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Title

Spatial and Social Interactions in Economics, Introduction

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<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/55t2375b>

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Publication Date

2003-04-01

Spatial and Social Interactions in Economics—Introduction

A specialist research meeting sponsored by the

Center for Spatially Integrated Social Science

University of California, Santa Barbara

Upham Hotel, Santa Barbara, CA

April 4-5, 2003

Empirical analysis of spatial and social interactions by economists was quite limited until about a decade ago, when interest and activity grew on a number of fronts simultaneously. These include the study of peer effects within schools and classrooms, a rebirth of urban economics, the "new" growth theory in macroeconomics based on education externalities, the development of theoretical models of social learning and information cascades, and the application of the techniques of "labor-metrics"—a research style developed in labor economics—to empirical questions in epidemiology and environmental economics.

Despite this resurgence of interest in spatial and social interactions within economics, GIS and related advances in geography have to date made relatively few inroads into the economics profession. The goal of this workshop is to assess the possible contributions of these advances to economic research. This will be accomplished by bringing together cutting-edge researchers on spatial and social interactions in the economics profession, having them present examples of their current research, exposing them to information on new developments in GIS and new spatial econometric software, and starting a discussion on possible uses of these tools, as well as further development of these tools, within economics.

Spatial and Social Interactions in Economics—Agenda

Friday, April 4:

4:00 pm

Session 1: Environmental Effects

Chair: Carol McAusland, UCSB

Using Fluctuations in Climate to Estimate the Economic Impacts of Global Warming—Olivier Deschenes, UCSB and Michael Greenstone, University of Chicago

[*Air Pollution, Health and Socioeconomic Status: The Effect of Outdoor Air Quality on Childhood Asthma*](#)—Matthew Neidell, University of Chicago

Discussant: Jeff Dozier, UCSB

6:30-8:00 pm **Graduate Student Reception at the hotel, sponsored by UCSB's Graduate Division**

Saturday, April 5:

8:25-8:30 am **Welcome: Peter Kuhn, UCSB**

8:30-10:15 am **Session 2: Spatial Interactions among Firms and Unions**

Chair: Antonio Bento, UCSB

[*Geographic Spillover of Unionism*](#)—Tom Holmes, University of Minnesota

[*Dynamics of Local Interaction Models: Persistence and Propagation of Local Shocks*](#)—Giorgio Topa, New York University

Discussant: Enrico Moretti, UCLA

10:30-12:30 pm **Session 3: Econometric Issues**

Chair: Doug Steigerwald, UCSB

[*Spatial Correlation Robust Inference without Perfect Distance Measurements*](#)—Tim Conley, Chicago Graduate School of Business and Francesca Molinari, Northwestern University

[*Multinomial Choice with Social Interactions*](#)—Steve Durlauf and William Brock, University of Wisconsin, Madison

Discussant: Jack Porter, Harvard University

1:30-3:00 pm **Session 4: New Directions in Spatial Research**

New Technologies for Collecting Spatial Data—Mike Goodchild, UCSB

Software for spatial econometrics: a review and assessment—Luc Anselin, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Emerging Funding Opportunities for Spatial Research in Social Science—Kwabena Gyimah-Brempong, National Science Foundation

Discussion coordinator: Peter Kuhn, UCSB

3:30-5:30 pm **Session 5: Social Interactions in the Classroom**

Chair: Kelly Bedard, UCSB

[*How Important are Classroom Peer Effects?*](#)—Kevin Lang, Boston University and Joshua Angrist, MIT

[*Good Principals or Good Peers? Parental Valuation of School Characteristics, Tiebout Equilibrium, and the Incentive Effects of Competition among Jurisdictions*](#)
—Jesse Rothstein, UC Berkeley

Discussant: Julian Betts, UC San Diego

Spatial and Social Interactions in Economics—Papers & Participants

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Timothy CONLEY
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Paper: Conley, T.G. and Molinari, F. 2003. [*Spatial Correlation Robust Inference without Perfect Distance Measurements*](#)
Paper: Conley, T.G. and Topa, G. 2003. [*Dynamic Properties of Local Interaction Models*](#)

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Paper: Durlauf, S. and Brock, W. 2003. [Multinomial Choice with Social Interactions](#)

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Paper: Holmes, T.J. 2003. [Geographic Spillover of Unionism](#)

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Paper:

Lang, K. and Angrist, J.D. 2002. [How Important are Classroom Peer Effects? Evidence From Boston's Metco Program](#)

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Paper:

Neidell, M. 2003. [Air Pollution, Health and Socioeconomic Status: The Effect of Outdoor Air Quality on Childhood Asthma](#)

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Paper:

Rothstein, J.M. 2002. [Good Principals or Good Peers? Parental Valuation of School Characteristics, Tiebout Equilibrium, and the Incentive Effects of Competition among Jurisdictions](#)

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