

## **IMPORTING MACROECOLOGICAL SPATIAL AGGREGATION METRICS TO ECONOMICS**

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Taylor's Power Law (TPL) is the power relation between the mean densities and variance of natural populations and is often described as one of macroecology's few ubiquitous laws. While the power model has been increasingly applied in social systems modelling, including economics, this paper, using a range of national and international economic data as examples, suggests that TPL, and other ecological aggregation measures, ought to be imported carefully. The paper seeks to convince the reader that ecological population models have a specific role in analysis of human spatial behaviour, and that this function should not be diminished by analogy in pursuit of quick interdisciplinary results. Above all, social scientists should become familiar with the recurring debates within the ecology literature, and how they are mirrored in social science quantitative approaches. Here, it is shown that TPL does have some mileage in economics, but that its real-world interpretation ought to be at the forefront of researcher's minds