

“The Application of Centrographic Analysis to the Study of the Intra-urban Migratory Phenomenon in the Greater Moncton Area in Canada, 1981-1996”

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ABSTRACT:

Centrographic analysis is a statistical technique that has been used for more than a century and has experienced a rapid renewal over the last few years, in large part due to its integration in geographic information systems (GIS). Through the use of this centrographic technique, a series of spatio-temporal analyses were performed in a GIS on the intra-urban migratory phenomenon in the Greater Moncton area. Greater Moncton, in the heart of the Maritimes in south-eastern New Brunswick, Canada, is the only urban region in Canada with such a high degree of cohabitation between Acadians and Anglophones, who are in the majority. However, despite their minority status, over the years, Acadians have become more and more present in New Brunswick society through the creation of Acadian institutions in the fields of education and financial services. The aim of this paper is to explore the spatial patterns of evolution in the intra-urban migratory phenomenon of Acadian inhabitants, as compared to Anglophones. Our analyses show that, between 1981 and 1996, unlike homogeneous distribution of Anglophones which gradually occupied almost all the space in the Greater Moncton area, the migratory trend of the Acadian population has concentrated in a triangle area formed by the Northwest, the Northeast descending into the Southeast and particularly in the residential areas close to the Université de Moncton. The result indicates that the vital role of the Université de Moncton, as an Acadian institution, has been played in the growth of the Acadian milieus in the Moncton area over the course of the past decades.

KEY WORD: centrographic technique, spatio-temporal analysis, Université de Moncton, Acadian