

intro

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this version: Monday 27th January, 2020 17:43

outline

general overview, my approach and policies

this class specifically

some of the things that we will talk about (Blakely and Leigh, 2009, ch1) (O'Sullivan, 2009, ch1)

data

- BARRO, R. (1991): "Economic growth in a cross section of countries," The Quarterly Journal of Economics, 106, 407–443.
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- FREIDMAN, T. (2005): "The world is flat," New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux.
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- O'SULLIVAN, A. (2009): Urban economics, McGraw-Hill.

PUTNAM, R. D. (2001): Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community, New York, NY: Simon & Schuster.

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WIRTH, L. (1938): "Urbanism as a Way of Life," American Journal of Sociology, 44, 1–24.

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about myself

- ◇ psy/soc/geo + “eco” [some of it +alt, anti?]
- ◇ happiness (well-being/quality of life)
- ◇ urban v rural; city v nature
- ◇ broadly understood inequality
- ◇ preferences for redistribution
- ◇ culture, religion, trust, freedom
- ◇ statistical programming (Stata, Python)

3 questions about yourself

- ◇ what do you research?
- ◇ what data are you using?
- ◇ what do you expect from this class?

publish or perish

- ◇ really the end goal is that you publish
- ◇ so the intermediate goal for this class
 - is that you write a publishable paper
 - extra credit!

approach

- ◇ applied, data-driven
- ◇ you are encouraged to collaborate (prep for class, ps, paper)
- ◇ free to choose data/topics as long as it is relevant to the class

recommended/extra/bonus

- ◇ only slides are required and tested unless indicated otherwise; but easier to follow with additional readings
- ◇ we cover basics in the slides (test with ps, midterm)
- ◇ and you add recommended materials of interest to you
- ◇ you'll use additional materials to expand on the basics and enhance your paper

grading/extra credit

- ◇ i will be rather strict about grade scale: you get the grade that your interval indicate (see grading table in the syllabus)
- ◇ but there is opportunity for extra credit...eg :
 - especially have an early presentation of a book
 - find typos/false statements in class materials
 - tell me about useful course materials: books, datasets, websites, etc...
- ◇ civic engagement: do sth for the community, eg NGO, library

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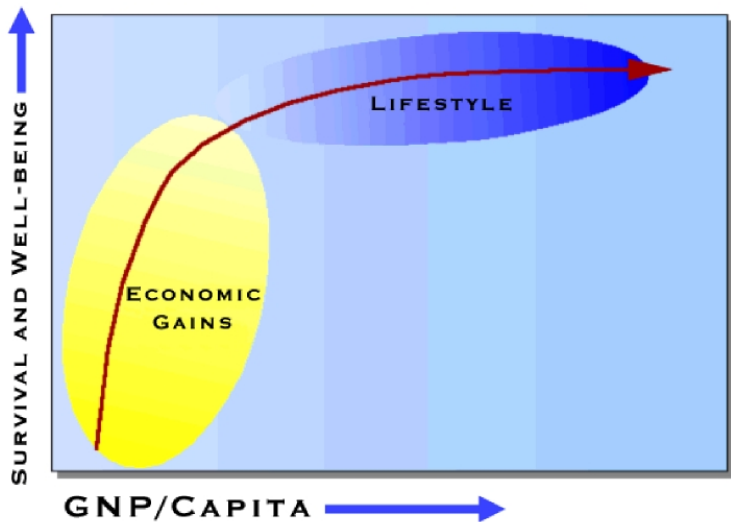
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Wellbeing and income

◇ Inglehart (1997)



◇

Place pyramid

◇ Florida (2008, p 294)



◇

Maslow's pyramid

◇ was meant for personal development but can adapt it for regional development

ABRAHAM MASLOW HIERARCHY OF NEEDS

Maslow, A. Motivation and
Personality (2nd ed.)
Harper & Row, 1970.



