

Title of the lecture series: Topics in Urban Economics

Subtitles for each single lecture of the series:

1. Approaches to the evaluations of spatial amenities
2. Economic geography models
3. Spatial policies

Brief course outline:

In this lecture series, we will survey a few selected topics in urban economics. Spatial amenities are goods that are tied to location (e.g., sunshine, scenic views, pollution, school quality, crime, housing supply, and many others). In addition to conventional amenities, it is crucial to think about local market access because people are geographically mobile (e.g., workers often commute to a workplace outside of their neighborhood of residency). Evaluating the demand for and welfare consequences of these amenities is important for urban economists and policymakers. We will study key theoretical frameworks, in particular economic geography models, in the urban literature and empirical strategies to answer research questions.

Reading list:

- Roback (1982). "Wages, Rents, and the Quality of Life." *Journal of Political Economy*
- Rosen (1974). "Hedonic Prices and Implicit Markets." *Journal of Political Economy*
- Black (1999). "Do Better Schools Matter? Parental Valuation of Elementary Education" *Quarterly Journal of Economics*
- Bajari and Benkard (2005). "Demand Estimation with Heterogeneous Consumers and Unobserved Product Characteristics: A Hedonic Approach." *Journal of Political Economy*.
- Bajari and Kahn (2005). "Estimating Housing Demand with an Application to Explaining Racial Segregation in Cities." *Journal of Business Economics and Statistics*.
- McFadden (1978). "Modeling the Choice of Residential Locations" TRB Research Record No. 673.
- Helpman (1998). "The Size of Regions," in *Topics in Public Economics: Theoretical and Applied Analysis*.
- Redding and Rossi-Hansberg (2017). "Quantitative Spatial Economics." *Annual Review of Economics*.
- Diamond (2015). "The Determinants and Welfare Implications of US Workers' Diverging Location Choices by Skill: 1980-2000." *American Economic Review*.
- Ahlfeldt et al. (2015). "The Economics Density: Evidence from the Berlin Wall." *Econometrica*
- Tsivynidis (2019). "Evaluating the Impacts of Urban Transit Infrastructure: Evidence from Bogotá's TransMilano."
- Bryan and Morten (2019). "The Aggregate Productivity Effects of Internal Migration: Evidence from Indonesia." *Journal of Political Economy*.

- Morten and Oliveira (2019). “The Effects of Roads on Trade and Migration: Evidence from a Planned Capital City.” *Working Paper*
- Desmet and Rossi-Hansberg (2013). “Urban Accounting and Welfare.” *American Economic Review*.
- Fajgelbaum et al. (2019). “State Taxes and Spatial Misallocation.” *Review of Economic Studies*.
- Fajgelbaum and Gaubert (2019). “Optimal Spatial Policies, Geography, and Sorting.” *Working Paper*.
- Kim (2019). “The Valuation of Local Government Goods: Gravity Approach and Aggregate Implications.” *Working Paper*.
- Fajgelbaum et al. (2021). “Optimal Lockdown in a Commuting Network.” *American Economic Review: Insight*.