

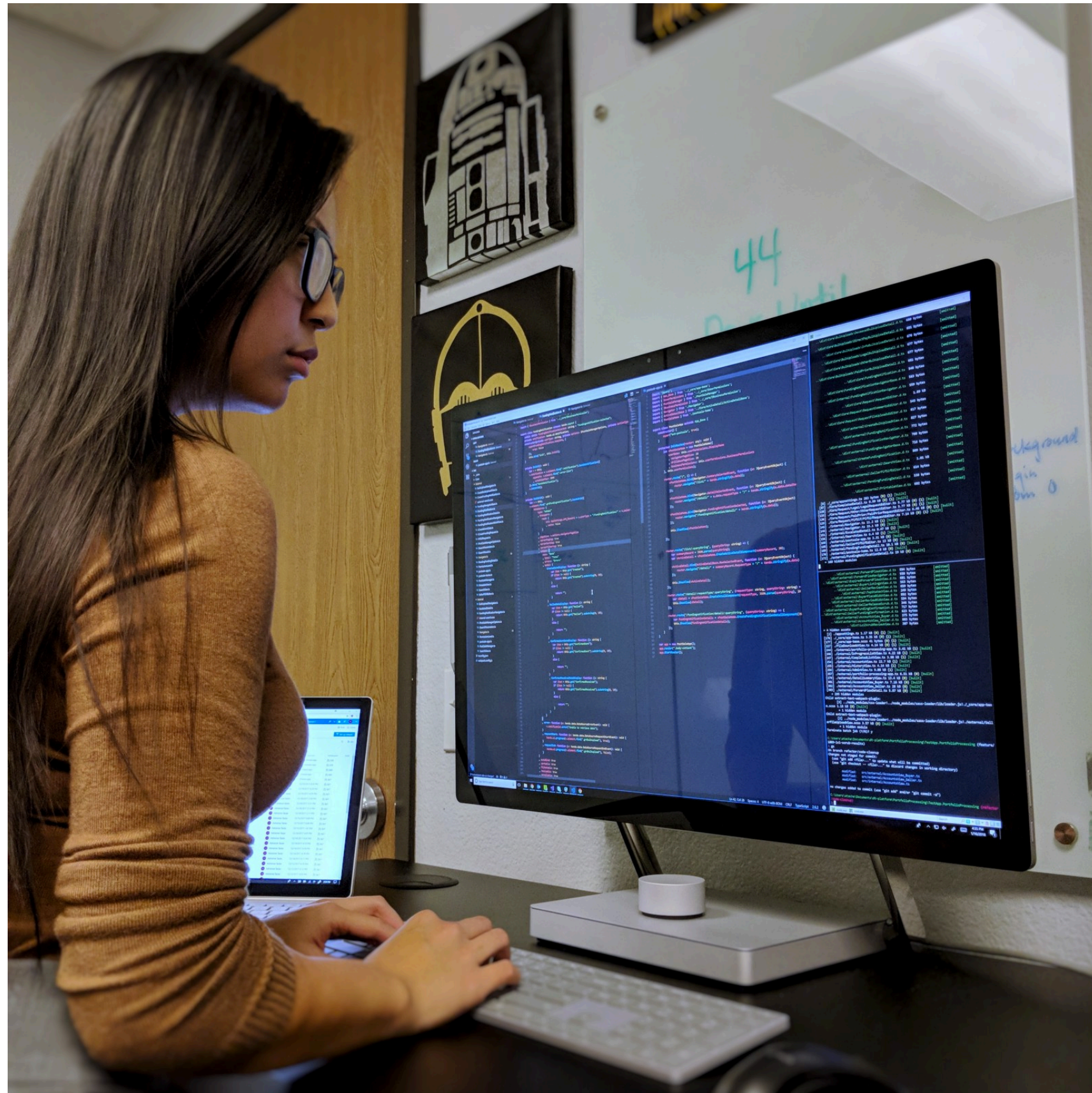
# Unpacking complexity in workplace skills

Morgan R. Frank



# The differential impact of AI

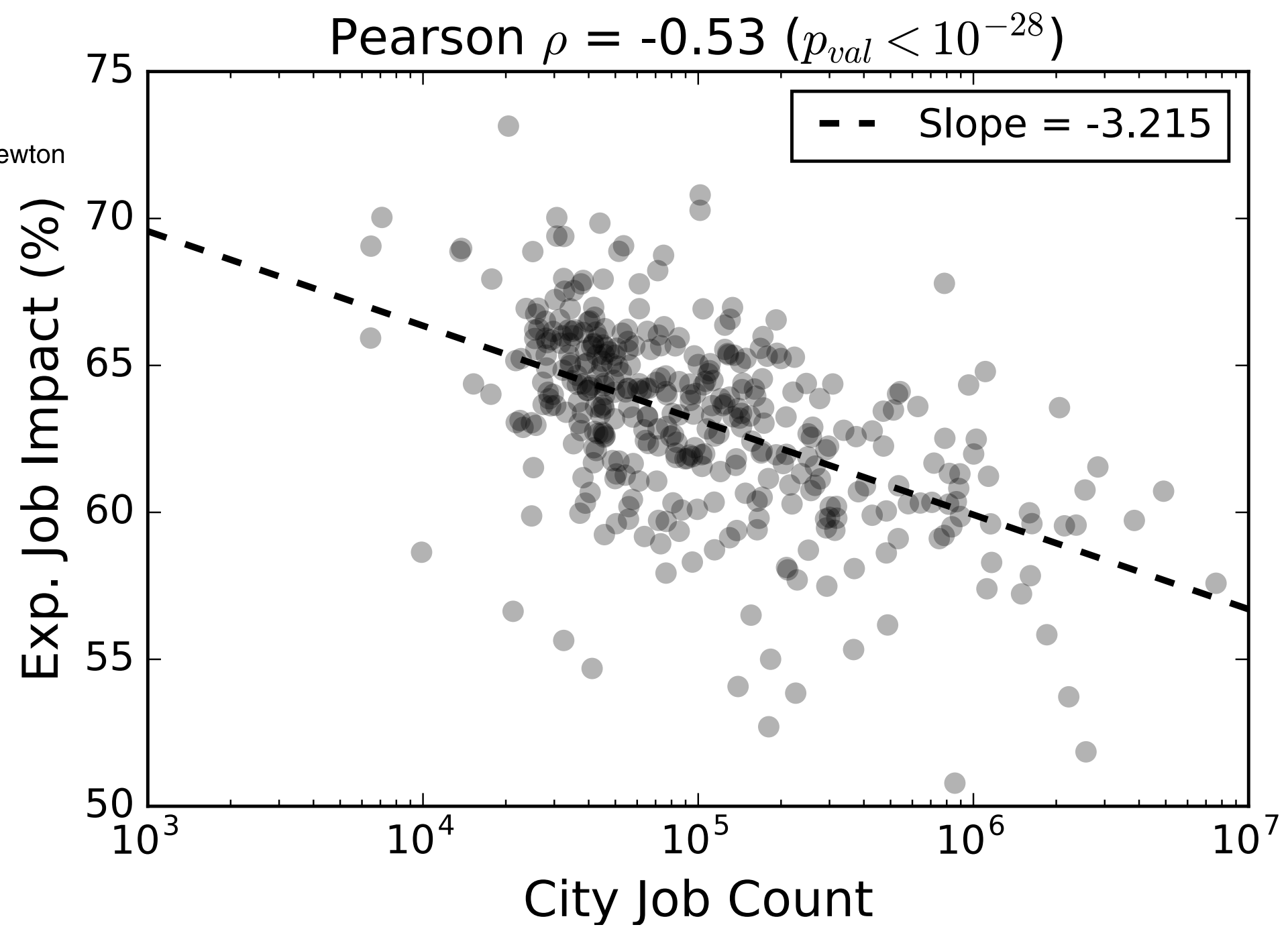
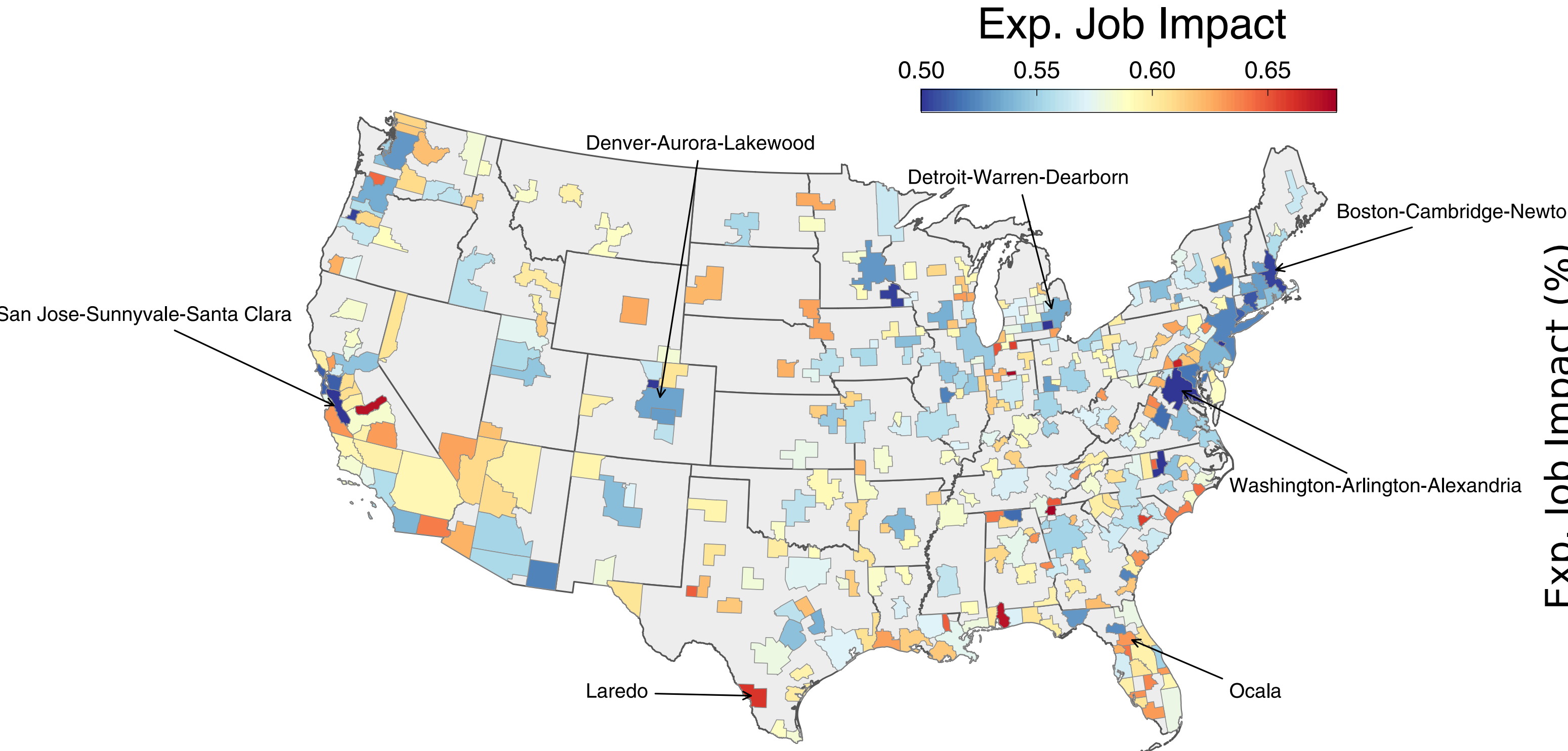
Programmers vs. Machine Learning



Truck Drivers vs. Autonomous Vehicles



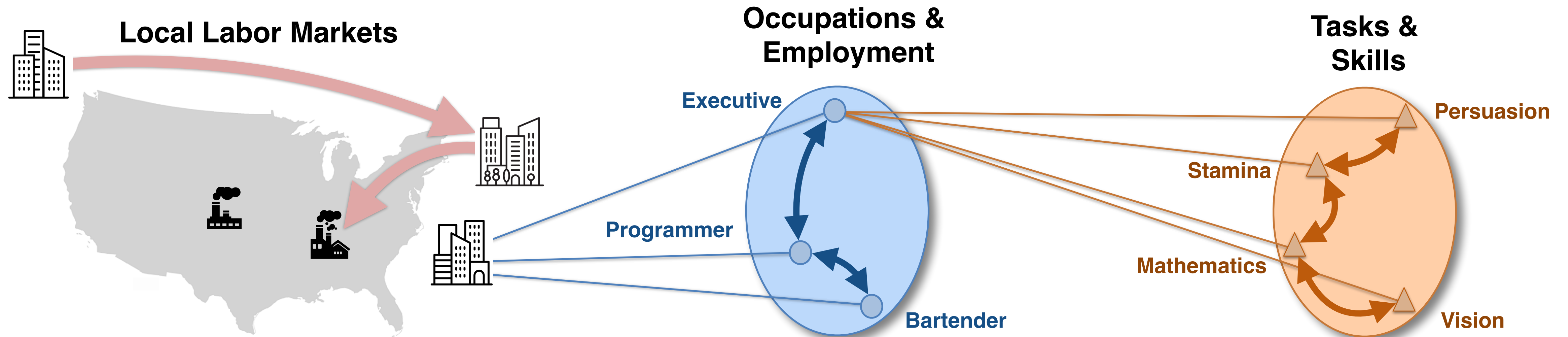
# The differential impact of AI



Small cities face greater impact from automation, *J. of the Royal Soc. Interface* (2018)



# Embrace Complexity

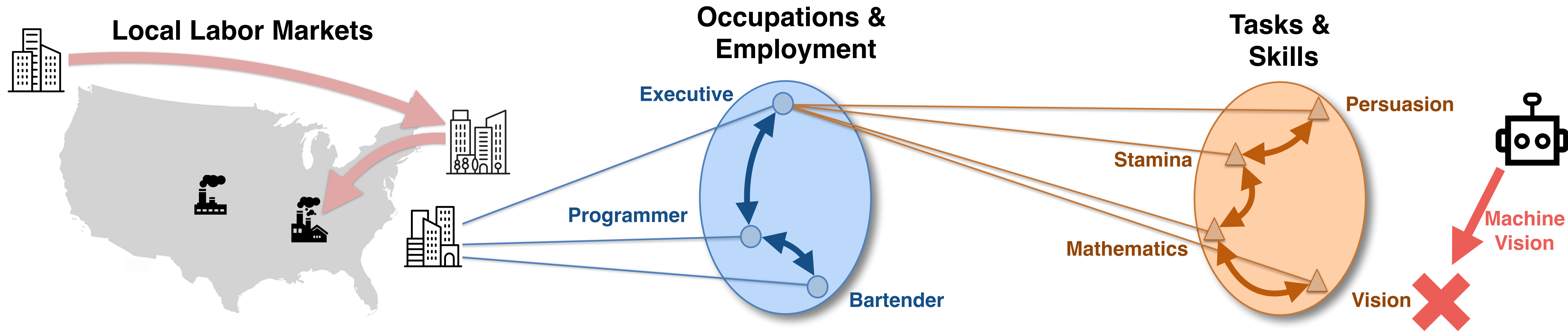


- differential impact of automation
- skill & wealth disparity
- spatial career mobility

- career trajectories
- viable retraining
- job polarization

- interaction with technology
- skill complementarity
- education

# Embrace Complexity

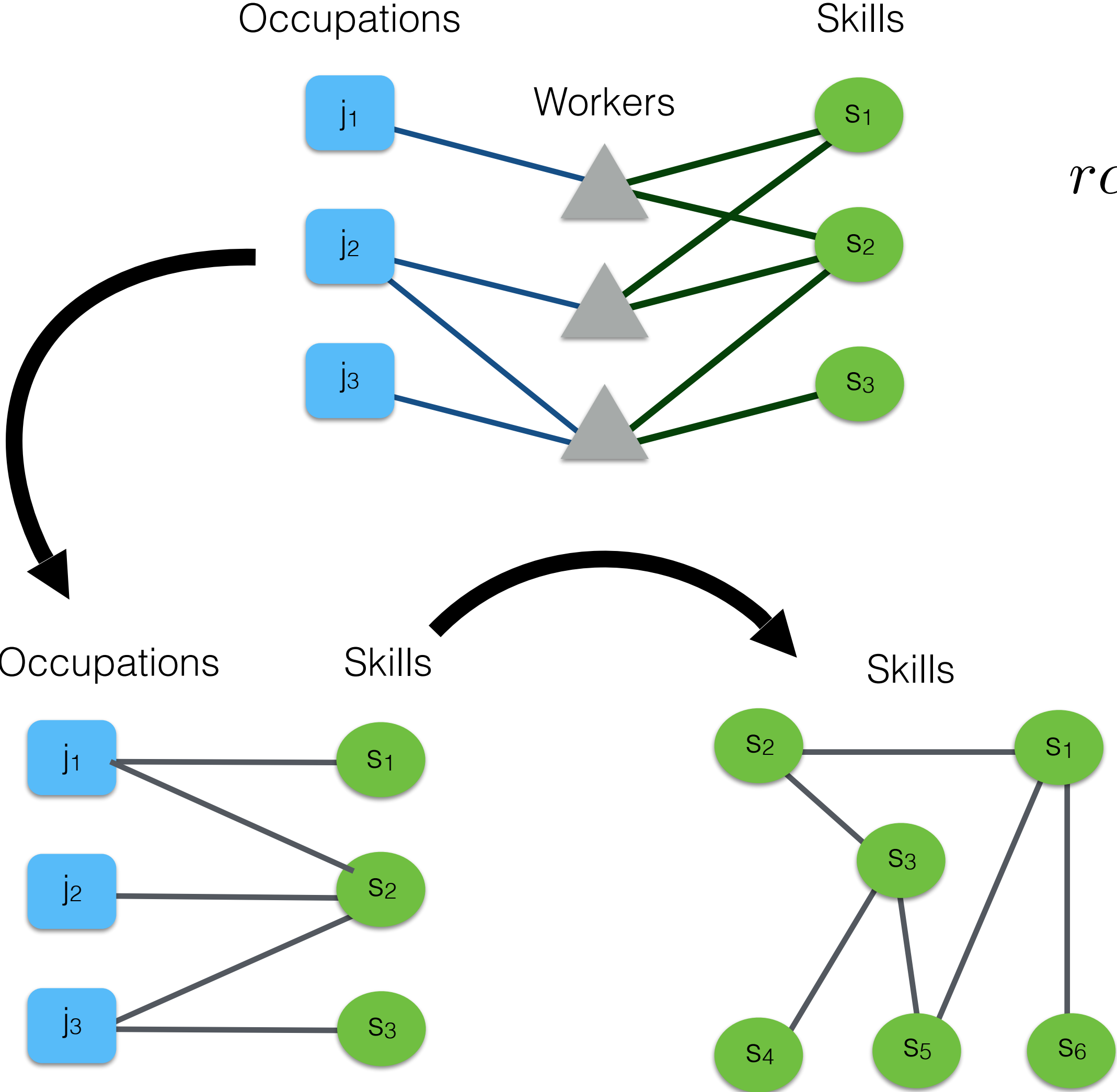


- differential impact of automation
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# Constructing the Skillscape

