

Inequality and Scotland: measures of despair and signs of hope

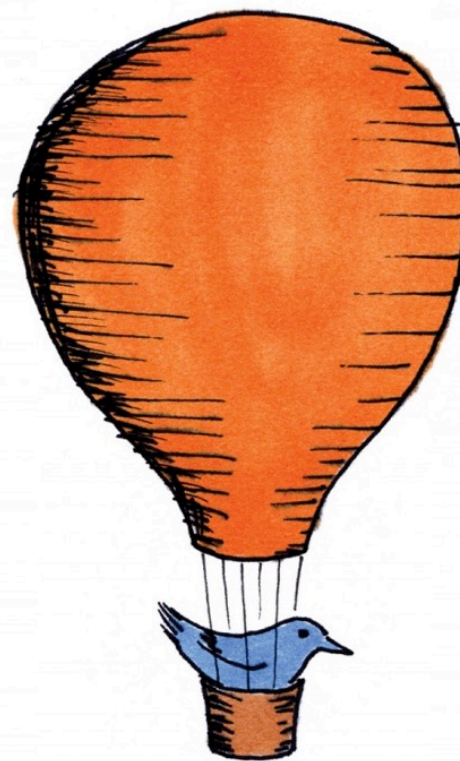
Danny Dorling

In late 2016 we learnt that life expectancy is no longer rising in Scotland. For the first time since records were published in 1861 life expectancy for both women and men did not rise. After 2012 it appears to stall at 81.1 years for women and 77.1 years for men. This is part of a wider trend seen across the UK, and in the USA, but not in other countries in Europe or elsewhere in the world. There is now mounting evidence of falls in life expectancy taking place for particular groups in our societies. Why have things become worse here?

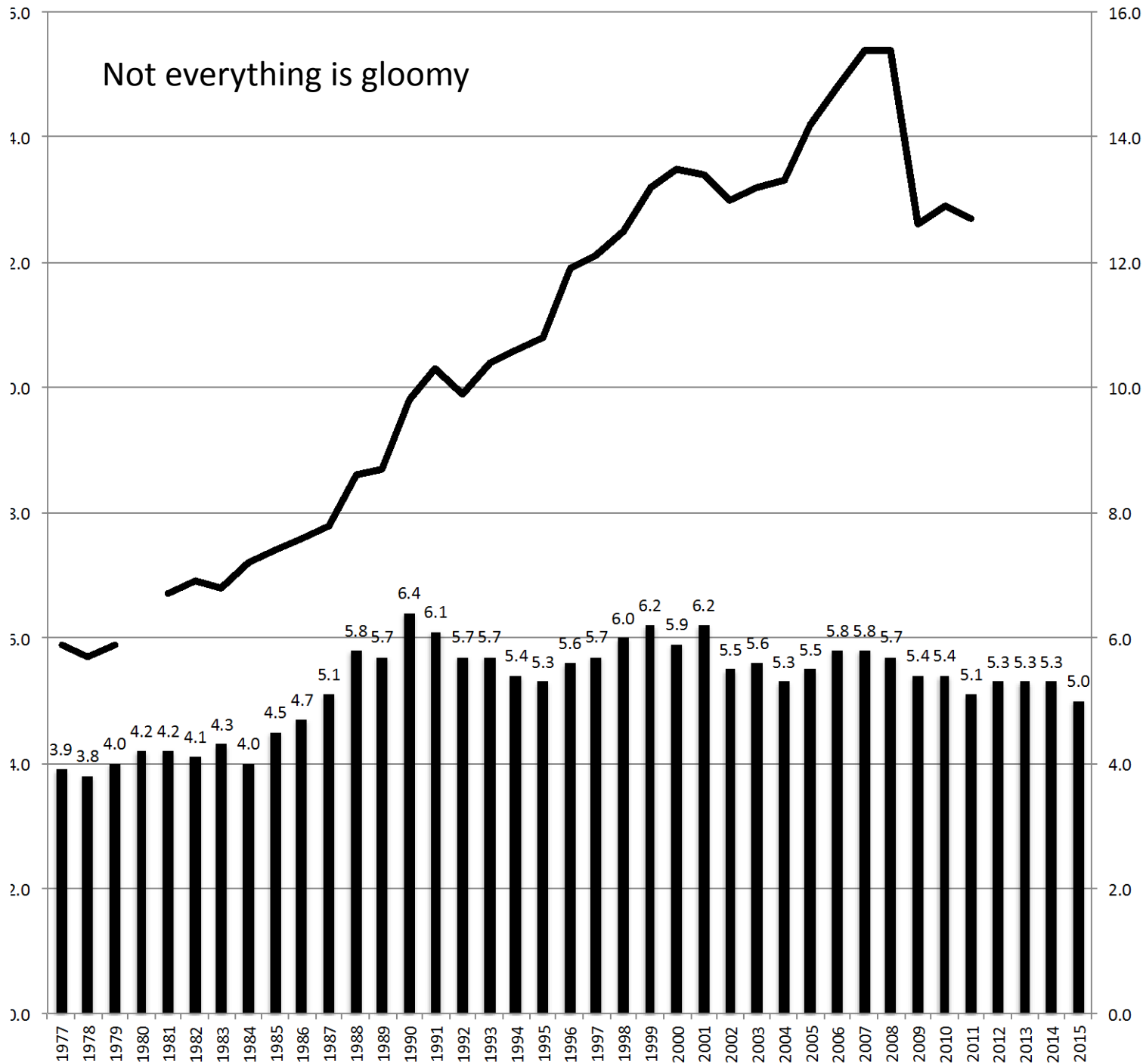
Trades Hall, 85 Glassford Street, Glasgow, March 21st 2017

Life expectancy Scotland, first hiatus since 1861 (National Records Scotland)

	Male	Female
• 1861-1870	40.3	43.9
• ... Always one or both rose..		
• 2005-2007	74.8	79.7
• 2006-2008	75.0	79.8
• 2007-2009	75.3	80.1
• 2008-2010	75.8	80.3
• 2009-2011	76.2	80.6
• 2010-2012	76.5	80.8
• 2011-2013	76.8	80.9
• 2012-2014	77.1	81.1
• 2013-2015	77.1	81.1



After years of flapping his wings, Jeffrey was fed up and decided to try something else.



Household income inequality, quintile ratio 1977-2016, 1% take 1977-2012, UK

The take of the 1% is shown as a separate line, derived from the World Wealth and Income Database – we do not know if the drop after 2009 is “real” or not...

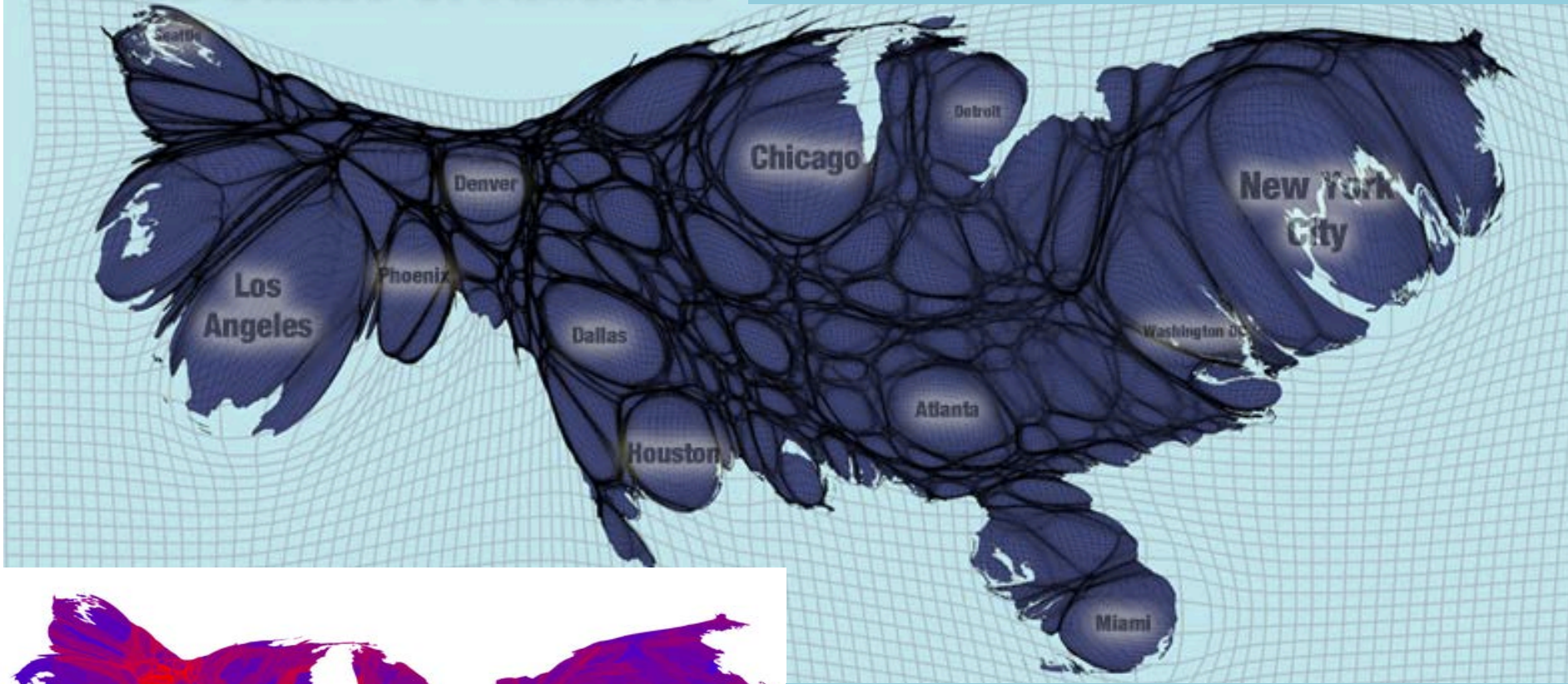
But many things are gloomy...

This talk will describe recent trends in inequality and health in affluent countries and suggest that the UK and USA have become very unusual compared with global trends - with Scotland suffering as a result.

