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Urban Form: Ethnic Enclaves

Özge Öner

SMEs and the Urban Fabric,
OECD – Ax:son Johnson Foundation – ILO
Trento, 2022

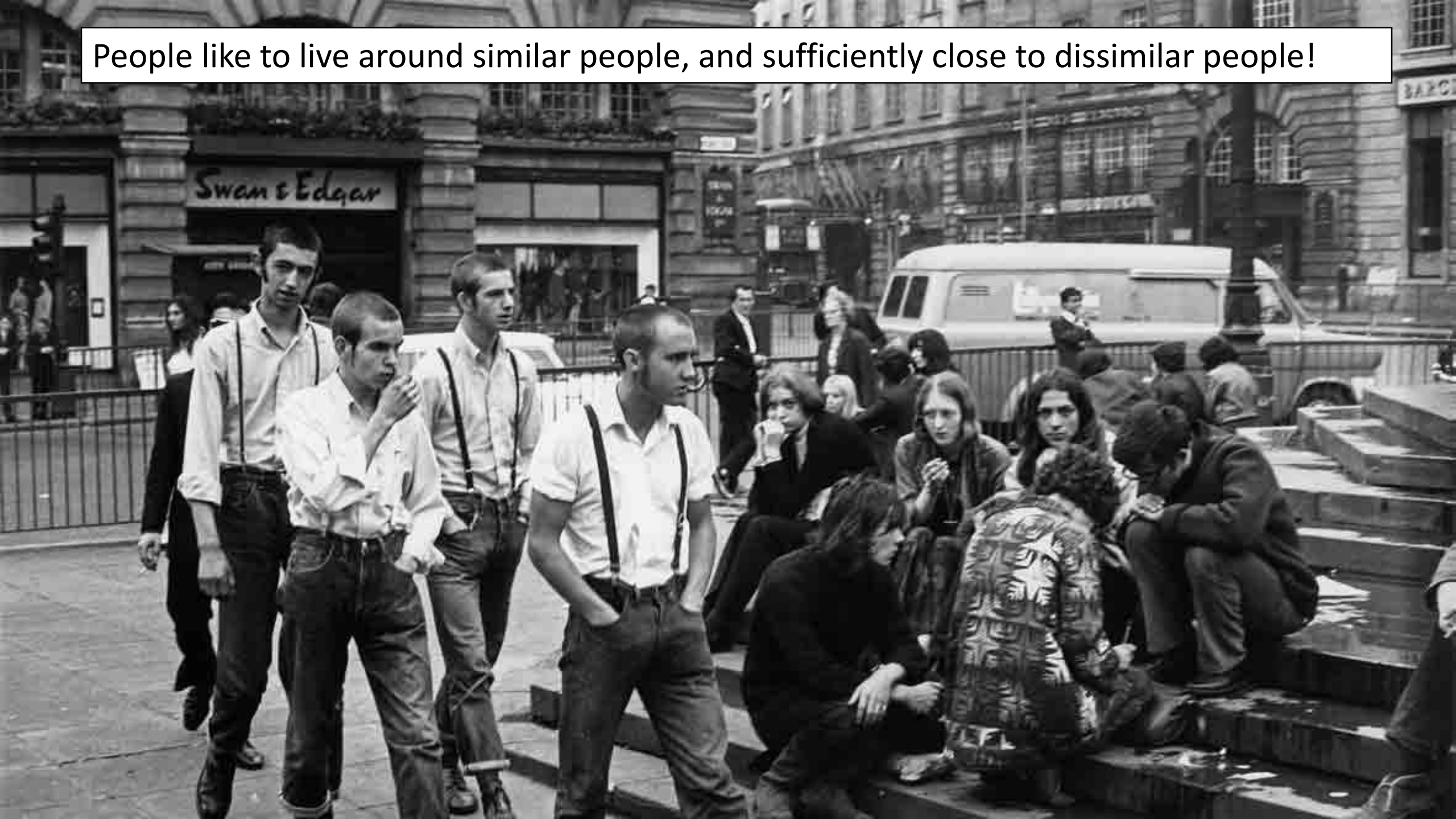


What do we know about urban space?

