UC Irvine

UC Irvine Previously Published Works

Title

Recipes for neighborhood development: A machine learning approach toward understanding the impact of mixing in neighborhoods

Permalink

https://escholarship.org/uc/item/177829x3

Authors

Hipp, John R Kane, Kevin Kim, Jae Hong

Publication Date

2017-08-01

DOI

10.1016/j.landurbplan.2017.03.006

Peer reviewed

1Machine learning and household income appreciation 1
2
3
4 Recipes for neighborhood development: A machine learning approach toward
5 understanding the impact of mixing in neighborhoods
6
7
8 John R. Hipp*
9 Kevin Kane
10 Jae Hong Kim
11
12 March 16, 2017
13
Post-print. Published in Landscape and Urban Planning 164 (2017)
15 Word count: 7,993
Word count (including references): 9,132
Running Head: "Machine Learning and household income appreciation" 18
19
20* Department of Criminology, Law and Society and Department of Sociology, University of
21California, Irvine. Address correspondence to John R. Hipp, Department of Criminology, Law
22and Society, University of California, Irvine, 3311 Social Ecology II, Irvine, CA 92697; email:
23john.hipp@UCI.edu. This research is supported in part by the Metropolitan Futures Initiative

Recipes for neighborhood development: A machine learning approach toward

25 understanding the impact of mixing in neighborhoods

26 Abstract

27Scholars of New Urbanism have suggested that mixing along various dimensions in 28neighborhoods (e.g., income, race/ethnicity, land use) may have positive consequences for 29neighborhoods, particularly for economic dynamism. A challenge for empirically assessing this 30hypothesis is that the impact of mixing may depend on various socio-demographic characteristics 31of the neighborhood and take place in a complex fashion that cannot be appropriately handled by 32traditional statistical analytical approaches. We utilize a rarely used, innovative estimation 33technique—kernel regularized least squares—that allows for nonparametric estimation of the 34relationship between various neighborhood characteristics in 2000 and the change in average 35household income in the neighborhood from 2000 to 2010. The results demonstrate that the 36relationships between average income growth and both income mixing and racial/ethnic mixing 37are contingent upon several neighborhood socio-demographic "ingredients." Racial mixing, for 38example, is found to be positively associated with average income over time when it occurs in 39neighborhoods with a high percentage of Latinos or immigrants, high population density, or high 40housing age mixing. Income mixing is associated with worsening average household income in 41neighborhoods with more poverty, unemployment, immigrants or population density. It appears 42that considering the broader characteristics of the neighborhood are important for understanding 43economic dynamism.

44

24

45*Keywords*: neighborhoods, household incomes, data mining.

46

John R. Hipp is a Professor in the departments of Criminology, Law and Society, and Sociology, 49at the University of California Irvine. His research interests focus on how neighborhoods change 50over time, how that change both affects and is affected by neighborhood crime, and the role 51networks and institutions play in that change. He approaches these questions using quantitative 52methods as well as social network analysis. He has published substantive work in such journals 53as *American Sociological Review, Criminology, Social Forces, Social Problems, Mobilization,* 54*City & Community, Urban Studies* and *Journal of Urban Affairs*. He has published 55methodological work in such journals as *Sociological Methodology, Psychological Methods*, and 56*Structural Equation Modeling*.

Jae Hong Kim is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Planning, Policy and Design at the 59University of California, Irvine. His research focuses on urban land use change, economic 60development, and dynamic system modeling. He has published his work in *Journal of Planning* 61*Literature*, *Urban Studies*, and other planning-related journals.

Kevin Kane, Ph.D., is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Department of Planning, Policy 64and Design at the University of California, Irvine. He is an economic geographer interested in 65the quantitative spatial analysis of urban land-use change and urban development patterns, 66municipal governance, institutions, and economic development. His research uses land change 67as an outcome measure – in the form of changes to the built environment, shifting patterns of 68employment, or the socioeconomic composition of places – and links these to drivers of change 69including policy, structural economic shifts, or preferences for how we use and travel across 70urban space.

Recipes for neighborhood development: A machine learning approach toward

72 understanding the impact of mixing in neighborhoods

73

There is a long-standing interest in understanding the economic dynamism of 75neighborhoods (Galster, Hayes, and Johnson 2005; Temkin and Rohe 1996). Scholars have 76noted that although many neighborhoods maintain relative economic stability over time as 77measured by the average income of residents, smaller numbers of neighborhoods either 78experience economic declines over time or exceptional growth. Various theories have also been 79proposed to explain changes in neighborhoods, particularly as measured by the average level of 80income of residents. Among others, recently the New Urbanism perspective has emphasized the 81possible positive role of mixing along various dimensions for bringing about economic 82dynamism (Calthorpe 1993; Calthorpe and Fulton 2001). Specifically, it has been suggested that 83mixing based on land use or building age, or mixing based on such socio-demographic 84characteristics of residents as income or race/ethnicity, can have positive consequences for 85neighborhoods (Knaap 2005).

A significant challenge, both theoretically and empirically, for studies in the New 87Urbanism tradition is that mixing along various dimensions may not have uniform consequences 88for neighborhoods depending on the particular context. For example, it is unclear whether 89combining different types of mixing (such as land use mixing, income mixing, etc.) in the same 90neighborhood will have similar consequences as when just one of these dimensions of mixing is 91present. Some language in the New Urbanism literature implies that there may be synergistic 92qualities from combining different types of mixing (Knaap 2005; Roberts 2007), however, some 93studies have found cautionary evidence calling this into question (Chapple and Jacobus 2009).

9Machine learning and household income appreciation 94Furthermore, mixing based on various dimensions may have different consequences for the 95neighborhood depending on the socio-economic context, or the socio-demographic context. 96Certain dimensions of mixing may negatively impact economic dynamism when they occur in 97economically challenged neighborhoods.

The possibility that the impact of mixing on economic dynamism in a neighborhood can 99be moderated (or amplified) by various contextual factors or other dimensions of mixing has 100received limited empirical assessment in the literature, arguably because of the methodological 101difficulty of addressing such a question. These possible moderating effects of the context for 102mixing imply the need for an analysis that includes a large number of multiplicative interactions 103when adopting the traditional modeling strategy. We instead address these questions with an 104existing machine learning technique that we argue is perfectly suited to these research questions. 105The Kernel Regularized Least Squares (KRLS) estimation approach, described in more detail 106below, allows us to flexibly assess nonlinear moderating effects among our variables of interest. 107We can assess whether the relationship between four dimensions of mixing – income, racial, 108housing age, and land use mix – and average income appreciation in neighborhoods exhibit 109nonlinear interaction patterns. We next describe theories of neighborhood change, particularly 110focusing on the importance of mixing along various dimensions for economic dynamism.

111

112Literature Review

113Theories explaining neighborhood change

A body of literature has explored how neighborhoods change over time, specifically how 115they change regarding their socio-economic resources. Whereas early research focused on 116human ecology theory in which neighborhoods operate in a larger system (Park, Burgess, and

- 11Machine learning and household income appreciation
- 117McKenzie 1925), later research turned to subcultural theory which argued for important non-
- 118economic factors in neighborhoods. (Pitken 2001). In the 1970s the political economy approach
- 119gained in prominence and focused directly on the social relations of production and
- 120accumulation in which elites drove the economic processes (Molotch 1976). Studies have
- 121empirically explored the relationship between various neighborhood characteristics and change
- 122in neighborhood income (Ellen and O'Regan 2008; Jun 2016; Rosenthal 2008).
- More recently, there has been a rise in a perspective broadly characterized as New
- 124Urbanism. The New Urbanism perspective can be traced to the founding of the Congress for the
- 125New Urbanism in 1993 by a group of architects and planners (Leccese and McCormick 1999).
- 126New Urbanist design theory focuses on creating neighborhoods and cities that foster a "sense of
- 127community" by organizing neighborhoods with diversity in use and population (Talen 1999;
- 128Talen 2013). A primary design element of New Urbanism is high density, mixed use
- 129development to create vibrant public spaces (Calthorpe 1993; Calthorpe and Fulton 2001). A
- 130challenge is that density can come in different forms (Campoli 2012; Campoli and MacLean
- 1312007). In particular, mixing land uses, such as "jobs, housing, and food outlets, cross walks, bike
- 132racks" (Campoli 2012) has been advocated as an effective means to promote social interaction,
- 133neighborhood vibrancy, and thus scholars have concluded that communities with a high density
- 134of population *and* a mix of several land uses can help bring about this vibrancy. This implies
- 135considering the simultaneous impact of different types of mixing, an issue to which we turn next.
- 136How mixing can help neighborhood dynamism
- The desire for and emphasis on mixed neighborhoods, arguably, was born from the
- 138failure of public housing projects and the thinking that mixing might help the recipients of public
- 139housing (overwhelmingly low-income, poorly-educated urban minorities) to avoid the pitfalls of

13Machine learning and household income appreciation 140concentrated poverty and socioeconomic disadvantage. Socioeconomic mixing – particularly 141along income lines – is thought to promote social and economic integration as well as increased 142opportunities for low-income residents (Wilson 1987). The positive idea of mixing is also linked 143to the more recent demographic trend of urban inversion and downtown renewal, whereby larger 144populations (most notably young adults or retirees) are moving "back" to central city 145neighborhoods (Ehrenhalt 2012).

