Analyzing Spatial Patterns of Property Crimes and Neighborhood Characteristics in Changchun, China

Urban crime has increasingly become a major issue for Chinese cities. City planners, policymakers, and policing agencies all recognize the importance of better understanding the dynamics of urban crime. This research investigates property crimes (accounting for almost 75% of all crimes) in 2008 in Changchun, the capital city of Jilin Province in Northeast China with a population of 3 million. Using crime data collected at police precincts in 2008, the main aim of this research is to examine global and local patterns of property crimes in the city, and analyze the relationships between the spatial patterns of property crimes and neighborhood characteristics using regression modeling. Based on a theoretical framework and the available data from the 2008 Changchun Population and Housing Survey, I examined the contextual neighborhood characteristics, including education, employment, housing conditions, and residential stability. There has been a concern with the connection between rural migrants and urban crimes in China. In part to address this issue, the global and local relationships between the relative risk of property crime and the proportion of permanent urban (hukou) residents was explored in the regression modeling at the Jiedao or city-street level.