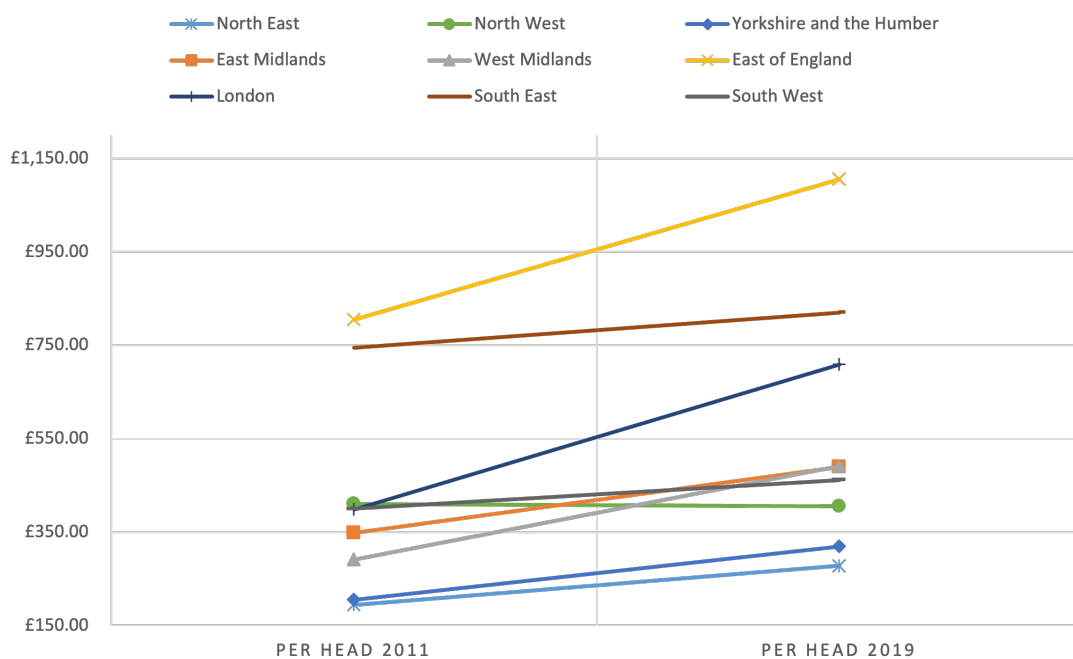


State of the North 2024: IPPR North

The Politics behind statistics – Graphing the North

Jacob Marshall | Sociology and Politics

TOTAL R&D PER HEAD, BY REGION, 2011-2019



A graph calculating the change in R&D spending over time.

Overview of the Data Fellowship

I worked as a researcher at the **think tank** IPPR North, part of the wider think tank IPPR. A think tank is essentially a political research charity, which produces **reports with policy recommendations** that are often picked up by the media and the respective political parties, sometimes even creating political stories. IPPR North is specifically focused on regional inequality and devolution. As such, my role involved researching and presenting regional inequalities and policy recommendations alongside other tasks such as FOIs to **local councils**, working with people across the institute to discuss strategy, and **visiting parliament** to present evidence on regional inequalities. I also developed maps and posters to present the data I had discovered / reinterpreted. This culminated in a short presentation in which I shared with the rest of the IPPR North team my vision for 'STATE OF THE NORTH 2024', an annual report which attempts to politicise statistics around regional inequality.

Data Analysis

I mainly looked at data from ONS, **the Treasury**, the Government, the Census, and Child Poverty Action Group relating to wages, employment data, health data, rates of **poverty**, home ownership, wealth, **productivity**, green energy generation, public spending, education quality etc, primarily using Excel to investigate **trends over time** or concurrent patterns, thinking through how to *politicise* the findings.

Findings

- The North (particularly Yorkshire and the Northeast) **massively outperforms** (more than 2x) the rest of the country in terms of renewable energy production per head, despite a relatively severe lack of public and private funding.

- Only 14% of Northern local authorities record any data regarding an ethnicity pay gap, 92% of them **under-represent** their minority communities, and there is a 4-5% ethnicity pay gap in Northern LA's (that we know of so far).

Key Skills Learnt

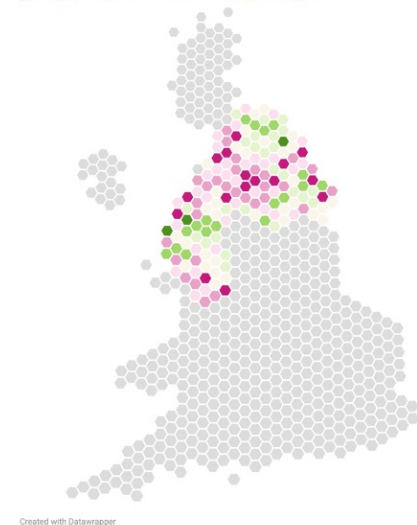
Time management and organisation is a crucial skill I have had to adapt to – IPPR is much more fast paced than University. I've also learned how to prioritise tasks, and when and when not to ask for help. Similarly, I have learned it's important to always cite / source data as you do it, and not at the end!

The company 'away day' was really enjoyable and informative in relation to IPPR's theory of change, and I've since had chats with Directors Harry and Carys relating to how IPPR's role could alter after a change in government. The process of taking academic policy suggestions and operationalising them into government advice is incredibly intriguing and a careful, deliberate process.

Working for a thinktank behind the curtains has been a fascinating experience for which I will be forever grateful! It is so rare to be in a workplace where everyone has different expertise but driven by a shared progressive vision.

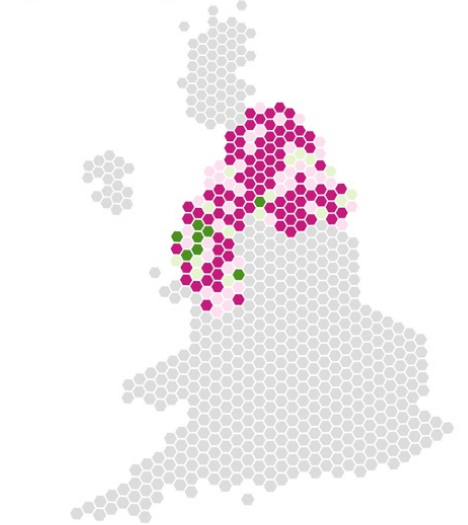
2001 GE, Strength of Majority

Legend: < 10, 10-20, 20-30, 30-40, 40-50, 50-60, > 60



2019, Strength of majority

Legend: < 20, 20-40, 40-60, > 60



Cartogram Map showing the change in Britain's electoral geography.