

THE MAIN CATEGORIES OF ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY

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Abstract. *Economic geography is a multidisciplinary field that explores the spatial organization and distribution of economic activities. It provides valuable insights into how economic processes shape and are influenced by geographical factors, such as location, resources, and transportation networks. To understand the intricacies of economic geography, it is essential to examine its main categories, which provide a framework for analyzing the spatial dynamics of economic systems. This article will introduce and delve into four key categories: location theory, regional development, industrial geography, and transportation geography. Location theory focuses on understanding the process of site selection by individuals, firms, and industries. It examines why economic activities are concentrated in certain locations and how spatial factors influence economic decision-making.*

Key words: *economic activities, location theory, regional development, industrial geography, transportation geography*

Introduction. Economic geography takes a variety of approaches to many different topics, including the location of industries, economies of agglomeration, transportation, international trade, development, real estate, gentrification, ethnic economies, gendered economies, core-periphery theory. Economic geography is the study of the spatial distribution of economic activity and economic development. Because so much of our daily lives revolve around economic transactions, great and small, economic geography is a critical subset of human geography. Location theory encompasses various concepts and models that help explain patterns of economic activity. Which emphasizes the role of transportation costs, labor availability, and agglomeration economies in determining the optimal location for industrial activities. Regional development studies the uneven distribution of economic activities across regions and investigates the driving forces behind regional disparities. It seeks to understand why some regions thrive economically while others lag behind. This category examines the factors that influence the spatial growth and decline of regions, such as natural resources, infrastructure development, technological advancements, government policies, and social factors like education and human capital. Regional development also explores the roles of regional planning and policy interventions in promoting balanced economic growth and reducing regional inequalities.

Industrial geography focuses on the spatial organization and dynamics of industrial activities, including manufacturing and services. It examines how industries cluster in specific regions or agglomerate in urban centers. Industrial geography investigates the factors that determine the location of industries, such as

access to raw materials, markets, skilled labor, and infrastructure. It also explores the impacts of industrial activities on the environment, urbanization processes, and the social and economic fabric of regions. Additionally, industrial geography explores the evolving patterns of global production networks and the dynamics of global value chains.

Transportation geography studies the spatial organization of transportation networks and their influence on economic activities. It analyzes how transportation infrastructure connects regions, facilitates trade, and shapes regional development patterns. This category of economic geography explores various transportation modes, including road, rail, air, and maritime transport, and investigates their efficiency, accessibility, and cost implications for economic activities. Transportation geography also examines the impacts of globalization and technological advancements on transportation systems and the challenges of sustainable transportation in an increasingly interconnected world. In conclusion, economic geography encompasses various categories that allow for a comprehensive understanding of the spatial organization of economic activities. Location theory explains the site selection process, while regional development explores regional disparities and growth dynamics. Industrial geography helps analyze the spatial distribution of industries and their impacts, and transportation geography investigates the role of transportation networks in shaping economic patterns. As the previously noted, the economic geography is very flexible discipline and is changing all the time. Location theories can serve as an usher in theatre – introducing upcoming performance to the audience. These categories are not strictly bounded and are interconnected and interrelated, which is typical of geography as such. However, it is important to emphasize that broadness of these categories does not implicitly evoke that economies are the main subject. Generally speaking, any sub-branch of geography potentially carries the “economic aspect” inside. That is why, it is always important to define, what (economic) aspect will be studied and what geographical methods and knowledge will be deployed.

In this sense, location theories should be a starting point in learning/teaching economic geography; however, it is hard to follow complex mathematical concepts, abstractions and formulas. One should be at least aware of location theories existence and should be able to take them into account when dealing with spatial aspects of the economy (especially when dealing with manufactures, firms, and industries together with a socio-demographic aspect of certain geographical extents. By studying these main categories, researchers and practitioners gain insights into the complex interactions between economic processes, spatial factors, and regional development, thus contributing to more informed decision-making and policies that foster sustainable economic growth. Economic geography is important in developed nations such as the United States because it allows researchers to understand the structure of

the area's economy and its economic relationship with other areas around the world. Evolutionary economic geography deals with changes in the economic landscape through time via the concept of 'routine,' which is equivalent to a 'genome' in corporations.

Conclusion. Evolutionary economic geography has been inspired by the process of regional growth and innovation in the context of evolutionary economics. Evolutionary economic geography deals with changes in the economic landscape through time via the concept of 'routine,' which is equivalent to a 'genome' in corporations. Evolutionary economic geography has been inspired by the process of regional growth and innovation in the context of evolutionary economics. The evolutionary component of economic geography is based on concepts such as contingency, lock-in by increasing returns, and network.

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