Introduction

This research is developed from an earlier study of the spatial distributional characteristics of the creative class, and puts forth two major improvements by using IPUMS-USA data. Firstly, the base of the selection of the creative class is changed from educational attainment to occupation. Secondly, IPUMS areas are more appropriate to study the spatial pattern of the creative class than census tracts, which were used in the previous study.

The 1st Phase Study

The earlier research explored whether the creative class is more likely to live in or closer to areas with higher concentration of immigrants, artists and same-sex households – the three components of “tolerance” – or they actually prefer traditional amenities like the mainstream society does to tolerant environments. The research analyzed data in the years of 2000 and 2009 of census tracts in Chicago, San Diego and Boston.

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C_{t+1} = \beta C_{t} + \alpha LagC_{t-1} + \omega D_{t} + \gamma W_{t} + \rho S_{t} + \mu_{ct}
\]

The conclusion was that the three groups of people related to tolerance had little or even negative impacts on concentration of the creative class. Traditional amenities, in contrast, had significantly positive influences.

Problem

Reflection of and Feedback to the study include:

1. “Years of schooling” as the proxy of the creative class is not perfectly consistent with its original definition built upon occupational differences, although other scholars showed that the creative class is not distinguished from human capital in terms of growth contribution.

2. More variables to capture the traditional amenities. Currently, only “median housing price” has been used.

3. Census tract is too small to study the spatial preference of the creative class. Dynamics will be more clearly revealed at larger geographical units.

Proposed Solution: IPUMS-USA data

IPUMS-USA data has potential to bring in new findings:

1. Larger unit. IPUM areas have at least 100,000 people.

2. Surveyed Micro-data. Surveyed information of individual person, especially their occupational standings.

3. More Information of residential environment. (density, maintenance, typical households, etc)