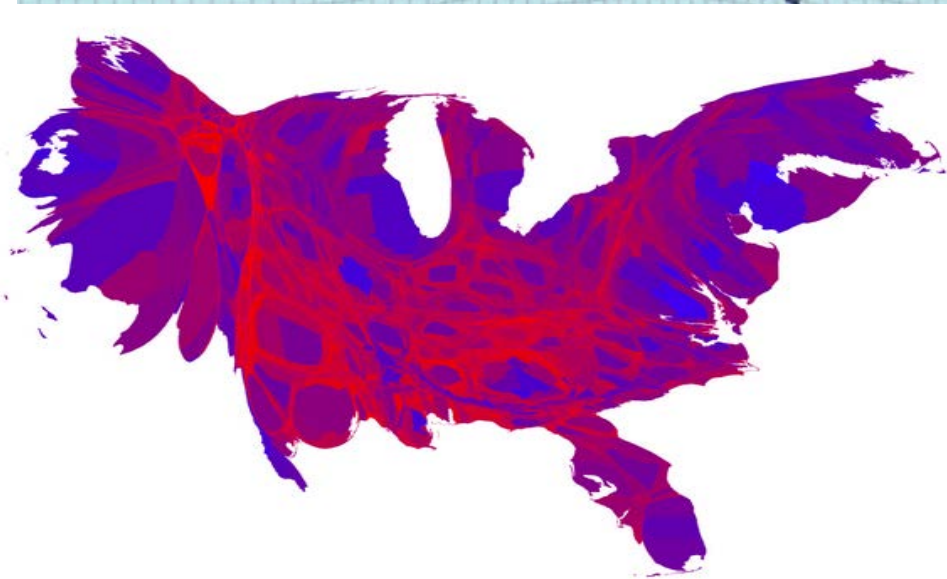
There are signs of hope that people in these two, no longer very united, states are now beginning to realize that the growth of inequalities has caused, and is still causing, widespread harm. There are also signs of hope from elsewhere in the world where inequalities in many other places are much lower and/or falling.

What is happening in the UK and the USA is the exception, not the norm. In some ways it is the end of a forty-year experiment to test the supposed benefits of promoting inequality, in which we (and especially people in Scotland) have been the guinea pigs. The experiment is unlikely to end well as those who have most benefited from it seek to preserve as much inequality as they can.

United States of America



Start with Trump



And work backwards
Obama's win in 2012
← looked like this.

US Presidential Election 2016

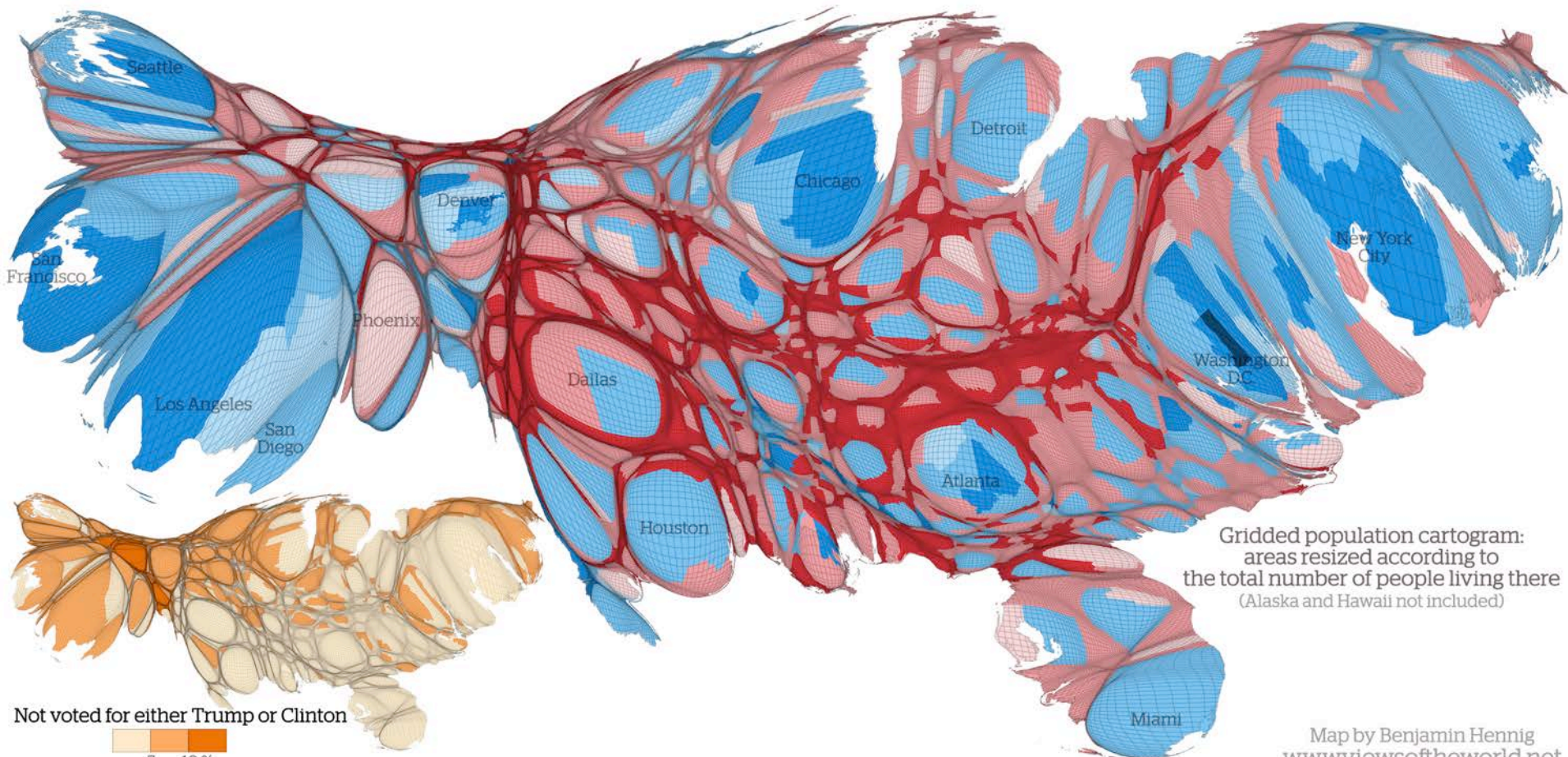
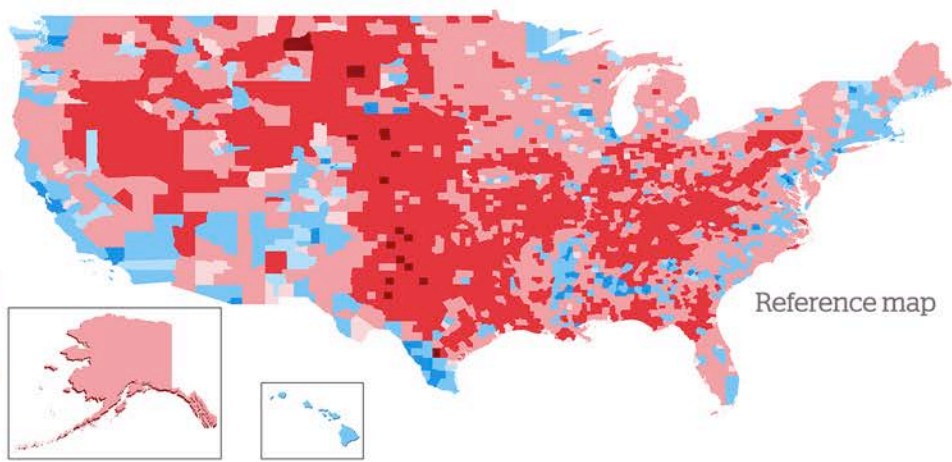
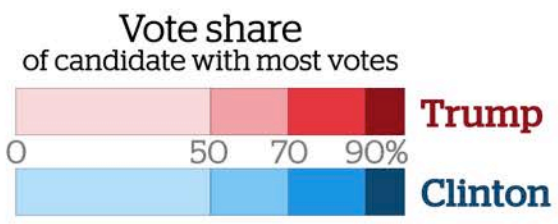
Results mapped at county level showing the candidate with the largest vote share in each area

Overall result:

Trump
60,265,858 votes (47.3%)
290 electoral votes

Clinton
60,839,922 votes (47.8%)
228 electoral votes

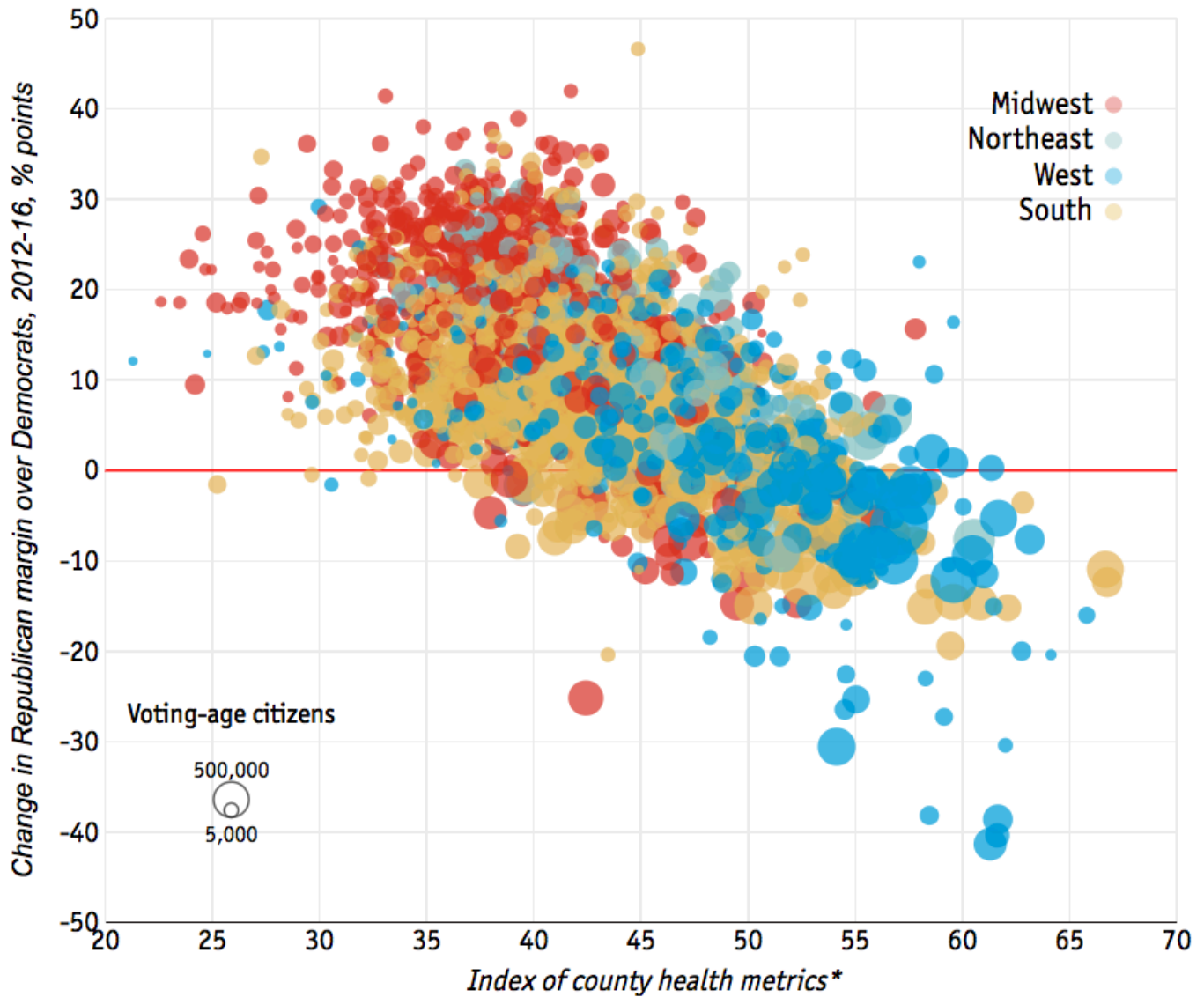
Other candidates
6,226,950 votes (4.9%)



On November 19th the Economist Magazine published the best correlates to “explain” why increase for the Republicans rose in some areas and not in others – poor health: “even after controlling for race, education, age, sex, income, marital status, immigration and employment, these figures remain highly statistically significant.”

Vitality and the vote

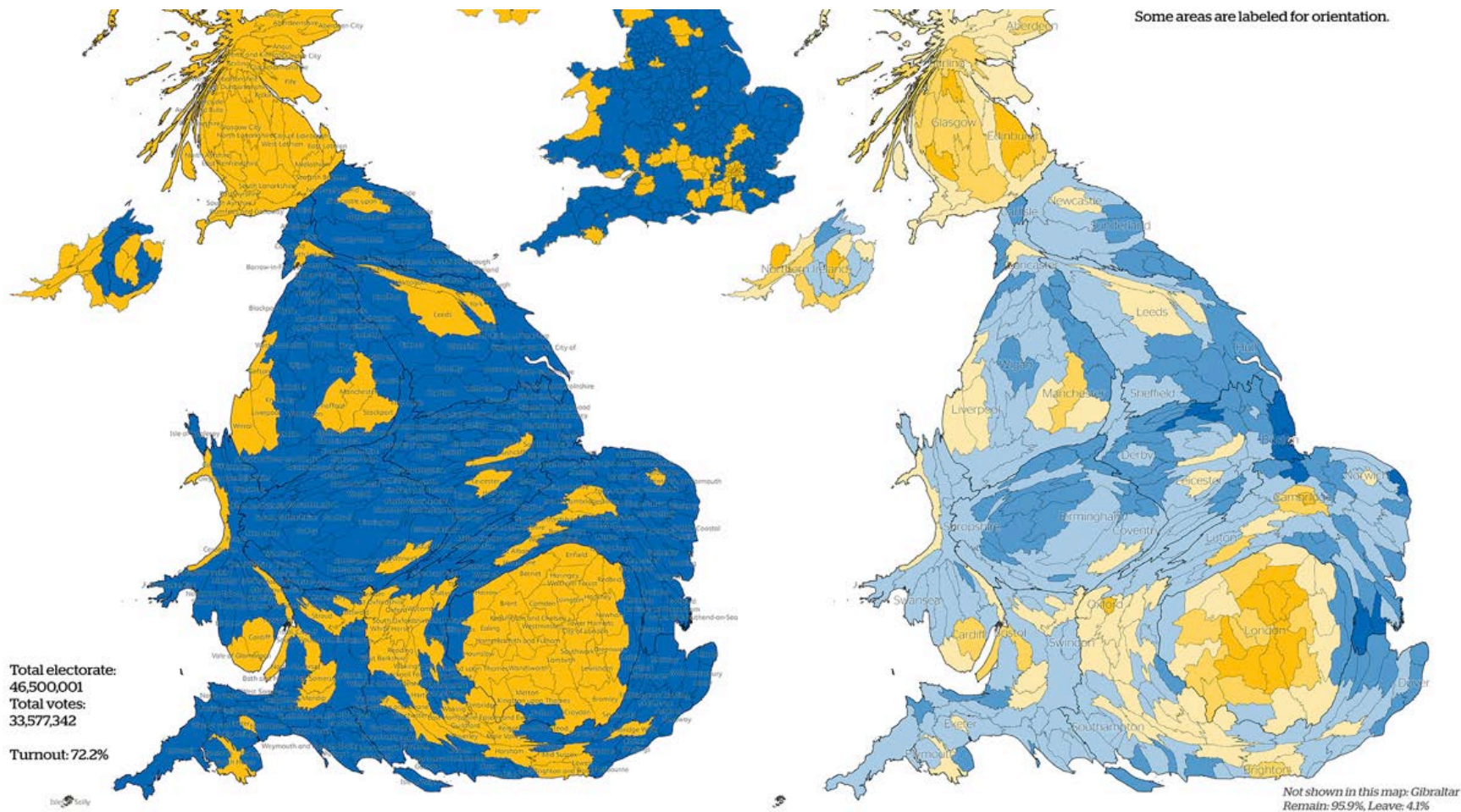
United States, health metrics against swing to Donald Trump, by county



Sources: Atlas of US Presidential Elections; Census Bureau; IPUMS; Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation; *The Economist*

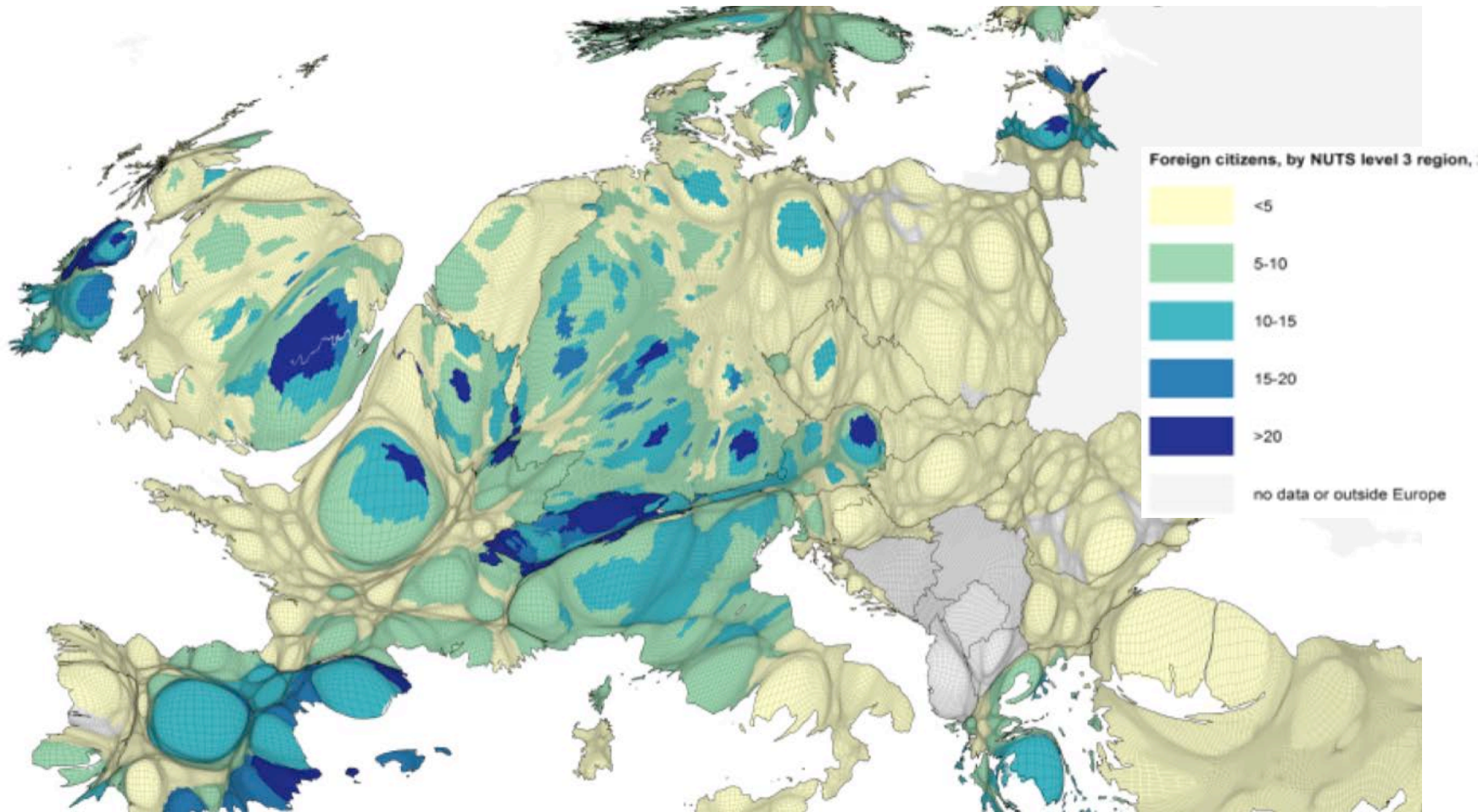
*Weighted index of obesity, diabetes, heavy drinking, physical exercise and life expectancy, 2010-12