Maslow's pyramid

- ◇ economy first: you need \$\$\$ to get food, shelter, security
- ◇ then you will care about other stuff (eg pollution, inequality)
- ◇ don't start from the top
- ◇ yet, don't get stuck at the bottom...

before and after the midterm

- ◇ before: basics, data, theory, general, economic
- ◇ after: more specific topics and softer, other soc sci than economics
- ◇ more research oriented topics for the paper

levels

- ◇ we will look at some general theories
- ◇ those are often meant for countries , eg (Barro, 1991)
- ◇ 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 students
- ◇ you are good students, hence Rutgers is a good university...

ecological fallacy

- ◇ it happens when you make conclusions about individual units based on group data
- ◇ eg 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
- ◇ eg you found that rising individual income reduces risk of coronary heart disease (eg 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 ...

general vs specific

- ◇ i will be rather focused on general themes rather than specific
 - less talk about legislation and programs, more about concepts, data, mechanisms, theories
 - in short, more research and hands-on application, less bureaucracy (eg laws that change all the time)
- eg “creative destruction” is such a general theme
- eg “pension plans in NJ” is a specific theme

development is interdisciplinary

- ◇ economics (traditionally), but not only !
(even economists start to recognize it) (Stiglitz et al., 2009)
- ◇ business (jobs are key ! for everything, including QOL)
- ◇ city and regional planning
- ◇ demography (eg aging population, migration, immigration)
- ◇ public policy
- ◇ political science (eg political parties, voting)
- ◇ sociology (eg race, discrimination, crime)

geography

- ◇ regional/local development is, as the adjectives indicate, geographical
(geographical=spatial)
- ◇ so there will be lots of talk about space, and spatial movement:
 - sub(urbanization)
 - clustering/spatial auto-correlation

research vs practice

- ◇ i am a researcher, not a practitioner
- ◇ researchers: academics, PhD students...
- ◇ practitioners: are government officers, MPA students
- ◇ there is a big difference between researchers and practitioners
 - yet, practice should be based on research
 - and research should result in improvements of the practice
- ◇ practitioners should read some research
- ◇ researchers should be familiar with the practice...

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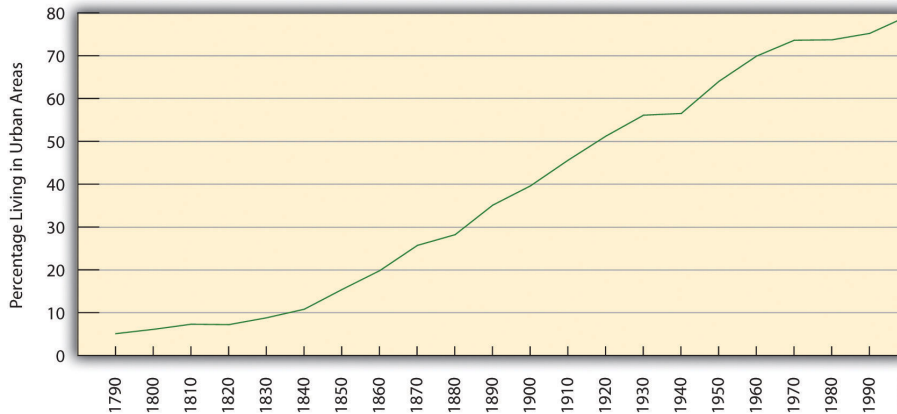
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place matters to everyone

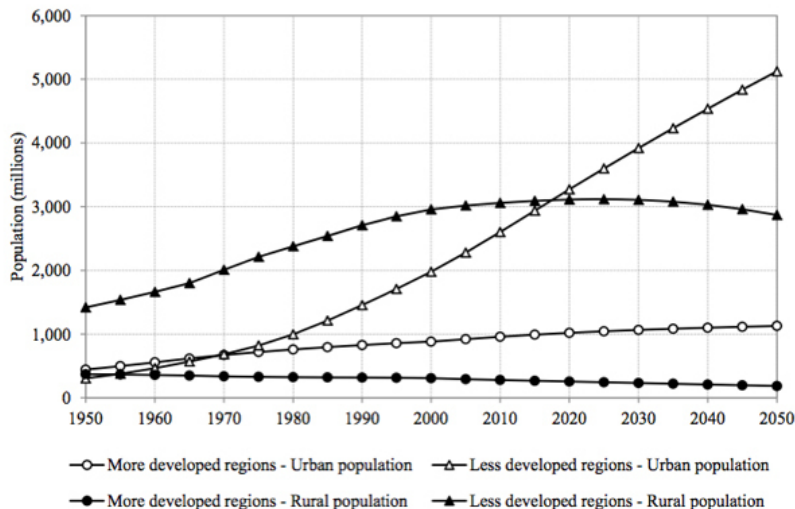
- ◇ we all live in some communities/neighborhoods that are nested in some regions
 - and where we live matters – it affects us
 - eg i have moved from Texas: I am walking, talking and driving faster now...
- ◇ and there are many interesting recent developments that change the way we live (eg facebook (e-social capital))

