

Where Economic Status Changes: An Application of Slope in the Urban Environment

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Abstract

This study develops a new concept of economic slope, based on the concept of slope in physical environment. Then the concept is applied to analyze the landscape dynamics in Los Angeles County. It proposes that areas with higher economic slope are more dynamic and less stable than others due to the pressure from the surrounding areas. The hypothesis is tested through detailed studies of Los Angeles County using the 2000 census data. Block groups with high economic slope do demonstrate higher population motility, less stable family and social structures, along with the coexistence of higher average income and poverty level. Further studies at different places and scales are needed to further test the hypotheses proposed in this study.

Key words

Economic Slope, Neighborhood Changes, Los Angeles, GIS