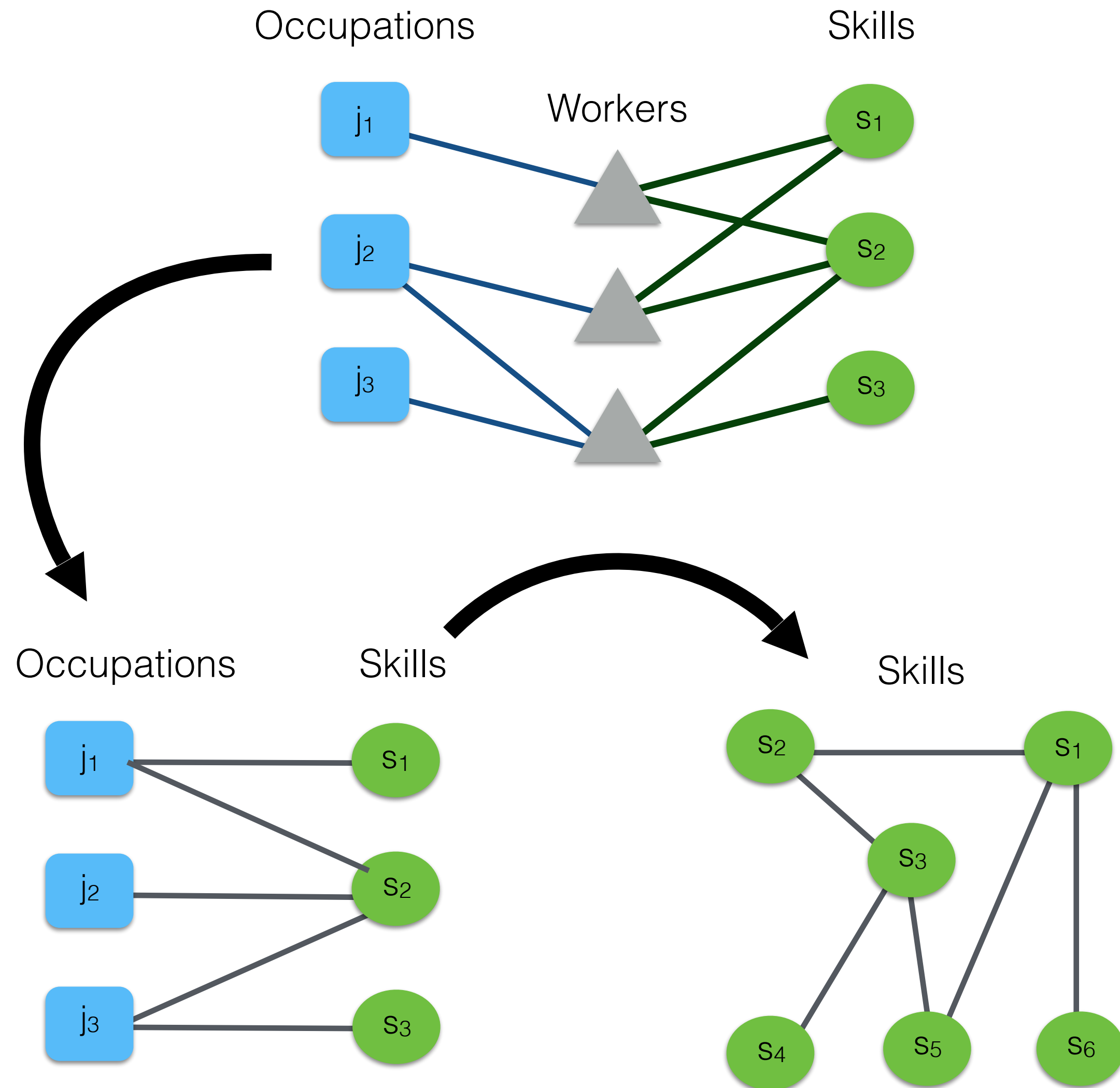


$$rca(i, s) = \frac{onet(i, s) / \sum_{s' \in Skills} onet(i, s')}{\sum_{i' \in Jobs} onet(i', s) / \sum_{s' \in Skills, j' \in Jobs} onet(i', s')}$$

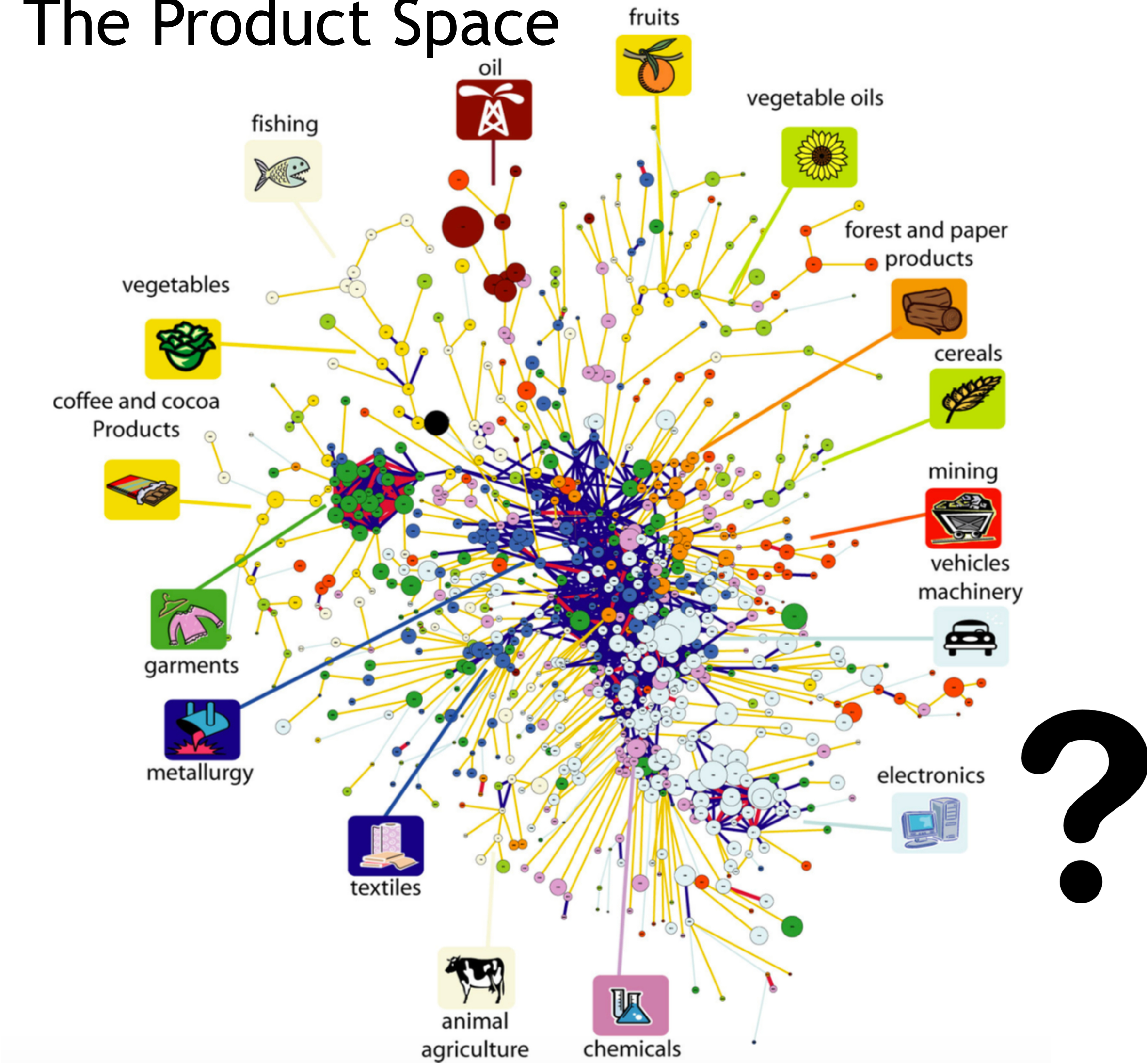
$$I(i, s) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } rca(i, s) > 1, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$



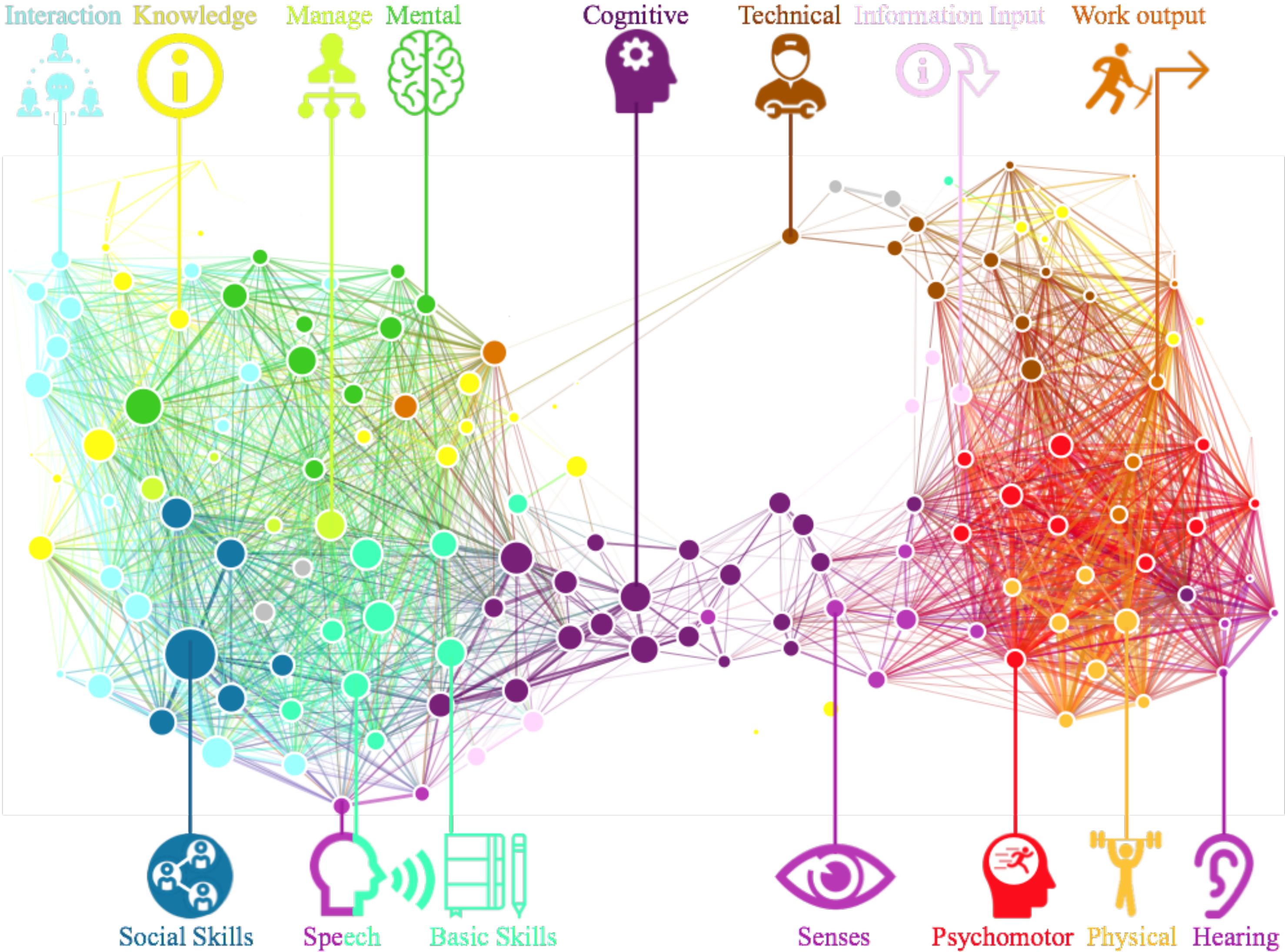
# Constructing the Skillscape



# The Product Space

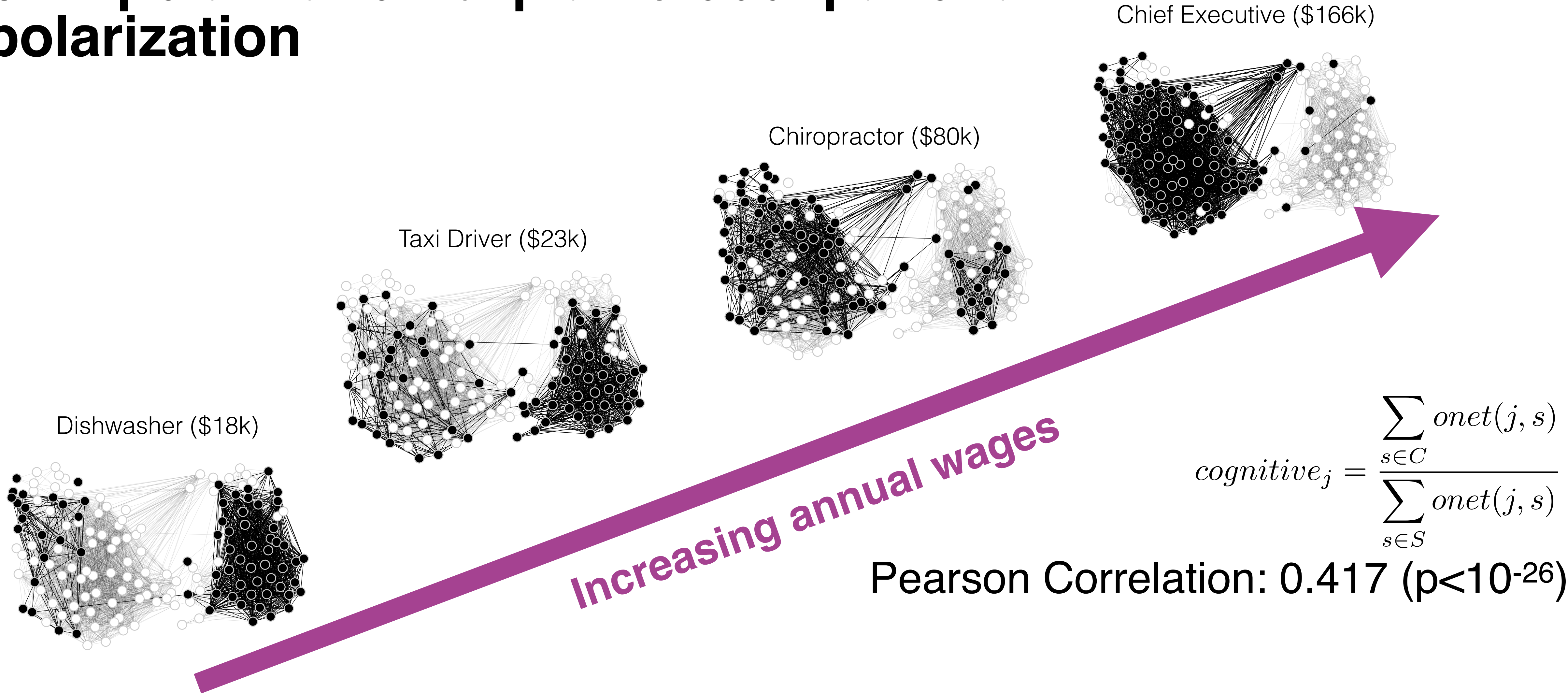


# Unpacking the polarization of workplace skills



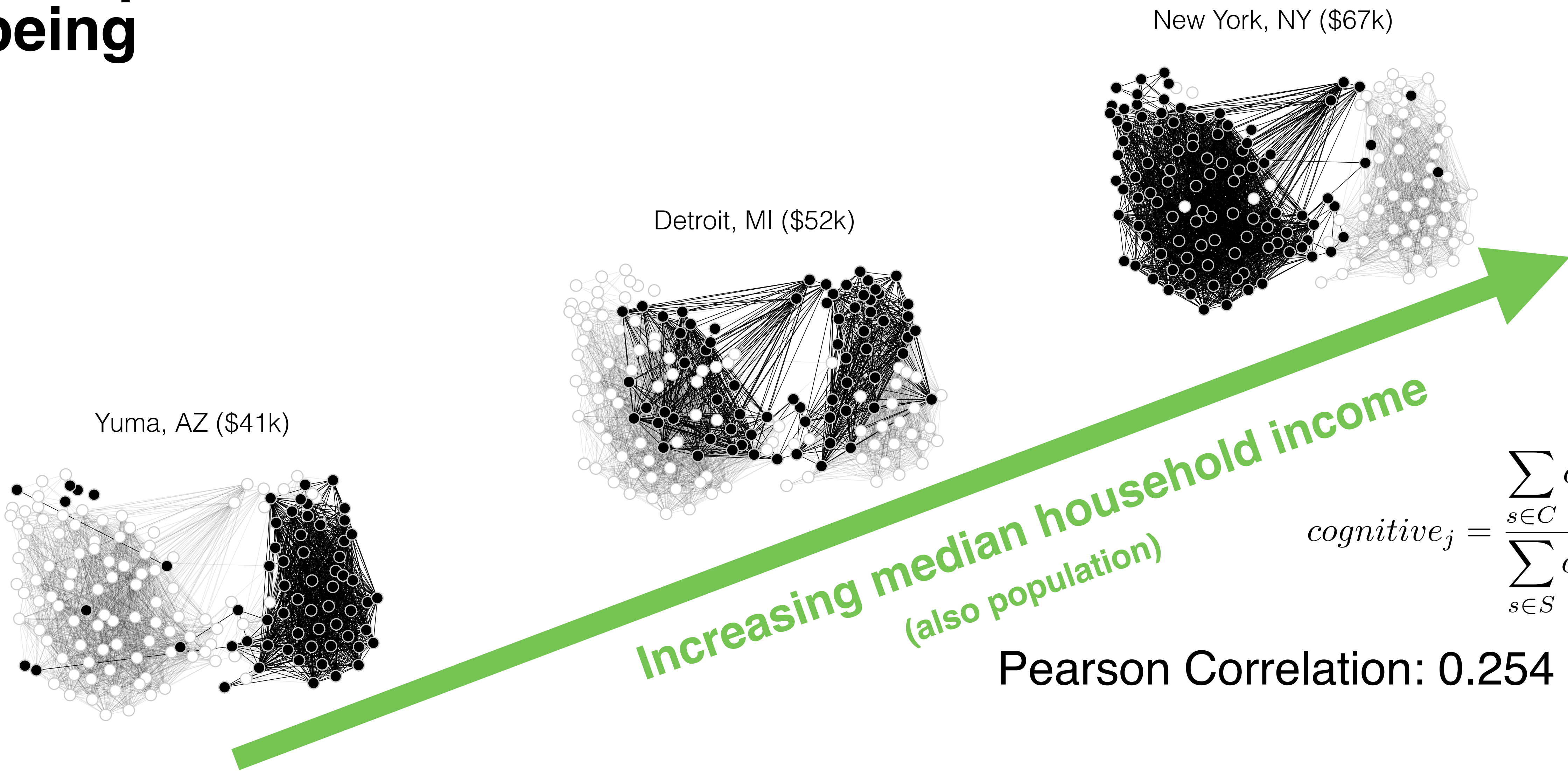


# Skill polarization explains occupational polarization



Unpacking the polarization of workplace skills, *Science Advances* (2018)

# Skill polarization and economic well-being



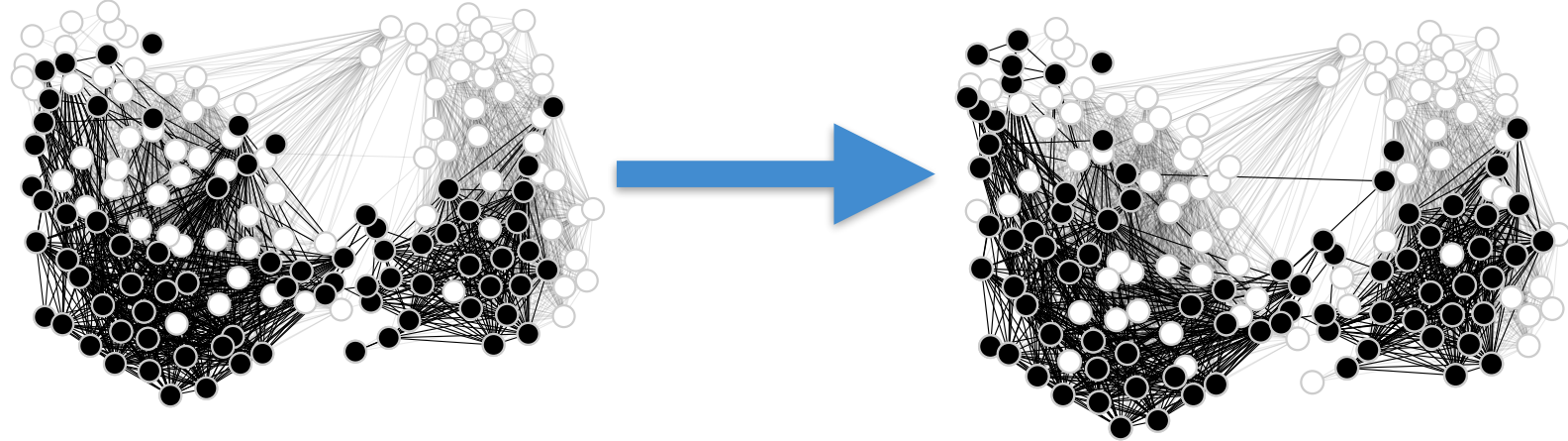
$$cognitive_j = \frac{\sum_{s \in C} onet(j, s)}{\sum_{s \in S} onet(j, s)}$$

