



Factors affecting the timing and magnitude of temporary moves in Australia: A Poisson Regression Analysis

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Spatial interaction models have been widely used in the analysis of permanent migration flows and in the quest to identify their determinants at the origin and destination. To date, however, there have been few attempts to apply these models to temporary population mobility - those moves which entail more than one night away from home without a change in usual residence. One factor confounding the application of spatial interaction models to temporary flows is their seasonal variability: if such flows are to be fully understood, the data need to be analysed for weekly or monthly intervals, rather than over annual or five yearly time scales. In this paper, data from the Australian National Visitor Survey, capturing aggregate weekly and monthly flows between 84 Australian Tourism Regions for the period 2001 to 2004, are analysed using Poisson Regression. Results reveal a number of climatic, institutional and region-specific attributes which influence both the direction and magnitude of temporary moves between Australian Tourism Regions. The paper concludes by discussing the application of this research to the estimation of small area temporary populations in Australia.