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Publications/Reports

Dorling, D.F.L. (1991) Visualizing People in Time and Space, Environment and Planning B, Vol.19, pp.613-637.

Dorling, D.F.L. (1992) Stretching Space and Splicing Time: From Cartographic Animation to Interactive Visualization, Cartography and Geographical Information Systems, Vol.19, No.4, pp.215-227,267-270.

Cornford, J.R., Dorling D. & Tether B. (1993) Historical Precedent and British Electoral Prospects, Seminar Paper No.63, Department of Geography, University of Newcastle upon Tyne.

Variables

The results for each general election from 1955 to 1979 form a single spreadsheet file of 709 rows by 79 columns. The constituencies have been linked over time where there has been no, or few, boundary changes. For each constituency a unique identifying number is given (PCA) along with a Press Association Number and Name for each of the periods 1955 to 1970, February 1974 to 1979 and 1983 to 1992. The vote for each of the four main parties, the other parties combined, and the total electorate is then given for each seat present in each of the eleven elections along with the estimates of the 1979 vote on the 1983 seats made by the BBC and ITN.

Sampling Procedures

No sampling (England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland included)

Cases 38280 votes + 7656 electorates = 45,936 counts

Method of Data Collection

Amalgamating and updating studies already deposited at the archive

Data Sources

Election results, 1955-1992 (see background notes below)

Time Period Covered

1955 to 1992

Extract from the datafile:

The first 14 rows and 7 columns are as follows. The fields are separated by the tab character and records delimited by a linefeed in the single ASCII file: Vote5592. The first two rows give column headings which are explained below. A seat such as Copeland (PCA #5) can be seen to have changed its name from Whitehaven after 1979 but was deemed sufficiently similar to be linked in this set, whereas Sedgefield (PCA #12) had no equivalent between 1974 and 1979 (although there was a seat called Sedgefield before 1974 which appears, thus not linked, later in the table).

| PCA | Name | PANO |
|-------|----------------------|-------|
| 55-92 | Name 1992 to 1983 | 83-87 |
| 1 | BARROW & FURNESS | 26 |
| 2 | BERWICK-UPON-TWEED | 43 |
| 3 | BISHOP AUCKLAND | 61 |
| 4 | DURHAM CITY OF | 209 |
| 5 | COPELAND | 286 |
| 6 | EASINGTON | 610 |
| 7 | HEXHAM | 374 |
| 8 | LANGBAURGH | 478 |
| 9 | DURHAM NORTH | 135 |
| 10 | DURHAM NORTH WEST | 211 |
| 11 | PENRITH & THE BORDER | 458 |
| 12 | SEDFIELD | 207 |

| PCA | Name | PANO |
|-------|--------------------|-------|
| 55-92 | 1979 to 1974 | 74-79 |
| 1 | BARROW IN FURNESS | 35 |
| 2 | BERWICK UPON TWEED | 59 |
| 3 | BISHOP AUCKLAND | 75 |
| 4 | DURHAM | 206 |

| | | |
|----|---------------------|-----|
| 5 | WHITEHAVEN | 611 |
| 6 | EASINGTON | 209 |
| 7 | HEXHAM | 310 |
| 8 | CLEVELAND | 152 |
| 9 | CHESTER-LE-STREET | 142 |
| 10 | NORTH WEST DURHAM | 207 |
| 11 | PENRITH AND THE BOR | 462 |
| 12 | - | 0 |

| | | |
|-------|---------------------|-------|
| PCA | Name | PANO |
| 55-92 | 1970 to 1955 | 55-70 |
| 1 | BARROW IN FURNESS | 36 |
| 2 | BERWICK UPON TWEED | 57 |
| 3 | BISHOP AUCKLAND | 76 |
| 4 | DURHAM | 196 |
| 5 | WHITEHAVEN | 605 |
| 6 | EASINGTON | 200 |
| 7 | HEXHAM | 296 |
| 8 | CLEVELAND | 149 |
| 9 | CHESTER-LE-STREET | 142 |
| 10 | NORTH WEST DURHAM | 197 |
| 11 | PENRITH AND THE BOR | 456 |
| 12 | - | 0 |

