Negativity towards immigrant out-groups among Northern Ireland's Youth – are younger cohorts becoming more tolerant?

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Negativity towards immigrants and members of a different race or religion has been a problem in Northern Ireland for a long time. Media reports of racially motivated hate-crimes have been so frequent that Northern Ireland has been dubbed the "race-hate capital of Europe"
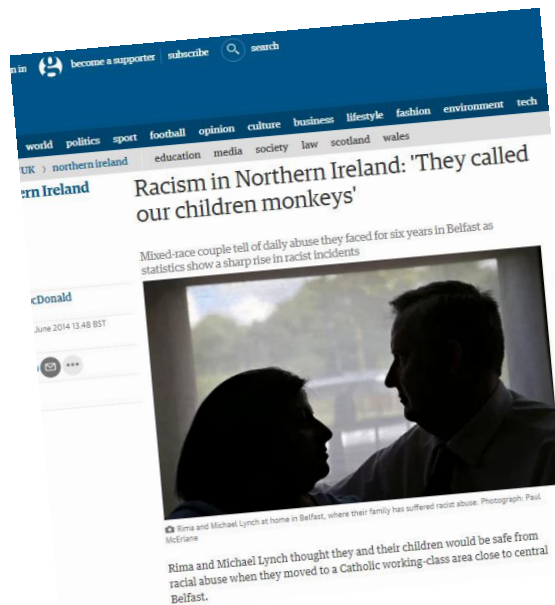
So, what are drivers of negativity towards ethnic minorities and immigrants in Northern Ireland?

Poverty?

Photo: Chris Whippet; Creative Commons.

Sectarianism?

Lack of education?

Source: Pixabay. www.Pixabay.com

preparations of an 11th Night Bonfire in East Belfast, July 2016. Photo: Sean Shuttleworth.

11th Night Bonfire in South Belfast. Photo: Stefanie Doebler

In this talk we examine negativity towards ethnic minorities and immigrants from two perspectives:

Macro-level:

- Racially motivated hate crimes in electoral Wards in Northern Ireland

Individual level:

- Negative Attitudes towards racial and ethnic minorities among the Northern Ireland population aged 16 to 65plus.
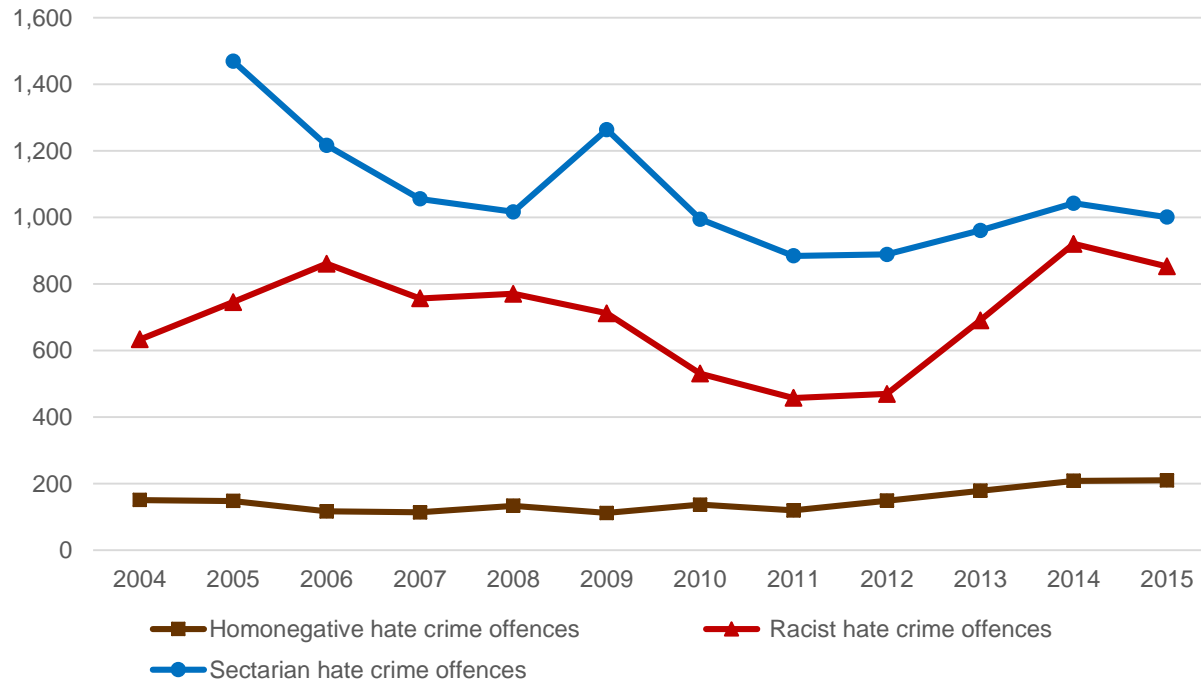
Data:

- Time series of hate crimes reported and archived by the Police (PSNI)
- Responses to two Surveys, the Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey (NILT) and the Young Life and Times Survey (YLT) convened by Researchers at Queen's University Belfast & ARK

Prior academic research found negative attitudes towards immigrants and racial out-groups to be related to:

- low education (Borgonovi 2012, McKee 2015)

- deprivation & status anxiety (Hayes & Dowds 2006; McVeigh & Rolston 2007)

- lack of contact to minority members (Quillian 19995, McKee 2015,

- sectarian attitudes (Brewer 1992; Knox 2011; Pehrson et al 2012)
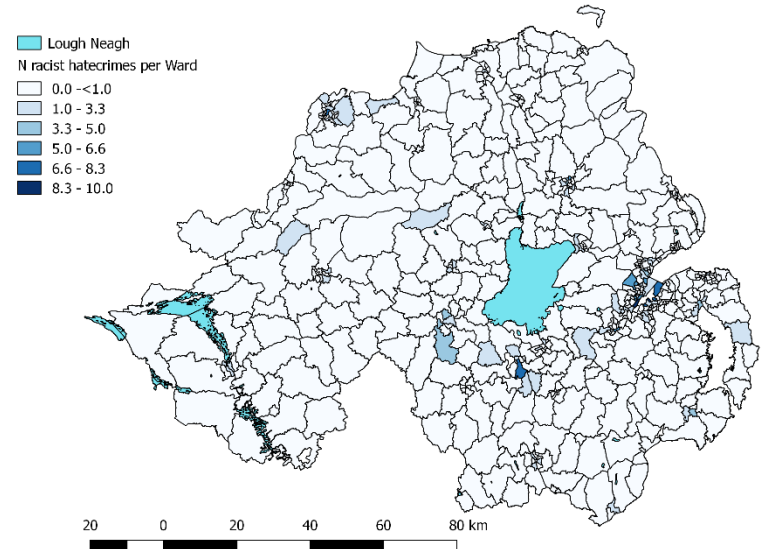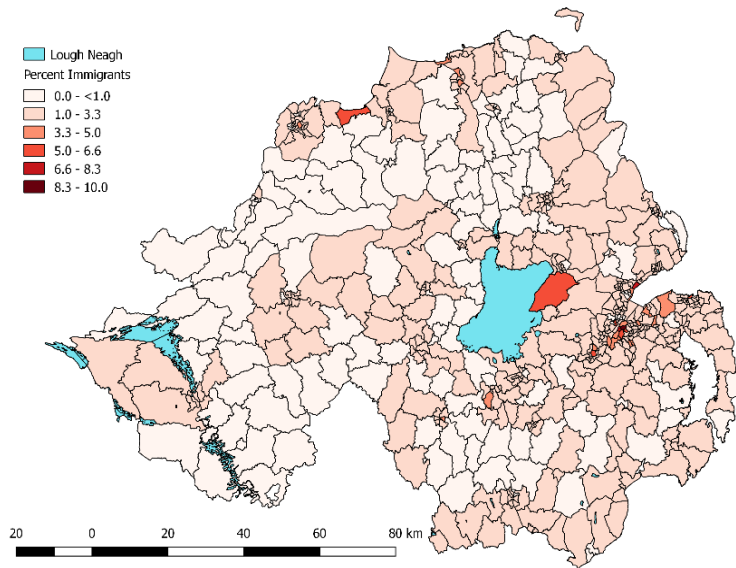
- Protestant identity

Knowledge of the prevalence and extent of out-group negativity in the population is important in order to detect aggravating factors and find solutions that may help prevent it in the future.