There is evidence that mixing income of residents may have positive consequences for 147neighborhoods. A body of research has focused on how mixed income areas can have various 148positive consequences for the lower income households living in such neighborhoods, including 149possible improved social networks for job contacts leading to better employment outcomes, 150mental health benefits, increased self-esteem, and behavioral and health improvements for 151children (for a review of this literature see Levy, McDade, and Dumlao 2010). There are also 152proposed advantages for the neighborhood as a whole, including improved social control to 153address safety issues given that higher income residents might provide particular norms to 154increase safety (Fraser and Nelson 2008) or economic advantages by increasing market demand 155for higher-quality goods and services that can then be enjoyed by all residents (Levy, McDade, 156and Dumlao 2010). Nonetheless, there is also a possible long-term side effect in which income 157mixing brings about gentrification, which then can lead to increased income segregation over 158time, as was found in a study of rural settings (Golding 2015).

The mixing of land uses, namely the accessibility of workplaces, schools, retail, and other 160services to residential areas follows a similarly-renewed emphasis on walkability. Much of this 161comes from the New Urbanist and Smart Growth movements that began in earnest during the 1621990s (Knaap 2005). A mixing of land uses can increase social interaction and decrease the need

15Machine learning and household income appreciation 163for long-distance transportation and thus cut carbon emissions. By putting jobs and housing 164close to each other, mixing land uses can also lead to better job outcomes, and hence economic 165dynamism; indeed, a study of Chicago found that a greater number of jobs within two miles of 166neighborhoods led to higher employment and lower unemployment rates for residents 167(Immergluck 1998).

168 Mixing is also related to gentrification, or the inflow of capital into a neighborhood. 169While increasing property values and vibrant communities are generally seen as positive 170outcomes, gentrification can also displace an area's original resident – and business – 171 populations, raising the question of who is the recipient of neighborhood improvements 172(Newman and Wyly 2006). Some believe social mixing policies to be veiled attempts at 173gentrification with minimal impact on upward mobility of struggling communities (Bridge, 174Butler, and Lees 2012). Thus, although we will focus on average income appreciation in 175neighborhoods in this study, a caution to be heeded in all such studies is that it sidesteps the 176question of residential displacement. Similar to land-use mixing, urbanist Jane Jacobs (1961) 177was a strong advocate for a mixing of ages of buildings in a neighborhood. She argued that older 178buildings, being less expensive to rent, present a point of entry into a community for residents or 179businesses and allow for them to co-exist with the tenants and owners of newer, expensive 180buildings. A number of cities who are keen to promote downtown renewal (Charlotte, NC being 181one example – see Ehrenhalt (2012)) have found their lack of a historic building stock 182challenging since newer space is more expensive, and less flexible in terms of use, leasing, and 183ownership. Although there is some evidence that older housing has a discount rate, perhaps due 184to being a proxy for the quality of housing (Rubin 1993), the mix of housing age may allow for 185income mixing and the proposed positive consequences.

Recent scholarship has posited that racial/ethnic mixing in neighborhoods might signal a 186 187multi-cultural environment that is desirable to certain segments of the population. Florida (2002) 188in particular emphasizes longer-term benefits of such openness, arguing that creative places 189"were open, diverse, and culturally creative first. Then they *became* technologically creative and 190subsequently gave rise to new high-tech firms and industries" (p. 207). Cultural amenities, a 191vibe, and a buzz, in his view, often flow from an area's original openness to diversity, mixing, 192and ultimately new ideas, whether at the metropolitan or neighborhood level. For example, the 193 presence of a multi-cultural population, along with an accompanying wide variety of ethnic 194restaurants may be highly desirable for certain demographic groups. Such areas may also foster 195a vibrant music or arts scene, as well as multicultural festivals and events that appeal to 196"hipsters" and lead to more economic dynamism in such neighborhoods. As evidence of the 197economic stagnation of neighborhoods without such characteristics, a study of Baltimore inner-198ring suburbs pointed to racial segregation, as well as labor market restructuring and income 199segregation, as important drivers of neighborhood decline (Hanlon and Vicino 2007). 200How mixing might hinder neighborhood dynamism

Although advocacy for mixing is largely a reaction to the perceived negative outcomes of 202homogeneity or segregation, there can be benefits to certain types of segregation in cities. 203Zoning codes largely exist to guard homes against the noxious fumes of industry or late-night 204noise of restaurants and bars, for example. The 1916 U.S. Supreme Court case which is credited 205with legalizing municipal police power (*Euclid v. Ambler*) makes explicit that land uses in 206conflict can be separated through zoning to avoid possible negative externalities and decreased 207property values of individual homeowners (Hall 2007).

Furthermore, there are reasons that neighborhoods may not necessarily thrive 209economically due to a mix of residential and business land uses. Retail businesses – especially 210national chains with well-developed and clearly defined product types and target markets – may 211have difficulty thriving in mixed areas. The local customer base is too varied, while customers 212are generally drawn to well-known areas which offer scale economies and a variety of retail 213options (Chapple and Jacobus 2009). Property crime rates may even be higher in mixed areas 214(Hipp 2007), and this crime, or the perception of it, can be a deterrent for both retailers and their 215potential customers (Hipp 2010a).

Whereas a growing number of studies in the literature presume that racial/ethnic mixing 217will be desirable for reasons already discussed, there are countervailing reasons why that may 218not be the case. For example, the presumption that there will be social ties spanning racial/ethnic 219groups is questionable, as studies have found that there are fewer social ties in general in such 220neighborhoods (Lowenkamp, Cullen, and Pratt 2003; Warner and Rountree 1997), less 221neighborhood attachment (Sampson 1991), and less neighborhood satisfaction (Hipp 2009; 222Sampson 1991). Given the consistent evidence that neighborhoods with higher levels of 223racial/ethnic heterogeneity have higher levels of crime (Hipp 2007; Roncek and Maier 1991; 224Rountree and Warner 1999; Sampson and Groves 1989), this provides additional evidence that 225such neighborhoods may not always exhibit economic vibrancy as expected. Indeed, studies 226have found that racial change is related to decreasing household income (Baxter and Lauria 2272000). A recent investigation of the 100 largest US metropolitan areas by Jun (2016) also 228reported a strong negative association between the share of non-White population and the change 229in neighborhood per capita income.

There are also reasons to suspect that income mixing will not necessarily lead to positive 230 231neighborhood outcomes. For example, there is evidence that social ties do not necessarily cross 232income levels in mixed income neighborhoods. A study of a Hope VI site in Seattle found that 233social ties tended to not cross income differences, even in an award-winning mixed income 234development (Kleit 2005). A study of a New Urbanist mixed income community in North 235Carolina also found that income differences reduced the probability of forming a social tie, even 236controlling for the spatial distance between housing units (Hipp and Perrin 2009). And the 237evidence that mixed income neighborhoods tend to have higher levels of crime also calls into 238question the presumption that they will have long-term beneficial consequences (Hipp 2007; 239Hipp and Boessen 2013; Messner and Tardiff 1986). One review of existing mixed-income 240developments concluded that there is a need for a land use design that encourages the actual 241social mixing of residents of different income levels, implying that it is a *combination* of income 242mixing along with land use mixing that may be important for neighborhood outcomes (Roberts 2432007). We therefore next turn to a discussion of the need to consider some of these measures of 244mixing in combination, rather than as distinct measures.

245Considering the interdependence of mixing dimensions

The challenges for studies of neighborhood change are twofold. First, whereas theories 247posit that certain structural characteristics will have either positive or negative impacts on the 248socio-economic change in a neighborhood over time, they rarely specify the functional form of 249the true relationship that should be expected. As a consequence, studies typically only test for 250possible linear (or linearized) relationships between posited important structural characteristics 251and the socio-economic dynamics of the neighborhood. There are theoretical reasons to posit 252that some of these processes may not play out in a linear fashion, but rather exhibit threshold

23Machine learning and household income appreciation
253effects (Schelling 1971). There is also evidence that neighborhoods do not simply respond to
254exogenous shocks in a consistent, linear fashion (Galster, Cutsinger, and Lim 2007). For these
255reasons, there is a need to assess possible nonlinear or threshold functions that might characterize
256the relationship between these measures and neighborhood economic dynamism.

