current projects

- The Value of Urban Air Pollution
- The Relationship of Toxic Releases to Subsidized Housing
- Dallas County Housing Price Index
- The Effect of Elementary School Attendance Zone on Property Value
- An Assessment of the Economic Base of Distressed and Near-Distressed Counties in Appalachia
- The Spatial Distribution of Poverty
- The Spatial Distribution of Pollution
- Spatial Analysis of Air Pollution and Hospital Admissions
- The Spatial Patterns of Nonprofit Organizations in Nine Metropolitan Areas
- Spatial Dependence in Hedonic Price Regressions

staff

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Ronald Briggs, Professor of Political Economy and Associate Director
Oleg Smirnov, Research Associate
Paul Medley, Research Scientist
Alena Smirnova, Research Analyst

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Graduate Students

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Jeong-Dai Kim, Political Economy
Linda Loubert, Political Economy
Kor Prasert, Political Economy
Welcome to the Bruton Center! This year, the Center is celebrating its 10-year Anniversary of servicing the School of Social Sciences, the University, the greater community of social scientists and policy makers as a ground for basic and applied research on the socio-economic aspects of urban and regional development. The Center has provided leadership to the integration of Geographic Information Systems (GIS), spatial analysis, and exploratory data analysis (EDA) in the social sciences. As the Director, I’m committed to maintain that tradition and bring the Center into the 21st century as a strong, innovative, and respected scientific facility.

Jim Murdoch, Director

The Center is composed of a Director, Associate Director, Research Associates, affiliated faculty, professional staff, and graduate students.

The Center performs grant and contract research with local, national and international organizations as well as partnership endeavors with other faculty. It offers technical expertise in using GIS, advanced data analysis, statistical software, geographic database management, and software design and development.

The Center also creates learning opportunities and research support for graduate students. Through its research projects, graduate students receive hands on training in the integration of GIS and spatial analysis in public policy analysis and social scientific inquiry.

Additionally, Center’s publication Bruton Center Notes provides examples of the types of research that it routinely engages, while its seminars offer specific opportunities to interact with Bruton Center personnel and guests.

Located in a dynamic metropolitan area that is playing an increasing role in the emerging global economy, the Center recognizes the growing importance of information and furthers our knowledge of socio-economic features by linking theory and advanced methods and applying them to issues of policy significance in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, as well as nationally and internationally.

The primary objective is to use innovative, cross-disciplinary approaches to the study of urban and regional development. Rather than dividing the focus along disciplinary lines, the elements of the research agenda focus on the uses of land, labor, the environment, and capital infrastructure to satisfy the demands for housing, health, education, safety, fairness, and quality of life and on the role of for-profit, non-profit, and public institutions in the provision of these services in a globally integrated economy.

Specifically, the Center’s research seeks to:
1. maintain a spatial perspective by using the evolving tools of GIS and spatial econometrics to provide a rigorous framework to carry out advanced research on public policy issues;
2. develop models for policy analysis, that are broadly useful to public and private sector decision makers interested in evaluating strategic alternatives; and
3. incorporate comparative methodologies by examining urban and regional development issues in U.S. metropolitan areas, and in metropolitan areas throughout the developed and developing world.