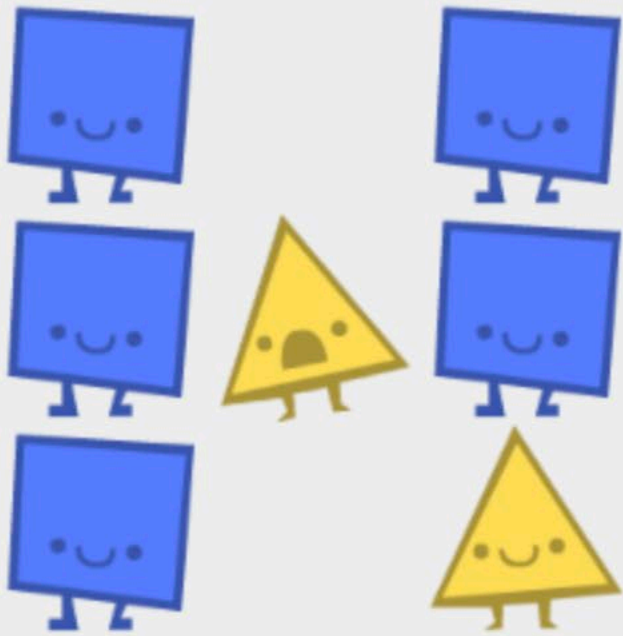
1. People like to live around **similar** people.
2. People want sufficient proximity to **dissimilar** people.
3. People like to live in **nice** places.
4. Identities, networks, and associated outcomes are (very!) **spatially sticky**.



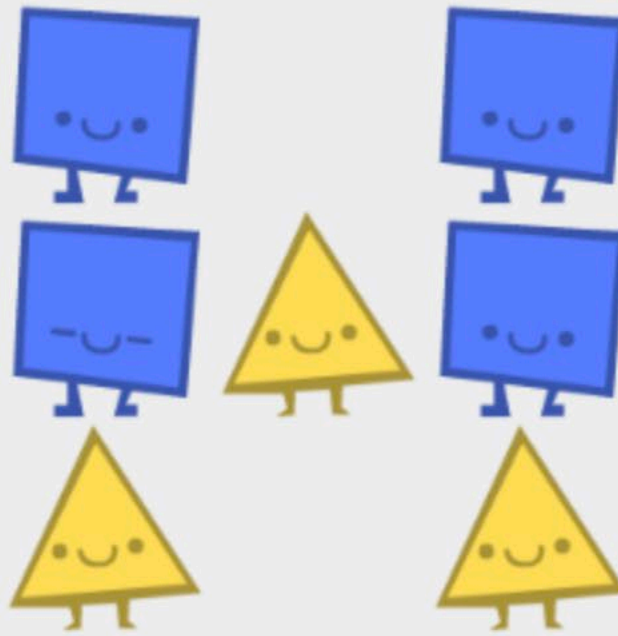
People like to live around similar people, and sufficiently close to dissimilar people!



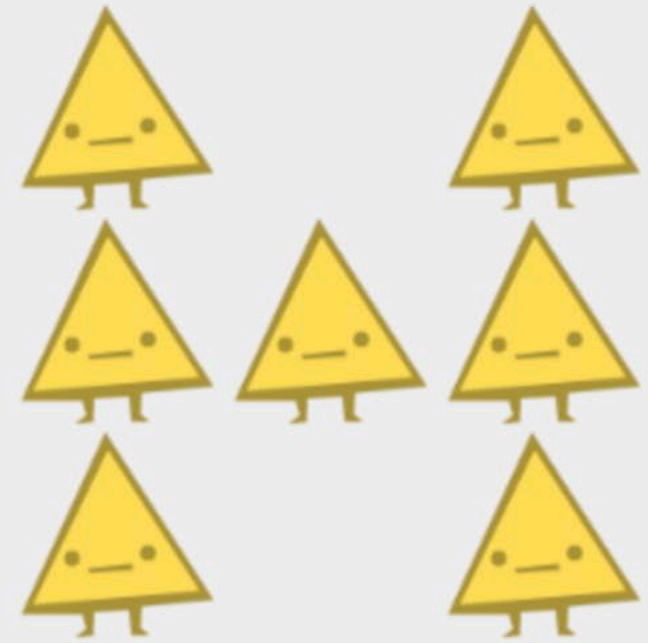
“I wanna move if less than 1/3 of my neighbors are like me.”