Second, a challenge is that the structural characteristics of neighborhoods are likely not 258 independent of one another, but rather highly interdependent. Thus, the typical assumption of 259 linear statistical modeling that we can "hold constant" one measure while manipulating another 260 is fine in principle, but it is likely not reasonable in practice when studying neighborhood 261 dynamism. To understand how neighborhoods can change over time, it is likely that we need to 262 understand how various structural characteristics of neighborhoods might operate in tandem to 263 impact neighborhood change trajectories. For example, a study of neighborhoods in Canada 264 concluded that a number of factors were important for explaining neighborhood economic 265 dynamics, ranging from local conditions to wider economic and policy shifts (Kitchen and 266 Williams 2009).

The machine learning technique that this paper adopts, Kernel Regularized Least Squares 268(KRLS), directly addresses these two challenges. KRLS' nonparametric estimation of covariate 269effects helps isolate the structural measures impacting neighborhood change, while providing the 270marginal effects of each independent variable across the covariate space allows for a better 271identification of threshold effects than a pointwise, linear estimate. Most importantly, the 272marginal effects can be regressed upon the other variables in the model, allowing for us to 273determine which "ingredients" of mixing result in greater economic dynamism in neighborhoods.

We focus on several factors that may moderate the relationship between mixing and 275average income growth (the measure of neighborhood economic dynamism used in this study).

25Machine learning and household income appreciation 276First, mixing may have differential consequences depending on the socio-economic status (SES) 277of the neighborhood at the beginning of the decade. Mixing that occurs in the context of more 278economically disadvantaged neighborhoods may be less likely to have the anticipated positive 279consequences for income growth. Second, high population density locations are more in the 280spirit of New Urbanist principles, and therefore mixing that occurs in these contexts may be 281more beneficial for income growth. Third, given that residential instability may be a sign of a 282neighborhood in flux, mixing in such contexts may have negative consequences. Fourth, if the 283presence of more racial minorities or immigrants brings more potential vitality to a 284neighborhood, the presence of more mixing in such contexts may have stronger positive 285consequences on income growth. Finally, mixing may be most beneficial for the dynamism of 286New Urbanist neighborhoods when it occurs in a context in which the age structure contains a 287relatively smaller number of households with children. We describe our statistical approach 288next.

289Data and methods

290Data

The study area is the 5-county area comprising Southern California, a large region with a 292population of about 17 million. The Southern California region is an ideal setting for this study 293because: a) it is the prototypical example of a booming Sunbelt area that is characterized by rapid 294population growth and a sprawled pattern of urban development; b) it nonetheless contains 295numerous highly concentrated, historically-embedded neighborhoods where compact growth is 296increasingly popular; and c) it is a racially and ethnically heterogeneous area with considerable 297racial/ethnic mixing.

The socio-demographic data come from the 2000 U.S. Census and the American 299Community Survey (2010-2014 5-year estimates). Land use data come from the Southern 300California Association of Governments, a regional planning authority. We used census tracts to 301represent neighborhoods. Our outcome variable captures the change in average household 302incomes from 2000 to 2012, and our independent variables are all measured in 2000 (land use 303data is measured in 2001). Thus, we are asking what neighborhood measures in 2000 explain 304greater increases in reported household incomes over the subsequent 12 years. In this study we 305focus on this relatively shorter period of neighborhood change over a single decade; a longer 306period is outside the scope of the present study and will instead be the focus of our future work. 307Dependent variable

The outcome variable is the change in the reported household incomes (logged) between 3092000 and 2012 (based on the 2010-14 ACS 5-year estimates). We harmonized the data to 2010 310tract boundaries (apportioning the 2000 data based on the population-weighted overlap with 3112010 boundaries), log transformed the average household incomes at each time point, and then 312computed the difference over the decade. We use average income rather than median income 313since the need to harmonize aggregated data to 2010 tract boundaries makes it impossible to 314calculate the median income in 2000. Thus, we are capturing the percentage change in average 315household incomes over the decade for each tract.

316Independent variables

Our key measures of interest capture different types of mixing. We used the entropy 318 index to measure the relative level of mixing for most of our dimensions of mixing; this captures 319 the relative proportion of each category (Massey and Denton 1988). Entropy has been widely 320 adopted as a mixing measure—for example, using it to assess the relationship between land use

29Machine learning and household income appreciation 321mixing and housing values (Song and Knaap 2004). Values range from 0 to 1, and a higher value 322indicates higher mixing.

We constructed measures of *race entropy*, *housing age entropy*, *land use entropy*, and 324*household income inequality*. Table 1 describes the categories used in the three entropy 325measures. Given that income inequality is a continuous measure we constructed it as a Gini 326coefficient based on the household income category bins reported to the U.S. Census. The Gini 327coefficient is a common measure of income inequality (i.e., a proxy of income mixing within a 328geographic area) that uses cumulative earnings at each percentile of the income distribution to 329develop a continuous measure of income inequality by area. This was computed with the 330prln.exe software program developed by Francois Nielsen (available at 331http://www.unc.edu/~nielsen/data/data.htm). We refer to these measures as "mixing" throughout 332the results section.

333 <=<<Table 1 about here>>>

We also included several socio-demographic variables that likely impact the change in 335household incomes in a neighborhood over the subsequent decade. We account for the *average* 336household incomes at the beginning of the decade, log transformed. Given that a higher 337concentration of owner-occupied units may increase household incomes in a neighborhood, we 338included a measure of the *percent homeowners*. We account for the racial/ethnic composition of 339the neighborhood with measures of *percent black* and *percent Latino*. We included a measure of 340*percent immigrants* to account for the possibility that this group may have a negative or positive 341impact on household income appreciation. The presence of more residential stability in a 342neighborhood might reflect greater satisfaction and cohesion, and we therefore included a 343measure of the *average length of residence*. The economic vibrancy of an area can impact the

31Machine learning and household income appreciation 344trajectory of household incomes, and we capture this with a measure of the *unemployment rate*. 345Likewise, neighborhoods with higher vacancy rates will likely depress household incomes, and 346we therefore included a measure of the *percent occupied units*. We account for the age 347composition of the neighborhood with two measures of retirees and children: *percent aged 65* 348*and above*, and *percent less than 20 years of age*. We included a measure of *population density* 349to account for the competing views of whether this measure has a positive or negative impact on 350household income growth. We also control for the *percent residential land*. Residential land 351includes single-family and multi-family housing as a proportion of all urbanized land. Finally, 352we accounted for the *percent open land*. Open land includes the share of land area that is in 353urban recreational use such as parks and golf courses as well as non-urbanized uses such as

We also account for possible effects from nearby neighborhoods. For each census tract, 356we used a GIS to identify all other tracts whose centroids lie within five miles. Characteristics of 357each tract's surrounding neighborhood were calculated using an inverse distance decay function 358that weights nearby tracts heavily, while those further away (up to five miles) were weighted 359less. The summary statistics for the variables used in the analyses are shown in Table 2.

354natural areas and vacant space which indicate the share of unbuilt area in a tract.

360 <<<Table 2 about here>>>

361Methods

To capture possible nonlinearities and nonlinear interactions among the covariates 363explaining the change in household incomes over the subsequent decade, we used a relatively 364new analytic technique: Kernel-based regularized least squares (KRLS) described in 365(Hainmueller and Hazlett 2014) and implemented for Stata in (Ferwerda, Hainmueller, and 366Hazlett 2013). KRLS comes out of the machine learning literature, and builds on techniques

33Machine learning and household income appreciation 367developed in the 1990s. The KRLS approach provides estimates of the marginal effects of each 368independent variable at each data point in the covariate space and provides closed-form estimates 369of the pointwise partial derivatives. To avoid over-fitting, the function minimizes squared loss, 370and prefers smoother functions (by reducing complexity in the optimal solution). KRLS enables 371us to nonparametrically estimate the relationship between all of our covariates and the outcome 372variable, and considers their (nonparametric) interactions in the analysis.

373 KRLS analyses provide estimates of the marginal coefficient for each case in the sample 374(that is, the derivatives of this relationship). We can then assess whether these derivative 375estimates are systematically related to other variables in the model. We accomplished this by 376regressing these derivative estimates for each variable on each other variable in the model (the 377original variable, a squared version, and a cubic version to capture nonlinearities) one at a time 378and assessed the amount of variance explained. The R-square of these regressions captures the 379degree to which the effect of a measure on the outcome differs based on values of the 380explanatory variable (i.e., interaction effects), and we found that R-squared values of at least .10 381typically captured relationships of substantive interest, and we explore these in the results 382section. Note that when these derivatives are strongly related to other variables in the model (as 383captured by a high R-square), these are implied interaction effects. Most relationships were 384suitably captured by a quadratic specification, although a few were substantially improved by the 385cubic specification; Table A1 in the Appendix displays the R-square values for all interactions. 386We then plotted these interactions between the derivatives and a variable that exhibited a 387substantial relationship using Lowess regression to capture any and all nonlinearities—which 388groups observations with similar covariate values (Cleveland 1979)—and we plot the predicted 389 values from these in the figures. As can be seen in these figures, another advantage of KRLS

35Machine learning and household income appreciation 390over OLS is that it is not constrained to linear or linearized interactions, but rather can capture 391nonlinear interactions that need not have a parametric form. Nonetheless, we also estimated an 392OLS model using Stata 13.1 as a comparison to the KRLS estimates. Finally, there is little 393evidence of spatial correlation in our residuals: whereas the Moran's I for the outcome variable is 394.09, the value for the residuals is just .03, implying that our model explains nearly all of the 395spatial patterning.

