Leaving Work, Leaving Home: Job Loss and Socio-geographic Mobility in Canada

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Motivation and Questions
- Job loss is a persistent feature of the Canadian labour market that is associated with earnings and income losses, and interruption in the educational attainment of one’s children.
- To date, very little research has examined how job loss relates to demographic processes, like internal migration.
- Moving is a costly and often stressful event that may bring about substantial changes in one’s surroundings. Studying mobility following job loss may provide insight into mechanisms that lead to deterioration in well-being associated with job loss.

(Q1) Is job loss associated with geographic mobility in Canada?
(Q2) Does job loss trigger entry into materially deprived neighbourhoods?

Background

Lifecycle Theory of Mobility
Moving is a response to changes in housing demand over the lifecycle, associated with changes in family composition, school completion and career mobility. Job loss so far has been a neglected event in the housing lifecycle.

Neighbourhood Attainment
Communities offer access to valued resources and may facilitate/constrain labor market integration through network connections or proximity to employers. In Canada, neighbourhoods are stratified by both income and employment status. How do life course transitions relate to transitions in neighbourhood attainment?

Methods
- Logistic regressions predict geographic mobility and entry/exit from high and low deprivation areas.
- Covariates: age, age squared, gender, household composition, marital status, home ownership, urban residence, province, and household income measured at time t-1.

Findings

Who moves?
...and where are they moving?

Data and Methods

Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics 1996-2010
(Major income earners aged 25-58)

INSPQ Neighbourhood Deprivation Index

Involuntary Job Loss
Main monthly job ended due to plant closure, plant relocation, or non-seasonal layoff

Geographic Mobility
Residential mobility: within a census subdivision
Long-distance migration: out of economic region or province

Neighbourhood Material Deprivation
Scores reflect proportion of the population with no high school degree, the employment/population ratio, and the average income in the dissemination area.

High Deprivation: Top quintile of deprivation
Low Deprivation: Bottom 2 quintiles of deprivation

*uses regional ranking of deprivation

Notes and references:

Odds ratios from separate logistic regressions predicting change in quintile of material deprivation associated with a short-distance move between t-1 and t for population at risk of transition.

Odds ratios from separate logistic regressions predicting change in quintile of material deprivation associated with a long-distance move between t-1 and t for population at risk of transition.

Is job loss associated with selective mobility?

...over short distances

...over long distances