

**Title:** *A Generalized Index of Fractionalization*

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The goal of this paper is to characterize a measure of diversity among individuals, which we call *generalized fractionalization index*, that uses information on similarities among individuals. We show that the generalized index is a natural extension of the widely used *ethno-linguistic fractionalization index* and is also simple to compute. The paper offers some empirical illustrations on how the new index can be operationalized and what difference it makes as compared to standard indices. These applications pertain to the pattern of diversity in the United States across states.