Pearson Correlation: 0.254 (p<10<sup>-4</sup>)

Unpacking the polarization of workplace skills, *Science Advances* (2018)

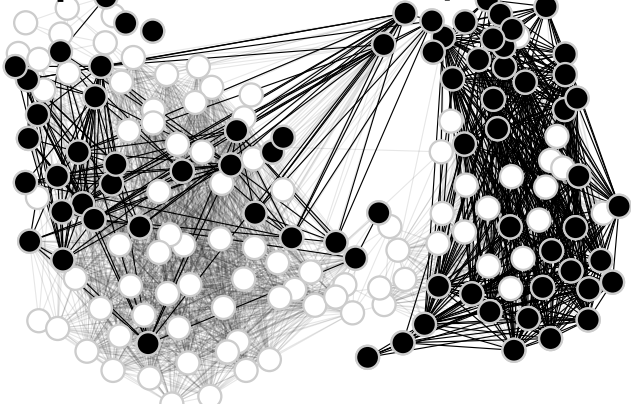
# Skill polarization and career mobility

Waitstaff (\$23k)      Bartender (\$24k)

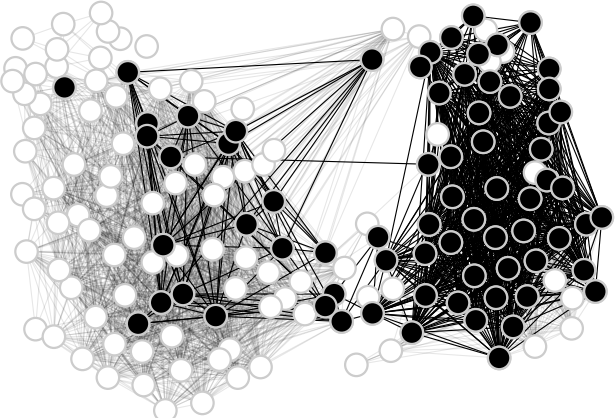


**Mid Cognitive Skill**

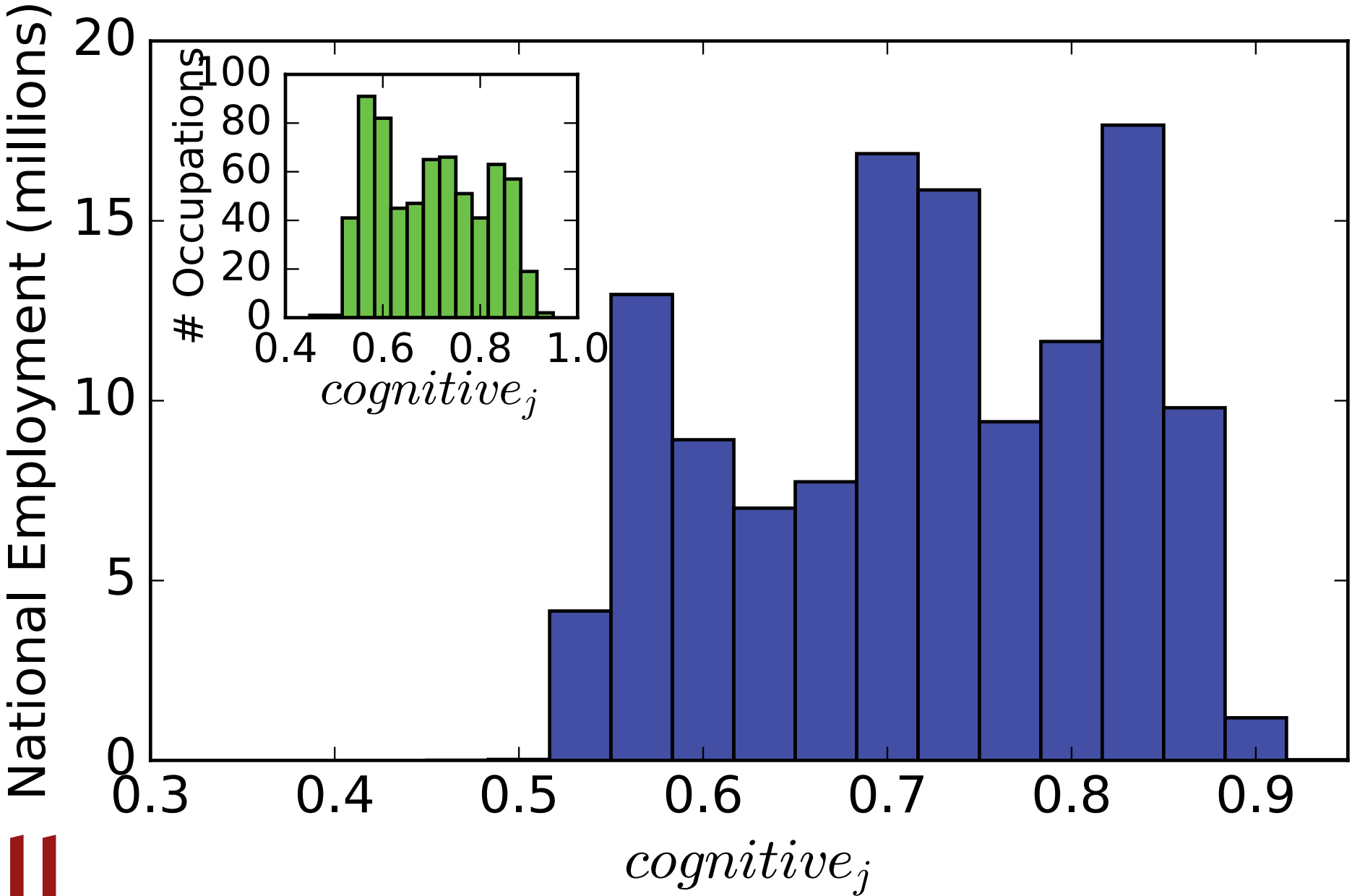
Mechanics Supervisor (\$66k)



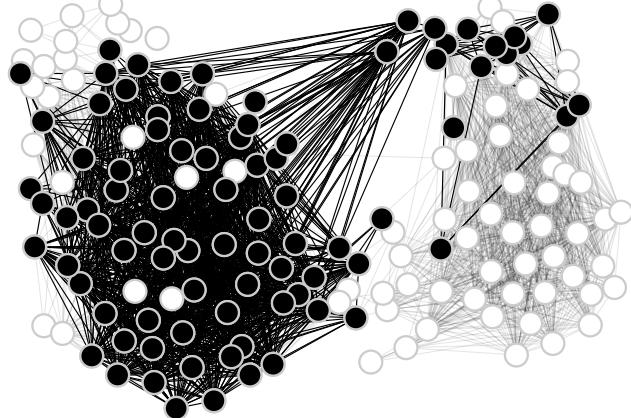
Mechanical Tool Setter (\$38k)



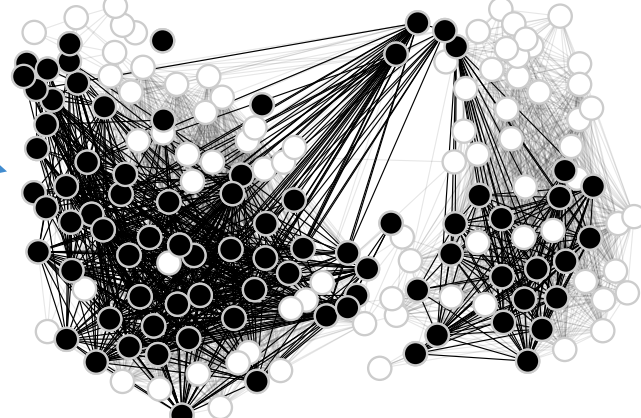
**Low Cognitive Skill**



Sales Engineer (\$107k)



Retail Supervisor (\$43k)

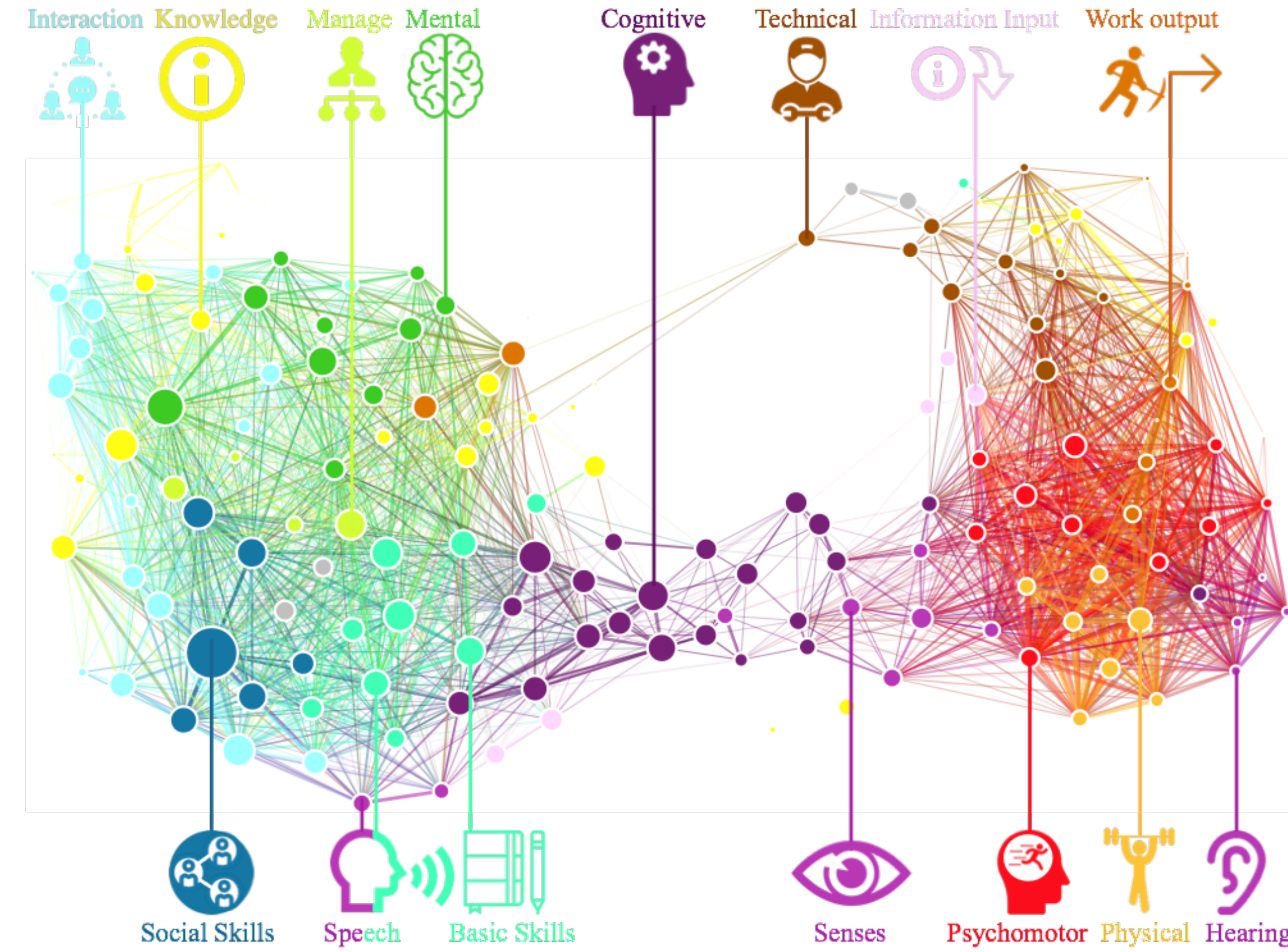
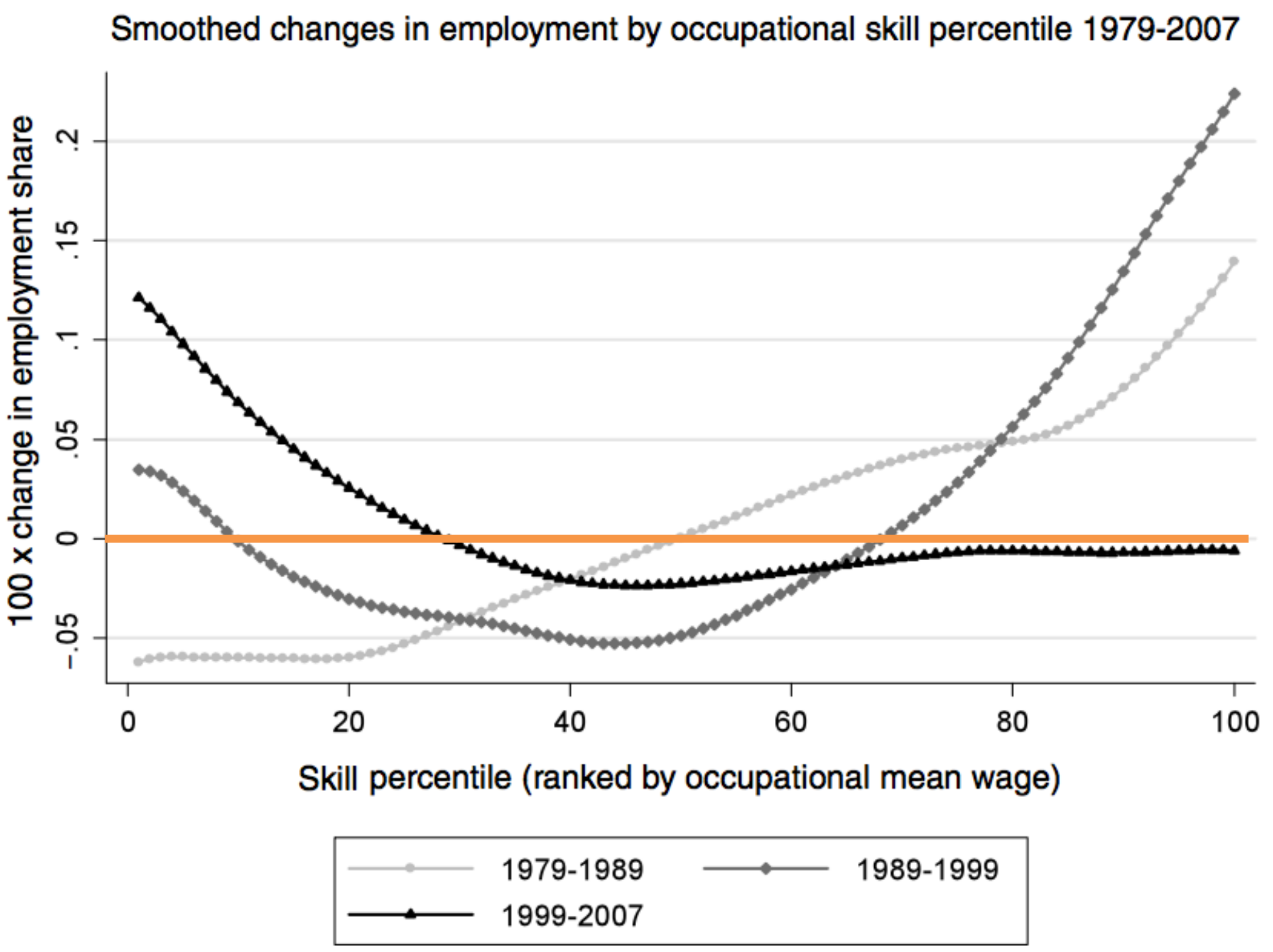


**High Cognitive Skill**

Unpacking the polarization of workplace skills, *Science Advances* (2018)

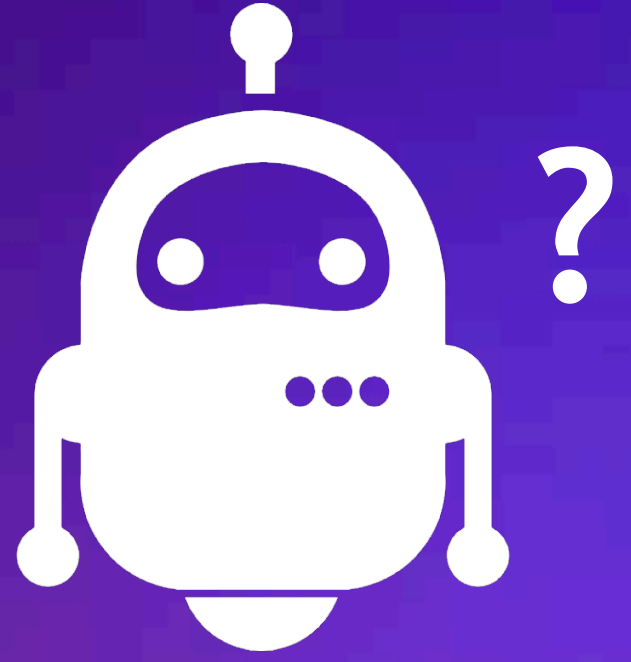


# Explaining low- and high-skill employment

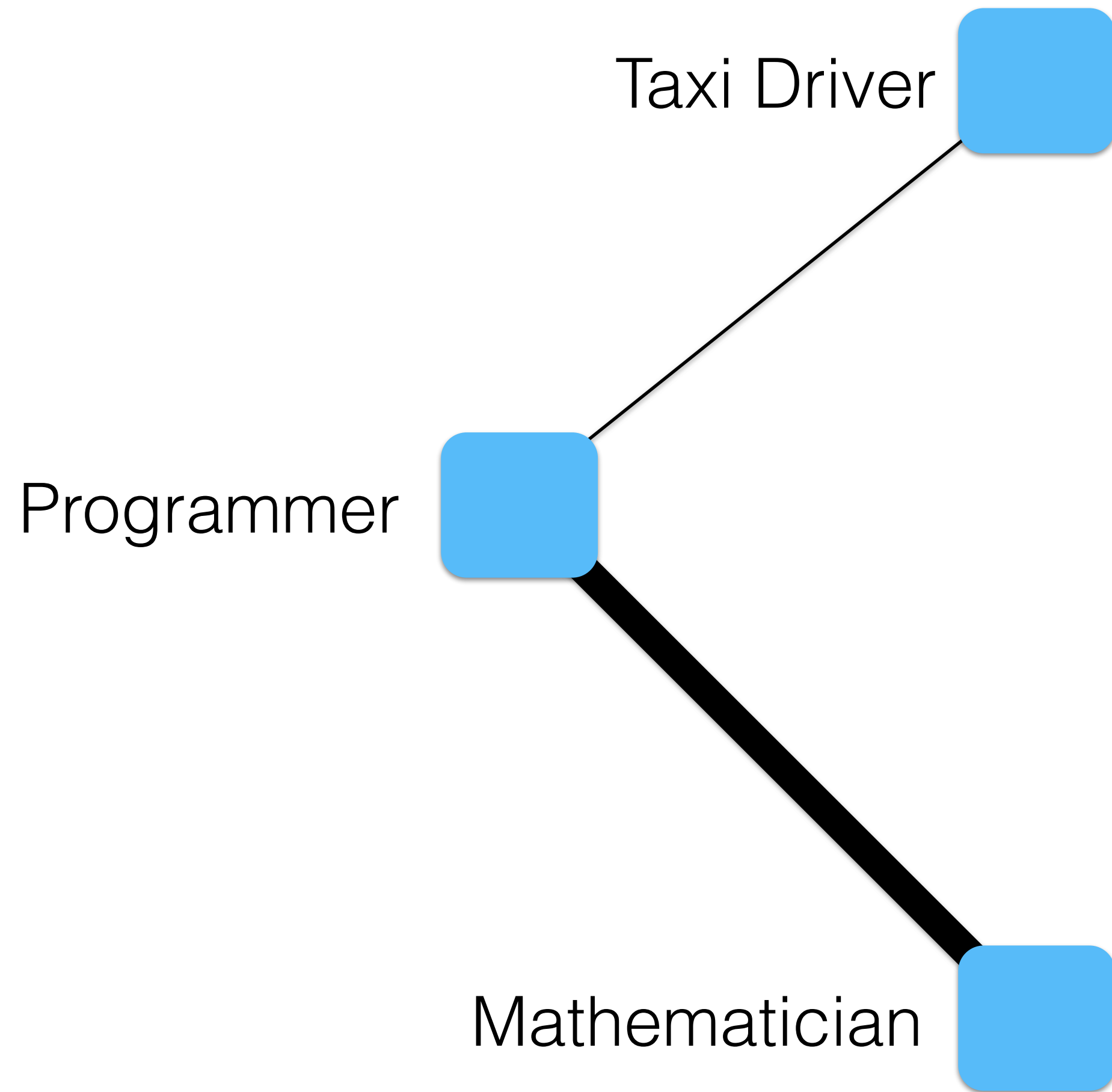


Unpacking the polarization of workplace skills, *Science Advances* (2018)