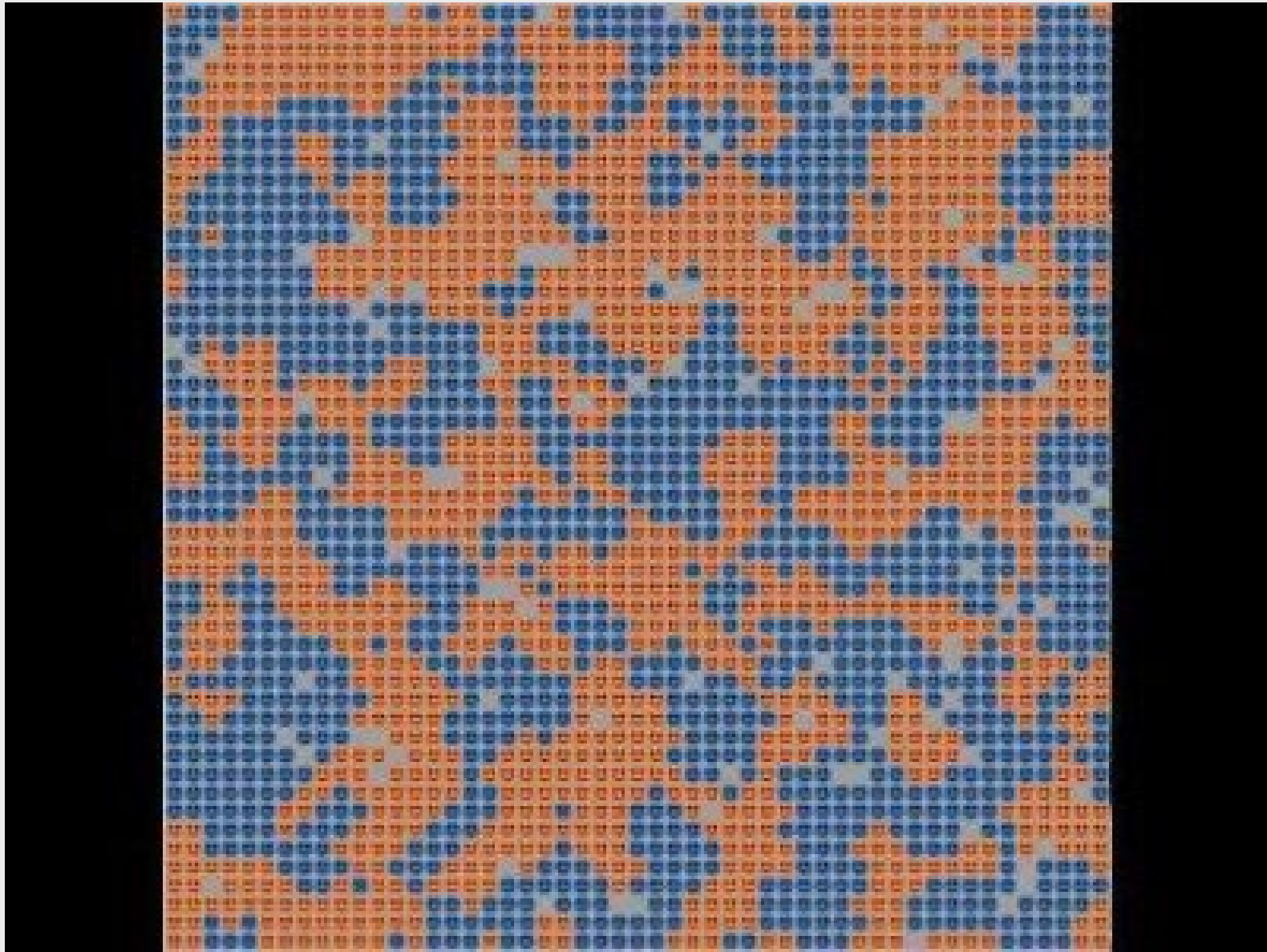
unhappy: only 1 out of 6 neighbors are like me. less than 1/3.



