



## INTRODUCTION

# Modelling place attractiveness in the era of big and open data

John Östh<sup>1</sup> | Umut Türk<sup>2</sup> | Jie Huang<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden

<sup>2</sup>Abdullah Gül University, Kayseri, Turkey

<sup>3</sup>Key Laboratory of Regional Sustainable Development Modeling, Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), Beijing, China

### Correspondence

John Östh, Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden.

Email: [john.osth@kultgeog.uu.se](mailto:john.osth@kultgeog.uu.se)

In recent years, an increasing amount of spatio-temporal data have been made public and openly available for research, particularly in online map databases. These new data sources enable researchers to reformulate the way in which to measure amenities and design analytical models.

This Regional Science Policy & Practice issue section includes papers that problematize and develop methods and theories that can be used to better understand and define amenities in studies of housing markets or place attractiveness. Five papers were accepted:

The first paper, written by Konstantin Kholodilin, Irina Koroleva and Darya Kryutchenko, acknowledges the role of centrality for land value and tries to find 'Where is the consumer centre in St. Petersburg' using microdata to build indices of spatial density of urban amenities weighted and calibrated to generate a centrality index.

The second paper, authored by Liv Osland, John Östh and Viggo Nordvik, expands the hedonic price modelling toolbox with geocoded free data on environmental amenities. Results show that the new geographic information system (GIS)-related variables from open-source data are very useful in predicting housing prices controlling for many other variables.

The third paper of this section looks into commuting patterns of preschool children in Stockholm. Written by Andreas Alm Fjellborg and Håkan Forsberg, the article presents evidence that families with foreign backgrounds tend to integrate their children socially, whereas some native Swedish families are inclined to avoid preschools with high shares of foreign children.

Alessandra Michelangeli, John Östh and Umut Türk wrote the fourth essay, which looks at spatial features of intergenerational income mobility in Sweden. Results show that major urban centres have greater human capital, greater accessibility to jobs and higher social mobility; nevertheless, they also have more residential segregation and more local income inequality.

The final paper of this section, authored by Dario Musolino, Wim Meester and Piet Pellenburg, analyses the stated locational preferences of Italian entrepreneurs. Data collected reveal that the North is more attractive than the South but, when structured into principal components, the feature of the territory explains revealed choices.



The availability of spatio-temporal data challenges the creation of new methods and techniques whose application, beyond confirming or infirming former knowledge, are able to generate new thinking highlighted by the detailed analysis of accessible data.

**How to cite this article:** Östh, J., Türk, U., & Huang, J. (2022). Modelling place attractiveness in the era of big and open data. *Regional Science Policy & Practice*, 14(4), 914–915. <https://doi.org/10.1111/rsp3.12571>