For each variable, the label, sub-label, total-occurrences or sum of values,title, source and column is below:

| Row 1 | Row 2 | Total | Title | Source | Column |
|-------|---------|------------|--|--------------------------------|--------|
| PCA | 55-92 | 707 | Parliamentary Constituency Association | Author's unique identifier | 1 |
| Name | 1992 | | | | |
| | to 1983 | 652 | Name of the seat between 1992 and 1983 | Name (Milton Keynes in thrice) | 2 |
| PANO | 83-87 | 633 | Press Association Number 1983-1987 | Various: including the author | 3 |
| Name | 1979 | | | | |
| | to 1974 | 635 | Name of the seat 1974-1979 | Latham; Payne & Butler | 4 |
| PANO | 7479 | 635 | Press Association Number 1974-1979 | Latham; Payne & Butler | 5 |
| Name | 1970 | | | | |
| | to 1955 | 630 | Name of the seat 1955-1970 | Latham; Curtice & Steed | 6 |
| PANO | 55-70 | 630 | Press Association Number 1955 -1970 | Latham; Curtice & Steed | 7 |
| Con | 1955 | 13,285,879 | Conservative party vote in 1955 | Latham; Curtice & Steed | 8 |
| Lab | 1955 | 12,405,254 | Labour party vote in 1955 | Latham; Curtice & Steed | 9 |
| Lib | 1955 | 722,402 | Liberal party vote in 1955 | Latham; Curtice & Steed | 10 |
| Nat | 1955 | 57,231 | Nationalist party vote in 1955 | Latham; Curtice & Steed | 11 |
| Oth | 1955 | 289,323 | Other party votes combined in 1955 | Latham; Curtice & Steed | 12 |
| Elec | 1955 | 34,850,880 | The electorate in 1955 | Latham; Curtice & Steed | 13 |
| Con | 1959 | 13,750,615 | Conservative party vote in 1959 | Latham; Curtice & Steed | 14 |
| Lab | 1959 | 12,216,210 | Labour party vote in 1959 | Latham; Curtice & Steed | 15 |
| Lib | 1959 | 1,640,760 | Liberal party vote in 1959 | Latham; Curtice & Steed | 16 |
| Nat | 1959 | 99,309 | Nationalist party vote in 1959 | Latham; Curtice & Steed | 17 |
| Oth | 1959 | 155,536 | Other party votes combined in 1959 | Latham; Curtice & Steed | 18 |
| Elec | 1959 | 35,395,321 | The electorate in 1959 | Latham; Curtice & Steed | 19 |
| Con | 1964 | 12,005,642 | Conservative party vote in 1964 | Latham; Curtice & Steed | 20 |
| Lab | 1964 | 12,205,178 | Labour party vote in 1964 | Latham; Curtice & Steed | 21 |
| Lib | 1964 | 3,099,283 | Liberal party vote in 1964 | Latham; Curtice & Steed | 22 |
| Nat | 1964 | 133,551 | Nationalist party vote in 1964 | Latham; Curtice & Steed | 23 |
| Oth | 1964 | 215,864 | Other party votes combined in 1964 | Latham; Curtice & Steed | 24 |
| Elec | 1964 | 35,894,254 | The electorate in 1964 | Latham; Curtice & Steed | 25 |
| Con | 1966 | 11,418,446 | Conservative party vote in 1966 | Latham; Curtice & Steed | 26 |
| Lab | 1966 | 13,065,986 | Labour party vote in 1966 | Latham; Curtice & Steed | 27 |
| Lib | 1966 | 2,327,456 | Liberal party vote in 1966 | Latham; Curtice & Steed | 28 |
| Nat | 1966 | 189,545 | Nationalist party vote in 1966 | Latham; Curtice & Steed | 29 |
| Oth | 1966 | 263,144 | Other party votes combined in 1966 | Latham; Curtice & Steed | 30 |
| Elec | 1966 | 35,962,124 | The electorate in 1966 | Latham; Curtice & Steed | 31 |
| Con | 1970 | 13,145,061 | Conservative party vote in 1970 | Latham; Curtice & Steed | 32 |
| Lab | 1970 | 12,179,360 | Labour party vote in 1970 | Latham; Curtice & Steed | 33 |
| Lib | 1970 | 2,117,838 | Liberal party vote in 1970 | Latham; Curtice & Steed | 34 |
| Nat | 1970 | 481,818 | Nationalist party vote in 1970 | Latham; Curtice & Steed | 35 |
| Oth | 1970 | 415,546 | Other party votes combined in 1970 | Latham; Curtice & Steed | 36 |
| Elec | 1970 | 39,364,459 | The electorate in 1970 | Latham; Curtice & Steed | 37 |
| Con | Feb74 | 11,872,165 | Conservative party vote in Feb. 1974 | Latham | 38 |
| Lab | Feb74 | 11,645,548 | Labour party vote in Feb. 1974 | Latham | 39 |
| Lib | Feb74 | 6,060,284 | Liberal party vote in Feb. 1974 | Latham | 40 |
| Nat | Feb74 | 804,551 | Nationalist party vote in Feb. 1974 | Latham | 41 |
| Oth | Feb74 | 958,344 | Other party votes combined in Feb '74 | Latham | 42 |
| Elec | Feb74 | 39,751,461 | The electorate in Feb. 1974 | Latham | 43 |
| Con | Oct74 | 10,464,817 | Conservative party vote in Oct. 1974 | Latham; Payne & Butler | 44 |
| Lab | Oct74 | 11,457,179 | Labour party vote in Oct. 1974 | Latham; Payne & Butler | 45 |
| Lib | Oct74 | 5,346,764 | Liberal party vote in Oct. 1974 | Latham; Payne & Butler | 46 |

