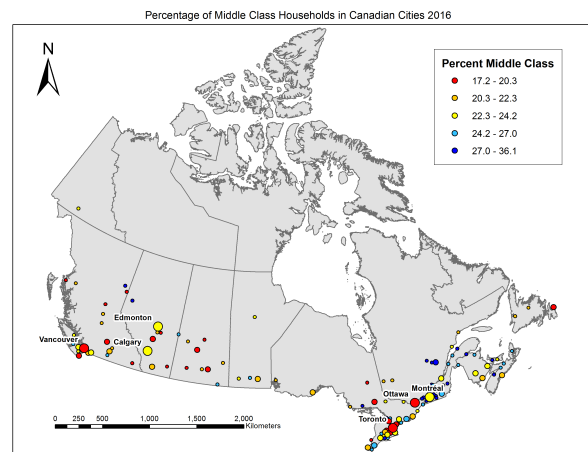
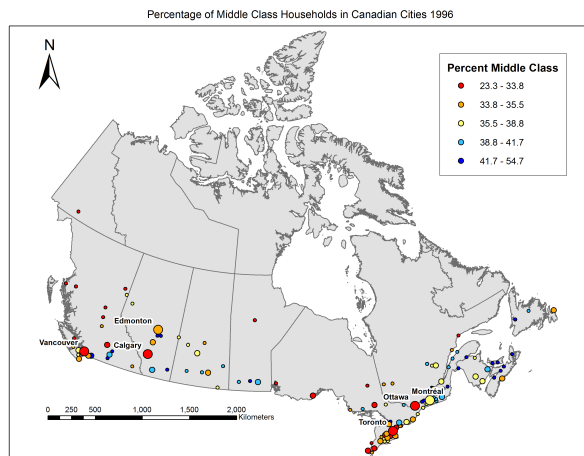


# An Exploration of Middle Class Dynamics in Canadian Cities

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A strong middle class contributes to a healthy democracy, economic growth, and political stability. As of 2011, approximately 81% of Canadians live in cities, rendering studies at the metropolitan level essential. This paper provides a large scale and comparative quantitative study focused on the middle class in Canadian cities. Utilizing census data from 1996, 2006, and 2016 at the Census Metropolitan Area and Census Agglomeration levels, I estimate bivariate and dummy variable OLS models to explore middle class dynamics across Canadian cities. Spatially, results appear to show a negative trend westward in the middle class in the 21<sup>st</sup> century that is largely driven by regional effects of the resource boom. Key findings regarding possible drivers of the differences in middle class shares across cities center around secondary industry and knowledge-intensive business services. Secondary industry has a positive relationship with the middle class, while knowledge-intensive business services have a negative relationship with the middle class. The results of this study seem to fit previous theoretical frameworks such as the deindustrialization and routinization hypotheses relating to the drivers of inequality and provide a starting point for future studies of the middle class.



*Maps 4.1 and 4.3 display the percentage of middle class households in Canadian cities in 1996 and 2016.*