Time-Series of racially Motivated Hate Crimes:

Data: PSNI, 2016.

Immigrant Numbers and Racist Hate crimes in Northern Ireland by Ward

Percent change in Immigrant Numbers and Change in N Hate crimes over Time

Legend (left map):
- Lough Neagh
- Change in Percent Immigrants
  - -3.8 - -1.0
  - 0.0
  - 1.0 - 5.0
  - 5.0 - 15.0
  - 15.0 - 20.0
  - 20.0 - 25.0
  - 25.0 - 28.0

Legend (right map):
- Lough Neagh
- Change in N racist hate crimes per Ward, 2004-2014
  - -19 - -14
  - -15 - -9
  - -8 - -5
  - -4 - -1
  - 0
  - 1 - 3
  - 3 - 5
  - 5 - 10
  - 10 - 24
  - 24 - 29

Knowledge Exchange Seminar Series (KESS)
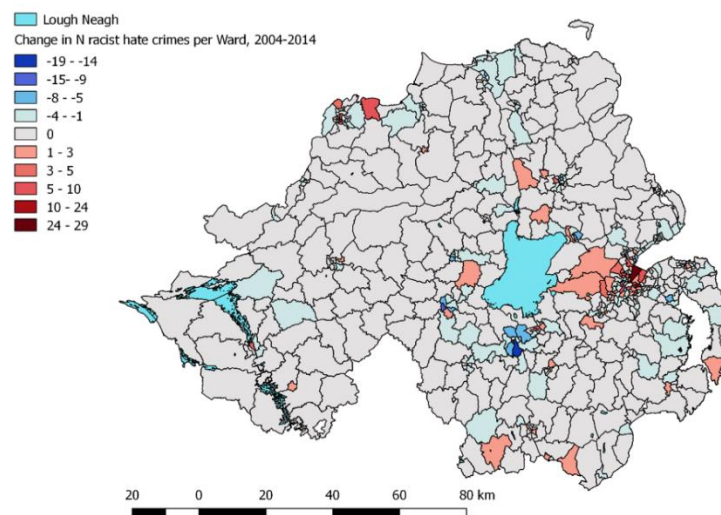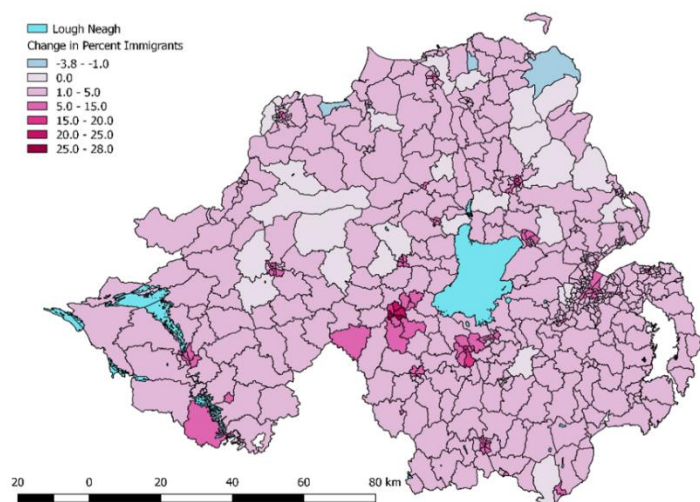
Inner city Belfast and Derry: Change in Racist Hate crimes
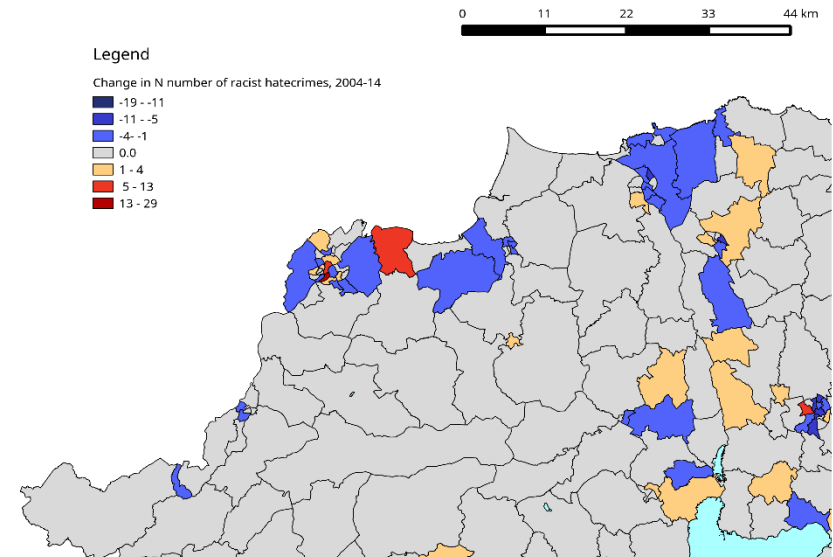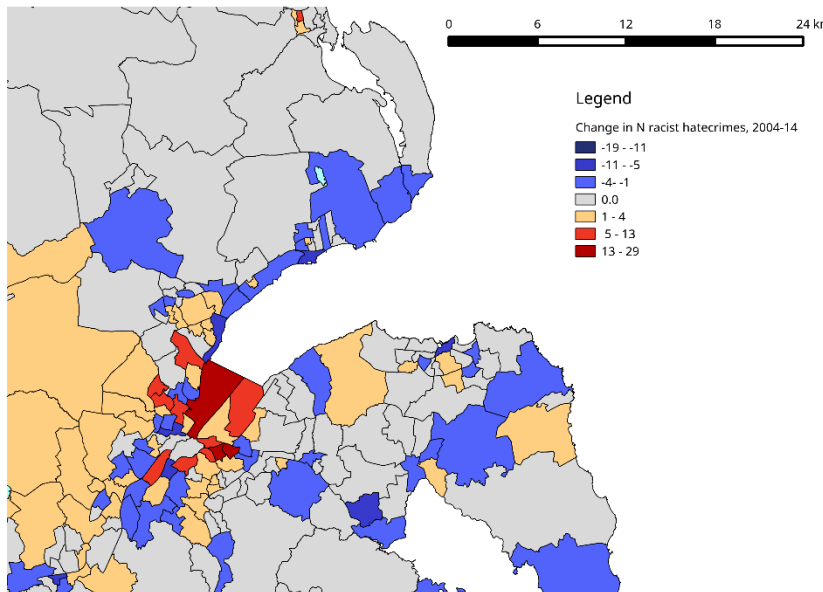
For Comparison: Levels of Multiple Area-deprivation in Northern Ireland.
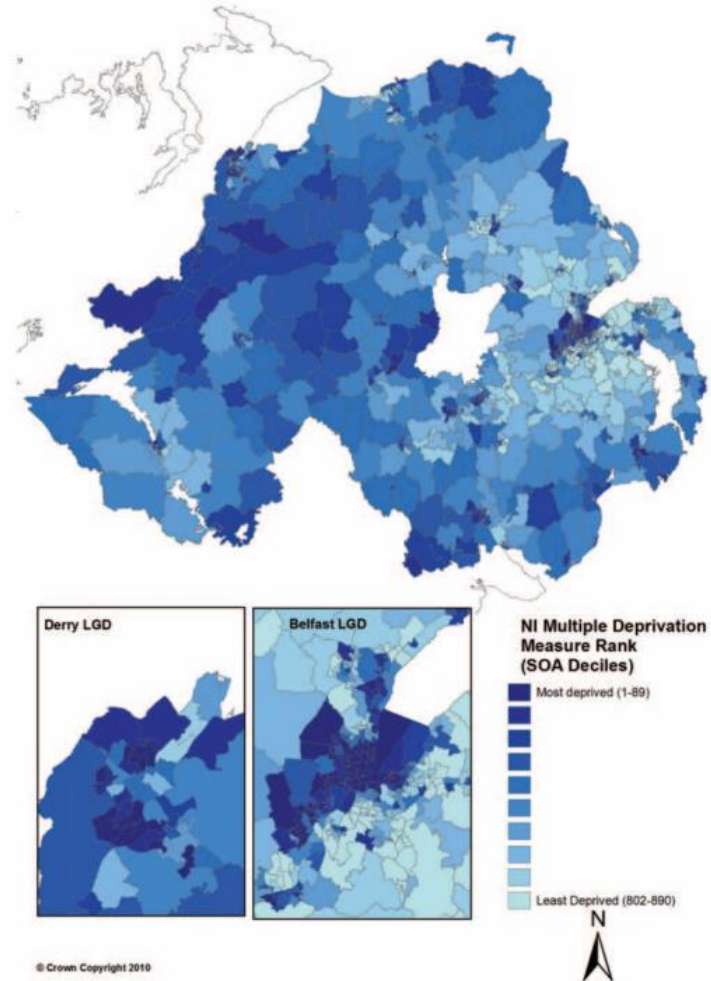
Source: NISRA 2010, Multiple Deprivation Measure.