# Connecting Occupations

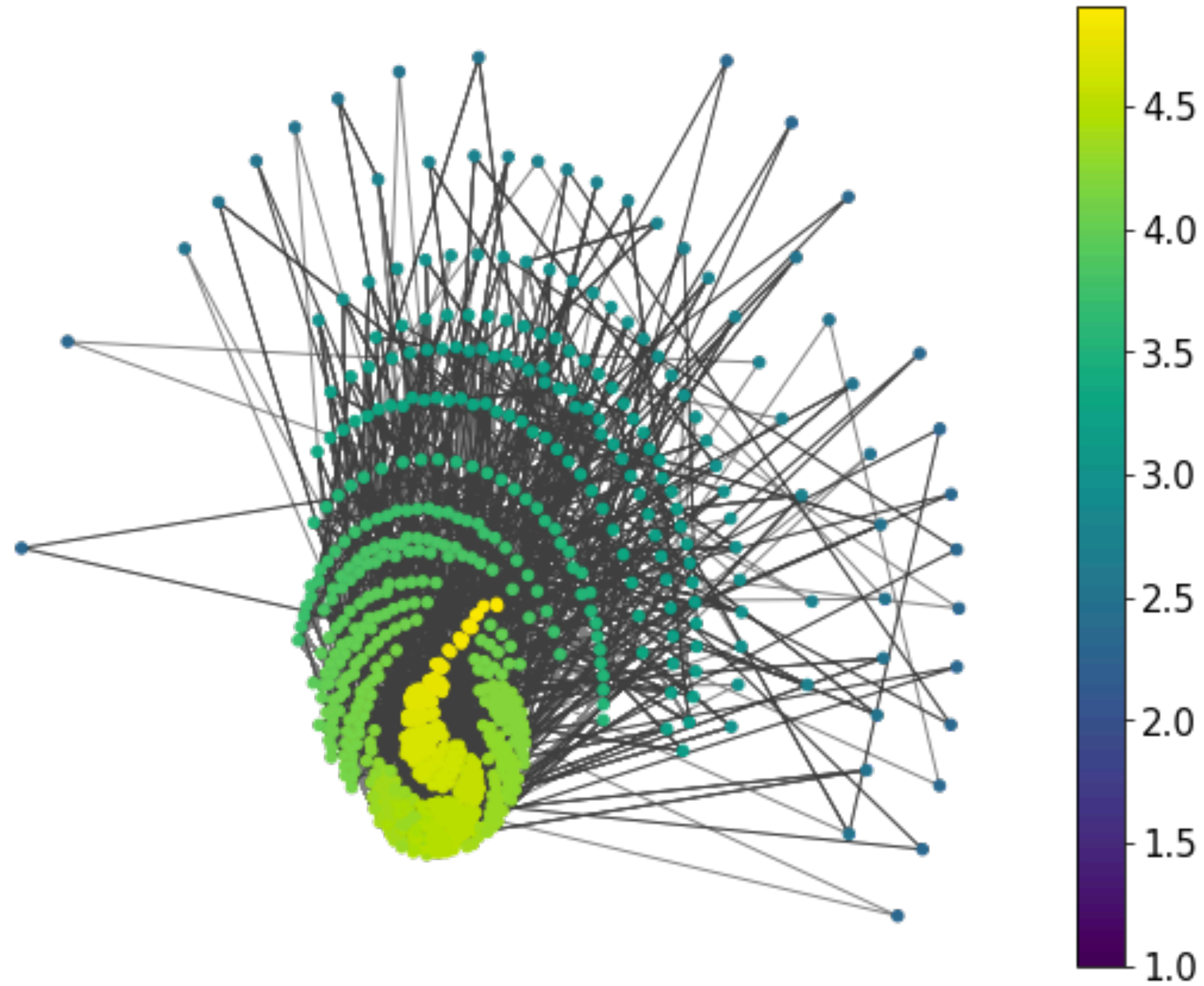


$$rca(i, s) = \frac{onet(i, s) / \sum_{s' \in Skills} onet(i, s')}{\sum_{i' \in Jobs} onet(i', s) / \sum_{s' \in Skills, j' \in Jobs} onet(i', s')}$$

$$I(i, s) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } rca(i, s) > 1, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

$$skillsim(i, j) = \sum_{s \in Skills} w_s \frac{I(i, s) + I(j, s)}{2}$$

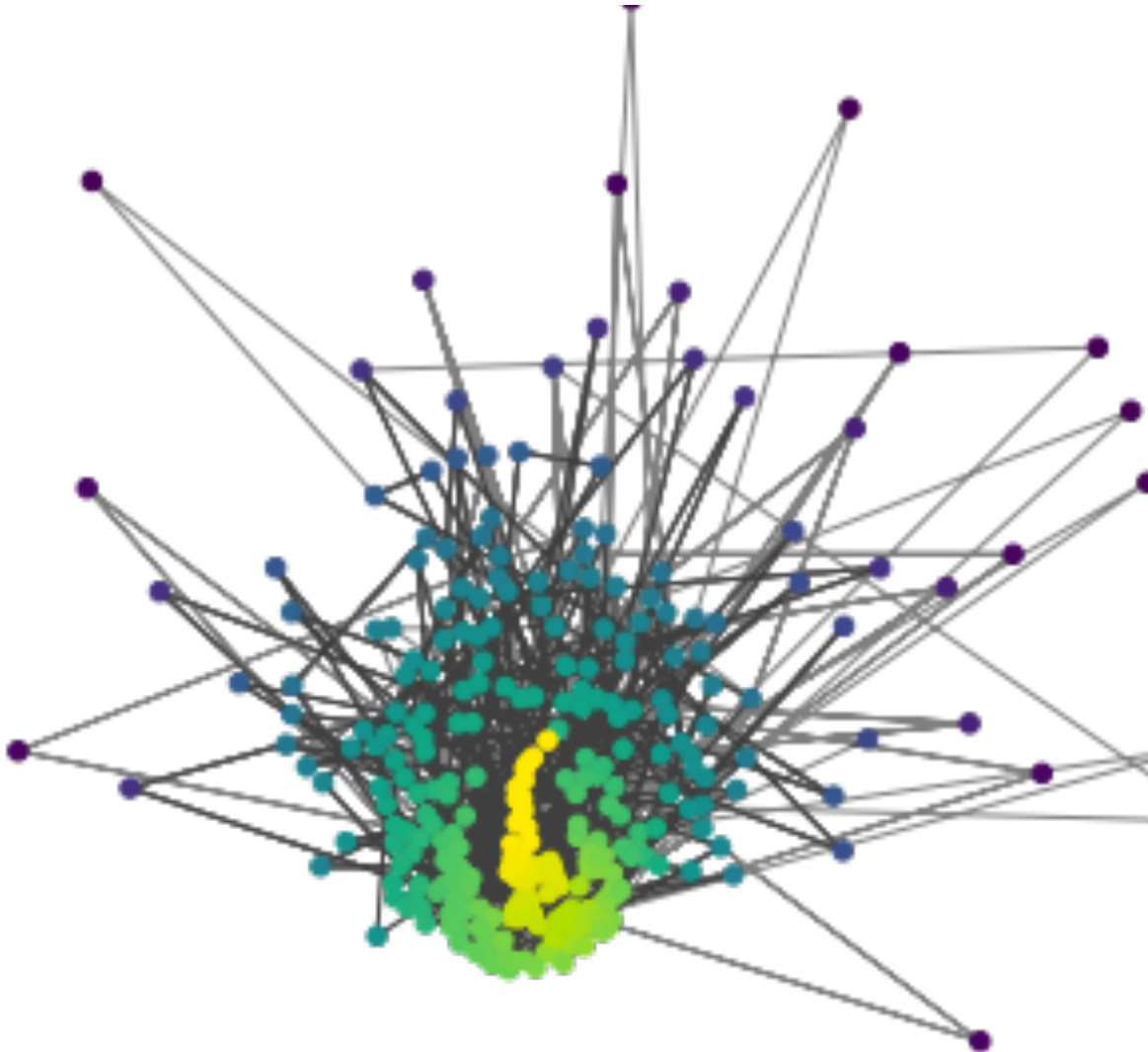
# Connecting Occupations



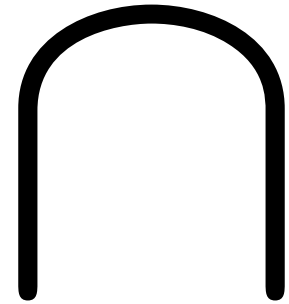
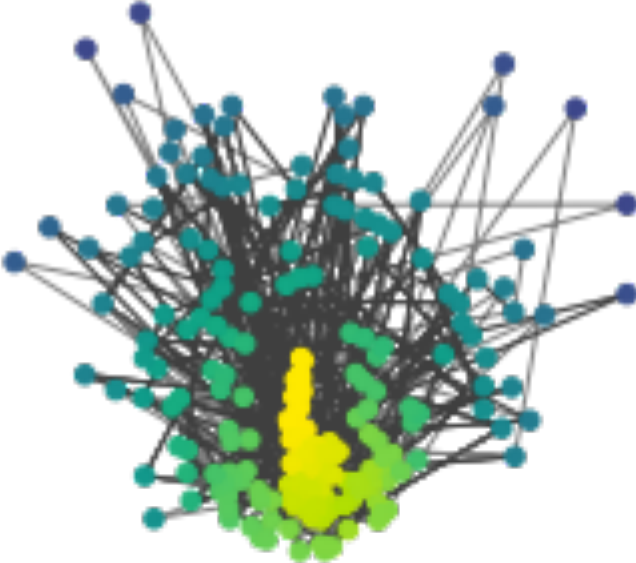
$$\text{Total Skill Similarity}(i) = \sum_{j \in \text{Jobs}, j \neq i} \text{skillsim}(i, j)$$

# Connecting urban workforces

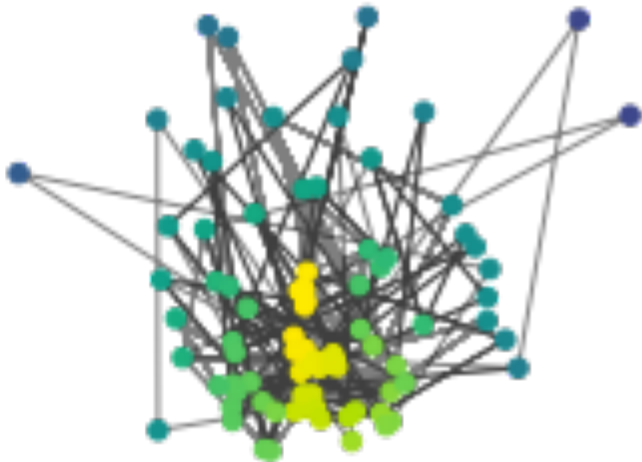
Chicago, IL



Orlando, FL



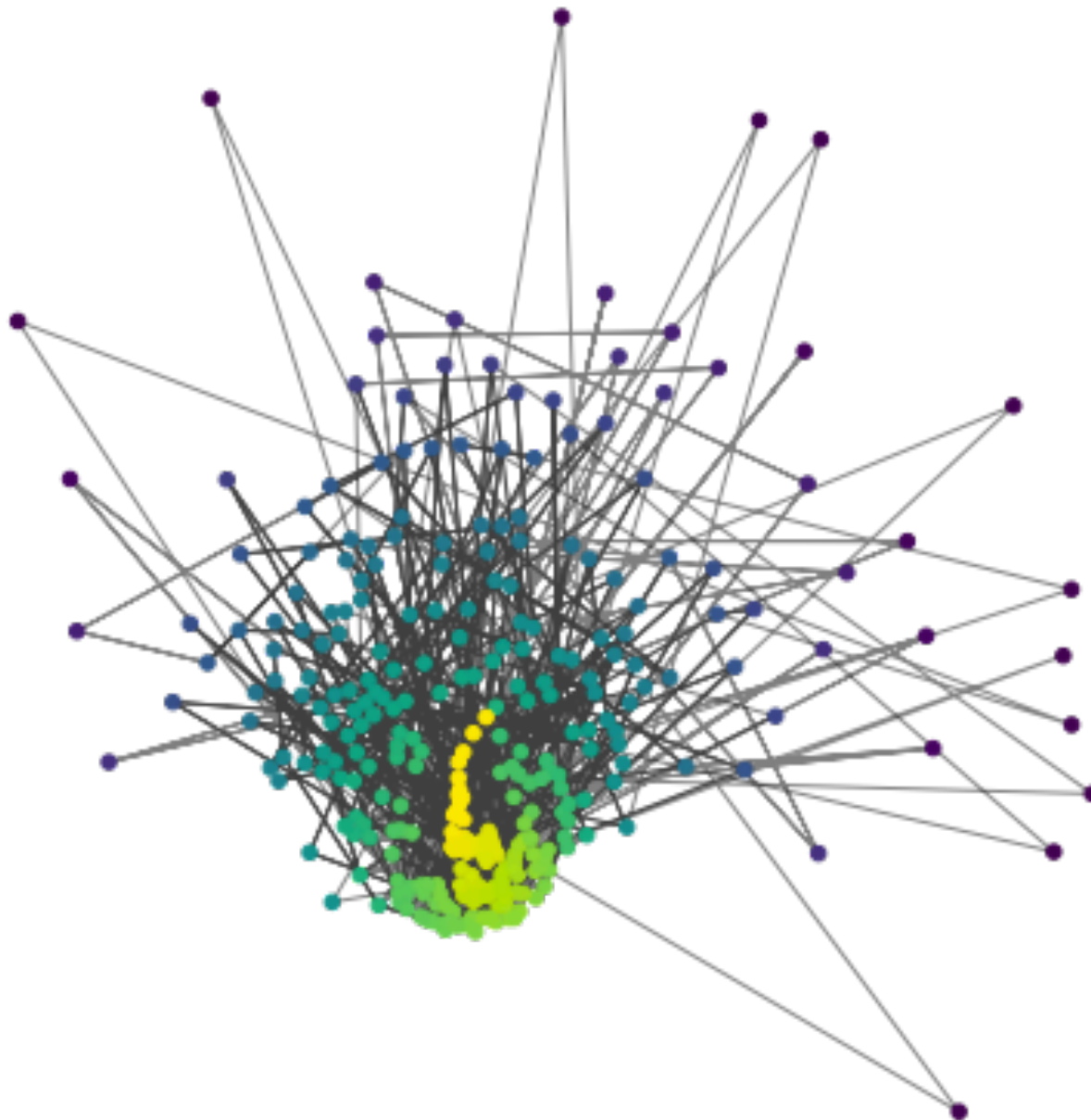
Chicago-Orlando  
Employment Overlap



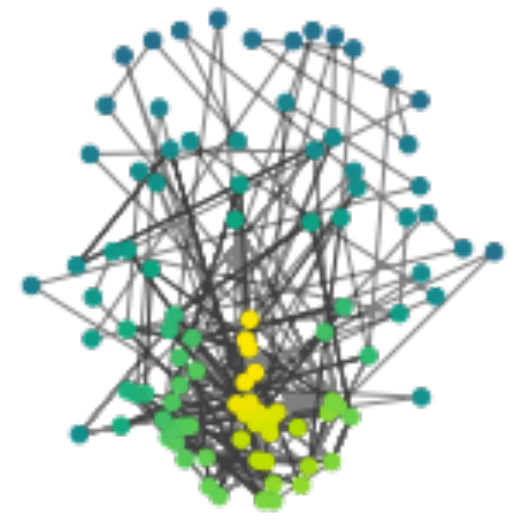


# Connecting urban workforces

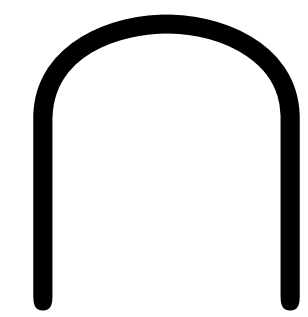
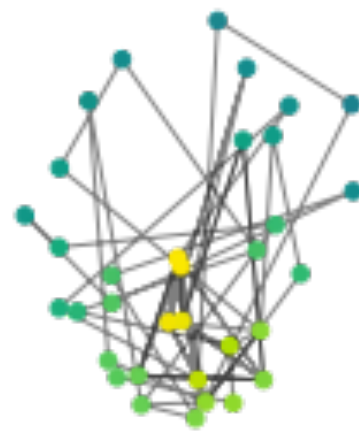
Boston, MA



Napa, CA



Boston-Napa  
Employment Overlap



$$\vec{c}_a = [\dots, I(a, j), \dots]_{j \in Jobs}$$

$$\text{job tightness}(a, b) = \frac{\langle JJ \cdot (\vec{c}_a + \vec{c}_b) \rangle}{\langle JJ \rangle}$$



# Connecting skills to *spatial* mobility

Two Types of Intercity Mobility:

