



Northern Ireland
Assembly



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Knowledge Exchange Seminar Series (KESS)

...is a forum that encourages debate on a wide range of research findings, with the overall aim of promoting evidence-based policy and law-making within Northern Ireland



The EU referendum Vote in Northern Ireland:

Implications for our understanding of citizens' political views and behaviour

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- **Why did people vote the way they did in the EU referendum?**
- Ethno-national interpretation
- “Left behind” by globalization interpretation
- Partisan
- If everyone had voted what difference...?

Data

Northern Ireland Assembly Election Study project

Funded by Economic and Social Research Council

Survey conducted by Ipsos Mori at time of referendum

N=4000 representative sample of Northern Ireland population



Ethno-National...



Table1

Religion brought up in...

	Catholic	Protestant
	%	%
Stay	85	40
Leave	<u>15</u>	<u>60</u>
	100	100



Table2

Generally speaking do you think of yourself as a...

	unionist	nationalist	neither
	%	%	%
Stay	34	88	70
Leave	<u>66</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>30</u>
	100	100	100

Table3

Which of these best describes the way you think of yourself...

	British	Irish	Ulster	Northern Irish
	%	%	%	%
Stay	37	87	30	64
Leave	<u>63</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>36</u>
	100	100	100	100

Table 4

In terms of the long term future of Northern Ireland...

	Remain in UK: Direct Rule %	Remain in UK: Devolution %	Unify with Republic of Ireland %
Stay	40	58	85
Leave	<u>60</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>15</u>
	100	100	100

“Left behind” ...



Table 5

Highest level of education...

	P.Grad %	Degree %	btecH %	'A' %	btecN	gcse	cse	none
Stay	80	71	57	59	52	49	48	49
Leave	<u>20</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>51</u>
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Table 6

Ever attend a grammar school...

	Yes	No
	%	%
Stay	71	53
Leave	<u>29</u>	<u>47</u>
	100	100

Table 7

Social .class group...

	Prof- essional	Middle Manager	Junior Manager	Skilled Manual	Semi Skilled manual	State Benefits
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Stay	78	75	60	48	51	53
Leave	<u>22</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>47</u>
	100	100	100	100	100	100

Table 8

Immigration to Northern Ireland has been good for the economy and society...

	Strongly Agree	agree	neither agree/ disagree	disagree	strongly disagree
	%	%	%	%	%
Stay	85	76	52	32	24
Leave	<u>15</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>76</u>
	100	100	100	100	100

Table 9

Same sex and heterosexual couples should enjoy the same rights to marry...

	Strongly Agree	agree	neither agree/ disagree	disagree	strongly disagree
	%	%	%	%	%
Stay	73	67	59	41	29
Leave	<u>27</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>71</u>
	100	100	100	100	100

Table 10

Sometimes politics and government seem so complicated that a person like me cannot really understand what is going on...

	strongly agree %	agree %	neither agree/ disagree %	disagree %	strongly disagree %
Stay	50	60	63	63	71
Leave	<u>50</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>29</u>
	100	100	100	100	100

Partisanship...



Table 11

Generally speaking do you think of yourself as a supporter of any one of the following parties...?

	TUV	DUP	UUP	Alliance	SF	SDLP
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Stay	9	25	42	83	84	95
Leave	<u>91</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>5</u>
	100	100	100	100	100	100



Turnout.... Would the result have been different if everyone had voted?



Table 12

What effect did abstention have on the result?

Mean score on 1-5 EU attitude scale:
higher score indicates more pro-EU

People who voted in the referendum	2.1
People who did not vote in the referendum	<u>2.4</u>
<i>Mean difference</i>	0.3

Conclusions...



Strong ethno-national basis to voting

Low educated, low skill, anti-immigrant, socially conservative, alienated from politics...

'Left behind' by progressive highly educated liberal free market regional integration project and globalisation

Strong partisan divide

Very strong socio-demographic, attitudinal, and partisan basis to vote: pronounced and deep division

Turnout favoured the euro-sceptics..... AND.....



Wait for the movie...

Additional funding from the ESRC to make an animated short film on...

Explaining Voting in the EU Referendum in NI

Dramatically illustrating these results and disseminating to policy and public audience





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