

报告

Does being exposed to a richer community make you happier?

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讲者介绍 Biography

Dr Donggen Wang is currently Professor of the Department of Geography and Director of the Centre for China Urban and Regional Studies, Hong Kong Baptist University. His major research interests span activity-travel behavior, time geography, socio-spatial segregation and geography of wellbeing. He is co-Editor-in-Chief of *Travel Behavior and Society* (2013 -) and Editorial Board member of several international journals including *Annals of Association of American Geographers* (2014 -) and *Journal of Transport Geography* (2013 -). He currently holds three research grants from Hong Kong Research Grant Council (RGC) and the National Nature Science Foundation of China (NSFC). He is fellow and board member of Hong Kong Society for Transportation Studies and was the Chairman of Hong Kong Geographical Association (2009-2013). His recent publications include a co-edited volume 'Mobility, Sociability and Well-being of Urban Living' (2016, Springer) and a number of manuscripts published in *Transportation Research Part A; B; C; and D; Environment and Planning A; International Journal of Geographical Information Science*; etc. (2017).

报告摘要 Abstract

This study examines the possible connection between the characteristics of daily life geographical contexts and wellbeing. Acknowledging the social comparison interpretation of wellbeing, the study focuses on the impact of an individual's household income relative to that of the average neighbors and encounters in daily life on his/her emotional wellbeing and life satisfaction. Data are derived from an activity-travel diary survey conducted in 2010 in Hong Kong. We found that people living in a neighborhood with the median household income lower than their own have significantly higher life satisfaction, holding other personal and neighborhood variables constant. Further, being exposed to communities with a median income higher or lower than an individual's household income is also found to be a significant predictor of positive emotional wellbeing. The findings of this study improve our understanding about the wellbeing effects of place. They are also relevant for public policy targeted on encouraging social mixture and for individuals to choose where to live to maximize their happiness.