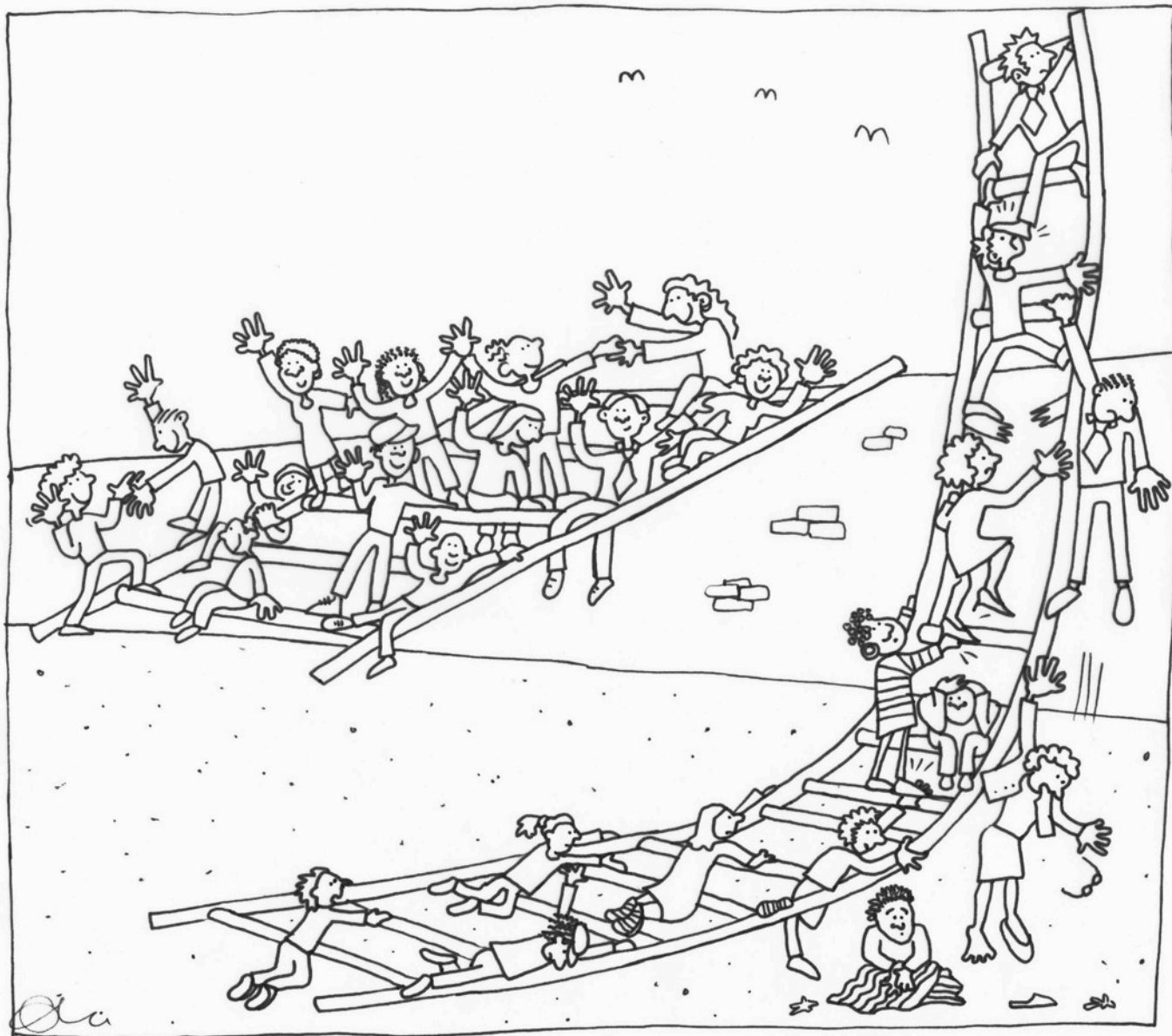
After the Brexit result in the UK, no-one can doubt that inequality matters. It was the economically most unequal EU state which has voted to leave the union (and most of Wales).



We are not 'swamped'

The regional geography of 'foreigner-born' in Europe in 2014 (% population):

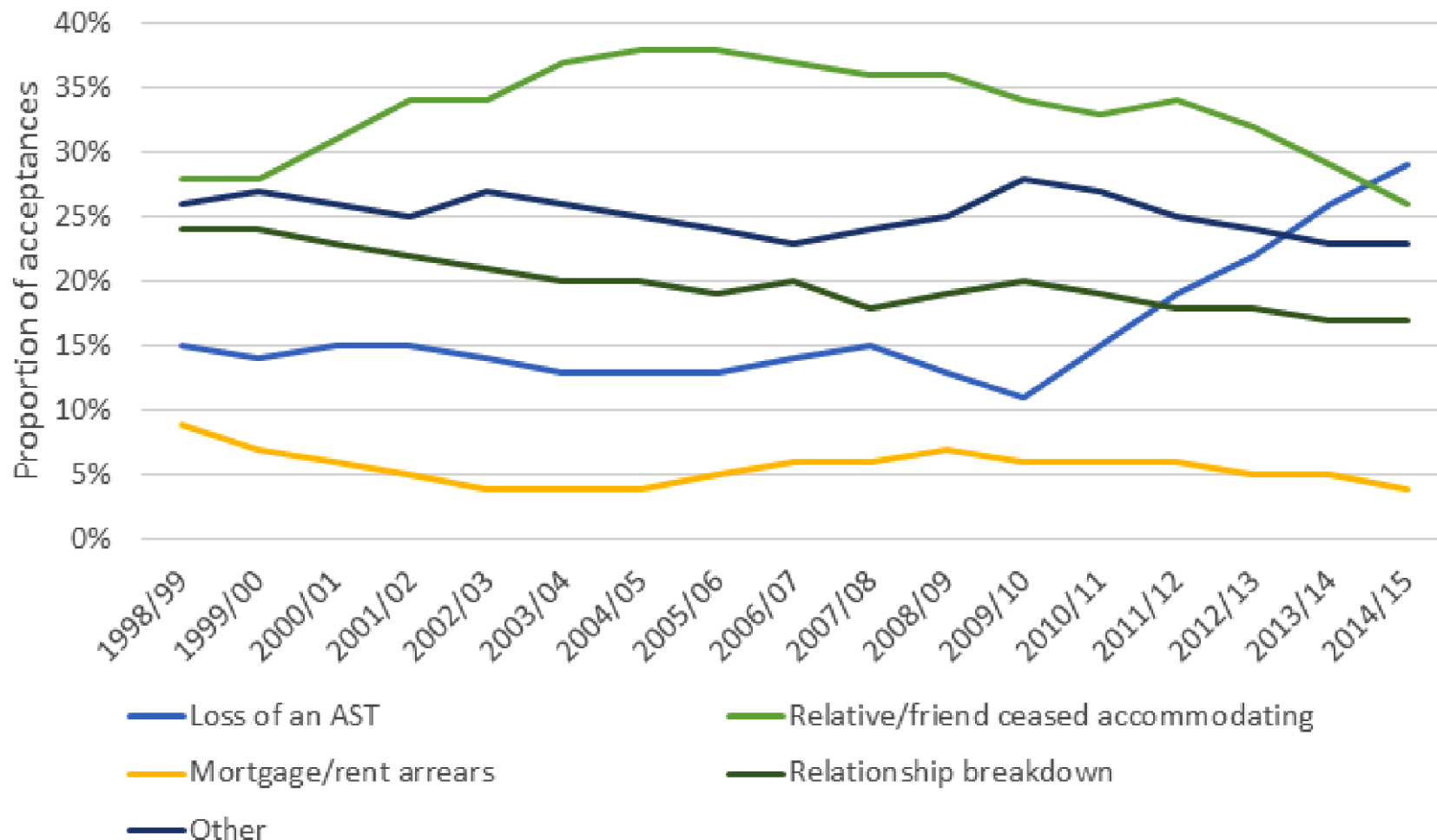




Two ladders

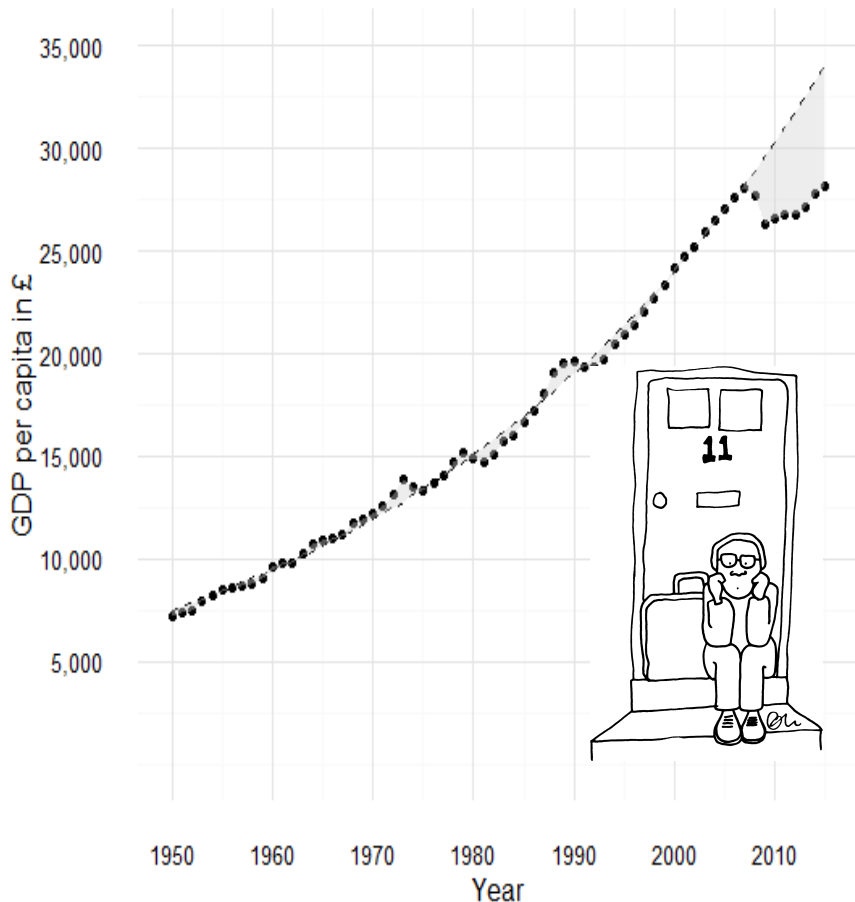
Scotland does better than England at housing: Reasons families find themselves to be homeless in England, 1998-2015

