

**The Dynamic Nature of Neighborhood Attachment and Residential Mobility: A Multilevel
Longitudinal Analysis**

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Abstract

Despite considerable scholarly interest in residential mobility as a consequence of neighborhood attachment – the extent of residents’ feelings about and behaviors in their neighborhoods – surprisingly scant attention has been paid to how local attachments are shaped by the decision to move or not. This study uses restricted longitudinal data from the Los Angeles Family and Neighborhood Survey to examine neighborhood attachment as both an outcome and an antecedent of residential mobility. My results indicate that mobility significantly influences residents’ attitudes about and behaviors in their neighborhoods, and the factors that shape attachment dimensions vary among movers and stayers. When considering movers, marital transitions and becoming homeowners prominently boost their attachment, while having a child and gains in socioeconomic resources enhance stayers’. Whether they move or stay put, individuals’ attachments are highly sensitive to changes in neighborhood context, especially increasing disorder and disadvantage. I also find stronger neighborhood attachment to substantially inhibit the likelihood of moving, with long-term residents and homeowners as well as those living in low-turnover neighborhoods the most apt to be rooted in their communities.