396Results

Table 3 presents the results from the KRLS analyses and the OLS analyses (for 398comparison) for the relationship between the neighborhood characteristics in 2000 and the 399change in logged household incomes from 2000 to 2012. Note that the first column shows the 400averages of the pointwise derivatives of a variable on the change in household incomes over the 401decade for the KRLS results. However, this effect can vary over each observation, and this is 402shown in three subsequent columns of the KRLS results that list the 25th, 50th, and 75th percentile 403values for this marginal effect. For example, we see that whereas racial mixing has an average 404positive coefficient of .022, there is much variability in this coefficient ranging from negative 405(-.018) at the 25th percentile of the coefficient to positive (.062) at the 75th percentile.

406 <=<Table 3 about here>>>

To get a sense of the magnitude of these effects, the "std" column shows the change in 408average income over the subsequent decade for a one standard deviation change in the covariate 409of interest. Given that the outcome is the change in logged income, these coefficients can be 410interpreted as percentage change in income. Thus, a neighborhood with one standard deviation 411higher income mixing is expected to have 2.7% lower average income appreciation over the 412subsequent decade than an otherwise similar neighborhood (-.027). And we see that whereas a

413neighborhood with one standard deviation higher land use entropy experiences 1.6% lower 414average income appreciation over the subsequent decade, one with high housing age entropy 415experiences 0.8% higher average income appreciation.

416 In this same table we present the results for the more conventional OLS analysis for 417comparison purposes. One thing to note is that whereas the OLS model explains 23% of the 418 variance, the KRLS model explains 37% of the variance. Nonetheless, it is worth 419acknowledging that there is additional variance to explain even in the KRLS model, as 63% of 420the variance remains unexplained. This improvement highlights the advantage of this alternative 421approach, which captures a larger extent of variation by considering nonlinearities and 422interaction effects that are not apparent in the traditional OLS approach. There are some 423differences in parameter estimates across the OLS and KRLS models. For example, in the OLS 424model it appears that higher percent black residents at the beginning of the decade are negatively 425associated with the change in average household income over the subsequent decade, but the 426parameter is close to zero in the KRLS model. And whereas the percent black in the surrounding 427 area is not related to income change in the OLS model, it shows an average positive relationship 428in the KRLS model. Given these differences, it is useful to explore whether these coefficient 429estimates systematically vary based on values of other variables in the model, and we do this 430next. While it is possible to examine nonlinearities by parameterizing an OLS model using 431interaction terms (e.g. the joint effect of racial mixing and household vacancy on income 432growth), this would require dozens of additional covariates whose joint effects must be 433 individually interpreted relative to their marginal effects. This is a cumbersome process and it is 434often challenging to isolate key interactions; furthermore it would only approximate the more 435flexible and nonparametric KRLS results (Hainmueller and Hazlett 2014).

39Machine learning and household income appreciation 436How mixing is moderated by other types of mixing

To assess whether these coefficient effects depend on other variables in the model, we 438next plot the predicted values from Lowess regressions of the derivatives on a specific covariate 439(and its quadratic term) that showed R-squares of at least .10 (all of these relationships were also 440statistically significant). Each instance with such a notable moderating effect is summarized in 441Table 4 for each of our mixing measures. In this table, "high" refers to the upper part of the 442distribution of a variable; "moderate" refers to the middle range (typically the 40th to 60th 443percentile), and "low" refers to the bottom part of the range of a variable.

444 We find that income mixing has a stronger positive relationship with the change in 445household incomes when there are low levels of racial and housing age mixing. Figure 1a shows 446how income mixing is conditioned by the level of racial mixing in the neighborhood. In Figure 4471a, the x-axis represents various values of the moderating variable (in this case, racial mixing) 448whereas the y-axis is the estimated derivative for the moderated variable (in this case, income 449mixing) on the outcome variable of change in logged income (this can be thought of as the 450coefficient value at a particular value of the x-axis variable). For example, an increase in income 451mixing in neighborhoods with high racial mixing (the right side of the graph) is expected to 452result in a decrease in average income in the subsequent decade (given that the y-axis values are 453below zero). If, instead, the relationship between income mixing and the change in average 454income did not differ based on the racial mixing of the neighborhood, this plot would be 455approximately the flat dotted line depicting the median marginal effect. Instead, increasing 456income mixing one standard deviation results in about 5% *lower* average income appreciation in 457neighborhoods with very high levels of racial mixing, but increasing income mixing is associated 458with about 1% *greater* average income appreciation in neighborhoods with very low racial

41Machine learning and household income appreciation 459mixing—seen in the positive y-axis values on the left side of the graph (all interpretations are

460based on a one standard deviation change). Given that the average effect of a one standard 461deviation increase in income mixing in this model was a 2.8% decrease in average income 462appreciation, we can see that a substantial amount of this effect is determined by the level of 463racial mixing. In other words, while in general mixed income areas show lower levels of 464household income growth, income mixing does *not* have a detrimental impact on household 465income growth in racially homogenous neighborhoods. Likewise, the negative relationship 466between income mixing and average income appreciation is weaker in neighborhoods with low 467housing age mixing, as seen in Figure 1b. A one standard deviation increase in income mixing 468reduces average income appreciation about 4% in neighborhoods with very high housing age 469mixing, whereas the negative impact is about 2% in neighborhoods with low housing age 470mixing.

471 <=<<Table 4 about here>>>

472 <<<Figure 1 about here>>>

We find that racial mixing has a stronger positive relationship with household income 474appreciation in neighborhoods with high levels of housing age mixing. Racial mixing has a 475positive relationship with average income appreciation in neighborhoods with very high levels of 476housing age mixing, but effectively no relationship in neighborhoods at or below the mean in 477housing age mixing in a pattern somewhat similar to Figure 1c. Racial mixing also exhibits a 478nonlinear relationship itself, in that changes in racial mixing have a negative effect at low values 479of racial mixing, but changes have a positive effect at high values of racial mixing, also similar to 480Figure 1c.

481How income mixing is moderated by neighborhood conditions

We find that income mixing has a stronger positive relationship with average income 483appreciation in high socio-economic status neighborhoods. As seen in Figure 1c, whereas 484income mixing has a strong negative effect on average income appreciation in relatively poor 485neighborhoods—income mixing reduces average income appreciation about 5% in 486neighborhoods with low average income—income mixing actually is associated with increasing 487average income in more advantaged neighborhoods—higher income mixing results in about 1% 488greater average income gains in very high income neighborhoods. The same pattern was found 489based on the average income in the surrounding area, as well as the unemployment rate of the 490neighborhood or surrounding area. In other words, income mixing is not detrimental to income 491growth rates so long as the area is fairly wealthy on average.

Income mixing is associated with lower average income appreciation neighborhoods with 493high population density or residential instability. Thus, income mixing has its strongest negative 494effect on average income appreciation in neighborhoods with relatively high population density, 495surrounded by high density, or in which the vacancy rate is decreasing (implying higher density). 496The result is similar in neighborhoods with high residential instability or surrounded by high 497instability (measured as low average length of residence or a high proportion of renters), but 498shows a modest positive effect in very low population density neighborhoods. For the vacancy 499rate, it is only at the highest levels (which typically are a sign of dysfunction in a neighborhood) 500that this effect reverses.

Income mixing also has a stronger negative relationship with average income 502appreciation in neighborhoods with more Latinos or immigrants, or surrounded by areas with 503more members of these groups. Income mixing has effectively no relationship with average 504income appreciation in neighborhoods with no Latinos as seen in Figure 1e, but an increasingly

45Machine learning and household income appreciation 505stronger negative relationship as the percent Latino in the neighborhood increases. Likewise, 506increasing income mixing results in about 5% lower average income over the subsequent decade 507in neighborhoods with 60% immigrants.

The age structure of the neighborhood also matters, as income mixing has a stronger 509negative relationship with average income appreciation in neighborhoods with fewer retirees or 510more persons under 20. Whereas income mixing has a modest negative effect on average 511income appreciation in neighborhoods with a higher percentage over 65 (the right side of Figure 5121f), this is a strong negative relationship in neighborhoods with a low proportion of retirement-513age individuals (the left side of the graph).