Triggers of homelessness



Source: K Webb, *Bringing homelessness to the forefront of the political agenda in England*, London, Shelter, October 7th, 2016, <http://www.insidegovernment.co.uk/uploads/2016/10/katewebb.pdf>

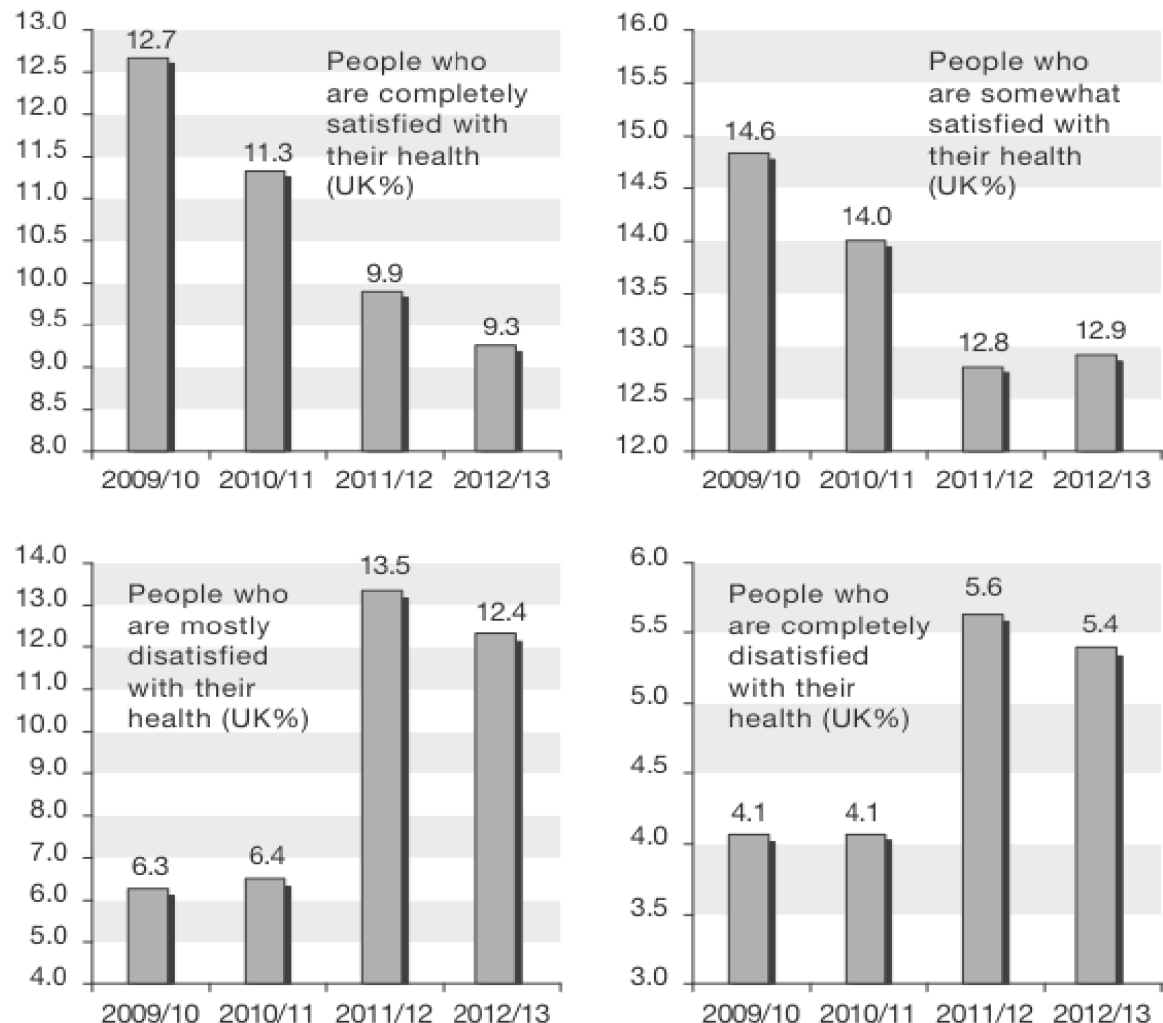
Better cities have better laws and so cope better in crisis



Tenants in Germany often furnish their home and also decorate it, fit kitchens and cupboards and live very much like people with a mortgage live in the UK. Rent caps are enforced so that landlords cannot set whatever rent they wish for new tenants. Rents are also not permitted to rise at all quickly. Tenants' groups organize to complain when landlords are not penalized for breaking the law.

(from a long list of examples in the book "The Equality Effect", forthcoming).

Figure 9.2: Trends in self-reported health used by ONS in annual well-being reporting 2009-2013



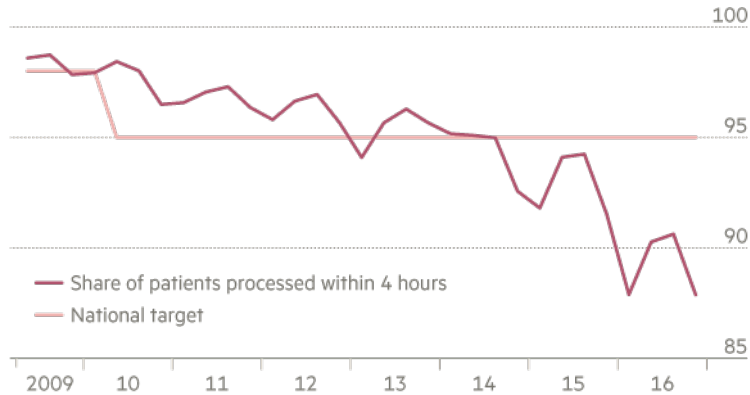
Source: ONS, derived from Understanding Society Survey

Health and the city

Our health is currently deteriorating and this is as yet not due to ageing having had an effect. It is our mental health, but also our physical health

Hospitals are increasingly struggling to meet waiting time targets

% of emergency admissions admitted, transferred, or discharged within 4 hours

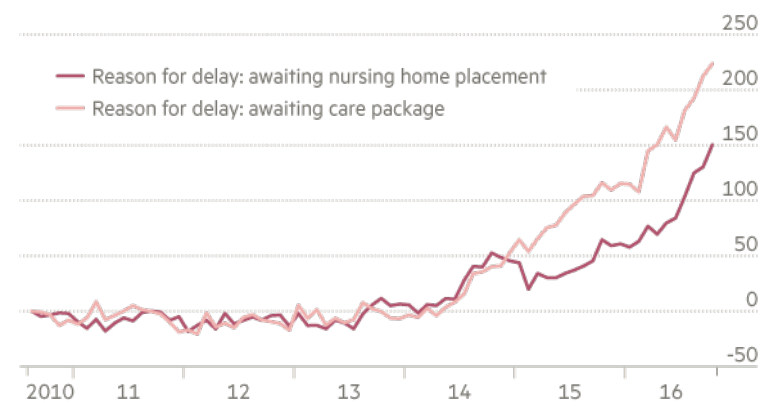


Source: Institute for Government, NHS England.

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Lack of social care provision has led to large rise in delayed discharges from hospital

Number of days by which hospital discharges were delayed, % change since Aug 2010.

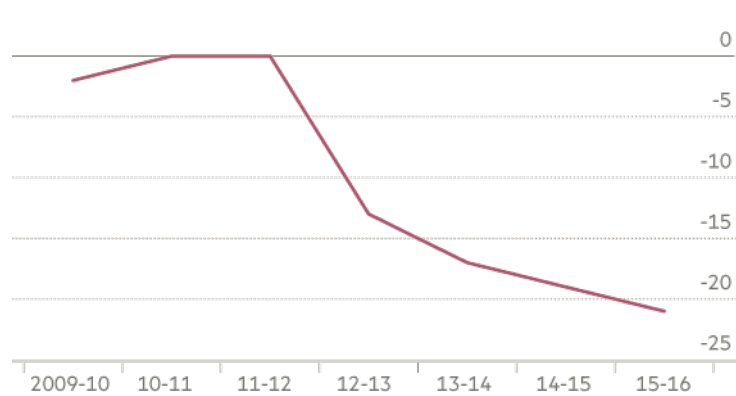


Source: Institute for Government, NHS England.

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Targets for teacher recruitment are being missed

% gap between teacher recruitment target and actual recruitment*



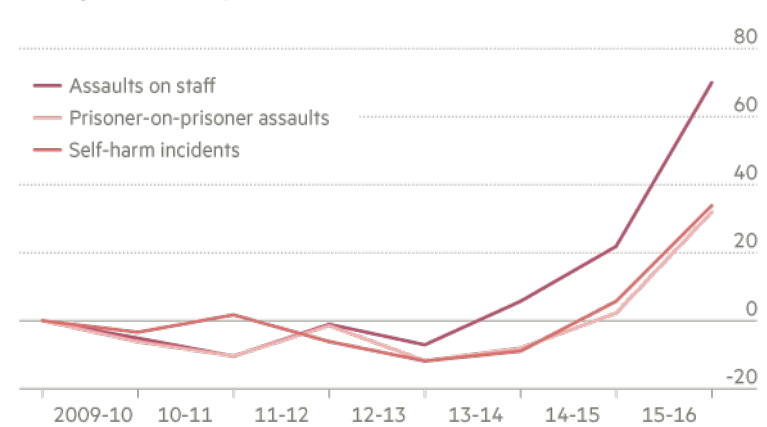
* Figures are for financial years, April to March.

