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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

- BBC/ITN (1983) The BBC/ITN Guide to the New Parliamentary Constituencies, Chichester: Parliamentary Research Services.
- 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