514How racial mixing is moderated by neighborhood conditions

It appears that racial mixing has more positive consequences when it occurs in 516neighborhoods that are more disadvantaged economically. In neighborhoods with very low 517average income, higher levels of racial mixing actually are associated with larger increases in 518average income over the subsequent decade (Figure 1h). In contrast, racial mixing in high 519income tracts is associated with negative average income appreciation. The pattern is similar 520when measuring economic disadvantage based on the unemployment rate, or when the 521neighborhood is surrounded by low income areas.

Racial mixing appears to have a more positive impact on average household income 523appreciation in neighborhoods with higher levels of racial minorities or surrounded by such 524groups (measured as percent Latino, or percent immigrants). For example, racial mixing has a 525positive relationship with average income appreciation when it occurs in neighborhoods with a 526high percentage Latino, as shown in Figure 1g. Likewise, racial mixing has a stronger positive

47Machine learning and household income appreciation 527effect when it occurs in neighborhoods with high immigrant concentrations (average income 528increases about 1 to 1.5% more in such neighborhoods).

Racial mixing has a stronger positive relationship with average income appreciation in 530neighborhoods with high population density or more renters. This was also the case in 531neighborhoods with very low percent open land (and therefore higher density), or surrounded by 532high density. Racial mixing has positive consequences in neighborhoods dominated by renters, 533but less so in neighborhoods with more owners (similar to Figure 1e). The effect of renters in the 534surrounding area was similar, except that racial mixing actually has negative consequences when 535the neighborhood is surrounded by high homeownership areas.

536How housing age mixing is moderated by neighborhood conditions

Housing age mixing has a stronger positive relationship with average income 538appreciation in neighborhoods surrounded by a mix of owners or renters, or low population 539density. Housing age mixing has its strongest positive impact on household income appreciation 540in neighborhoods surrounded by 40-70% homeowners, but weaker effects in neighborhoods 541surrounded by either a very low proportion or very high proportion of homeowners. Housing 542age mixing has a positive relationship with average income appreciation in neighborhoods 543surrounded by low population density, similar to Figure 1e. Housing age mixing also exhibits a 544nonlinear relationship itself, as it has a negative relationship with average income appreciation in 545neighborhoods with low housing age mixing, but a positive relationship in neighborhoods with 546high housing age mixing.

547How land use mixing is moderated by neighborhood conditions

Land use mixing has its strongest negative relationship with average income appreciation 549in neighborhoods with a moderate percentage black, or surrounded by low to average residential 49Machine learning and household income appreciation 550stability. In neighborhoods with about 5-15% black in the neighborhood itself or the surrounding 551area the relationship is at its strongest negative, but it is less negative when there is a very small 552or very large percentage black. And, similar to Figure 1d, neighborhoods with increasing land 553use mixing that are surrounded by low residential stability experience a stronger negative 554relationship.

555Ancillary models

In KRLS models, as in all models, there is a concern of omitted variables that can bias 557the results. We have adopted an approach in which we use measures at the beginning of the 558decade to explain changes in average income over the subsequent decade. The advantage of this 559approach is that it minimizes the potential of endogeneity that can occur by including measures 560of change in the neighborhood at the same time as the change in our outcome measure. 561Nonetheless, there may be concern that neighborhoods that are experiencing increasing average 562income are also experiencing an increase in population and housing units given that they may be 563desirable locations. We assessed this by estimating ancillary models that included the change in 564population density during the decade as a covariate. It is encouraging to note that although this 565population density measure demonstrated a significant relationship (although it was in fact a 566negative one) the results of our other variables in the model were very similar to those in the 567presented models when including this change variable (results available upon request).

568Discussion and Conclusions

This study has explored the relationship between the level of mixing in neighborhoods 570based on four dimensions and the consequences for average income appreciation over the 571subsequent decade for neighborhoods in the southern California region. We have highlighted 572that the existing literature often points to the importance of considering how mixing based on

51Machine learning and household income appreciation
573certain dimensions may have different consequences for neighborhoods based on other
574neighborhood characteristics. There are also non-specific theoretical predictions regarding the
575functional form of the relationship between these mixing dimensions and economic dynamism in
576neighborhoods. For these reasons, we utilized a relatively new statistical strategy—kernel
577regularized least squares—a machine learning approach that is flexible enough to estimate
578various functional forms of these relationships, as well as estimate the possible
579interdependencies of different neighborhood structural measures when assessing their
580relationship with the change in neighborhood average household income over the subsequent
581decade. The results highlight important interdependencies between certain dimensions of mixing
582and key neighborhood structural characteristics. These interdependencies were particularly
583important for assessing the relationship between income mixing and neighborhood dynamism
584and refining existing urban policy instruments.

We can think of these neighborhood characteristics that moderate the relationship
586between dimensions of mixing and economic dynamism as "ingredients" that are important for
587fostering dynamism. Whereas income mixing on average showed a negative relationship with
588average income appreciation, income mixing in the context of certain neighborhood ingredients
589did not reduce average household income over time as much. Thus, in our study income mixing
590is associated with greater income increases for a neighborhood with 1) low mixing on other
591dimensions (racial and housing age); 2) higher SES (average income or unemployment rate); 3)
592high population density (and few vacancies); 4) high residential stability (owners and average
593length of residence); 5) fewer racial minorities (Latinos or immigrants); 6) an older age structure
594(more retirees, fewer children). Thus, income mixing when combined with other types of mixing
595—specifically, racial mixing and housing age mixing—is associated with lower average income

53Machine learning and household income appreciation
596appreciation over the subsequent decade. This may suggest that the combination of racial mixing
597and income mixing often indicates polarization—or what Peter Blau referred to as consolidated
598inequality (Blau 1987)—and leads to negative outcomes rather than economic benefits to the
599residents. This is the general idea of social distance based on various social dimensions, and one
600study found that micro-neighborhoods with higher levels of social distance reported higher levels
601of disorder and crime (Hipp 2010b). Whereas housing age mixing might promote mixed-income
602neighborhoods in a process similar to Jacobs' (Jacobs 1961) suggestion that building age mixing
603promotes a wider variety of local retail establishments, in our study of Southern California
604housing age mixing actually has negative consequences for neighborhoods when combined with
605income mixing.

Income mixing demonstrated better consequences when it occurs in more economically 607advantaged neighborhoods than in disadvantaged neighborhoods. This may imply that more 608disadvantaged neighborhoods are more fragile and vulnerable. One possibility is that a mix of 609income groups at the low end of the income scale may occur during the process of neighborhood 610decline or induce a lowered sense of cohesion and sense of attachment to the neighborhood. This 611may make the neighborhood appear less desirable to other potential in-migrants. While this is 612speculative, our results highlight the need for future research to explore more closely what it is 613about income mixing for more disadvantaged neighborhoods that may lead to negative 614outcomes.

It is interesting to note that income mixing and racial/ethnic mixing had different 616consequences for average income appreciation when they occurred within the context of 617neighborhoods containing other New Urbanist principles. Thus, whereas increasing income 618mixing in a context of high housing age mixing had negative consequences for average income

619appreciation, increasing racial mixing in a context of high housing age mixing actually had 620*positive* consequences for average income appreciation. Racial mixing in the context of mixed-621age housing may capture the quintessential multicultural transition area that is desirable to young 622adults. Similarly, racial/ethnic mixing had a stronger positive impact on income appreciation in 623the context of high population density in the tract and nearby, whereas income mixing in such a 624context had negative consequences. The higher density may reflect more opportunities for 625different racial/ethnic groups to interact following the insights of contact theory (Allport 1958 626[1954]), resulting in more cohesion in the neighborhood. This could then possibly lead to a more 627economically vibrant neighborhood, although further research would be necessary to assess if 628this indeed occurs in such neighborhoods. As to why income mixing does not yield such positive 629benefits in the context of high population density is not entirely clear. One possibility is that the 630typical preference for low density housing among higher income residents results in income 631mixing being less effective in high density locations.

We found that racial mixing can have a positive impact on average income over time 633when it is accompanied by the following ingredients: 1) high housing age mixing; 2) low socio-634economic status (average income, unemployment rate); 3) more racial minorities (Latinos or 635immigrants); 4) more population density (and low percentage of open land); 5) more renters. It 636appears that racial mixing may capture more multicultural neighborhoods with more interesting 637amenities. Thus, the positive relationship of racial mixing was accentuated by the presence of 638more immigrants, which may directly translate into diverse and multicultural food options for 639residents. It may also be that neighborhoods with more immigrants provide a signal that an area 640is more amenable to diversity (Florida 2002). Likewise, the fact the positive relationship of 641racial mixing was accentuated by the presence of many renters may also be consistent with the

57Machine learning and household income appreciation 642notion that these are transitional neighborhoods dominated by younger, less established persons 643interested in diverse neighborhoods.