Source: Institute for Government, Department for Education.

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Assaults and self-harming in prisons on the rise

% change in number of prison assaults and self-harm incidents relative to 2008-09*



* Figures are for financial years, April to March.

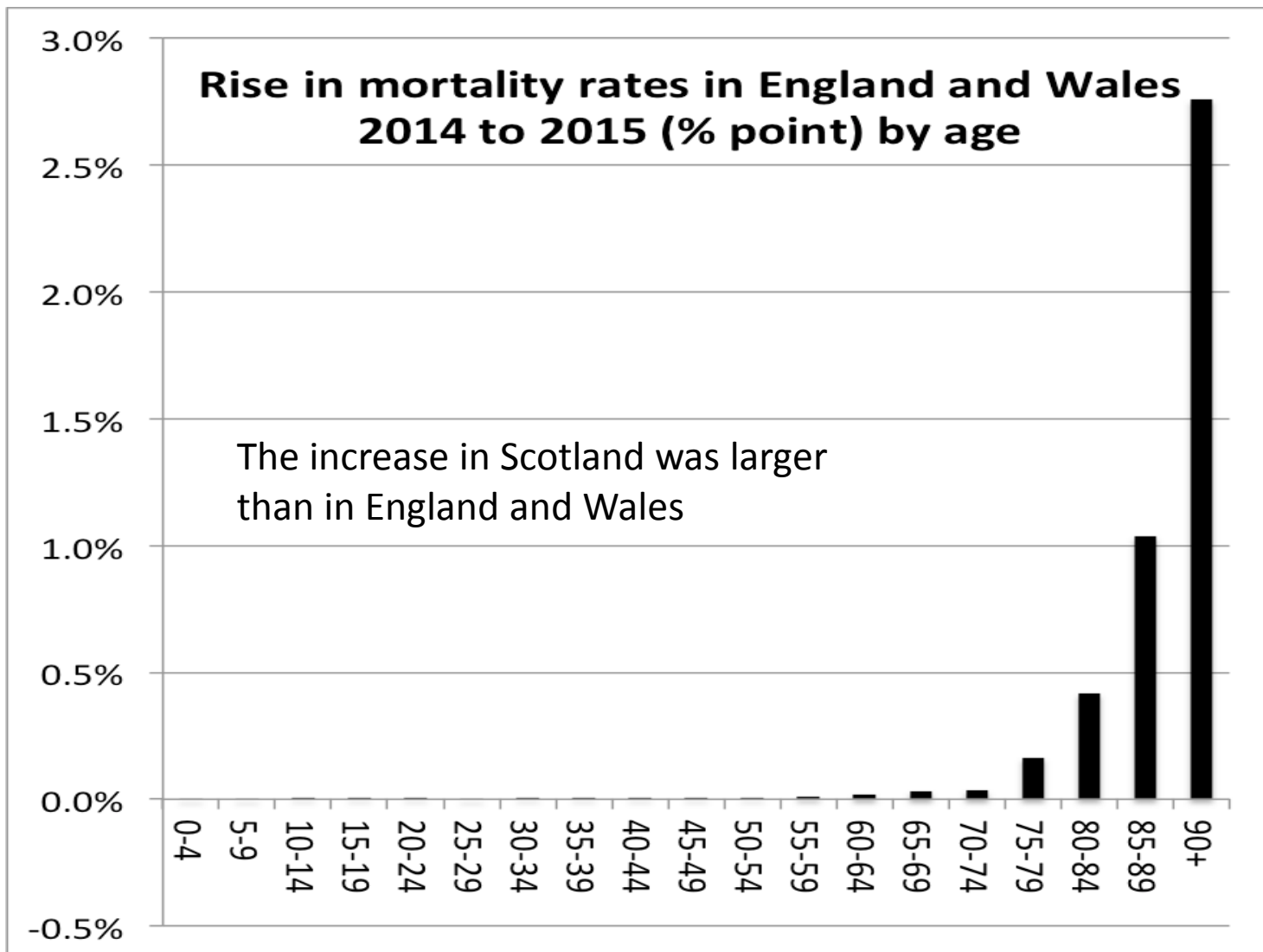
Source: Institute for Government, Ministry of Justice.

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Multiple government targets are now being missed

Source: Gemma Tetlow, Financial Times, 28th February 2017 (Institute for government)

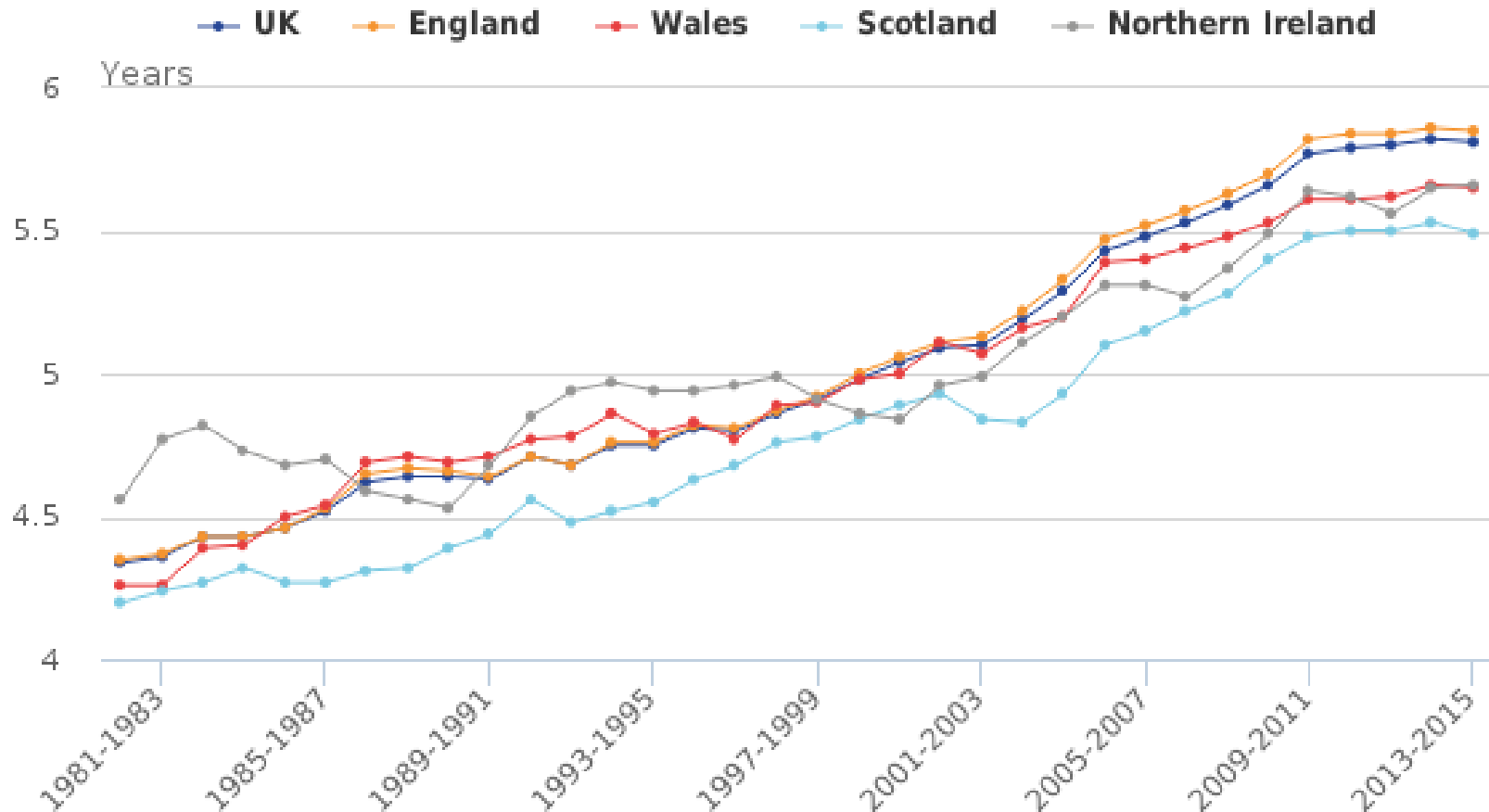
Trends in mortality rates by age: ONS mid year estimates for 2014 and 2015 (absolute) – LARGEST RISE IN DEATH SINCE 1940 APART FROM 1951/1968.



