

PLSC 541, Fall 2008
Baumgartner

Questions for week 8

Readings: diffusion and Tiebout models

Questions:

1. Explain the *mechanism* by which Walker suggests states imitate each other. Where does the communication occur?
2. Explain the *dataset* Walker used to test his theory of the diffusion of innovation. Is it appropriate? Are there better options?
3. Evaluate Gray's 1973 approach as compared to Walker's.
4. Evaluate Berry and Berry's 1990 approach as compared to Gray's and Walker's.
5. Did this literature cumulate?
6. Walker's article is number 3, all time, in citations for APSR publications. Why?
7. Evaluate Tiebout's assumptions. Assumptions are always wrong. Are these so unreasonable as to render the model uninteresting, or are they close enough to reality to allow a simplification that produces a model that sheds some light on actual behavior?
8. What would be another, non-economist's, way of suggesting that people selectively select the town where they want to live based on certain characteristics? Is Tiebout's model limited to certain precise assumptions about why people move, or would its implications still hold if the reasons were something slightly different?