Enplaned Passengers

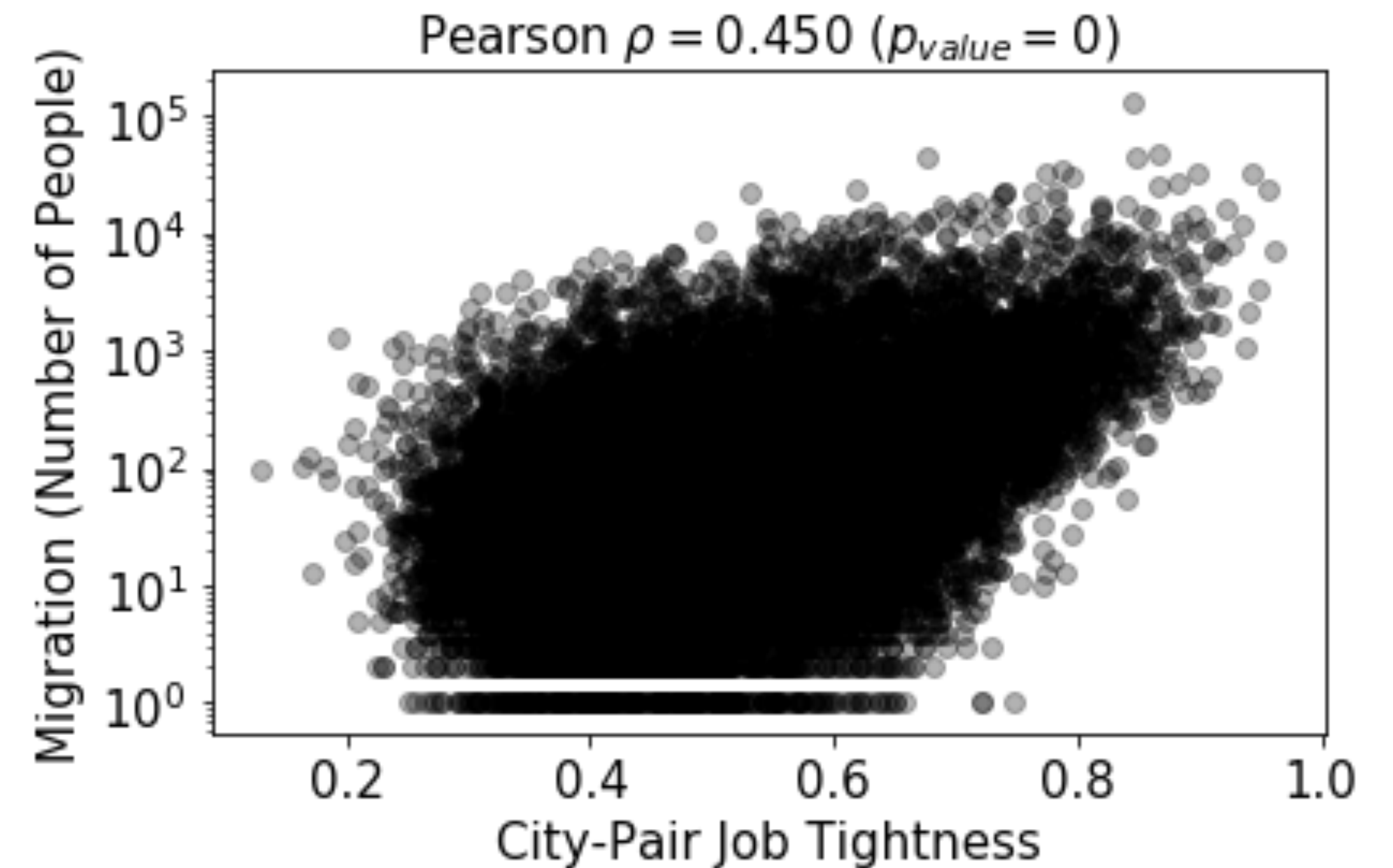
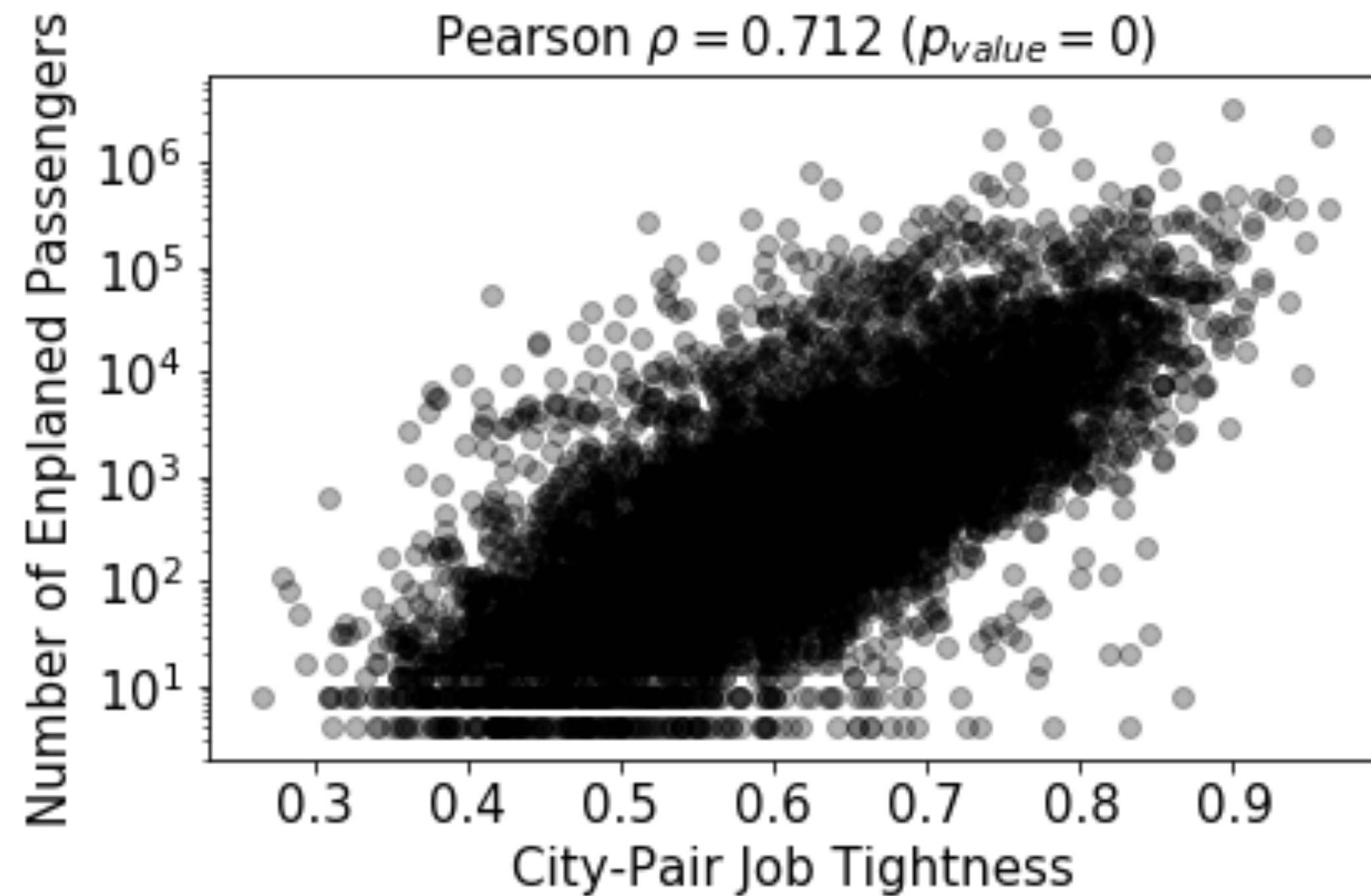
Migration



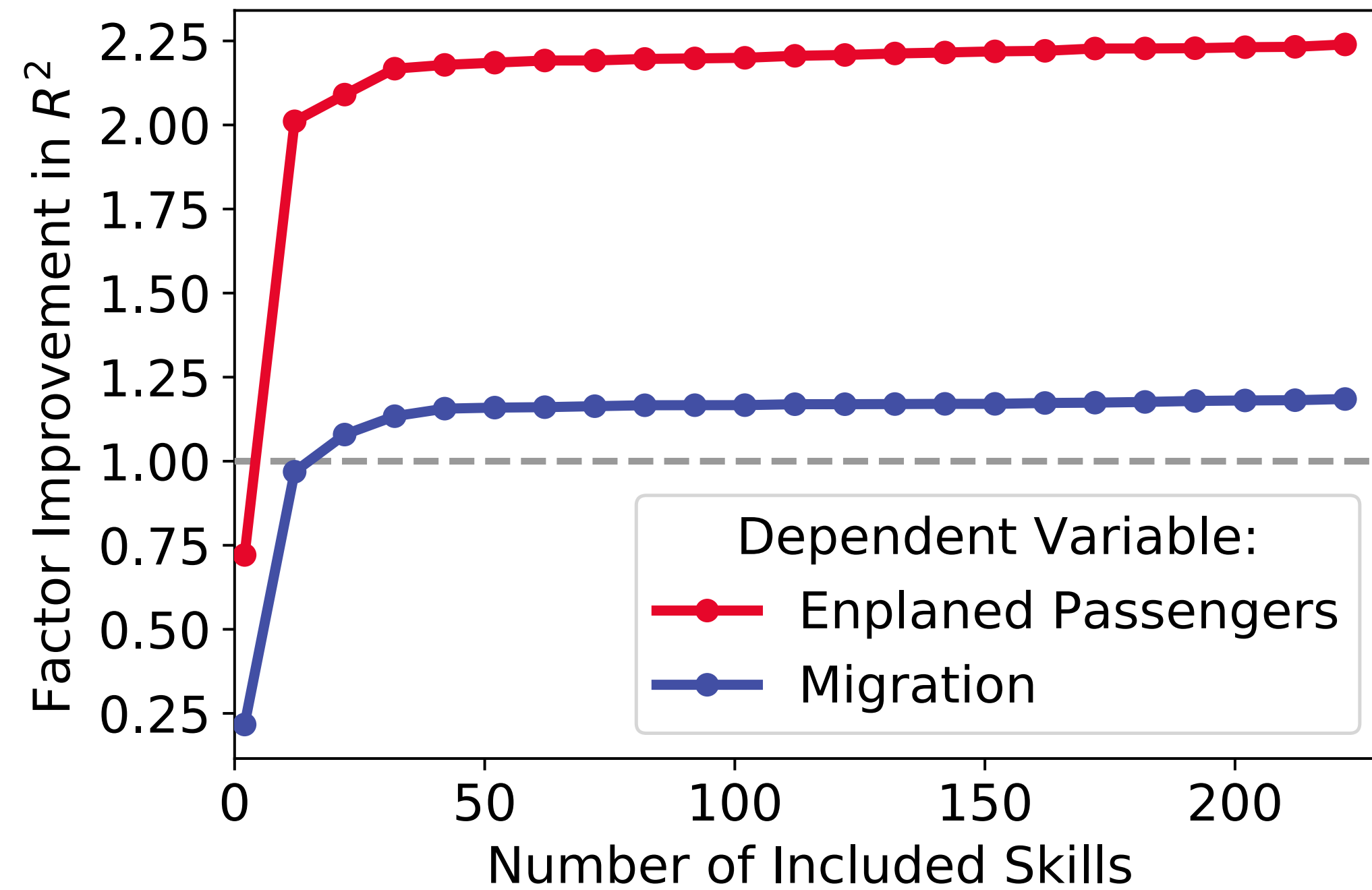
# Connecting skills to *spatial* mobility

$$\vec{c}_a = [\dots, I(a, j), \dots]_{j \in Jobs}$$

$$\text{job tightness}(a, b) = \frac{\langle JJ \cdot (\vec{c}_a + \vec{c}_b) \rangle}{\langle JJ \rangle}$$



# Not all skills are equal



Use supervised CMA-ES to learn skill weights ( $w_s$ )

# Connecting skills to spatial mobility

Dependent Variable:  $\log_{10}(\text{enplaned passengers}_{a,b})$

Variable	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4	Model 5
Weighted Job Tightness	0.867***		0.815***		0.841***
Log Employment		0.560***	0.085***	0.203***	0.091***
Log Distance		0.095***	0.016**	0.097***	0.013*
Characteristic Job Overlap				0.585***	-0.035***
$R^2$	0.752	0.330	0.757	0.545	0.757
adj. $R^2$	0.752	0.330	0.757	0.545	0.757

$p_{val} < 0.1^*$ ,  $p_{val} < 0.01^{**}$ ,  $p_{val} < 0.001^{***}$

Dependent Variable:  $\log_{10}(\text{migration}_{a,b})$

Variable	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4	Model 5
Weighted Job Tightness	0.520***		0.548***		0.631***
Log Employment		0.404***	0.114***	0.155***	0.132***
Log Distance		-0.306***	-0.395***	-0.357***	-0.395***
Characteristic Job Overlap				0.427***	-0.105***
$R^2$	0.271	0.225	0.427	0.340	0.429
adj. $R^2$	0.271	0.225	0.427	0.339	0.429

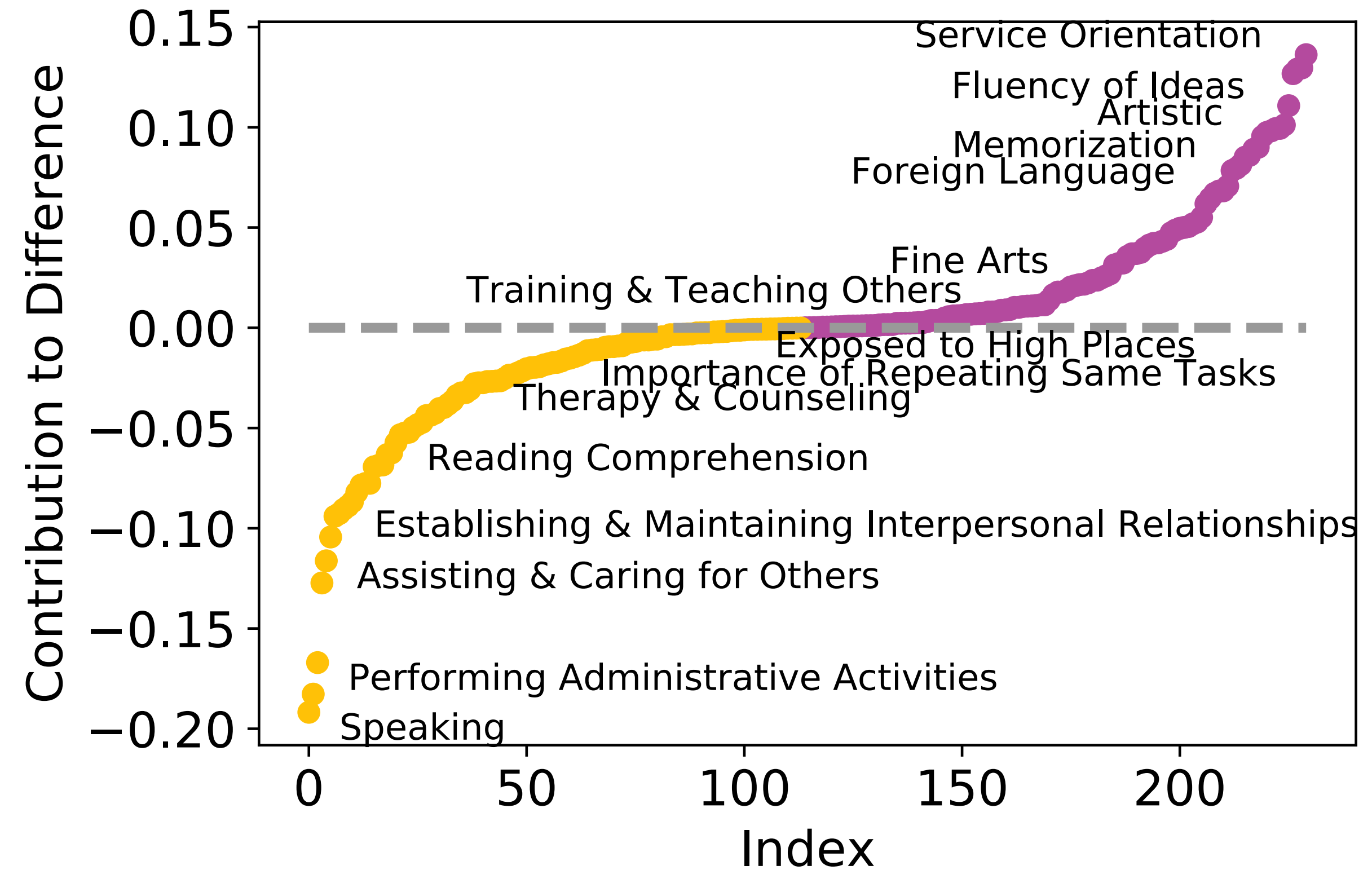
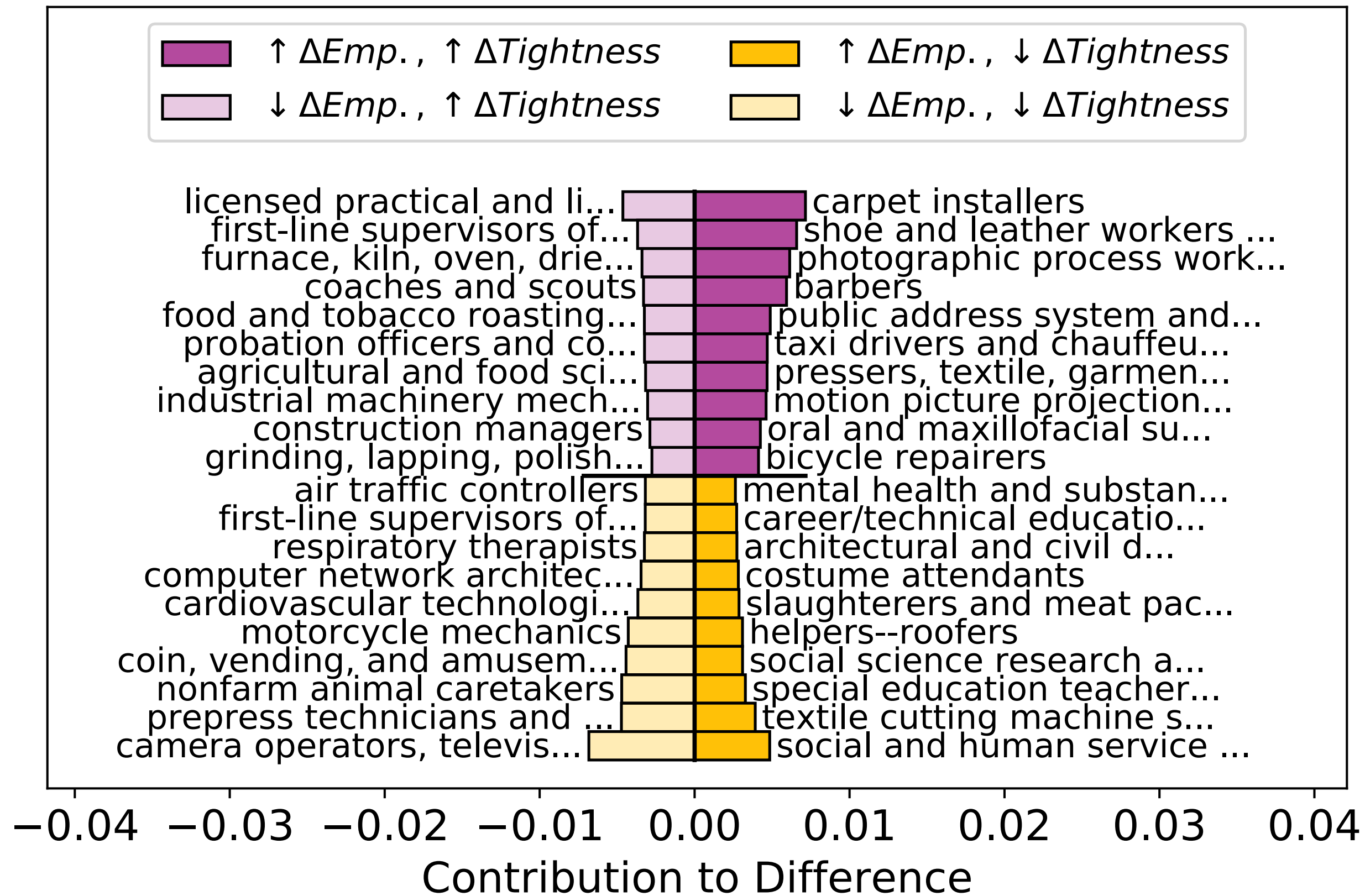
$p_{val} < 0.1^*$ ,  $p_{val} < 0.01^{**}$ ,  $p_{val} < 0.001^{***}$