	Largest absolute Mortality rate	Rises (calendar)
1	1918	0.35%
2	1846	0.22%
3	1895	0.21%
4	1849	0.21%
5	1940	0.19%
6	1929	0.18%
7	1847	0.17%
8	1863	0.16%
9	1890	0.13%
10	1878	0.13%
11	1858	0.13%
12	1857	0.13%
13	1851	0.12%
14	1874	0.12%
15	1911	0.11%
16	1915	0.11%
17	1840	0.10%
18	1904	0.09%
19	1931	0.09%
20	1951	0.08%
21	1864	0.08%
22	1899	0.07%
23	1927	0.07%
24	1943	0.07%
25	1882	0.07%
26	1891	0.07%
27	1924	0.07%
28	1854	0.06%
29	1968	0.06%
30	1870	0.06%
31	1922	0.06%
32	2015	0.06%

L Hiam, D Harrison, D Dorling and M McKee, Why has mortality in England and Wales been increasing? An iterative demographic analysis, *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine*, February 17th 2017, http://www.dannydorling.org/?page_id=5942

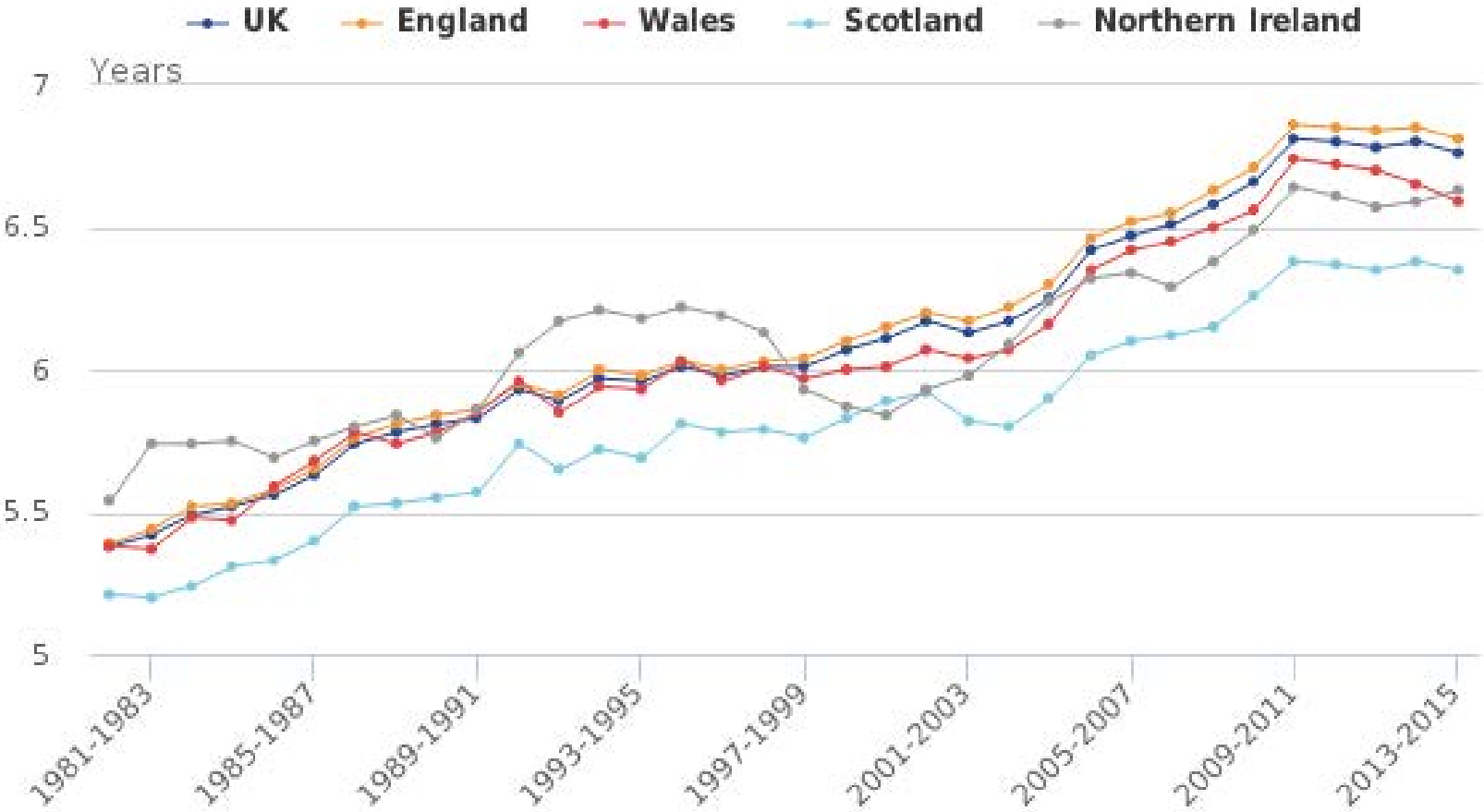
Male life expectancy from age 85



Source:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/lifeexpectancies/bul>

Female life expectancy from age 85



Source:

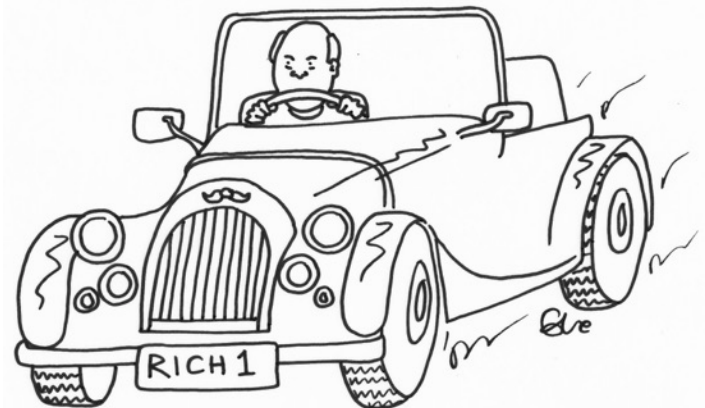
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/lifeexpectancies/bul>

NHS health spending and provision, choices over taxation, education, housing and wealth.

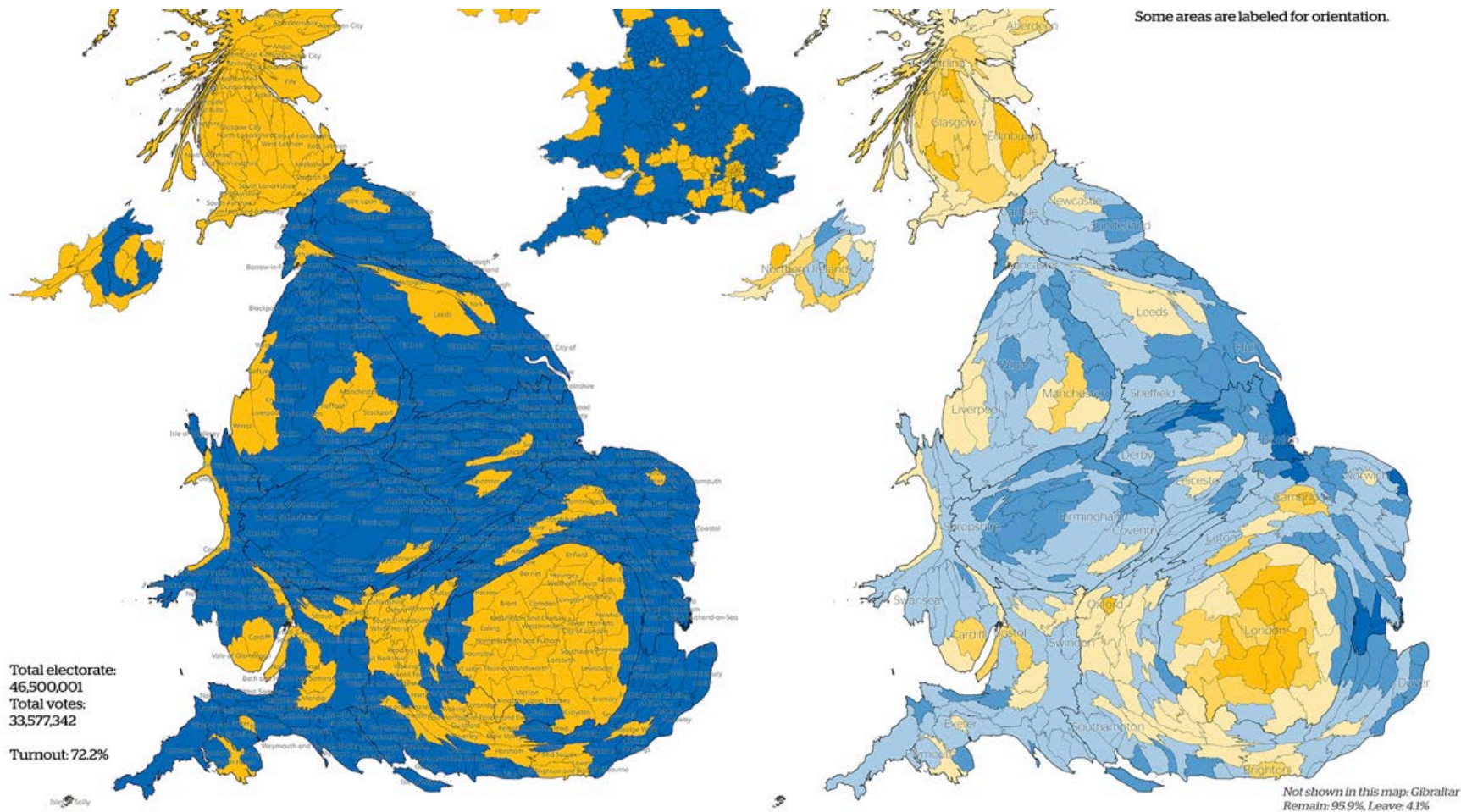
France is no Utopia, but compared with the UK, it has six more doctors to treat every 10 000 patients (21% more per person), 35 more hospital beds per 10 000 people (130% more per person), and people stay in hospital for less time on average (5.6 days instead of 6.9 days).¹⁴ The productivity of those in work is higher partly because health is better and people are not forced into low paid employment.¹⁵ There is a clear and present danger that leading French politicians will seek to portray their country as a failing state in the race for votes this year. But if that can be avoided then we should not assume that the inequality and poor health that helped get Brexit over the line and Trump into power will necessarily play out that way in France. Facts, and how they are presented, will matter more than ever before.

[14] NHS Confederation (2016) Key statistics on the NHS, last updated 15th November 2016, <http://www.nhsconfed.org/resources/key-statistics-on-the-nhs>

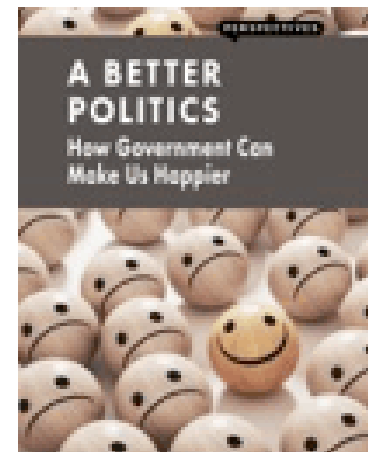
[15] Szreter, S., Kinmouth, A. L., Kriznik, N. and Kelly, M.P. (2016) Health, welfare, and the state—the dangers of forgetting history, *The Lancet*, 388, December 3rd.