644 There was more modest evidence that housing age and land use mixing impacted 645neighborhood dynamism. Housing age mixing, which typically occurs in older, more established 646areas which have experienced some new housing construction through infill, exhibited a positive 647relationship with the change in average income when it is accompanied by two ingredients: 1) 648low population density in the surrounding area; 2) a relatively mixed percentage of owners and 649renters at a broader scale (in the surrounding area). Housing age mixing and owner/renter 650mixing in conjunction result in a more economically dynamic neighborhood. Thus, housing age 651mixing operates in tandem in a negative fashion with income mixing, and in a positive fashion 652with racial mixing and owner/renter mixing, to impact economic dynamism. This highlights that 653simultaneously accounting for different dimensions of mixing is important for understanding 654how neighborhoods evolve over time. It is interesting to note that in our study housing age 655mixing impacted neighborhood dynamism more than did land use mixing, despite the latter's 656more prominent feature in much research. In fact, land use mixing had an overall negative 657relationship with economic dynamism, and only had a positive relationship when accompanied 658by a relatively small proportion of residential units; this implies that land use mixing needs to be 659quite pronounced—and not simply a small mix of other land use with residential units—to be 660effective.

We acknowledge some limitations to this study. First, we have focused on a single 662decade of average income growth in neighborhoods, and therefore cannot address longer-term 663effects. Second, although tracts are not necessarily an ideal measure of "neighborhood", our 664reliance on census-generated data required us to use this particular unit of analysis. Third, we

59Machine learning and household income appreciation 665have focused on mixing within tracts and have therefore not viewed mixing at larger spatial 666scales. This was done to maintain proper scope of the study, but nonetheless suggests a need for 667future research that accounts for mixing at larger scales. Fourth, we have focused on 668neighborhoods in a single region. Despite Southern California's large size, there is a need for 669similar studies in other regions to assess the generalizability of these results. Fifth, there is 670always a concern with omitted variables that can bias results. Although this is a concern with all 671studies, it is worth emphasizing that despite the flexibility of the KRLS approach, it does not 672solve this potential problem. Finally, the focus on average income growth rather than median 673growth – necessitated due to the use of interpolated census geographies – does not reflect as 674accurately the experience of a neighborhood's typical resident and can be inflated by a small 675number of very wealthy entrants. Given concerns over the potential displacing effects of 676gentrification (Newman and Wyly 2006), average income growth may not be an ideal indicator 677of neighborhood well-being at all – a future study that takes moving into account may be better 678suited to address this issue though such an analysis is outside the scope of this paper. 679 In conclusion, this study has highlighted that whereas various forms of mixing can have

In conclusion, this study has highlighted that whereas various forms of mixing can have 680important implications for economic dynamism in neighborhoods, this mixing is not independent 681of other neighborhood characteristics. By utilizing a statistical analysis technique that explicitly 682accounts for nonlinearities in these relationships, and explicitly accounts for possible nonlinear 683interactions with other measures, we have demonstrated that the neighborhood context as a 684whole should be considered in understanding which neighborhoods will exhibit greater average 685income appreciation over the subsequent decade. Our results suggest that any theory presuming 686a linear marginal relationship between a particular neighborhood structural measure and 687economic growth is not entirely reasonable. Instead, there appear to be nonlinearities and

61Machine learning and household income appreciation 688possible threshold points for some of these relationships that deserve more attention and that 689considering the broader "ingredients" of the neighborhood are important for better understanding 690outcomes of mixing.

691References

- 693Allport, Gordon W. 1958 [1954]. *The Nature of Prejudice*. Garden City, NY: Doubleday.
- 694Baxter, Vern and Mickey Lauria. 2000. "Residential mortgage foreclosure and neighborhood
- change." *Housing Policy Debate* 11:675-699.
- 696Blau, Peter M. 1987. *Inequality and Heterogeneity : A Primitive Theory of Social Structure*. New 497 York: Free Press.
- 698Bridge, Gary, Tim Butler, and Loretta Lees. 2012. *Mixed Communities: Gentrification by* 699 *Stealth?* Bristol: Policy Press.
- 700Calthorpe, Peter. 1993. *The Next American Metropolis: Ecology, Community, and the American Dream*. New York: Princeton Architectural Press.
- 702Calthorpe, Peter and William Fulton. 2001. The Regional City: Planning for the End of Sprawl.
- 703 Washington, DC: Island Press.
- 704Campoli, Julie. 2012. Made for Walking: Density and Neighborhood Form. Cambridge, MA:
- 705 Lincoln Institute of Land Policy.
- 706Campoli, Julie and Alex S. MacLean. 2007. Visualizing Density. Cambridge, MA: Lincoln
- 707 Institute of Land Policy.
- 708Chapple, Karen and Rick Jacobus. 2009. "Retail trade as a route to neighborhood revitalization."
- in *Urban and Regional Policy and Its Effects*, vol. 1, edited by N. Pindus, H. Wial, and H.
- 710 Wolman: Brookings Institution Press.
- 711Cleveland, William S. 1979. "Robust locally weighted regression and smoothing scatterplots."
- 712 *Journal of the American Statistical Association* 74:829-836.
- 713Ehrenhalt, Alan. 2012. The Great Inversion and the Future of the American City. New York:
- 714 Random House LLC.
- 715Ellen, Ingrid Gould and Katherine O'Regan. 2008. "Reversal of Fortunes? Lower-income Urban
- Neighbourhoods in the US in the 1990s." *Urban Studies* 45:845-869.
- 717Ferwerda, Jeremy, Jens Hainmueller, and Chad J. Hazlett. 2013. "krls: A Stata Package for
- 718 Kernel-Based Regularized Least Squares." *Journal of Statistical Software*.
- 719Florida, Richard. 2002. The Rise of the Creative Class. New York: Basic Books.
- 720Fraser, James and Michael H. Nelson. 2008. "Can Mixed-Income Housing Ameliorate
- 721 Concentrated Poverty? The Significance of a Geographically Informed Sense of
- 722 Community." *Geography Compass* 2:2127-2144.
- 723Galster, George C., Jackie Cutsinger, and Up Lim. 2007. "Are Neighbourhoods Self-stabilising?
- Exploring Endogenous Dynamics." *Urban Studies* 44:167-185.
- 725Galster, George C., Chris Hayes, and Jennifer Johnson. 2005. "Identifying robust, parsimonious
- neighborhood indicators." *Journal of Planning Education and Research* 24:265-280.
- 727Golding, Shaun A. 2015. "Gentrification and Segregated Wealth in Rural America: Home Value
- Sorting in Destination Counties." *Population Research and Policy Review* 35:127-146.
- 729Hainmueller, Jens and Chad J. Hazlett. 2014. "Kernel Regularized Least Squares: Reducing
- 730 Misspecification Bias with a Flexible and Interpretable Machine Learning Approach."
- 731 *Political Analysis* 22:143-168.
- 732Hall, Eliza. 2007. "Divide and sprawl, decline and fall: A comparative critique of Euclidean
- 733 zoning." *University of Pittsburgh Law Review* 68:915-962.
- 734Hanlon, Bernadette and Thomas J. Vicino. 2007. "The Fate of Inner Suburbs: Evidence From
- 735 Metropolitan Baltimore." *Urban Geography* 28:249-275.