happy: 2 out of 6 neighbors are like me. exactly 1/3.



meh: all neighbors are like me. (also meh if i've got no neighbors)



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Ethnic enclaves and segregation—self-employment and employment patterns among forced migrants

[Johan Klaesson](#)  & [Özge Öner](#)

[Small Business Economics](#) **56**, 985–1006 (2021) | [Cite this article](#)

Segregation \neq Ethnic Enclaves

Spatial aggregation matters!

Segregation is almost always bad for ethnic entrepreneurship and employment.

Ethnic enclaves is **sometimes good and sometimes bad**, depending on the immigrant group and spatial scale.

Broken Windows Theory

“Any visible signs of crime and civil disorder, such as broken windows (hence, the name of the theory) vandalism, loitering, public drinking, jaywalking, and transportation fare evasion, create an urban environment that promotes even more crime and disorder (Wilson & Kelling, 1982).”



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The New York Times

In Sweden, Riots Put an Identity in Question

Exclusion/Vulnerable
Areas in Sweden?



Segregation, tipping and the role of amenities, crime, and housing

Martin Korpi¹, Daniel Halvarsson², Özge Öner³, William A.V. Clark⁴, Oana Mihaescu⁵, John Östh⁶, Olof Bäckman⁷

Geo-coded full-population grid-level data for the three largest metropolitan areas in Sweden, 1993-2016
250 x 250 square meter grids and SAMS areas (roughly equivalent to US census tracts).

- i) **the level and pace of ethnic segregation,**
- ii) **possible tipping points,**
- iii) **the importance of several mitigating or exacerbating factors:** the mix of housing area, tenure type, natural and men-made amenities, and crime.

On average, we find that the process of ethnic segregation happens at a pace equivalent to **one native (individuals born in Sweden with at least one native-born parent) leave a residential area following a three person increase in migrants from developing countries.**


Crime levels exacerbate segregation and factors such as **housing area tenure-type mix and access to various amenities slows it down**, however, only marginally so.

Ethnic enclaves and self-employment among Middle Eastern immigrants in Sweden: ethnic capital or enclave size?

