

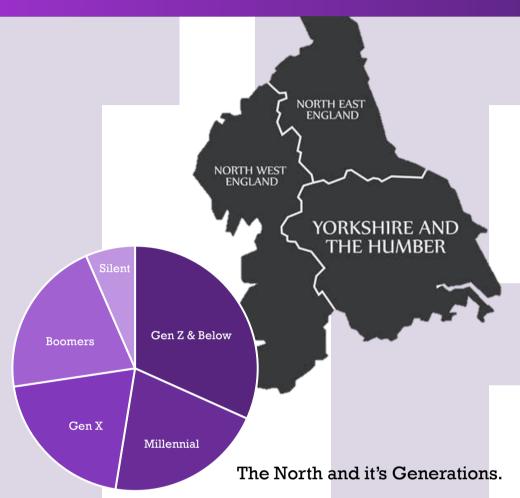


A step-change in quantitative social science skills
Funded by the Nuffield Foundation, ESRC and HEFCE

IPPR North – State of the North 2025

# My Q-Step Experience – Data Analysis and Beyond

Daniel Galloway | Politics and Modern History



### My Data Fellowship

My role was to begin the research for IPPR North's 'State of the North 2025'. The Institute for Public Policy Research North focuses on highlighting issues specific to the North of England, their annual 'State of the North' publication a key piece in presenting the condition of the North of England each year, and charting what needs to be done to improve the lives of its population. Each year takes on a different theme, and this year was younger generations. Over eight weeks, I produced a series of briefings on the condition of young people in the North in relation to a range of issues including attitudes to democracy, health, housing, opportunity and culture.

### **Analytical Experience**

My analysis largely concerned government data like the ONS and departmental publications, as well as research done by outside bodies like YouGov and Fields in Trusts. My work was intensive in locating relevant data for the issues on which each briefing was focused. Analytical skills were then required to understand how this data related specifically to young people in each of the Northern regions. The graphs, tables and charts I published then aimed to demonstrate this condition comparatively to the wider population.

It was also crucial that I framed the presentation of this data effectively. Findings were situated within the context of the wider literature, meaning data analysis had to be situated within wider problem-solving identification.

#### Skills: Data & More!

My data analysis skills have come on leaps and bounds this summer. I have developed my abilities in:

- Data Location.
- Data Cleaning.
- Problem-solving using data.
- Analysis methods.
- Data presentation.

Beyond my work directly on data analysis, I had the great opportunity to attend IPPR events, and present my work to other individuals within the organisation, who have years of industry and academic experience. This developed my:

- Networking Confidence.
- Argumentation and Persuasion Abilities.
- Presentation and Public Speaking Skills.

My Q-Step experience exceeded my expectations and excited me about the prospects for the future.

## **Findings**

While the report has many months of work to go until publication, many trends emerged within my research. The graphs below demonstrate some key findings from each of my research areas.

