilibrium/incrdemsup2.jpg>
- division of labor: just do one thing:
 - you get better at it, and can do it faster
 - pin factory
 - but less creativity, numbness, alienation, anomie
 - Smith lived in 18th century...had he lived now he could put it differently (see also Milton Friedman)

division of labor is great!

- still, division of labor is a must !
- think about it...
- you cannot produce everything you need yourself
- even simple stuff, like a pen, or a car seat
- you're better off doing whatever you do, getting paid for it
- and paying other people for other things
- everyday things like a car, a train
 - think how many people worked on them

problems with division of labor

- you become like an automated machine, and you don't get the whole picture
- in research, too
- eg in medical research people work on very specific specialized tasks
- the research teams are big: dozens or hundreds of people
- and then the PI, who is more of a manager than a scientist, puts everything together and gets credit
- we still need great specialization to push research forward
- but at the same time we need interdisciplinary people with broad (but shallow knowledge)

neoclassical economic theory (M. Friedman)

- also called “the invisible hand”, based on Adam Smith
- equilibrium of economic systems
- mobility of capital
- if capital can flow without restrictions, all economic systems will achieve equilibrium
- it would mean that ghettos would attract capital because of low cost; but they don't
- if the model worked, all areas would have about the same level of development; obviously, it doesn't work
- but still it influenced deregulation in banking, utilities, etc
- and still an useful theory

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ch on community

ch on blacks

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