

## Introduction to the Special Section on Population Migration

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The five migration papers that follow were part of ten papers presented at the Southern Regional Science Association (SRSA) conference, March 30 – April 1, 2006, in St. Augustine, FL. Initially, I had planned on a set of papers with a common theme. Ultimately, however, I decided that the sessions and this special issue should reflect the diversity of interesting topics and modeling strategies that have typified the sessions we have had over the years. This diversity is one of the main reasons these sessions have been so enjoyable and productive for the participants.

Clark, Herrin, Knapp, and White focus on disequilibrium in amenity markets and its effect on migration. If amenity differences across locations are not appropriately capitalized into wage differences, then some locations may pay wages that are either too high (over-compensate) or too low (under-compensate) given the locational amenities. Clark et al. estimate the degree of “incomplete compensation” for each of their metropolitan areas and then determine the importance of incomplete compensation as a factor driving migration, as well as how this has changed over time.

Snarr and Burkey consider how welfare benefit time limits influence migration of the poor. They show that, as initially structured, welfare time limits potentially have the unintended effect of increasing welfare migration, even as they reduce welfare roles dramatically. While only measuring migration indirectly, their welfare participation variable reveals useful information about welfare migration.

Cebula and Alexander use a fairly conventional methodology and model, but incorporate some unconventional factors. They are also among the first to look at migration during the first part of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. They focus on factors that can be influenced through policy, with special attention to some unique factors: hazardous waste sites and toxic chemical releases.

White and Wolaver study the relationship between migration and occupational segregation for black and white job changers. Rather than relying on standard migration models, they draw heavily from the labor economics and sociology literature, using segregation indices to shed light on how migration influences racial occupational segregation. Their analysis using NLSY data provides a wealth of interesting findings.

As the lone nonempirical paper, Schaeffer’s discussion of assimilation is an excellent example of how a purely theoretical paper can lead to fascinating results. He considers how both natives and immigrants view, invest in, and are affected by assimilation, which, to some extent, depends on how the other group views, invests in, and is affected by assimilation. As suggested by the title, this paper serves as an outline, but one that successfully lays the groundwork for much additional analysis.

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