

## Assessing the Gap between Objective Class Position and Subjective Class Identification: Utilizing Neighborhoods Effects

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### 1. Aim

This paper seeks to analyze neighborhood effects in the gap between objective class positions and subjective class identification in Seoul, Korea. Whether neighborhood level variable have impact on the said gap or not will be examined in assessing possible contextual effect with spatial setting individuals are placed in. Researches on the gap between objective class position and subjective class identification along with neighborhood effects will be reviewed. Neighborhood effects on the gap between class position and identification is tested.

### 2. Data & Methods

This research utilize neighborhood deprivation index. This index was developed using Census blockgroup data in Statistical GIS service of Korea. Neighborhood deprivation index of all 'Gu's in Seoul is matched with Seoul Welfare Panel Data (SWPD) data collected by Seoul Welfare Foundation in 2010. The strength of the data used derives from its multi-level nature. Total of 2841 individuals from 25 Gus in Seoul consists the data set. Objective class position is measured via the level of education. The range is from 1 to 5, representing no education, elementary/middle school, high school/community colleges, four year university, and graduate school respectively. Subjective class identification is measured by the survey question asking "among all households in Seoul, where do you think you belong in terms of class?" in five point scale. Though Seoul Welfare Panel Data consists of 2887 households, excluding cases missing residential location information reduced sample size to 2841. As for neighborhood deprivation index, it consists of two separate variables. One measures average deprivation score within Gu. And the other is the coefficient of variation for neighborhood deprivation score. This allows us to differentiate the average deprivation level and homogeneity/heterogeneity within neighborhood in analysis. The distance between class position and identification is calculated via correspondence analysis. The correlation between neighborhood variable and calculated gap variable follow suit.

### 3. Results: Correspondence Analysis and Correlations of Relative Distances

First, relative distances between objective class position and subjective class identification are calculated. The distance between class position and identification is analyzed via correspondence analysis. Correspondence analysis calculates chi-square distance between variables and plot them in (x, y) fashion, explaining the relative distance between two variables. Through correspondence analysis, scores for dimensions of class position and identification are figured out. With dimensional scores, relative distance between class position and class identification can be calculated. Relative distance variable is created by subtracting dimensional score for subjective class identification from that of objective class position. 25 pairs of relative distance scores constitute the relative distance between class position and identification variable.

Correlation analysis between neighborhood variables and the relative distance between objective class position and subjective class identification is performed. Results indicate that average neighborhood deprivation is not correlated to relative distance between class position and identification. Though week, coefficient of variation (CV) in neighborhood deprivation showed significant correlation with relative distance between position and identification.

### 4. Conclusion

This utilizes the thesis of neighborhood effects on explaining the gap between objective class position and subjective class identification. As a preliminary attempt at assessing neighborhood effects on individual variance, correlation between neighborhood and individual level variation is performed. It was found that there exists correlation between neighborhood deprivation and the relative distance people perceive of in their class position and identification. Interestingly, only the coefficient of variation of neighborhood deprivation had significant correlation with relative distance. Increase in neighborhood deprivation CV correlates to the decrease in relative distance between objective class position and subjective class identification. This means that less discrepancy between class position and identification exists in a more socioeconomically heterogeneous environment. The main argument is that where people are in social strata and where they feel they are located in a spectrum are to be dealt with separately, and it all happens in a context. It is the gap or relative distance between the two capable of providing deeper insights into how class structure affects individuals. Also, people interact with their surroundings in assessing and perceiving their whereabouts. Socioeconomic status or various capital people have as resources does explain lots but connecting them straight to the individual tendency can seriously limit our understanding on the matter. It is social facts external to individuals yet formed by structural elements that we need to turn our attention to. In understanding the relationship between class position and identification, more contextualized approach is called for.