- 65Machine learning and household income appreciation
- 736Hipp, John R. 2007. "Income Inequality, Race, and Place: Does the Distribution of Race and Class within Neighborhoods affect Crime Rates?" *Criminology* 45:665-697.
- 738—. 2009. "Specifying the Determinants of Neighborhood Satisfaction: A Robust Assessment in 24 Metropolitan Areas over Four Time Points." *Social Forces* 88:395-424.
- 740—. 2010a. "A dynamic view of neighborhoods: The reciprocal relationship between crime and neighborhood structural characteristics." *Social Problems* 57:205-230.
- 742—. 2010b. "Micro-structure in Micro-Neighborhoods: A New Social Distance Measure, and its
 743 Effect on Individual and Aggregated Perceptions of Crime and Disorder." *Social*
- 744 *Networks* 32:148-159.
- 745Hipp, John R. and Adam Boessen. 2013. "Egohoods as waves washing across the city: A new measure of "neighborhoods"." *Criminology* 51:287-327.
- 747Hipp, John R. and Andrew J. Perrin. 2009. "The Simultaneous Effect of Social Distance and
- Physical Distance on the Formation of Neighborhood Ties." *City & Community* 8:5-25. 749Immergluck, Daniel. 1998. "Job Proximity and the Urban Employment Problem: Do Suitable
- 749 Nearby Jobs Improve Neighbourhood Employment Rates?" *Urban Studies* 35:7-23.
- 751Jacobs, Jane. 1961. *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*. New York: Random House.
- 752Jun, Hee-Jung. 2016. "The Effect of Racial and Ethnic Composition on Neighborhood Economic
- 753 Change: A Multilevel and Longitudinal Look." *Housing Studies* 31:102-125.
- 754Kitchen, Peter and Allison Williams. 2009. "Measuring Neighborhood Social Change in
- 755 Saskatoon, Canada: A Geographic Analysis." *Urban Geography* 30:261-288.
- 756Kleit, Rachel Garshick. 2005. "HOPE VI new communities: neighborhood relationships in mixed-income housing." *Environment and Planning A* 37:1413-1441.
- 758Knaap, G. 2005. "New Urbanism and Smart Growth: A Few Words from the Academy."
 759 International Regional Science Review 28:107-118.
- 760Leccese, Michael and Kathleen McCormick. 1999. "Charter of the New Urbanism." Pp. 194.
- 761 New York: McGraw Hill.
- 762Levy, Diane K., Zach McDade, and Kassie Dumlao. 2010. "Effects from Living in Mixed-
- 763 Income Communities for Low-Income Families." Urban Institute.
- 764Lowenkamp, Christopher T., Francis T. Cullen, and Travis C. Pratt. 2003. "Replicating Sampson
- and Groves's Test of Social Disorganization Theory: Revisiting a Criminological
- 766 Classic." *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency* 40:351-373.
- 767Massey, Douglas S. and Nancy A. Denton. 1988. "The Dimensions of Residential Segregation." *Social Forces* 67:281-315.
- 769Messner, Steven F. and Kenneth Tardiff. 1986. "Economic Inequality and Levels of Homicide:
- An Analysis of Urban Neighborhoods." *Criminology* 24:297-317.
- 773Newman, Kathe and Elvin Wyly. 2006. "The right to stay put, revisited: Gentrification and resistance to displacement in New York city." *Urban Studies* 43:23-57.
- 775Park, Robert E., Ernest W. Burgess, and Roderick D. McKenzie. 1925. *The City*. Chicago:
- 776 University of Chicago.
- 777Pitken, Bill. 2001. "Theories of Neighborhood Change: Implications for Community
- 778 Development Policy and Practice." Pp. 28 in *UCLA Advanced Policy Institute*. Los
- 779 Angeles, CA.
- 780Roberts, Marion. 2007. "Sharing Space: Urban Design and Social Mixing in Mixed Income New Communities." *Planning Theory & Practice* 8:183-204.

- 67Machine learning and household income appreciation
- 782Roncek, Dennis W. and Pamela A. Maier. 1991. "Bars, Blocks, and Crimes Revisited: Linking
- the Theory of Routine Activities to the Empiricism of 'Hot Spots'." *Criminology* 29:725-
- 784 753.
- 785Rosenthal, Stuart S. 2008. "Old homes, externalities, and poor neighborhoods. A model of urban
- decline and renewal." *Journal of Urban Economics* 63:816-840.
- 787Rountree, Pamela Wilcox and Barbara D Warner. 1999. "Social ties and crime: Is the relationship gendered?" *Criminology* 37:789-813.
- 789Rubin, Geoffrey M. 1993. "Is Housing Age a Commodity? Hedonic Price Estimation of Unit Age." *Journal of Housing Research* 4:165-184.
- 791Sampson, Robert J. 1991. "Linking the Micro- and Macrolevel Dimensions of Community Social Organization." *Social Forces* 70:43-64.
- 793Sampson, Robert J. and W. Byron Groves. 1989. "Community Structure and Crime: Testing
- Social-Disorganization Theory." *American Journal of Sociology* 94:774-802.
- 795Schelling, Thomas C. 1971. "Dynamic Models of Segregation." *Journal of Mathematical Sociology* 1:143-186.
- 797Song, Yan and Gerrit-Jan Knaap. 2004. "Measuring the effects of mixed land uses on housing values." *Regional Science and Urban Economics* 34:663-680.
- 799Talen, Emily. 1999. "Sense of Community and Neighbourhood Form: An Assessment of the Social Doctrine of New Urbanism." *Urban Studies* 36:1361-1379.
- 801—. 2013. "Charter of New Urbanism: Congress for the New Urbanism." Pp. 302. New York: 802 McGraw-Hill.
- 803Temkin, Kenneth and William M. Rohe. 1996. "Neighborhood Change and Urban Policy."
- Journal of Planning Education and Research 15:159-170.
- 805Warner, Barbara D. and Pamela Wilcox Rountree. 1997. "Local Social Ties in a Community and
- 806 Crime Model: Questioning the Systemic Nature of Informal Social Control." *Social*
- 807 *Problems* 44:520-536.
- 808Wilson, William J. 1987. The Truly Disadvantaged: The Inner City, the Underclass, and Public
- 809 *Policy*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

69Machine learning and household income appreciation 811**Tables and Figures**

Table 1

Race	Housing age	Land Use Category
White only (non-hisp)	Pre 1939	Single-Family Residential
Black only (non-hisp)	1940s and 1950s	Multifamily Residential
Asian only (non-hisp)	1960s and 1970s	Commercial
Hispanic - 1 race	1980s and 1990s	Industrial
Other/Mixed Race	2000s and 2010s	Open Space

Table 2. Summary statistics of variable	s used in	analyses			
	Tra		Surrounding		
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	
Change in average household income	0.26	0.24			
Mixing variables					
Household income Gini Coefficient	40.04	5.93			
Race entropy	0.67	0.19			
Housing age entropy	0.70	0.23			
Land use entropy	0.47	0.26			
Tract-level variables					
Average household income (logged)	10.94	0.46	4.16	0.30	
Percent open land	3.64	9.93			
Percent residential	37.92	24.47			
Percent over 65	10.58	7.53			
Percent under 20	30.39	8.82			
Percent black	6.91	11.90	7.13	7.94	
Percent Latino	37.52	27.24	39.88	19.20	
Percent immigrants	28.97	16.39			
Population density	8.18	8.51	6.21	4.36	
Unemployment rate	7.72	5.06	7.70	2.67	
Percent owners	55.69	25.93	53.46	15.96	
Percent occupied units	94.61	7.23	95.03	4.75	
Average length of residence	9.42	3.14	9.25	1.39	
N = 4,441 tracts in Southern California					

819

Table 3. Results of Kernel Regularized Least Squares model and OLS model predicting change in average household income from 2000 to 2010

	KRLS model				OLS model					
	Avg	t-value	Sig	P25	P50	P75	Std	Coef	t-value	Sig
Mixing variables										
Household income Gini Coefficient	-0.005	-(7.77)	**	-0.007	-0.005	-0.003	-0.027	-0.004	-(6.89)	**
Race entropy	0.022	(0.99)		-0.018	0.022	0.062	0.004	0.005	(0.23)	
Housing age entropy	0.034	(2.15)	*	0.006	0.033	0.061	0.008	0.049	(2.80)	**
Land use entropy	-0.062	-(4.39)	**	-0.102	-0.056	-0.017	-0.016	-0.088	-(5.99)	**
Tract-level variables										
Average household income (logged)	-0.279	-(25.26)	**	-0.353	-0.285	-0.218	-0.128	-0.403	-(25.92)	**
Percent open land	0.080	(5.72)	**	0.035	0.069	0.110	0.008	0.191	(11.50)	**
Percent residential	0.069	(5.54)	**	0.034	0.069	0.105	0.017	0.093	(6.16)	**
Percent over 65	-0.116	-(1.92)	†	-0.176	-0.117	-0.054	-0.009	-0.319	-(5.57)	**
Percent under 20	-0.122	-(2.35)	*	-0.238	-0.114	0.000	-0.011	-0.226	-(3.33)	**
Percent black	0.000	(0.15)		0.000	0.000	0.000	0.001	-0.002	-(4.41)	**
Percent Latino	-0.001	-(5.83)	**	-0.001	-0.001	-0.001	-0.025	-0.002	-(7.22)	**
Percent immigrants	-0.001	-(5.84)	**	-0.002	-0.001	-0.001	-0.021	-0.002	-(5.41)	**
Population density	-0.002	-(3.40)	**	-0.002	-0.002	-0.001	-0.014	-0.003	-(5.84)	**
Unemployment rate	-0.001	-(1.06)		-0.002	-0.001	0.000	-0.005	-0.003	-(3.11)	**
Percent owners	0.000	(2.20)	*	0.000	0.000	0.001	0.010	0.002	(5.10)	**
Percent occupied units	0.000	(0.55)		-0.001	0.000	0.002	0.003	0.000	-(0.73)	
Average length of residence	0.001	(0.57)		-0.001	0.001	0.003	0.002	-0.002	-(1.42)	
Surrounding 5 miles (inverse distance	decay)									
Average household income (logged)	0.137	(9.22)	**	0.095	0.146	0.181	0.041	0.328	(12.54)	**
Percent black	0.001	(2.26)	*	0.000	0.001	0.003	0.009	0.001	(1.31)	
Percent Latino	0.000	(1.83)	+	0.000	0.000	0.001	0.008	0.002	(4.73)	**
Population density	0.005	(4.70)	**	0.003	0.005	0.007	0.021	0.008	(5.51)	**
Unemployment rate	-0.009	-(5.11)	**	-0.012	-0.009	-0.006	-0.023	-0.008	-(2.94)	**
Percent owners	-0.002	-(7.58)	**	-0.003	-0.002	-0.001	-0.032	-0.004	-(9.72)	**
Percent occupied units	-0.002	-(1.85)	†	-0.003	-0.002	0.000	-0.008	0.002	(2.55)	*
Average length of residence	0.011	(4.76)	**	0.004	0.012	0.019	0.015	0.012	(4.38)	**
R-square	0.368							0.232		

Note: ** p < .01(two-tail test), * p < .05 (two-tail test), † p < .05 (one-tail test). Avg= average coefficient estimate over the covariate space; t-value= the t-value of the average coefficient estimate; P25= the coefficient estimate at the 25th percentile; P50= the coefficient estimate at the median; P75= the coefficient estimate at the 75th percentile; Std = change in Y for a one standard deviation change in the covariate.

