

Stephen Jivraj

The effect of internal migration on the socio-economic composition of small areas in England
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PhD summary

Over time, the socio-economic composition of sub-national areas will change as a result of internal migration. This is because migration flows between places tend to be asymmetric with higher and lower socio-economic groups clustering in separate types of areas (Bailey and Livingstone, 2007; Champion and Fisher, 2003). This thesis aims to determine to what extent internal migration effects the concentration of poverty in small areas of England and how it compares with other components of area change.

Aims and objectives

The thesis has three broad objectives. Firstly, evaluate School Census data as a measure of internal migration compared with existing datasets. Secondly, analyse the effect of internal migration at different spatial scales using the School Census to investigate whether net flows are increasing the concentration of poor pupils using appropriate modelling techniques. Thirdly, ascertain the extent of change in concentration of poor pupils due to internal migration compared with other components of change.

Methods

- Change score regression modelling
- Growth curve modelling
- Geographically weighted regression
- Multinomial logistic regression modelling

Preliminary findings

The School census has potential to provide a new insight into the internal migration in England. The data can provide an up-to-date measure of migration and information about socioeconomic characteristics and geographical location of migrant pupils. Comparison with the National Health Service Central Register and 2001 Census shows that the migration data derived from the School Census provides similar results. The level of migration between districts is similar in each dataset when accounting for the different way migration is measured in the NHSCR. The level of migration within districts is greater in the School Census compared with the 2001 Census. This is probably as result of an undercount of migration in the 2001 Census which will disproportionately affects short distance moves.

Supervisors: Nikos Tzavidis, Mark Brown

Contact Details: stephen.jivraj@postgrad.manchester.ac.uk

tel +44(0)161 275 4721
<http://www.ccsr.ac.uk>