# Explaining Job Tightness

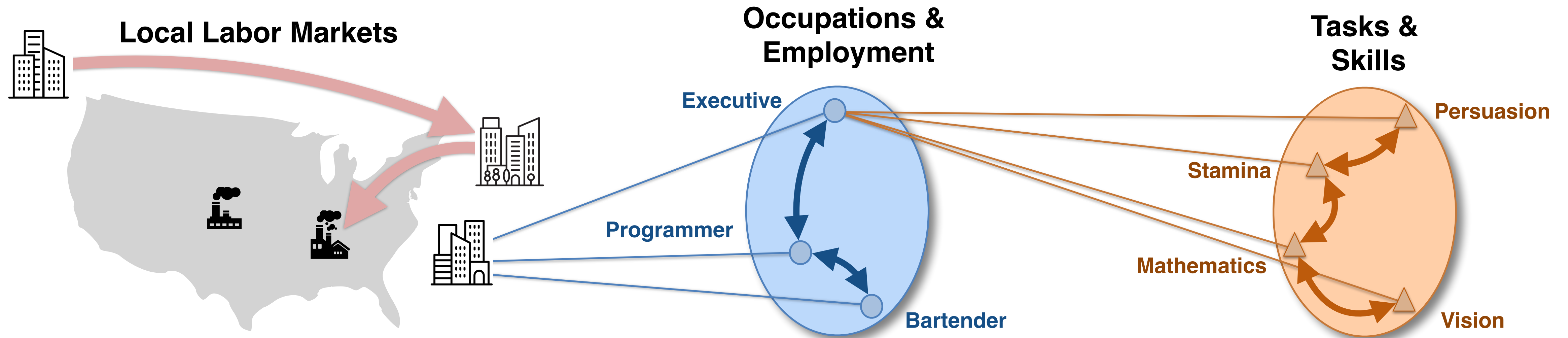
$tightness(\text{Chicago, New York}) = 0.98$

$tightness(\text{Chicago, Indianapolis}) = 0.81$

$\Delta Tightness = 0.172$



# Unifying Perspectives

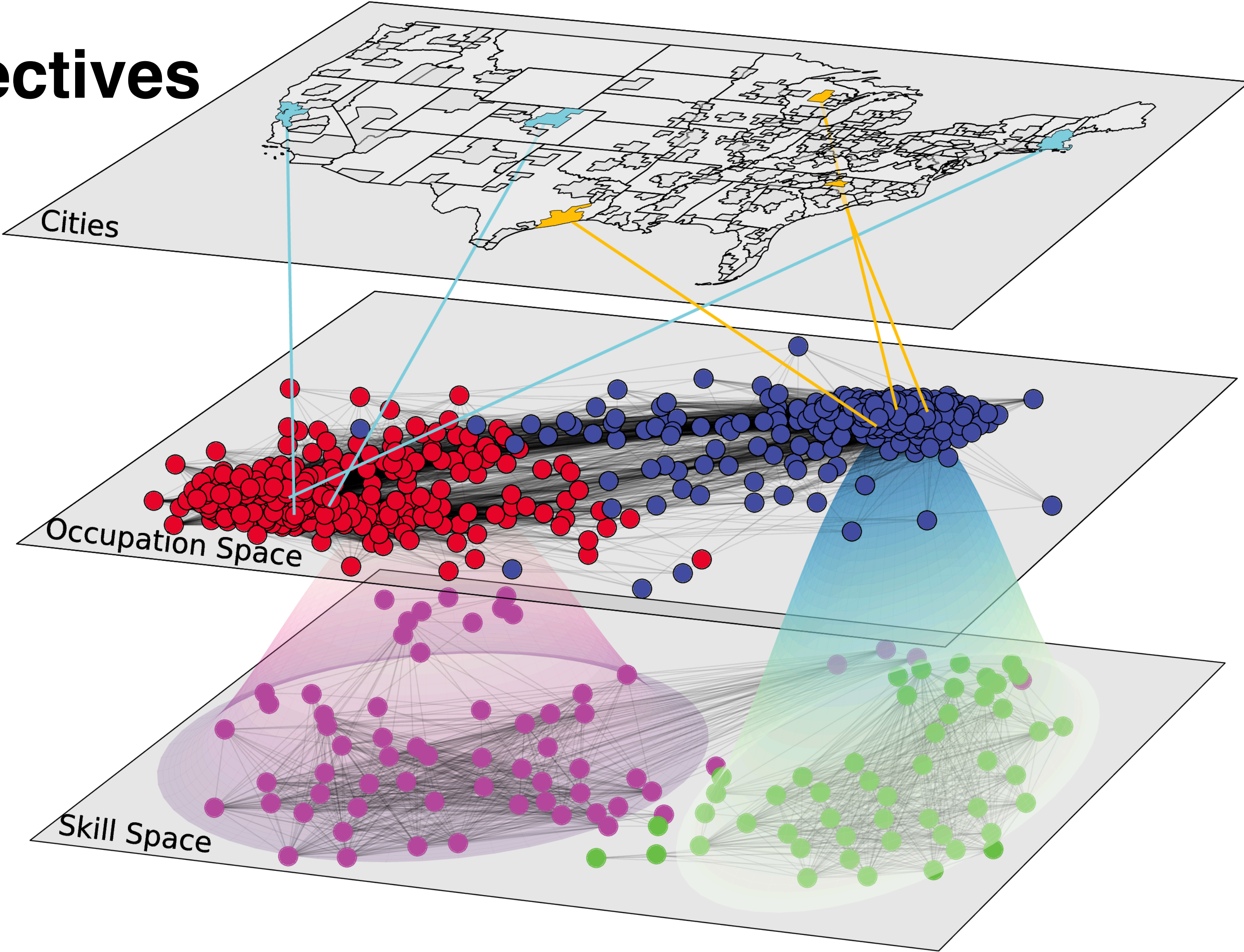


- differential impact of automation
- skill & wealth disparity
- spatial career mobility

- career trajectories
- viable retraining
- job polarization

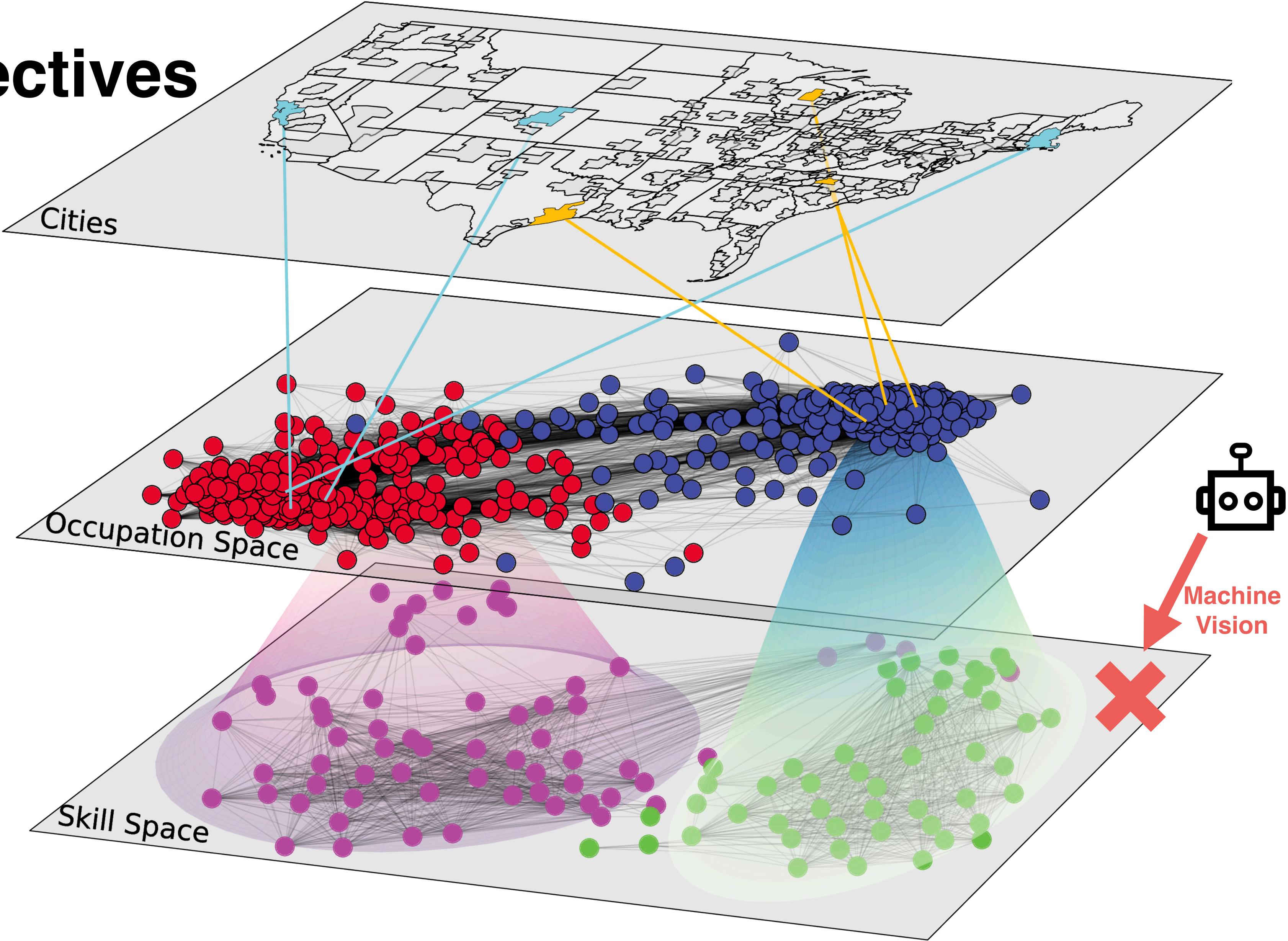
- interaction with technology
- skill complementarity
- education

# Unifying Perspectives



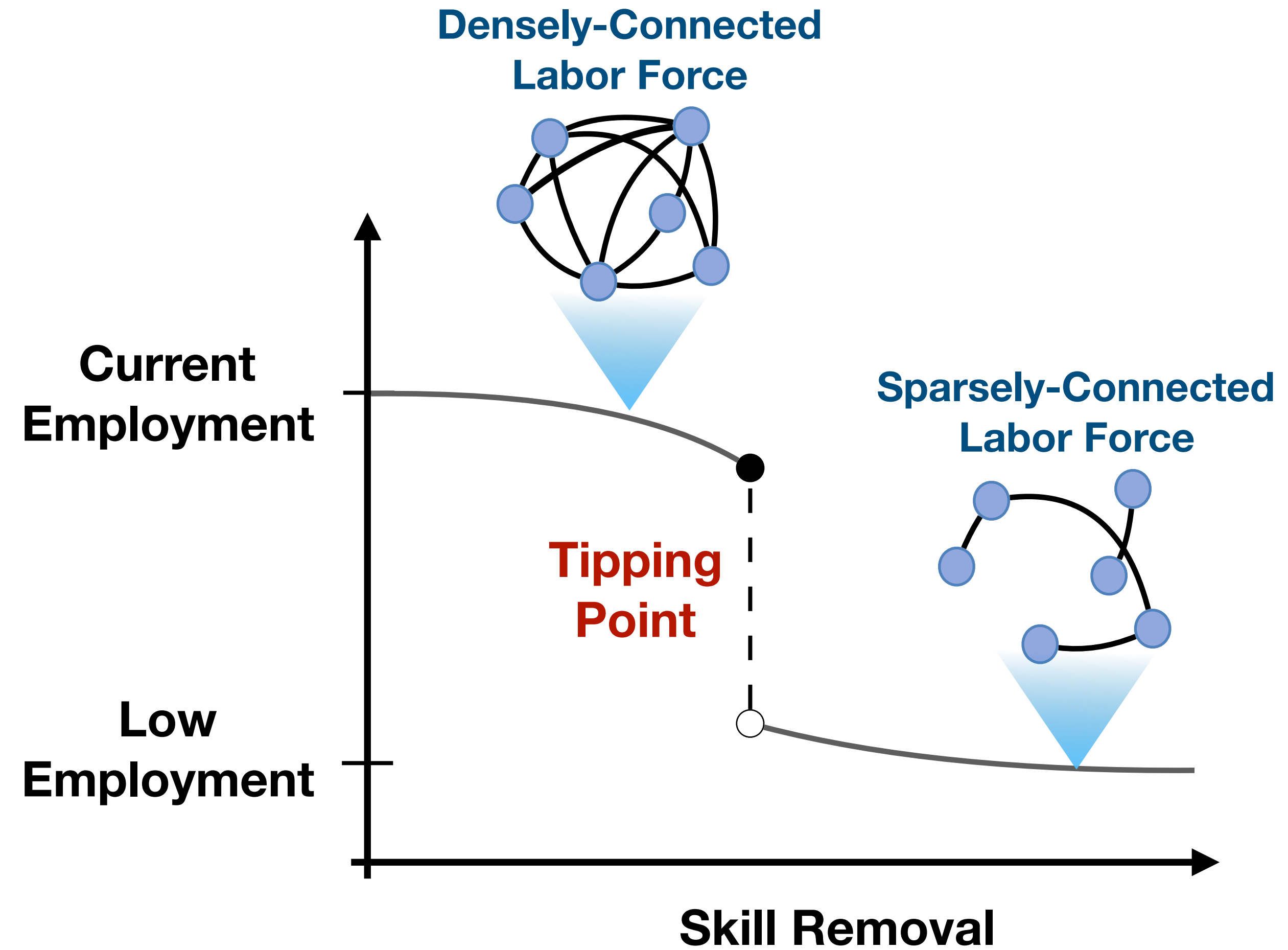
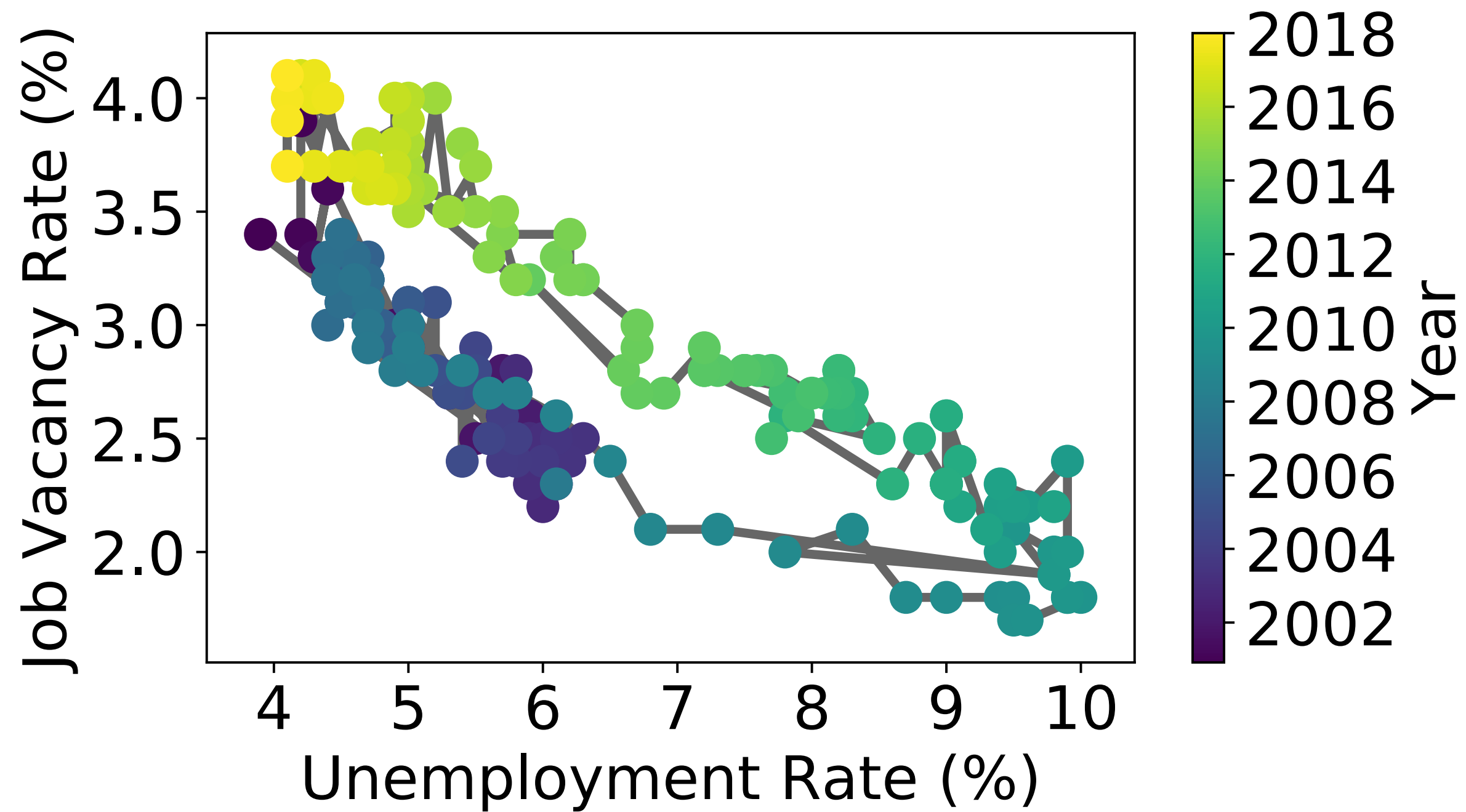


# Unifying Perspectives



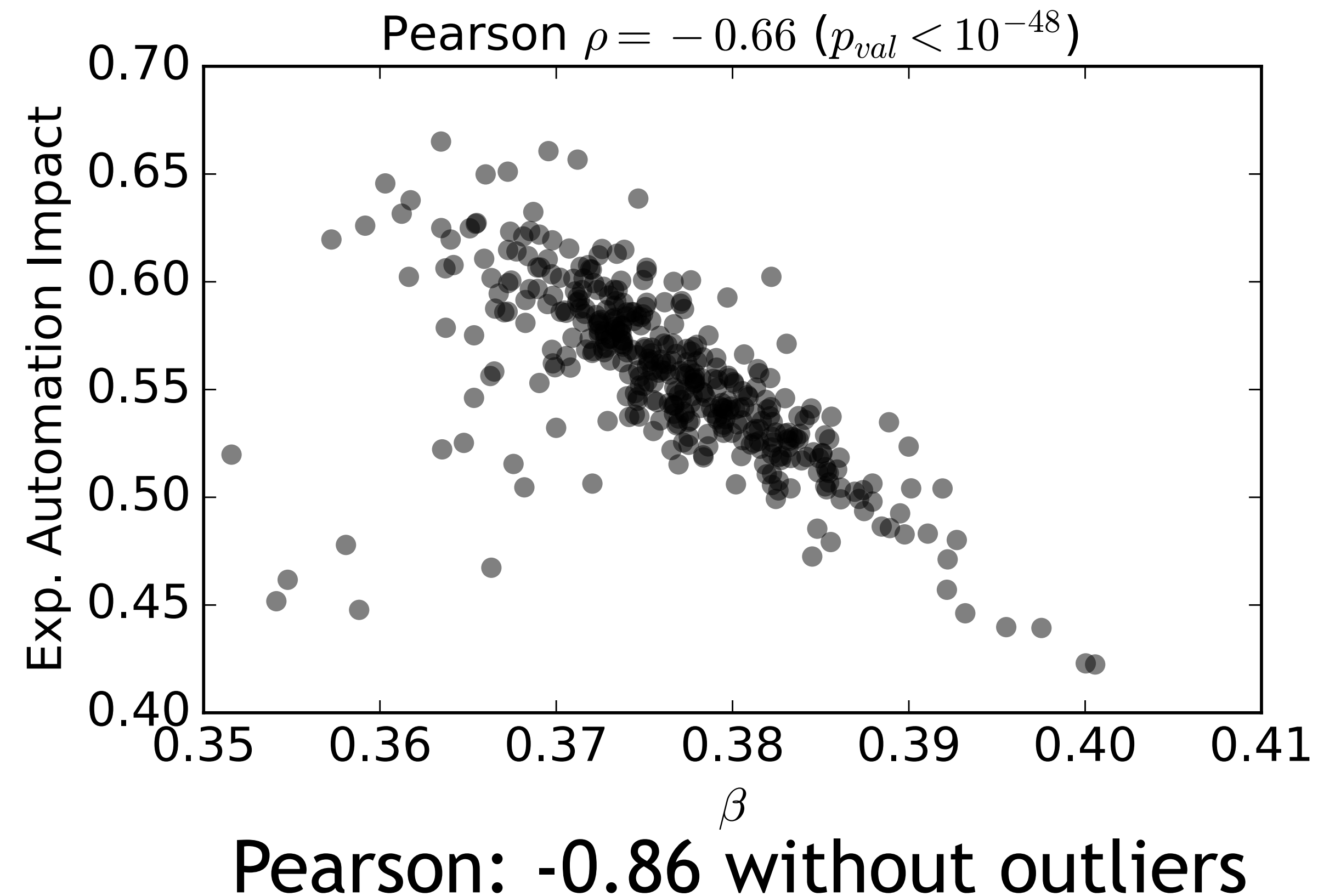
# The structural resilience of urban labor markets