Table 4. Ingredients that have important implications for the relationship between mixing and average household income appreciations

	Conditions where income mixing increases income growth		Conditions where racial mixing increases income growth		Conditions where housing age mixing increases income growth		Conditions where land use mixing increases income growth	
	Tract	Nearby tracts	Tract	Nearby tracts	Tract	Nearby tracts	Tract	Nearby tracts
Mixing variables								
Household income Gini Coefficient								
Race entropy	low							
Housing age entropy	low		high					
Land use entropy								
Tract-level variables								
Average household income (logged)	high		low	low				
Percent open land			low					
Percent residential land								
Percent over 65	high							
Percent under 20	low							
Percent black				i i			high/low	high/low
Percent Latino	low	low	high	high				
Percent immigrants	low		high					
Population density	low	low	high	high		low		
Unemployment rate	low	low	high	high				
Percent owners	high	high	low	low		modest		
Percent occupied units	high/low	high/low						
Average length of residence	high							high

Note: Noted cases represent interaction effects in which the r-square of regressing the derivates on the variable of interest (and its quadratic) was at least .10. "High" refers to the upper part of the distribution of a variable; "Moderate" refers to the middle range (typically the 40th to 60th percentile), and "low" refers to the bottom part of the range of a variable.

KRLS median M.E. of Income Mixing M.E. of Income Mixing -0.004 0.000 -0.006 -0.004 KRLS median -0.008 OLS coeff. 0.0 0.2 0.4 0.6 8.0 1.0 0.0 0.2 0.4 0.6 8.0 1.0 A. Racial Mixing **B.** Housing Age Mixing 0.004 KRLS median KRLS median M.E. of Income Mixing M.E. of Income Mixing OLS coeff. OLS coeff. 0.002 0.000 -0.004 -0.002 -0.008 -0.006 9 11 12 13 10 15 20 10 D. Residential Stability (Yrs. of Tenure) C. Avg. Income (Log) 0.000 KRLS median OLS coeff. KRLS median M.E. of Income Mixing M.E. of Income Mixing OLS coeff. -0.002 -0.004 -0.004 -0.008 -0.006 0 20 40 60 80 100 0.2 0.4 0.6 8.0 0.0 E. Percent Latino F. Proportion Over 65 KRLS median 0.04 M.E. of Racial Mixing M.E. of Racial Mixing 0.02 0.02 -0.02 0.00 -0.02 90.0-KRLS median OLS coeff. 20 40 60 100 80 9.5 10.0 11.0 12.0 13.0 G. Percent Latino H. Income Level (Log)

Figure 1: Marginal Effect (M.E.) of Mixing on Income Growth Based on:

79Machine learning and household income appreciation 823**Appendix**

Table A1. R-square results from regressing derivatives of specific variable on other covariates (both quadratic and cubic form specifications)

covariates (both quadratic and cubic form specifications)		
	Quadratic	Cubic
Inequality by average income (logged)	0.490	0.510
Inequality by percent Latino	0.393	0.405
Inequality by unemployment rate	0.366	0.399
Racial mixing by percent immigrants	0.389	0.391
Inequality by percent owners	0.365	0.365
Inequality by nearby average income	0.343	0.344
Racial mixing by nearby population density	0.326	0.338
Inequality by nearby unemployment rate	0.293	0.303
Racial mixing by nearby percent owners	0.288	0.288
Inequality by percent immigrants	0.279	0.280
Racial mixing by percent open space	0.269	0.273
Inequality by average length of residence	0.250	0.270
Inequality by nearby percent Latino	0.235	0.237
Racial mixing by nearby percent Latino	0.221	0.230
Inequality by nearby population density	0.215	0.229
Inequality by percent under 20 years of age	0.209	0.221
Inequality by population density	0.208	0.220
Racial mixing by population density	0.200	0.215
Racial mixing by percent Latino	0.194	0.209
Racial mixing by racial mixing	0.190	0.201
Inequality by home type mixing	0.196	0.198
Inequality by percent residential	0.190	0.198
Racial mixing by nearby unemployment rate	0.190	0.190
Inequality by nearby percent owners	0.185	0.188
Inequality by percent 65 and older	0.183	0.187
Racial mixing by percent owners	0.187	0.187
Housing type mixing by home type mixing	0.144	0.155
Racial mixing by home type mixing	0.152	0.152
Land use mixing by nearby average length of residence	0.132	0.135
Housing type mixing by nearby percent owners	0.132	0.134
Land use mixing by nearby percent black	0.091	0.134
Housing type mixing by nearby population density	0.133	0.133
Racial mixing by average income (logged)	0.129	0.132
Inequality by racial mixing	0.131	0.131
Inequality by nearby percent occupied units	0.043	0.129
Racial mixing by unemployment rate	0.102	0.126
Racial mixing by nearby average income	0.116	0.124
Land use mixing by percent black	0.054	0.113
Inequality by percent occupied units	0.048	0.109
Housing type mixing by percent occupied units	0.070	0.095
Land use mixing by nearby percent Latino	0.087	0.094
Racial mixing by inequality	0.090	0.090
Nonlinear inequality	0.087	0.090
Housing type mixing by nearby average length of residence	0.083	0.086
Inequality by nearby average length of residence	0.081	0.083
Land use mixing by nearby percent occupied units	0.017	0.078
1 1	0.070	0.070

3 Machine learning and household income appreciation		
Nonlinear inequality	0.039	0.077
Inequality by percent black	0.063	0.074
Inequality by land use mixing	0.072	0.073
Land use mixing by racial mixing	0.071	0.072
Land use mixing by percent open space	0.052	0.068
Land use mixing by population density	0.056	0.067
Land use mixing by average length of residence	0.064	0.067
Housing type mixing by percent black	0.044	0.062
Housing type mixing by nearby unemployment rate	0.059	0.059
Housing type mixing by nearby average income	0.015	0.059
Housing type mixing by percent immigrants	0.057	0.058
Racial mixing by percent residential	0.025	0.057
Housing type mixing by percent open space	0.056	0.056
Housing type mixing by percent owners	0.049	0.056
Housing type mixing by nearby percent occupied units	0.041	0.054
Racial mixing by nearby percent black	0.043	0.053
Housing type mixing by population density	0.046	0.052
Racial mixing by land use mixing	0.052	0.052
Land use mixing by percent residential	0.050	0.050
Racial mixing by percent 65 and older	0.050	0.050
Land use mixing by land use mixing	0.046	0.046
Housing type mixing by average length of residence	0.033	0.045
Land use mixing by percent occupied units	0.015	0.044
Housing type mixing by percent Latino	0.036	0.044
Housing type mixing by nearby percent black	0.036	0.043
Inequality by percent open space	0.038	0.043
Housing type mixing by percent residential	0.036	0.042
Housing type mixing by nearby percent Latino	0.040	0.041
Land use mixing by nearby unemployment rate	0.036	0.036
Racial mixing by percent black	0.031	0.036
Housing type mixing by average income (logged)	0.004	0.035
Land use mixing by nearby population density	0.034	0.034
Housing type mixing by land use mixing	0.026	0.028
Housing type mixing by racial mixing	0.025	0.025
Racial mixing by percent under 20 years of age	0.016	0.023
Racial mixing by percent occupied units	0.022	0.022
Land use mixing by percent owners	0.019	0.021
Land use mixing by unemployment rate	0.020	0.021
Racial mixing by nearby percent occupied units	0.020	0.020
Racial mixing by average length of residence	0.017	0.018
Housing type mixing by unemployment rate	0.009	0.017
Land use mixing by home type mixing	0.017	0.017
Nonlinear inequality	0.014	0.015
Land use mixing by nearby percent owners	0.014	0.014
Land use mixing by average income (logged)	0.011	0.013
Land use mixing by nearby average income	0.007	0.013
Land use mixing by percent immigrants	0.003	0.012
Housing type mixing by percent under 20 years of age	0.011	0.011
Land use mixing by percent 65 and older	0.010	0.011
Racial mixing by nearby average length of residence	0.009	0.010