Martin Andersson , Johan P. Larsson  & Özge Öner  

Pages 590-604 | Received 30 Oct 2018, Published online: 02 Dec 2020

 Download citation

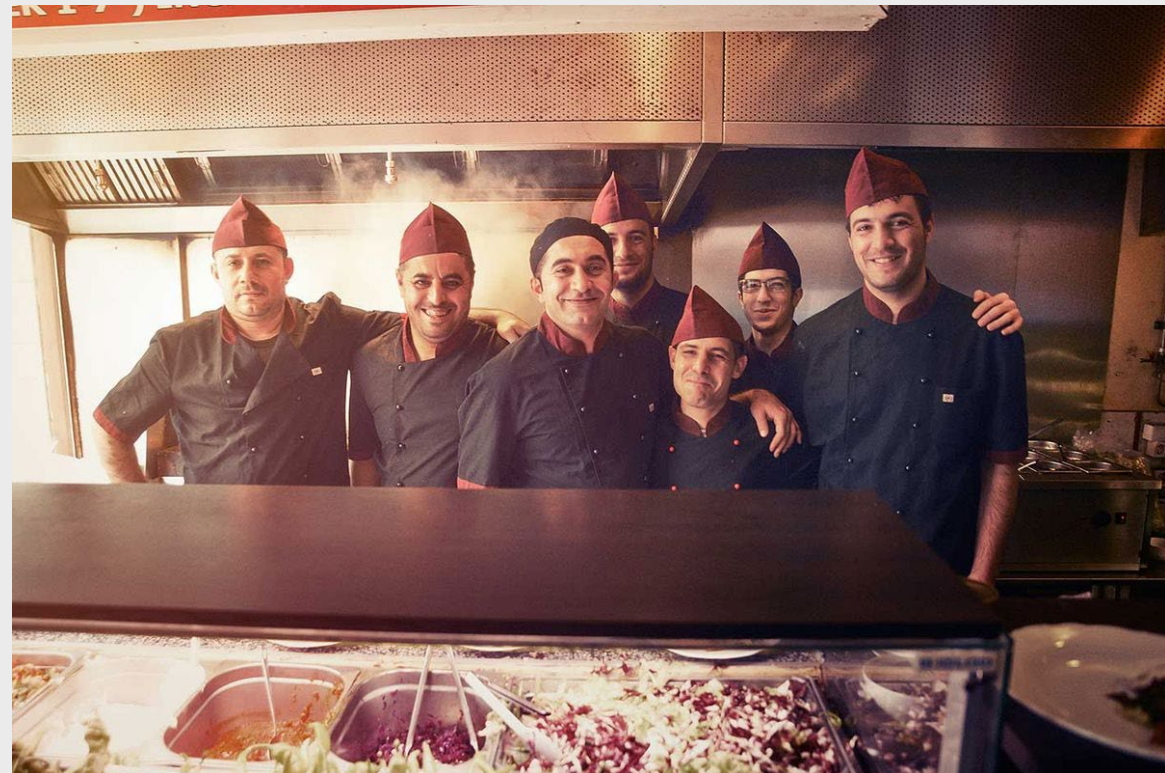
 <https://doi.org/10.1080/00343404.2020.1839638>

 Check for updates

Who becomes an ethnic entrepreneur?

How important is the residential location?

How important is it to be surrounded by co-ethnic peers that are already business owners?





We demonstrate a robust tendency for immigrants to leave non-employment for self-employment if many co-ethnic peers in the enclave are business owners,

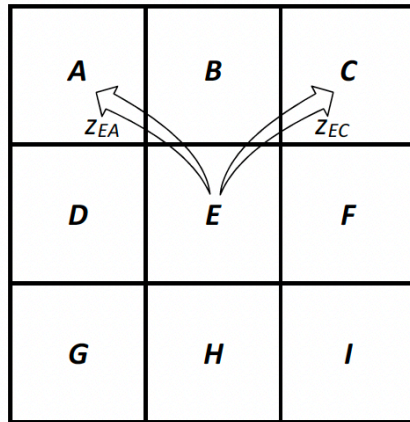
We observe weak effects emanating from business owners in other groups.

Net of these effects: overall enclave size has a negative influence on the propensity for a non-employed immigrant to become self-employed.

Dyads!

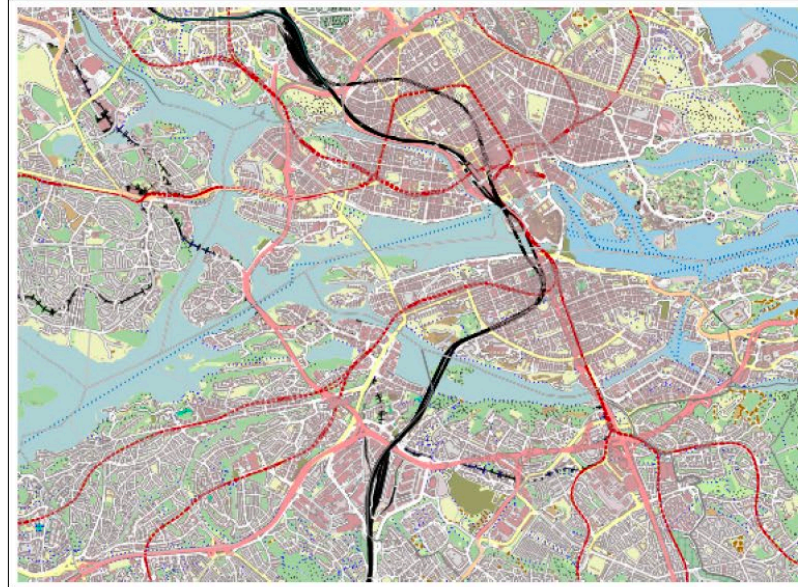
Where do immigrants find their first job?