urbanization in the US



future of urbanization in the World

Figure I. Urban and rural populations by development group, 1950-2050



<http://www.theatlanticcities.com/neighborhoods/2012/04/>

some of the things that we will talk about (Blakely and Leigh, 2009, ch1) (O'Sullivan, 2009, ch1)

sub/urbanization: connectedness, segregation

- ◇ high population turnover in cities
- ◇ in v out-group, segregation
- ◇ people segregate themselves into neighborhoods of like minded individuals
- ◇ they listen to the media of their preference (eg Fox News vs CNBC)
 - and then they cannot communicate with people of another political preference
- ◇ the middle class is disappearing but also political middle is disappearing

alienation, lack of trust and social capital

- ◇ social capital is on decline ([Putnam, 2001](#))
- ◇ are cities or suburbs or smaller areas (towns, rural) good for social interaction ?
 - cities in itself may produce alienation ([Wirth, 1938](#)) (pop turnover, fast pace, crime, impersonality)
 - yet suburbs may be even worse creating bonding and destroying bridging soc cap ([Jacobs, \[1961\] 1993](#)) (no places to hang out, people do not use streets, just shuttle between work and home and malls in their SUVs)

the world is flat

- ◇ Freidman (2005) argues that it is
 - everybody can “plug in” from anywhere
 - eg Amazon Mechanical Turk
- ◇ even large scale manufacturing is not tied to a place anymore
 - the dependence on natural resources is often reduced
 - and it is substituted with mobile knowledge

the world is spiky

- ◇ Florida (2008) says it is not flat
 - place matters
 - eg IT innovators are better off in Silicon Valley than in rural Texas
- ◇ 3 T: Technology, Talent, Tolerance
- ◇ open, diverse, cool

creative class (Florida, 2008)

- ◇ economic growth is driven by creative class
 - artists
 - architects
 - engineers

growing income inequality

- ◇ The 400 wealthiest Americans have a greater combined net worth than the bottom 150 million Americans (Kristof, 2011).
- ◇ On the other hand, the middle quintile of Americans does not pay any effective tax – they receive about as much from the government as they pay in taxes, and the bottom quintile receives from the government even as much as 3\$ for every 1\$ they make (Mankiw, 2012).
- ◇ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:United_States_Income_Distribution_1947-2007.svg
- ◇ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:US_real_median_household_income_1967_-_2010.jpg

health inequality

- ◇ there is also lots of health inequality
- ◇ in the healthiest US counties you may expect to live 80 years
- ◇ in least healthy you may expect to live 60 years !
- ◇ 20 years of difference !
- ◇ and many of those unhealthy counties are not improving and even deteriorating (Ezzati et al., 2008)

creative destruction

- ◇ Capitalism/market economy can only survive through a process that destroys the old ways and creates a new ones (Blakely and Leigh, 2009, p6)
- ◇ and so the old places are destroyed and new ones are created
 - eg 50 years ago Detroit was a place to be with its buzzing economic activity...
 - now it is Silicon Valley...
 - in 20 years it may be Camden, NJ
- ◇ but destruction it is—see David Harvey!

ecology (Blakely and Leigh, 2009, p24)

- ◇ US has 4% of the world's population but produces over 23% of the CO_2
- ◇ <http://www.ipcc.ch/>
- ◇ eg see Krugman NYT, point of no return http://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/16/opinion/krugman-points-of-no-return.html?_r=0

public funds are low

- ◇ localities across country struggle with budget
 - unlike the federal government they cannot print money (quantitative easing)
- ◇ still, some spending is better now than later
 - for instance, it is cheaper to fix the roads now instead of later

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data revolution!

- ◇ we have now data revolution
- ◇ we had industrial revolution...
people moved from farms to factories
- ◇ now people move towards data
- ◇ data data everywhere ! (The Economist report)
- ◇ yes, in 2012 you can measure everything !

<http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/ICPSR/ssvd/index.jsp>

try something weird, eg “tomato soup”

few examples

- ◇ `http://www.stateoftheusa.org/blog.php`
- ◇ `http://www.stateoftheusa.org/content/health-measures-for-the-develo.php`
- ◇ `http://www.stateoftheusa.org/content/fbi-report-violent-crime-down.php`
- ◇ `http://www.stateoftheusa.org/content/economy-seen-as-prompting-cohabitation.php`
- ◇ `http://stateoftheusa.org/content/measuring-economic-well-being.php`
- ◇ `http:`
`//www.stateoftheusa.org/content/report-hispanics-outlive-other-american.php`

next week

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