## Beveridge Curve



# The structural resilience of urban labor markets

- Jianxi Gao, Baruch Barzel, & Alberto-Laszlo Barabasi. *Universal resilience patterns in complex networks*. Nature (2016)
- occupations -> animals, skills -> plants, cities -> ecosystems
- exp. impact from automation strongly correlates with structural resilience measure from ecology



# Fellow Laborers (to name a few):



Lijun Sun



Iyad Rahwan



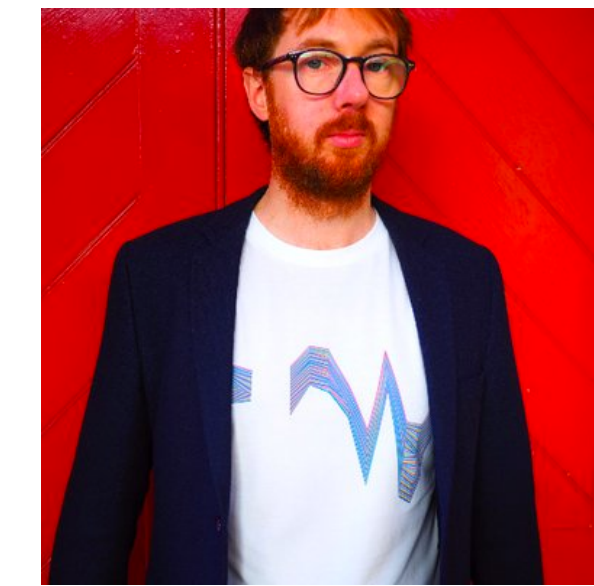
Esteban Moro



Manuel Cebrian



César Hidalgo



Alex Rutherford



Hyejin Youn



Ahmad  
Alabdulkareem



Inho Hong



Erik  
Brynjolfsson

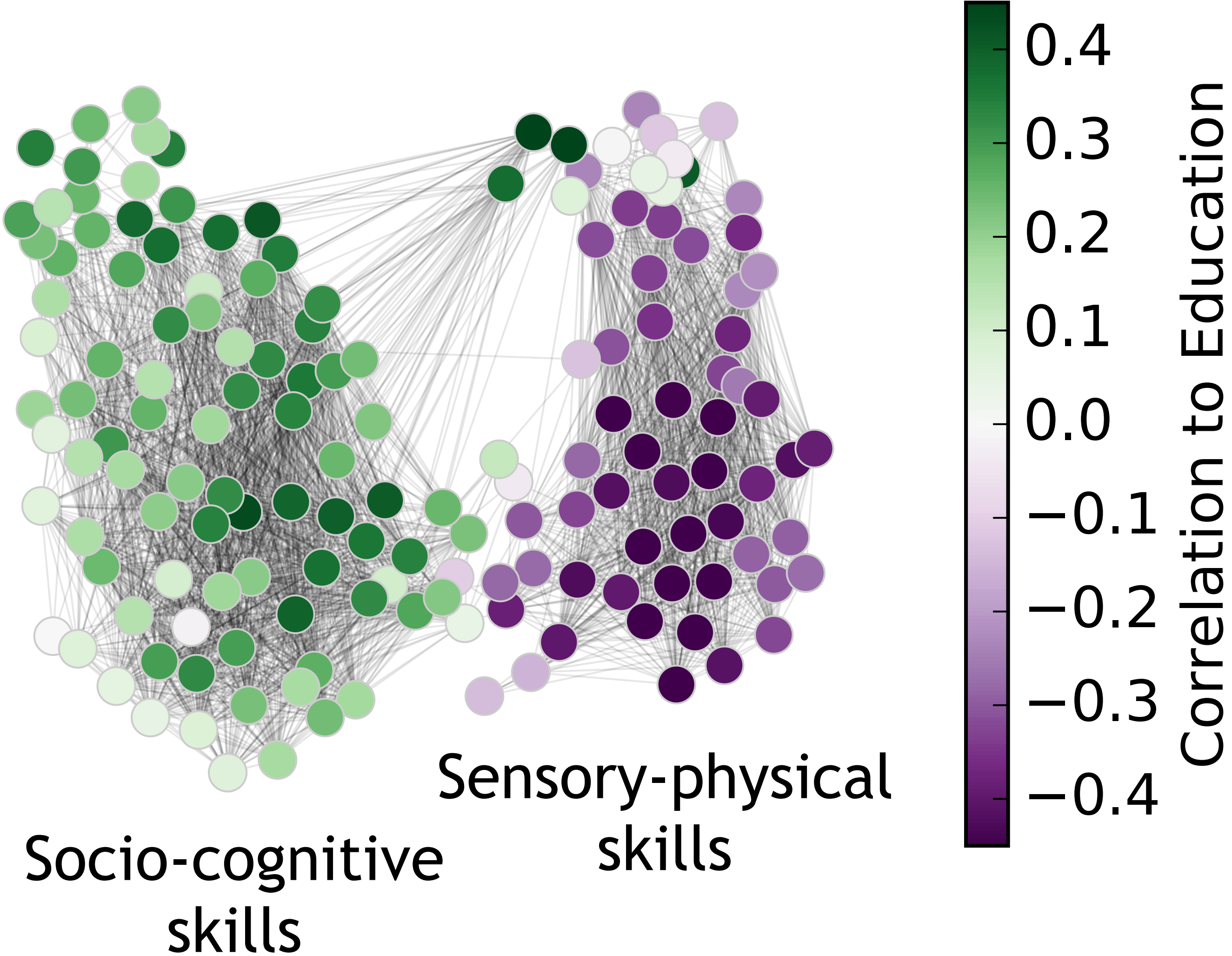


Daniel Rock



Dashun Wang

# Skill polarization and education

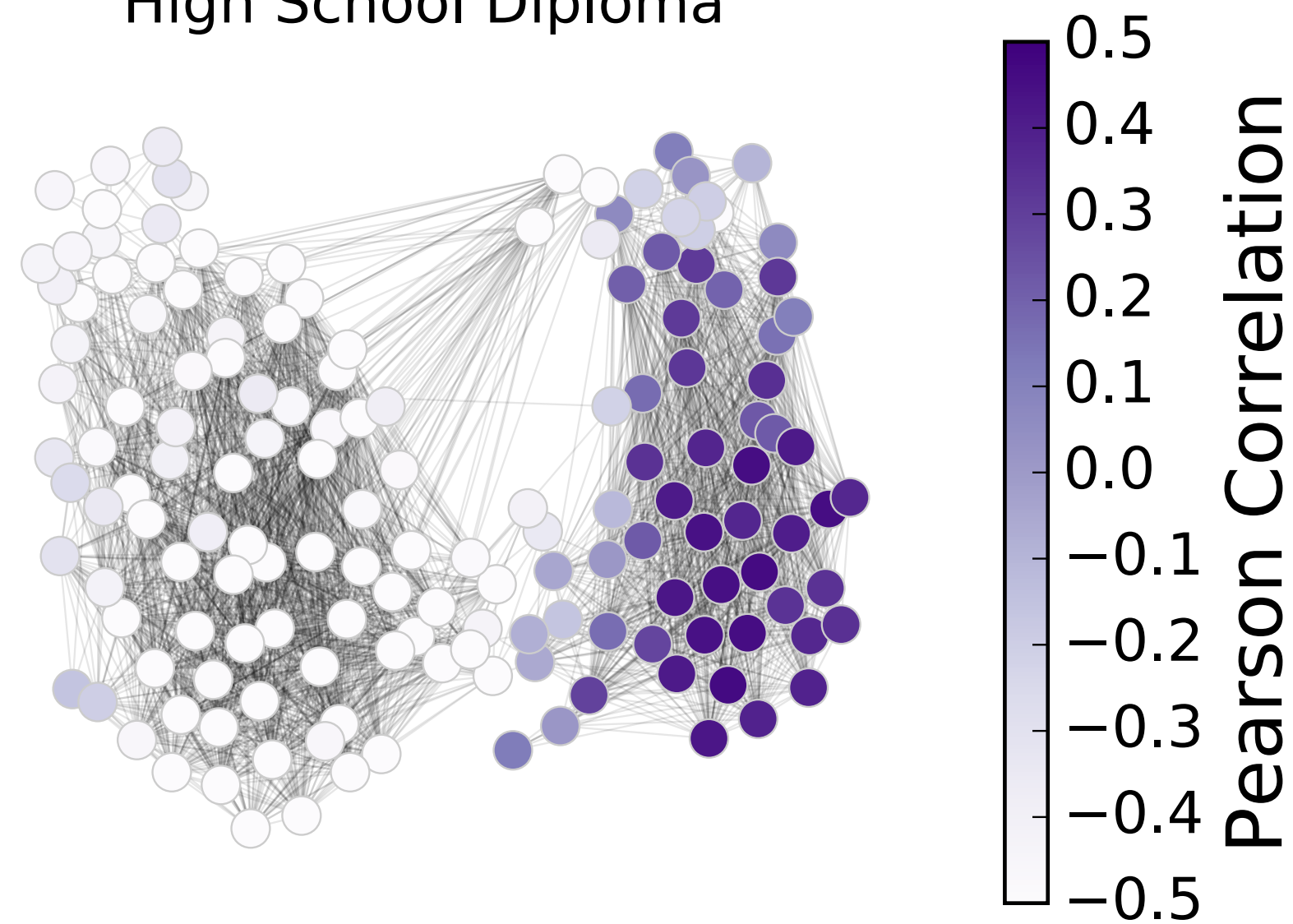


Unpacking the polarization of workplace skills, *Science Advances* (2018)