| | | | | | |
|------|-------|------------|--|-------------------------------|----|
| Nat | Oct74 | 1,005,928 | Nationalist party vote in Oct. 1974 | Latham; Payne & Butler | 47 |
| Oth | Oct74 | 914,590 | Other party votes combined in Oct '74 | Latham; Payne & Butler | 48 |
| Elec | Oct74 | 40,072,971 | The electorate in Oct. 1974 | Latham; Payne & Butler | 49 |
| Con | 1979 | 13,697,516 | Conservative party vote in 1979 | Latham; Payne & Butler | 50 |
| Lab | 1979 | 11,532,348 | Labour party vote in 1979 | Latham; Payne & Butler | 51 |
| Lib | 1979 | 4,313,821 | Liberal party vote in 1979 | Latham; Payne & Butler | 52 |
| Nat | 1979 | 636,803 | Nationalist party vote in 1979 | Latham; Payne & Butler | 53 |
| Oth | 1979 | 1,041,242 | Other party votes combined in 1979 | Latham; Payne & Butler | 54 |
| Ele | 1979 | 41,093,264 | The electorate in 1979 | Latham; Payne & Butler | 55 |
| Con | 79adj | 13,703,839 | Conservative party vote in '79 on '83 | Various: BBC/ITN estimates | 56 |
| Lab | 79adj | 11,520,684 | Labour party vote in '79 on '83 | Various: BBC/ITN estimates | 57 |
| Lib | 79adj | 4,327,268 | Liberal party vote in '79 on '83 | Various: BBC/ITN estimates | 58 |
| Nat | 79adj | 640,324 | Nationalist party vote in '79 on '83 | Various: BBC/ITN estimates | 59 |
| Oth | 79adj | 1,064,425 | Other party votes combined in '79 on '83 | Various: BBC/ITN estimates | 60 |
| Elec | 79adj | 40,899,553 | The electorate in '79 on '83 | Various: BBC/ITN estimates | 61 |
| Con | 1983 | 13,012,592 | Conservative party vote in 1983 | Various: including the autho | 62 |
| Lab | 1983 | 8,457,118 | Labour party vote in 1983 | Various: including the author | 63 |
| All | 1983 | 7,780,589 | Liberal/SDP party votes in 1983 | Various: including the author | 64 |
| Nat | 1983 | 457,284 | Nationalist party vote in 1983 | Various: including the author | 65 |
| Oth | 1983 | 963,306 | Other party votes combined in 1983 | Various: including the author | 66 |
| Ele | 1983 | 42,692,061 | The electorate in 1983 | Various: including the author | 67 |
| Con | 1987 | 13,760,499 | Conservative party vote in 1987 | Various: including the author | 68 |
| Lab | 1987 | 10,029,103 | Labour party vote in 1987 | Various: including the author | 69 |
| All | 1987 | 7,341,650 | Liberal/SDP votes in 1987 | Various: including the author | 70 |
| Nat | 1987 | 540,072 | Nationalist party vote in 1987 | Various: including the author | 71 |
| Oth | 1987 | 857,365 | Other party votes combined in 1987 | Various: including the author | 72 |
| Elec | 1987 | 43,181,031 | The electorate in 1987 | Various: including the author | 73 |
| Con | 1992 | 14,094,116 | Conservative party vote in 1992 | Various: including the author | 74 |
| Lab | 1992 | 11,557,062 | Labour party vote in 1992 | Various: including the author | 75 |
| LDp | 1992 | 6,027,038 | Liberal Democrat party votes in 1992 | Various: including the author | 76 |
| Nat | 1992 | 786,348 | Nationalist party vote in 1992 | Various: including the author | 77 |
| Oth | 1992 | 1,145,445 | Other party votes combined in 1992 | Various: including the author | 78 |
| Elec | 1992 | 43,238,935 | The electorate in 1992 | Various: including the author | 79 |