Figure 2: Illustration of identification strategy

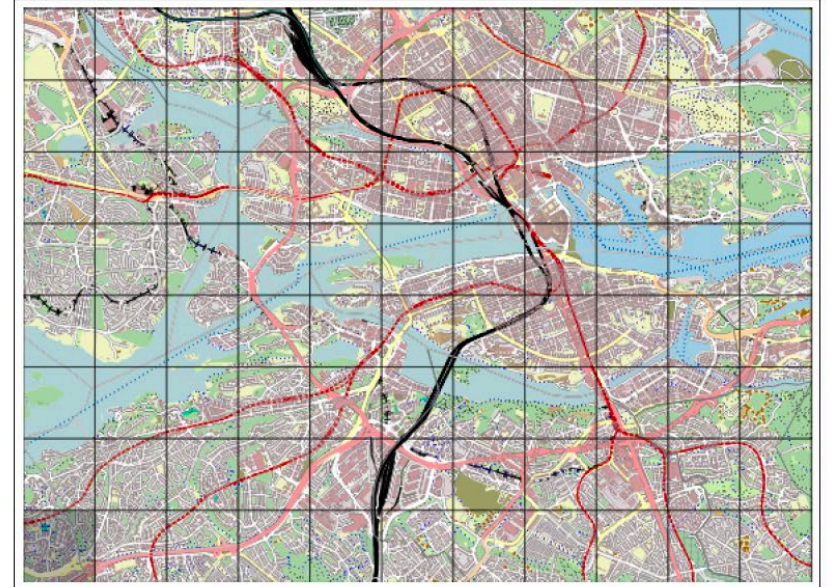


Notes: The grid cells illustrate neighborhoods. The term Z_{EA} (Z_{EC}) summarizes variables that depend on the neighborhood of residence E and the potential workplace location A (C), such as the distance or commuter flows between these neighborhoods.

(a) Map section of Stockholm



(b) Map section of Stockholm with grid cells



(c) Commuter flows of all residents

21	37	52	8	82	92	102	116	98	3	8
19	19	0	14	76	154	167	80	157	5	0
72	28	25	28	23	83	111	89	186	7	0
34	36	18	0	4	52	62	70	18	4	8
24	35	8	72	24	27	83	35	43	0	12
0	67	190	173	61	37	72	53	86	39	19
83	32	105	120	28	81	37	25	54	8	96
12035	197	83	167	43	73	56	83	73	27	42

(d) Commuter flows of ethnic peers

3	0	6	0	1	9	7	5	7	0	0
6	0	0	0	2	3	3	6	8	0	0
1	1	4	3	2	4	10	8	11	0	0
1	2	2	0	0	2	4	4	0	0	0
0	0	0	7	0	5	8	7	1	0	0
0	7	3	1	2	7	1	0	2	4	1
6	6	8	7	7	9	3	7	1	2	2
468	3	12	3	5	12	2	0	3	2	3