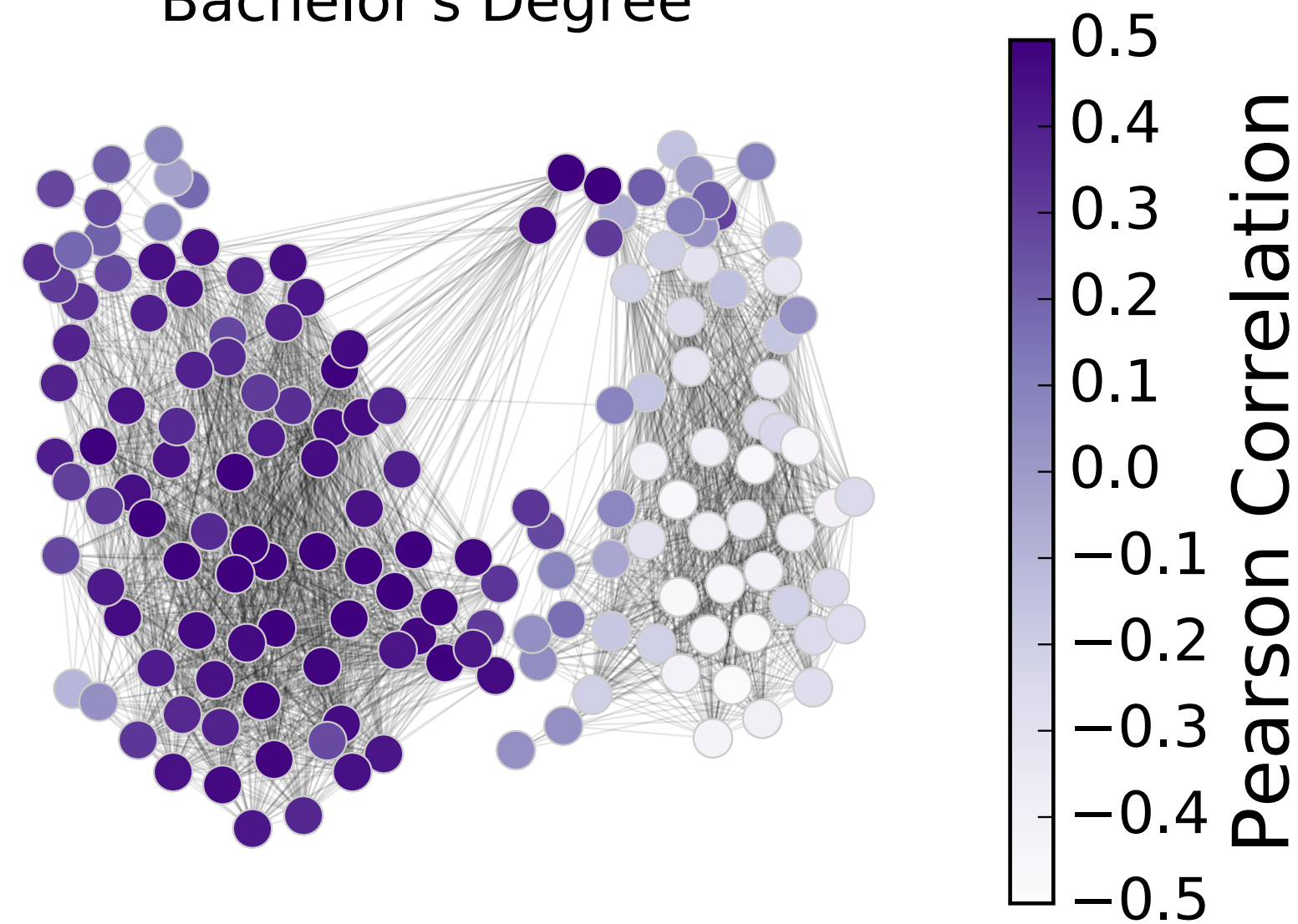


# Skill polarization and Education

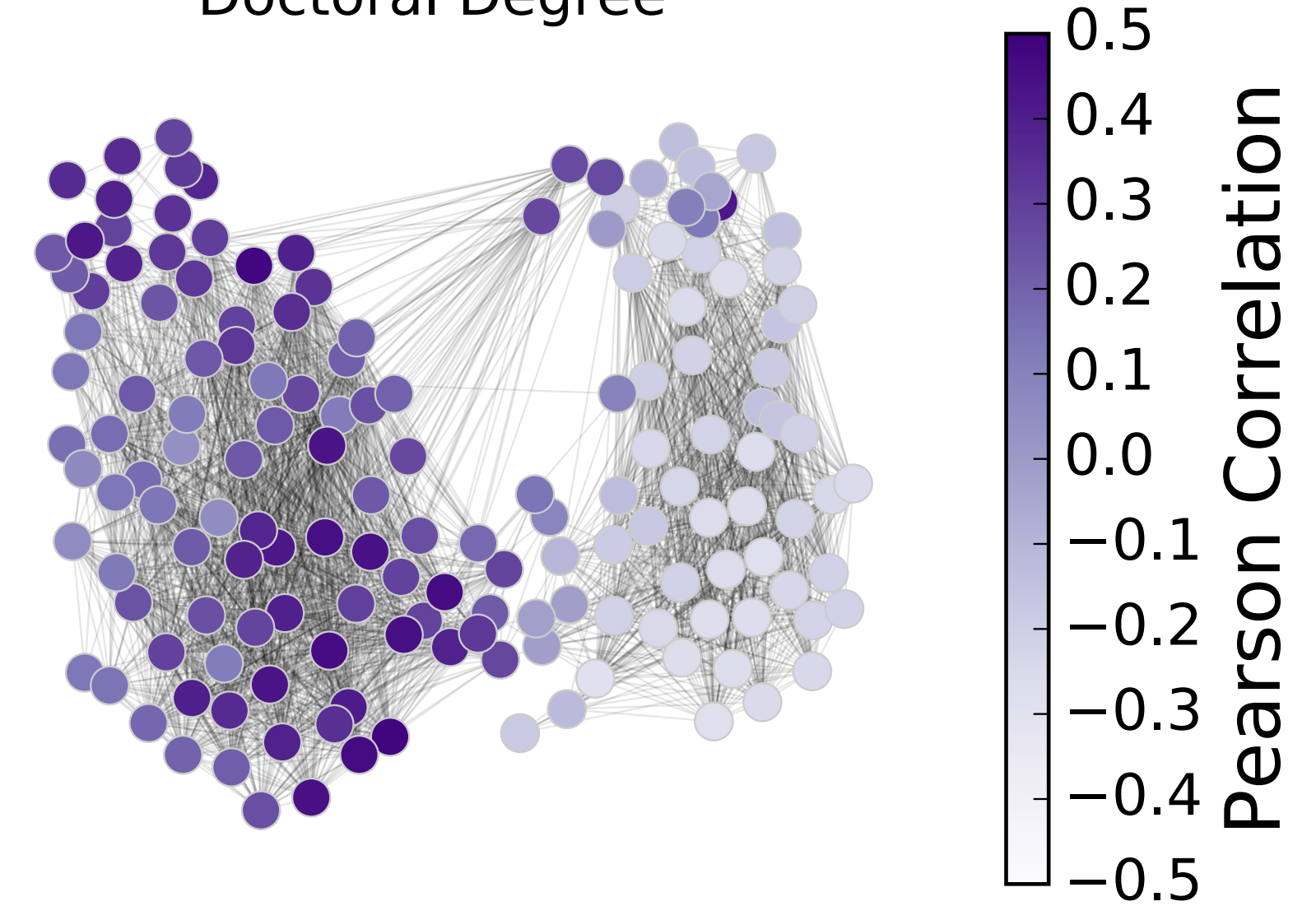
High School Diploma



Bachelor's Degree



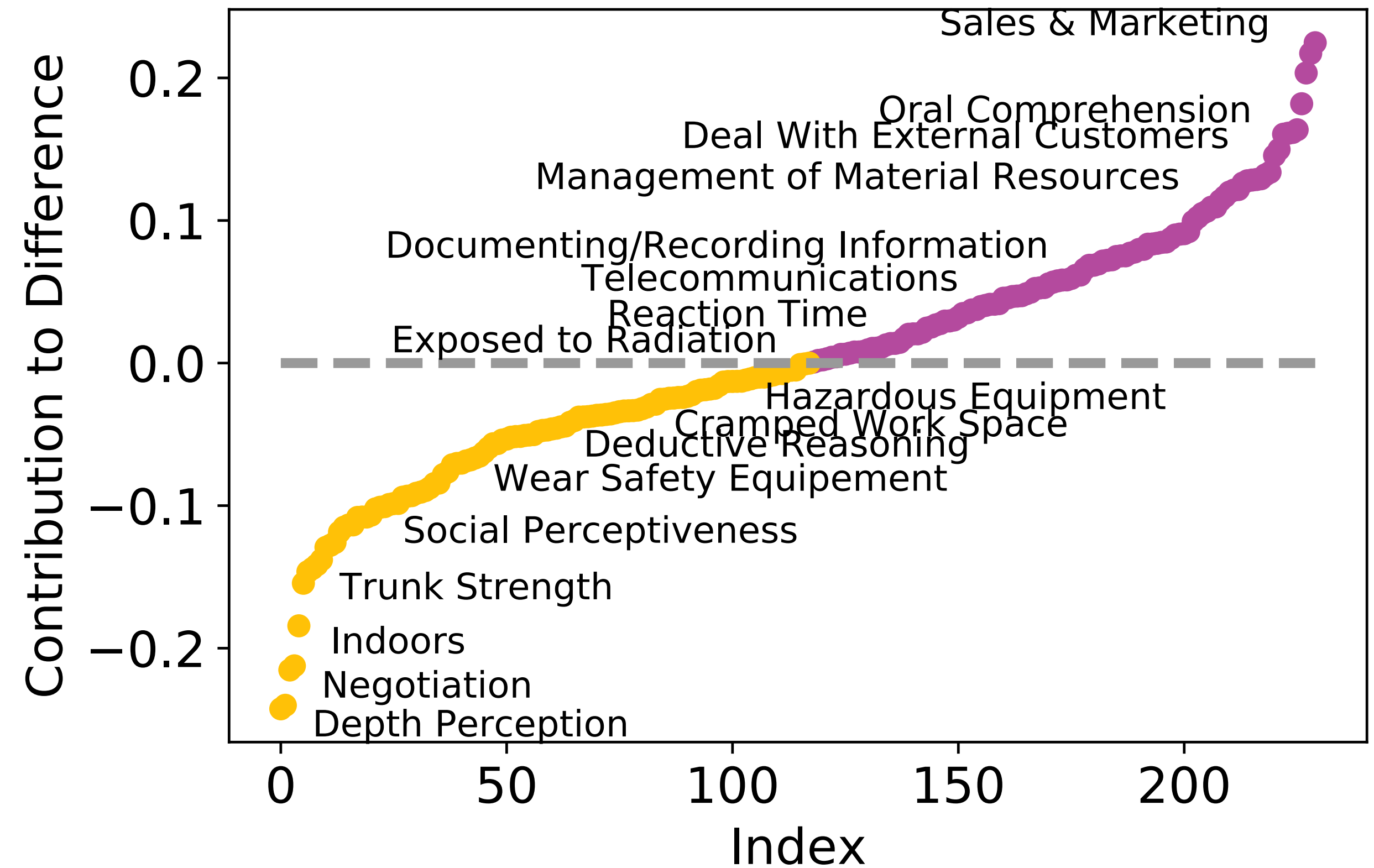
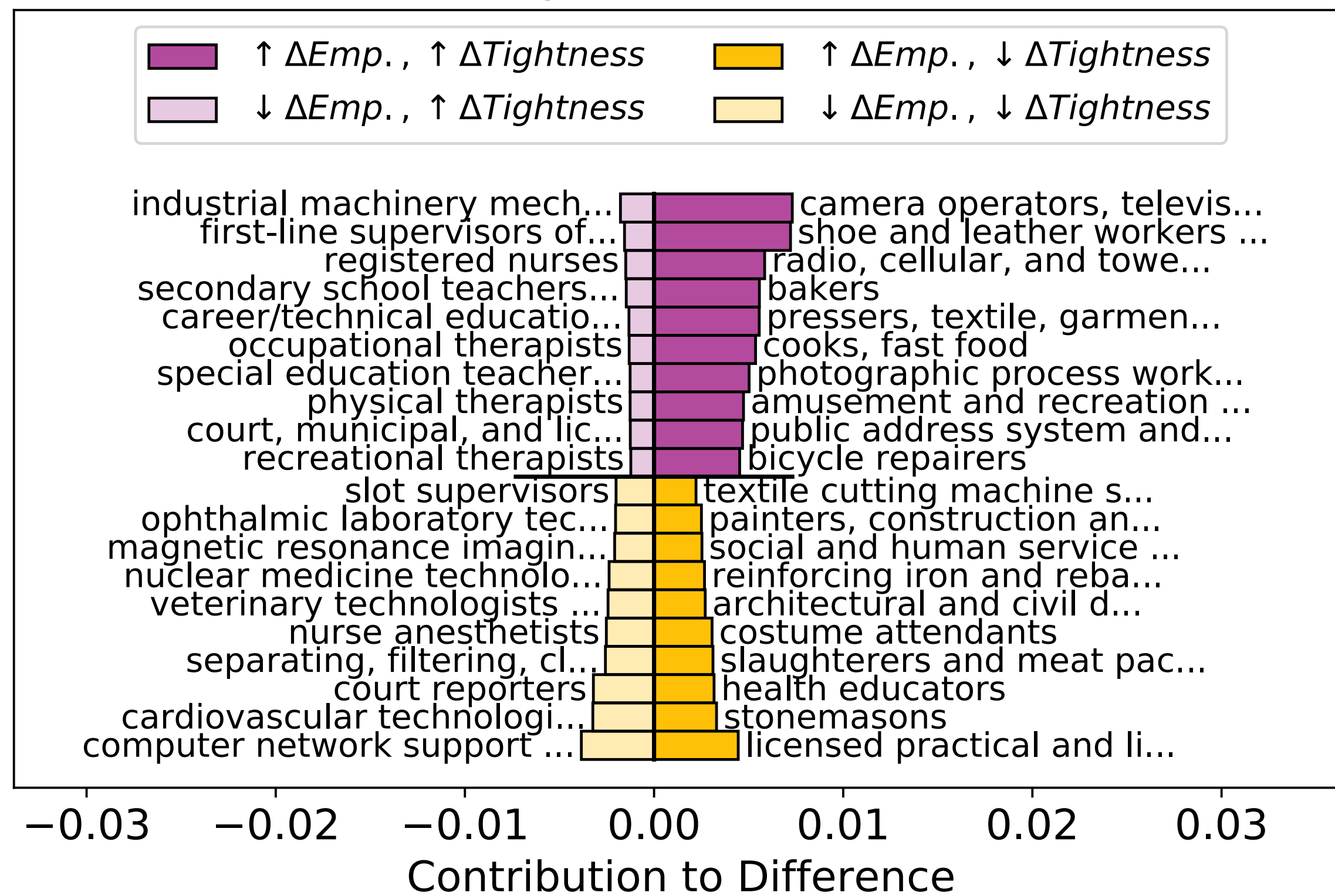
Doctoral Degree



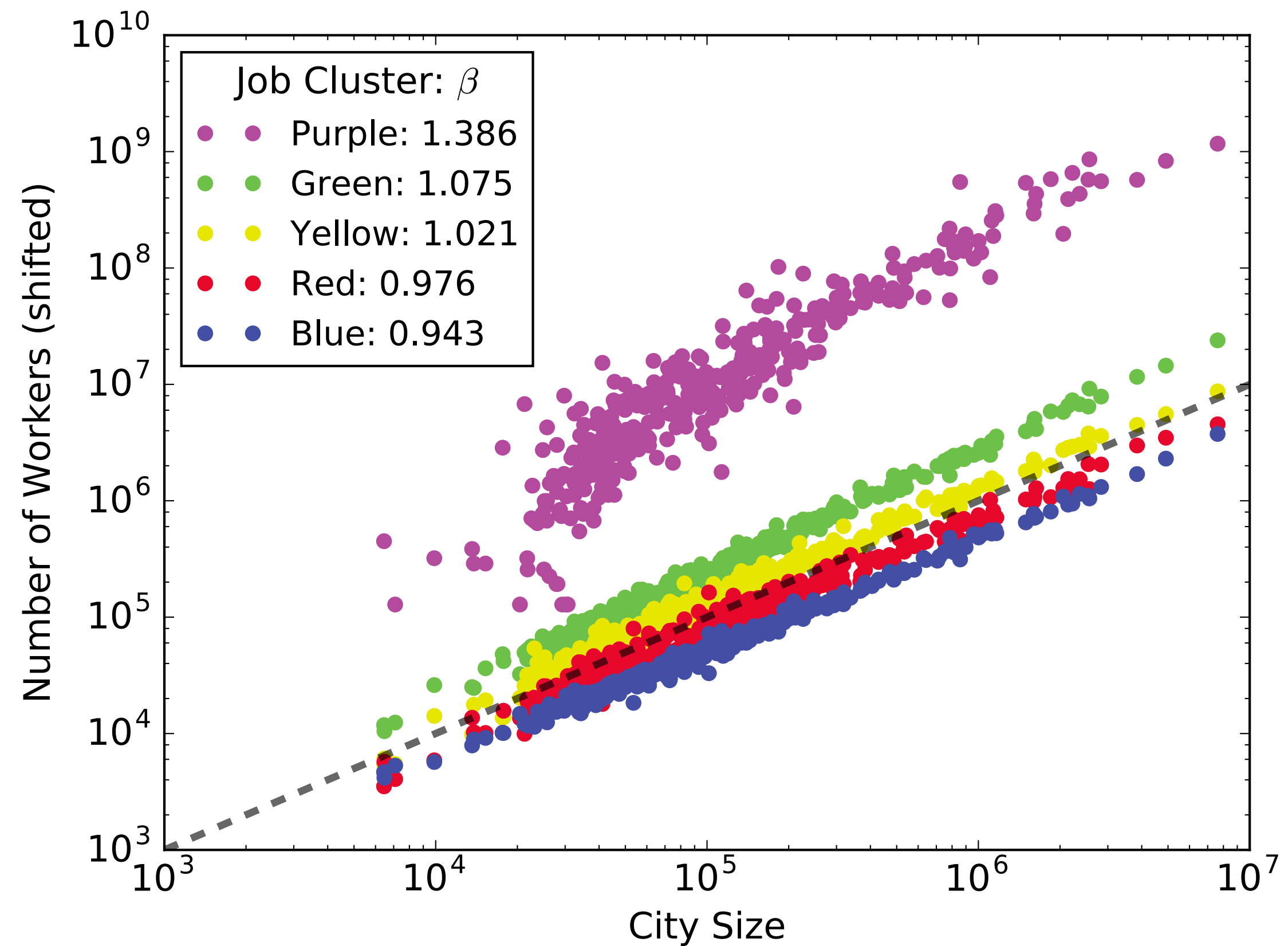
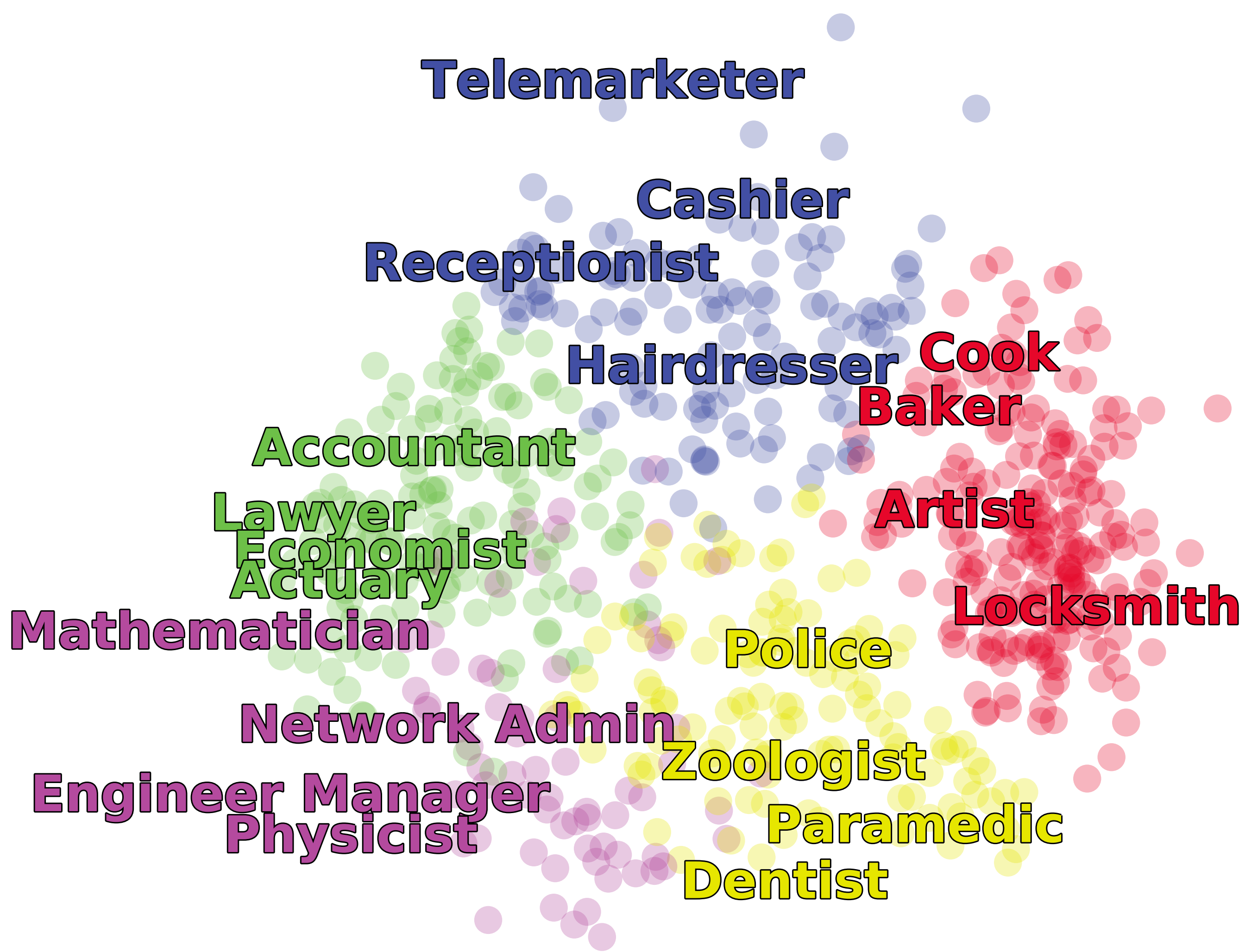
# Explaining Job Tightness

## 20 Least Tight City Pairs vs. 20 Most Tight City Pairs

$\Delta$ Tightness = 0.309



# Cities race with the machines

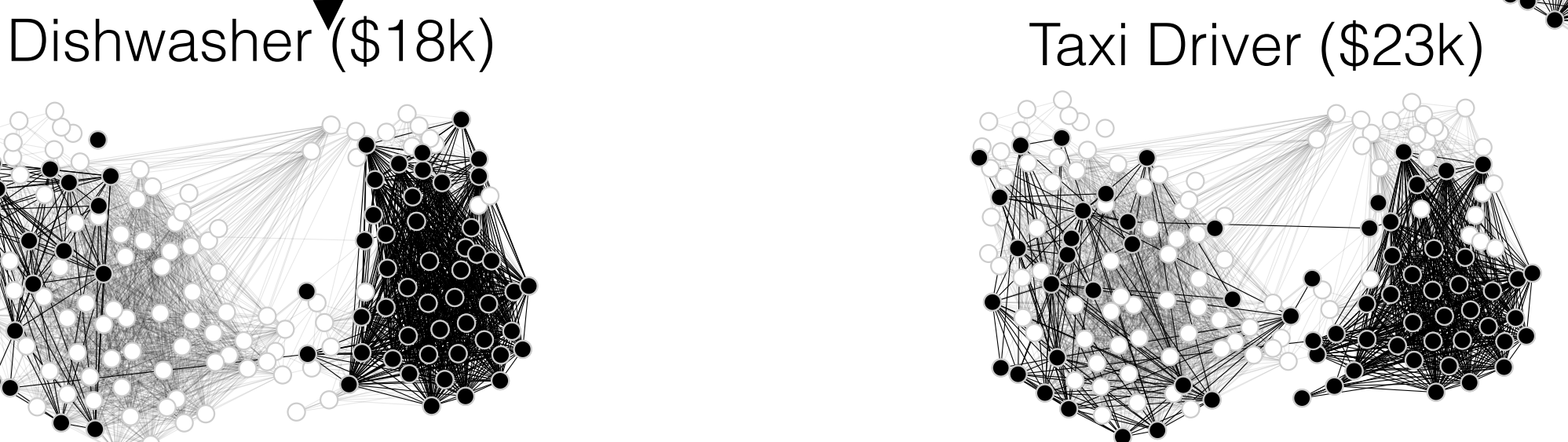
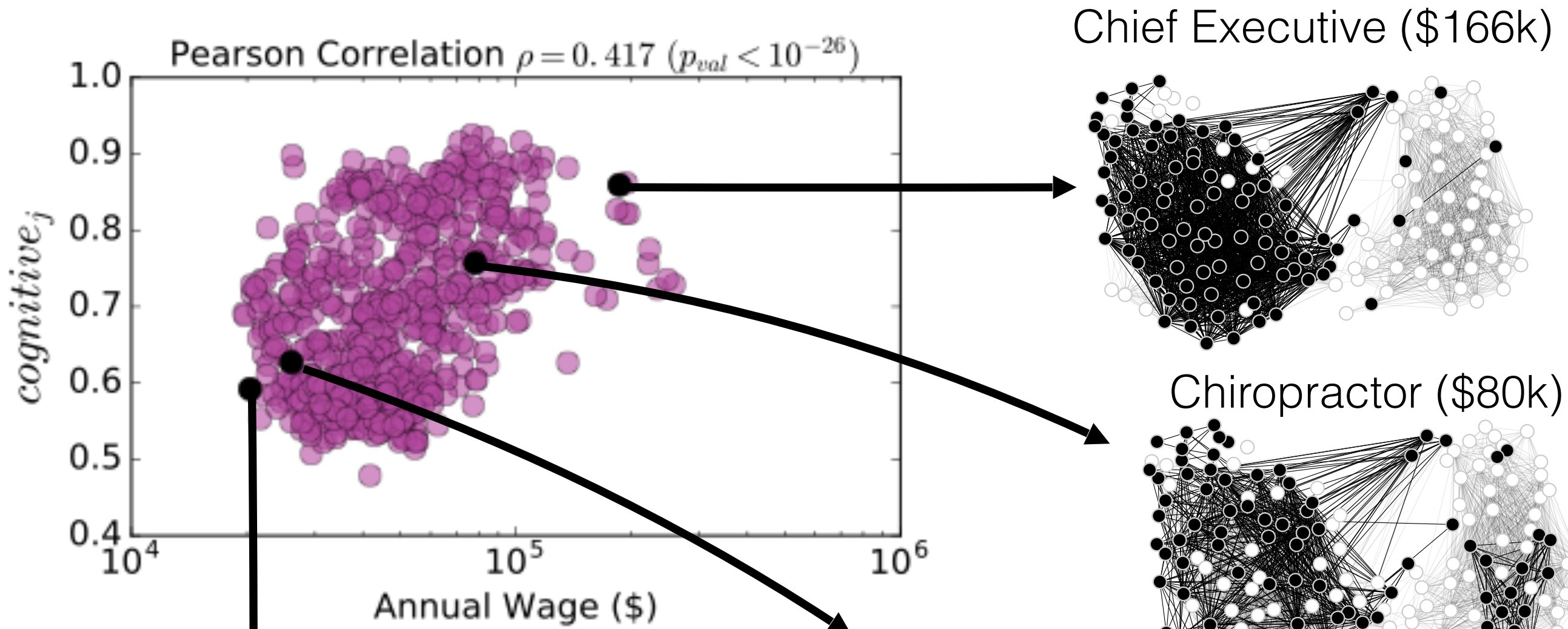


Small cities face greater impact from automation, *J. of the Royal Soc. Interface* (2018)





# Skill polarization and economic well-being



$$cognitive_j = \frac{\sum_{s \in C} onet(j, s)}{\sum_{s \in S} onet(j, s)}$$

