

Collective Spatial Perceptions of Men and Women Commuters: Linking Space, Jobs and Activity

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ABSTRACT This paper attempts to explore an overlooked aspect of gender-based commuting by integrating women's and men's perceptions of labor markets (LMs) as a primary predictor of the commuting behavior of employees according to gender. Perceptions of labor markets (LMPs) are an innovative, exploratory term defining employees' preferences of "where to work" by using spatial symbols and has been found to vary across the genders. The data of a representative national sample of 723 Israeli employees indicated that women prefer to work in spaces they perceive as local, more proximate LMs while men favor positions in spaces perceived as more promising in terms of economic or professional advancement, or in segmented LMs, and that the LMPs of both men and women affect their commuting behaviors. The main contribution of this study has been in highlighting the influence on their commuting patterns of men's and women's dissimilar LMPs, which thus constitute a major factor underlying the disproportionate distribution of the genders in the labor force.