Negativity towards Ethnic Minorities and Immigrants – Northern Ireland in UK Context:
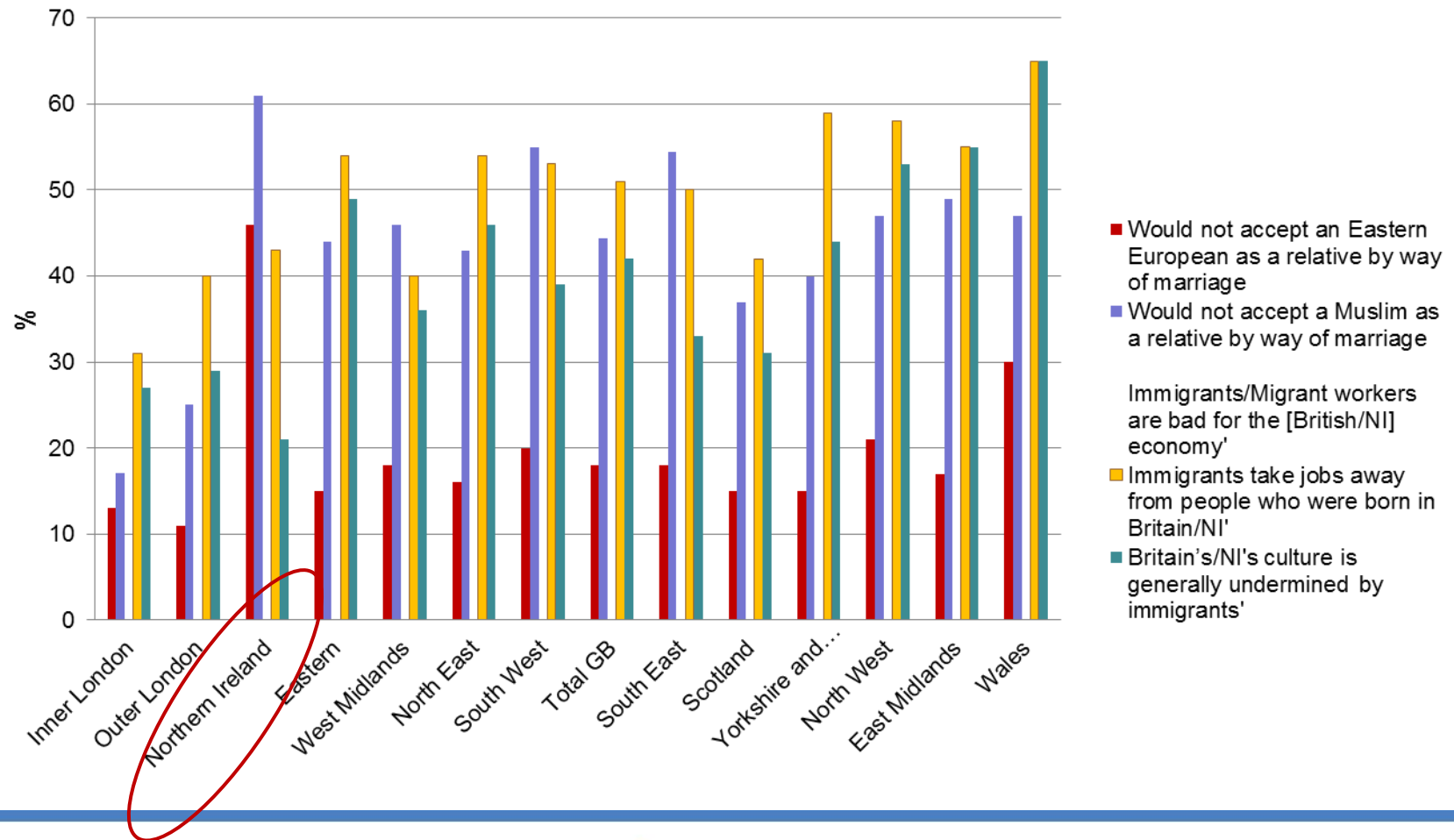
Summary of Macro-Level Findings:

- Increases in racist hate crimes in Northern Ireland between 2011 and 2014 (but decrease between 2014 and 2015)

- Different patterns on the Ward-level: Increases in racist hate crimes in urban, deprived areas of Belfast and Derry

- These areas have both (relatively) high and increasing numbers of immigrants and above-average levels of deprivation

- Tendency for areas that already had elevated numbers of hate crimes in 2004 to also experience an increase in hate crimes

- Some improvement (decrease in racist hate crimes) around Craigavon and Cookstown

Negativity towards racial and ethnic minorities on the Individual level:

1. Development over time:
Are younger cohorts becoming more tolerant?
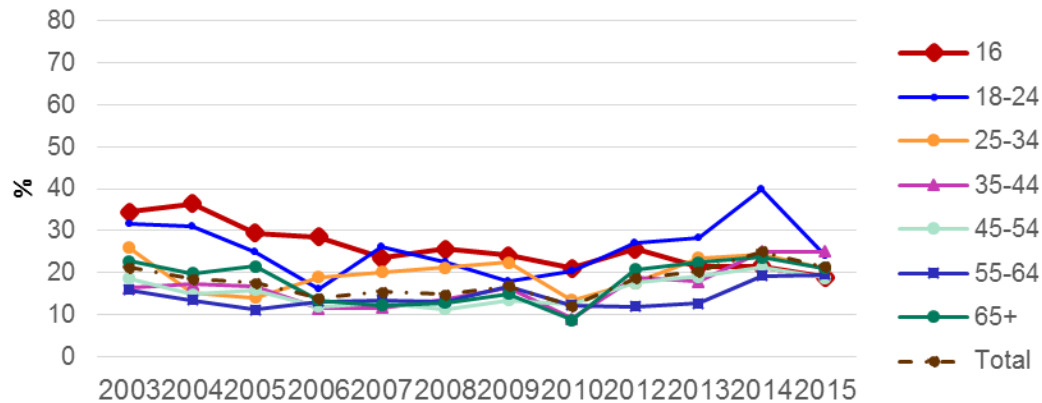
2. What are factors that influence attitudes towards racial and ethnic minorities in Northern Ireland
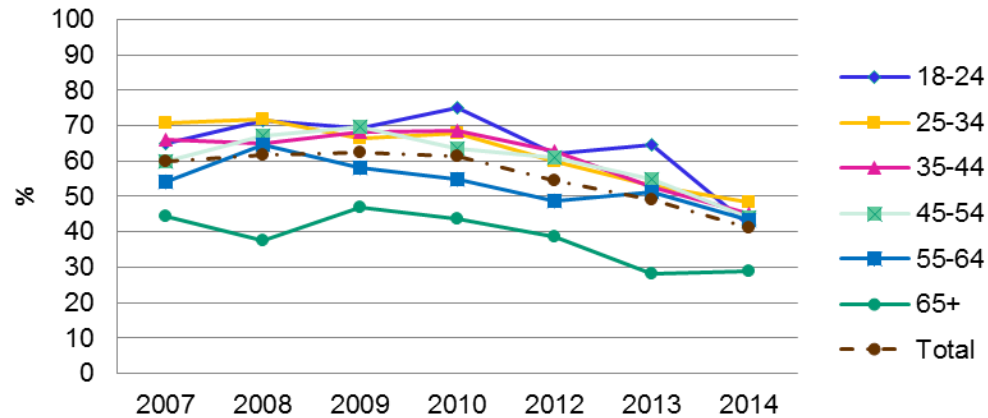
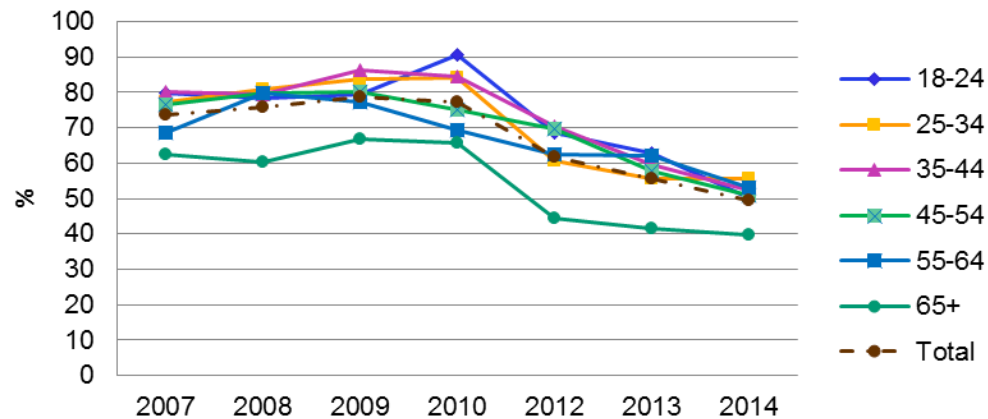YLYT and NILT: "In relation to race and ethnicity, I prefer to stick with people of my own kind"
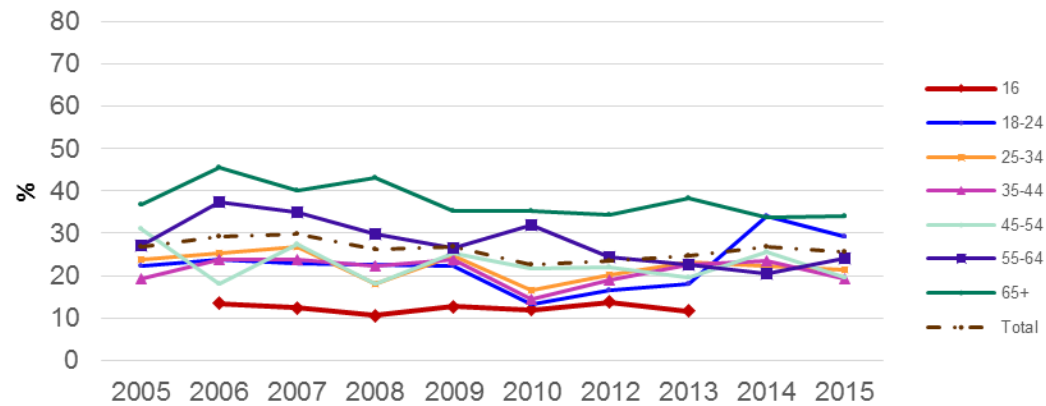
YLTS and NILTS – "I prefer to live in a neighborhood with people of only my own religion"

NILT - "Would accept a Muslim as close friend"