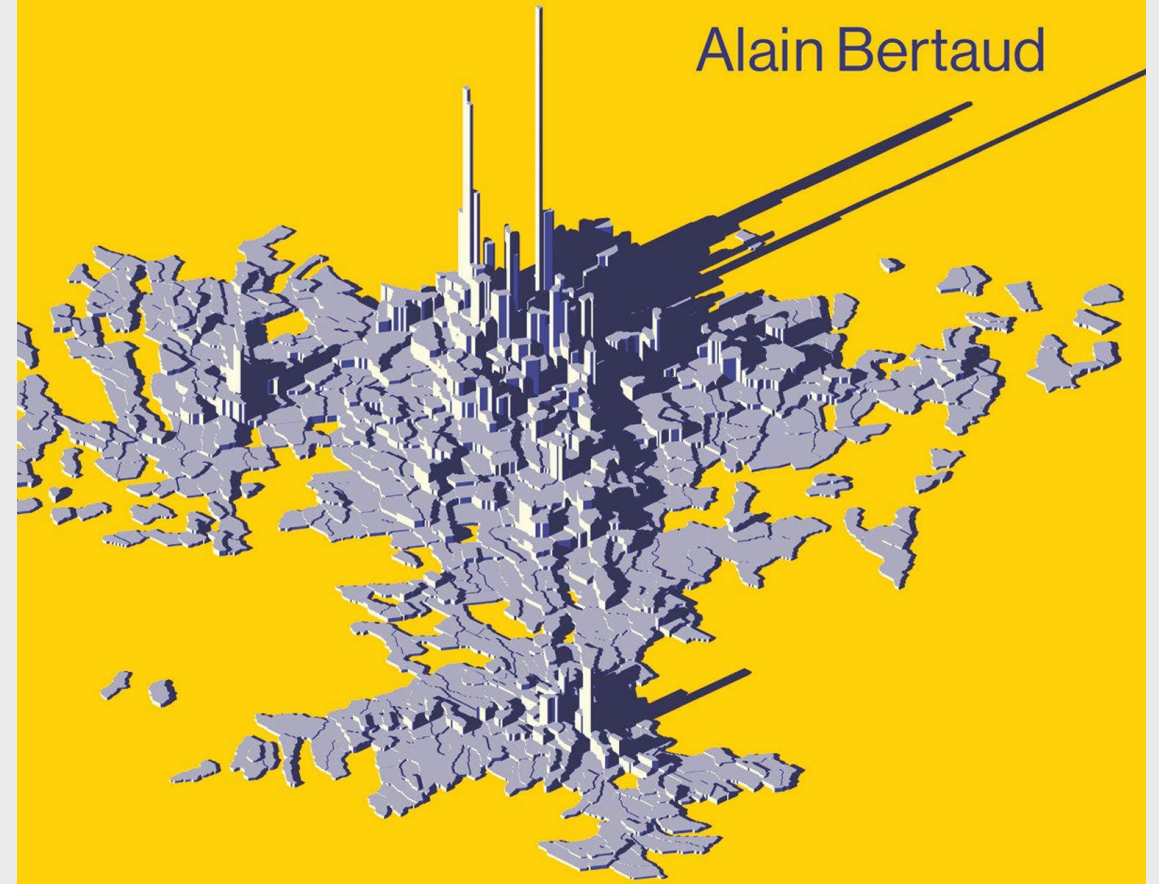
- Spatial scale matters!
- Segregation is (*quite often*) bad.
Whereas ethnic enclaves can be good.
- Quality of ethnic enclaves matters!
Size, not so much (except when it has negative effects)...
- Built environment dictates how entrepreneurial knowledge disseminates.
Urban form can reduce information frictions!
 - A quadratic relationship between density and information frictions?
- There is a mutual causality between built environment and identities (i.e. how identities are formed and performed).

“We are facing a strangely paradoxical situation in the way cities are managed: the professionals in charge of modifying market outcomes through regulations (planners) know very little about markets, and the professionals who understand markets (urban economists) are seldom involved in the design of regulations aimed at restraining these markets. It is not surprising that the lack of interaction between the two professions causes serious dysfunction in the development of cities. It is the story of the blind and the paralytic going their own ways: The planners are blind; they act without seeing. The economists are paralyzed; they see but do not act”

Order without Design

How Markets Shape Cities

Alain Bertaud





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