The effects of migration and socio-spatial segregation in the modification of the space of the Metropolitan Area of Campinas, Brazil, in 2000s

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Extended abstract

The effects of socio-spatial segregation on the general living conditions of families and individuals in the general population have been extensively discussed in the Brazilian and international literature. According to Flores (2006), the mechanisms that operate to put this reality into effect are identified according to different approaches, each of them gives emphasis to different aspects, ranging from questions related to the existence of social capital to those that stress differences among the various places in terms of access to services and other opportunities that are available at the regional level.

Based on the premise that "space matters" (Flores, 2006; Torres; Ferreira; Gomes, 2005), a number of risks and behaviors can be investigated in an effort to evaluate the real effect that socio-spatial segregation – a concept that is understood here as the concentration in space of similar socio-economic strata – has on the ability of families and individuals to respond to such problems. In short, the intention is to assess its effects on social inclusion.

With this broad view in mind, this paper has 2 objectives. First, it describes the situation of a specific metropolitan area (Campinas) in Brazil, in terms of its demographic dynamics and the process of socio-spatial segregation in particular. In the context of decline of demographic growth, migration and the new forms of occupation of the space, as seen in the Brazilian big cities, this metropolitan area looks like to have modified its characteristics in this period of time. The municipalities with more growth in 2000s were those with better conditions. In this way, we propose not only to present these changes, but also analyze the role of migration and the characteristics of the people who redistribute themselves inside the metropolitan space. Secondly, we hope to determinate if the space, in terms of place of living, has a strong impact over the insertion of people in the labor market.

In order to do that, we will use mainly the Brazilian demographic census of 2010, comparing the results with the analysis of the census of 2000. In spite of advances in household surveys in Brazil, demographic censuses have been the richest source of information for studies of this type, especially because of their capacity for spatial
disaggregation. Besides offering the possibility of understanding the characteristics of the population on an intra-municipal scale ("census tracts" and "weighted areas"), such data will allow us to apply spatial techniques in order to construct indicators of segregation.

Some lines of investigation are geared to studying how socio-spatial segregation affects certain aspects of the lives of individuals and families. Among these lines, two could be especially highlighted: 1) that which generically could be said to show concern for grasping the so-called "neighborhood effect" (Jencks; Mayer, 1990) and 2) that which is based on the idea that there is a "geography of opportunities" (Galster; Killen, 1995).

In both cases, at least one question is considered important to explain specific "behaviors" according to the place of residence of the persons involved. In other words, they both give importance to the influence of the social networks in existence in neighborhoods or local communities.

We intend to analyze if the place of residence has a strong effect on the type of inclusion of individuals in the labor market. This hypothesis can or can’t be confirmed nowadays, since the labor market in Brazil is improving with time. This effect could decrease with time with the improvement of the market.

The concept of socio-spatial segregation employed in this paper is based on considerations made both by Massey and Denton (1988), Sabatini (2004) and by Sabatini, Cáceres and Cerda (2004) in regard to its multidimensional character. For our purposes, the measurement of segregation to be used must reflect not only the degree of separation of one social group from another, but also and, especially, the degree of grouping that these social strata present in the metropolitan space. We therefore will see measurements of segregation that would detect the degree of social homogeneity (or heterogeneity) in existence in the region. The starting point is the similarity or dissimilarity existing among neighboring spatial units.

Therefore, in order to analyze the dimension which Massey and Denton (1988) defined as "clustering," which, according to Sabatini (2004), is the true and only measurement of residential segregation, we decided to employ a methodology based on spatial auto-correlation (Local Moran’s I). The application of this procedure to areas smaller than entire municipalities will allow us to determine uniform sub-spaces, using the correlation existing between one spatial unit of analysis and its neighbors. Thus, for a given variable, which, in our case, was "socio-economic status" (SES), this technique makes it possible to identify areas with high concentrations of poorer persons (hot spots, which the model labels as "high-high") those that house populations with more comfortable living conditions (cold spots, or "low-low"), and even very heterogeneous zones (which the model labels as "not significant").
Concluding, this paper analysis will involve an analysis to evaluate the changes in socio-spatial segregation and the demographic dynamic of a metropolitan area in Brazil, the construction of “segregation zones” using Local Moran’s I, and the construction of a multivariate model in an effort to isolate the effect of segregation on participation in the labor market, after individual characteristics have been controlled.

Bibliography


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