Would accept an Eastern European as a close friend

Negativity towards Ethnic Minorities in the YLT (16 year olds) – OLS Regression

DV: Respondent feels unfavorably toward ethnic minorities	Model 1		Model 2		Model 3	
	Coef.	SE	Coef.	SE	Coef.	SE
Not well off financially	0.011	0.060	-0.010	0.060	-0.007	0.060
Lives with lone parent	-0.003	0.051	-0.018	0.051	-0.013	0.051
Sex (female)	**-0.191***	**0.041**	**-0.189***	**0.041**	**-0.191***	**0.041**
Large city	-0.100	0.061	-0.095	0.061	-0.087	0.061
Small-town	-0.064	0.046	-0.065	0.046	-0.061	0.046
Contact: Socializes with ethnic minority members	**-0.160***	**0.021**	**-0.151***	**0.021**	**-0.151***	**0.021**
Protestant school	0.040	0.044				
Attends Religiously mixed school (Protestant /Catholic)	0.057	0.061				
Negative attitude tow integration-schooling	**0.135**	**0.045**	**0.150***	**0.045**	**0.144**	**0.045**
Lives close to a peace-line	0.015	0.054	0.000	0.054	0.004	0.054
No sense of neighborhood belonging	**0.109***	**0.052**	**0.131***	**0.052**	**0.137****	**0.052**
Grammar school			**-0.136**	**0.043**	**-0.135**	**0.043**
Integrated school			-0.114	0.085	-0.108	0.085
Protestant area			0.027	0.043		
Protestant					**0.095***	**0.043**
Constant	**2.823***	**0.074**	**2.894***	**0.075**	**2.869***	**0.075**
-2-Log-Likelihood	-2119.677		-2115.148		-2112.926	
AIC	4263.354		4256.295		4251.852	
BIC	4328.796		4327.192		4322.748	
N	1726		1726		1726	

Negativity towards Ethnic Minorities among Adults in the NILT - OLS Regression

DV: Negative Feelings toward ethnic minority members	M1		M2	
	Coef.	SE	Coef.	SE
Young Age	0.446**	0.161	0.114	0.159
Education: degree	-0.357***	0.101	-0.258**	0.094
Education: A-level	-0.288*	0.117	-0.217*	0.110
Education: GCSE_low	0.033	0.133	-0.006	0.119
Education: other qualification	-0.590*	0.244	-0.399	0.235
No qualification	0.065	0.106	-0.020	0.096
Household income	-0.000	0.005	-0.004	0.004
Unemployed	0.280*	0.121	-0.065	0.122
Large city	0.211*	0.087	-0.188*	0.090
Small-town	-0.038	0.085	-0.074	0.077
Protestant	0.415***	0.074	0.360***	0.063
No religion	0.310**	0.102	0.000	.
Has ethnic minority friends	-0.095**	0.031	-0.066*	0.030
Attended a mixed school (Prot Cat)	-0.375***	0.104	-0.207*	0.099
Negative feelings toward religious others (Prot-Cath)[a]			0.707***	0.045
Prefers neighborhood of own religion only			0.565***	0.095
Religious Area-Segregation			0.014	0.025
Constant	2.215***	0.168	1.105***	0.172
-2-Log-Likelihood	-1017.058		-724.402	
N	766.000		636.000	

Summary

Cohort Differences:

- worrying increase in negative attitudes towards racial and ethnic minorities among young adults aged 18 to 25, between 2010 and 2014

- Although we found a, the youngest cohort of 16 year olds does not exhibit this trend and is also consistently more tolerant towards racial and ethnic out-groups than all older cohorts.

- The good news: decrease in negativity between 2014 and 2015

   (but will this trend persist after Brexit-vote?)

- Younger cohorts are consistently more tolerant towards racial and ethnic minorities and immigrants than older ones.

Summary:

Multivariate Findings from Regressions:

- Education matters!
- Quality of schooling matters greatly for people's tolerance towards racial and ethnic out-groups.
- In the adult sample: those who attended integrated, religiously mixed schooling were more tolerant towards ethnic minorities.
- In the Youth sample (16 year olds): not integrated school, but quality of school related tolerance towards minorities

- Increased contact with ethnic minority members and feeling a positive sense of belonging good for tolerance towards ethnic minorities.

Conclusion:

What can Policy Makers Do?

- strengthen the supply of a high quality education,
- Strengthen the inclusion of ethnic minority members in local communities, facilitate positive contacts with racial and ethnic minorities.
- policies should aim at reducing poverty and unemployment across Northern Ireland
- counteracting the concentration of poverty and deprivation in neighbourhoods may help reduce out-group negativity.

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Source: NISRA 2010, Multiple Deprivation Measure.

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