Background

The figures were mostly collated from studies deposited in the Economic and Social Research Council's data archive in Essex. In all cases, except February 1974, two independent versions of each set of election results were available to be compared. The studies used were those of Latham (1982) covering 1955-1979, Curtice (1983) covering 1955-1970, and Payne (1983) covering October 1974 and 1979. Personal communications (with Ron Johnston & Ivor Crewe via Martin Harrop) provided two versions of each of the 1983, 1987 and 1992 results. Inconsistent records were subsequently compared by Bruce Tether with the paper lists of F.W.S. Craig (1971, 1977, 1980, 1981, 1984, 1989), the Nuffield Election Studies Publications (Butler D.E. et al 1955, 1960, 1965, 1966, 1971, 1974, 1975, 1979, 1984, 1988), the Times Guide to the House of Commons (1987) and Dod's Guide to the General Election 1992. The dataset used is hence thought to be an extremely accurate, but not infallible, record. Dorling (1991, appendices B and C) gives further information and provides several cartograms for mapping these results.

To make geographical comparisons possible where there had been boundary changes, a link was made over time between "best fitting" constituencies. Twenty eight constituencies disappeared between 1970 and 1974, and twenty seven were lost between 1979 and 1983. However at each change the overall number of constituencies increased (from 630, to 635 then 650 and now 651). Often the name of a constituency changed, as with Newcastle North -, from West-, but the actual area and people have remained substantially the same. The major two sources for estimating the extent of continuity and the implications of parliamentary constituency name changes were Butler D.E. & Kavanagh D. (1974, pp.282-283) for 1970-1974, and BBC/ITN (1983) for 1979-1983. For the 1992 election the Milton Keynes constituency was split in two and there were slight boundary changes to a neighbouring seat. The two new Milton Keynes seats have been added as PCA#706 and PCA#707. By the next election the boundaries of many of these constituencies will have been changed again and hopefully this dataset will again be expanded to allow further analysis of changing votes over space over time.

References

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- Butler, D.E & Kavanagh, D. (1974) The British Election of February 1974, London: Macmillan.
- Curtice, J. (1983) UK General Election Results, 1955-1970 and associated information (Computer File). Colchester: ESRC Data Archive Study SN:1799
- Dorling, D.F.L.D. (1991) The Visualization of Spatial Social Structure, unpublished PhD thesis, University of Newcastle upon Tyne.
- Latham, L.J. (1982) British General Elections, 1955-1979 (Computer File), Colchester: ESRC Data Archive Study SN:1677
- Payne, C. (1983) British General Election Results, October 1974 and May 1979 (Computer File), Colchester: ESRC Data Archive Study SN:1601