Different Ways to Get to the Same Workplace: How Does Workplace Location Relate to Commuting by Different Income Groups

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**Abstract**
This research examines whether commonly-observed differences in commute behavior among different income groups are associated with the location of their workplaces, which are often-neglected in research on commuting inequalities. Based on the 2008 Chicago Regional Household Travel Inventory data, we found that the unequal distribution of workers in different workplaces, combined with distinctive commuting patterns to certain workplaces, partly explains commonly-observed commute differences, such as shorter-distance commutes and more public transit use by lower-income workers. More importantly, the association between workplace and commute patterns is greater than the association between income and commutes. The results suggest considering workplace locations in empirical research on commuting inequalities and in decisions-making of transportation and housing policies.

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