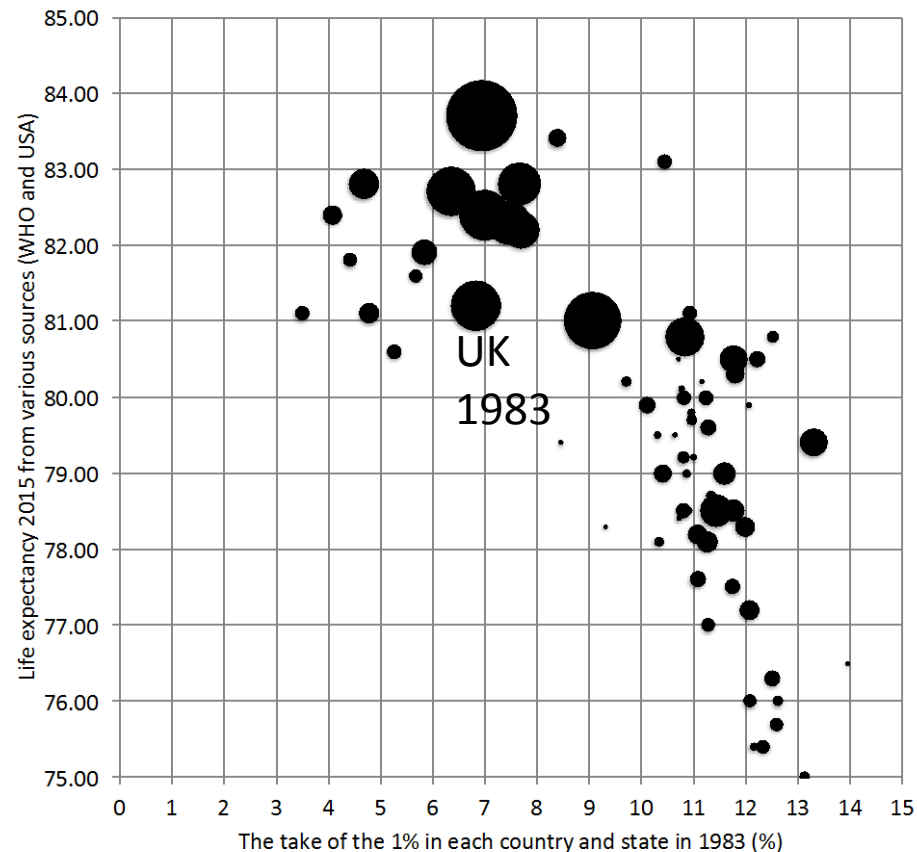
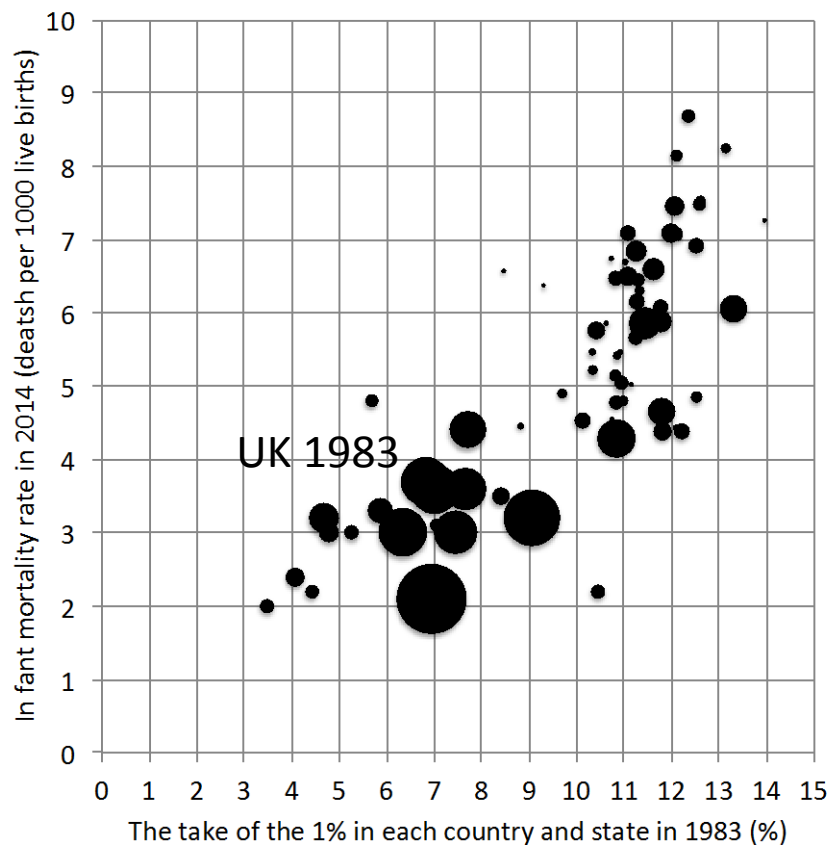
After the Brexit result in the UK, no-one can doubt that inequality matters. It was the economically most unequal EU state which has voted to leave the union (and most of Wales).



American political scientist Benjamin Radcliff recently used statistics to show that: ‘The differences in your feeling of well-being living in a Scandinavian country (where welfare programs are large) versus the US are going to be larger than the individual factors in your life. The political differences trump all the individual things you’re supposed to do to make yourself happier – to have fulfilling personal relationships, to have a job, to have more income. The political factors swamp all those individual factors. Countries with high levels of gross domestic product consumed by government have higher levels of personal satisfaction.’



Inequality in 1983 and health now



Data for all the States of the USA and the 19 countries with WID data for the 1980s...
Circle size shows population, Infant mortality in 2014, life expectancy in 2015 or nearest.

What does inequality mean in the UK and other countries, what are the implications for the whole of society (including the rich), and what can be done to make societies in the world more equal?

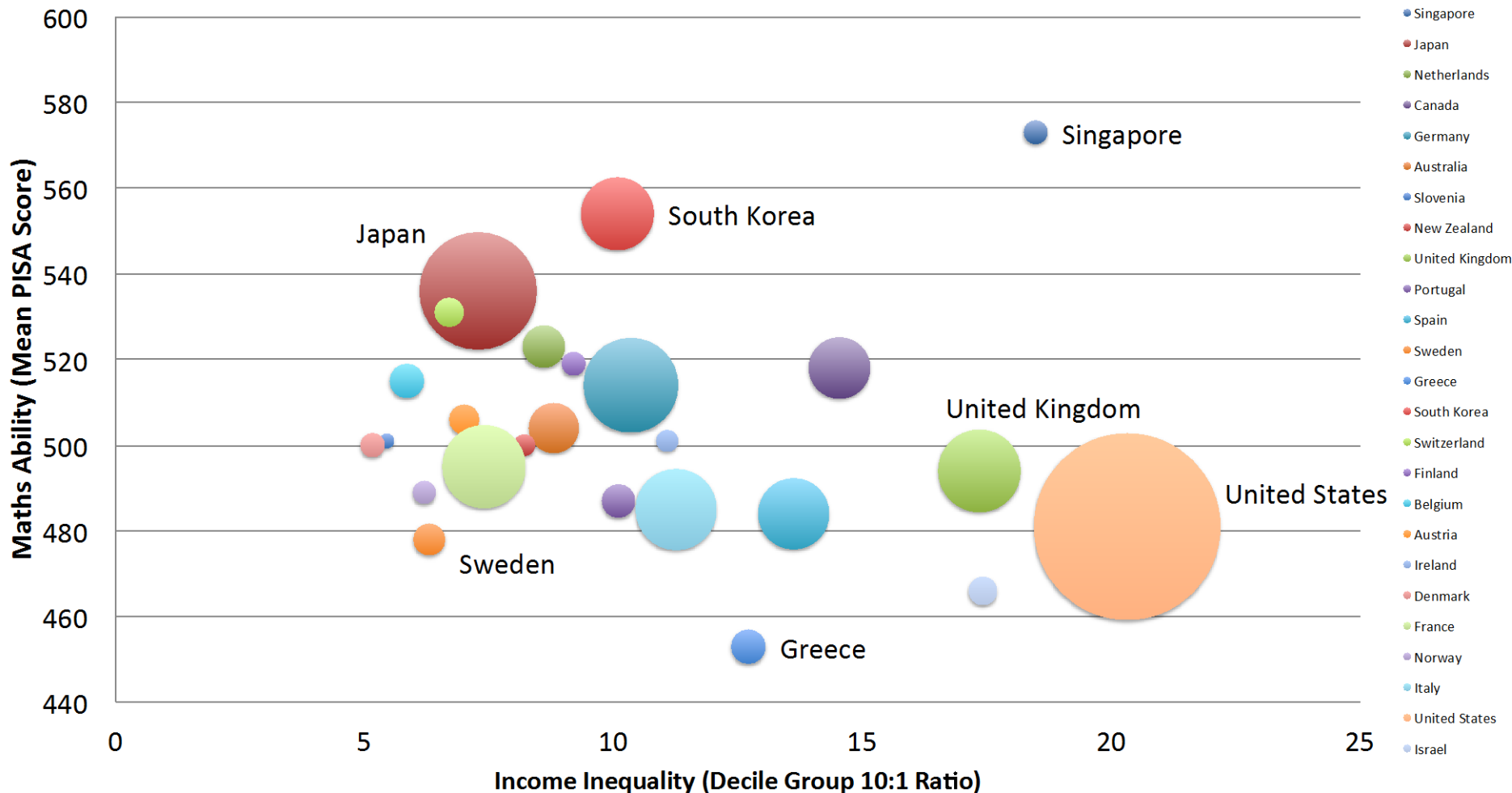
There are a growing number of studies findings many “≠” connections from health & happiness to cars and exams.

Figure 26: Healthy behaviour and income inequality, walking and cycling 2006-2010, affluent countries.



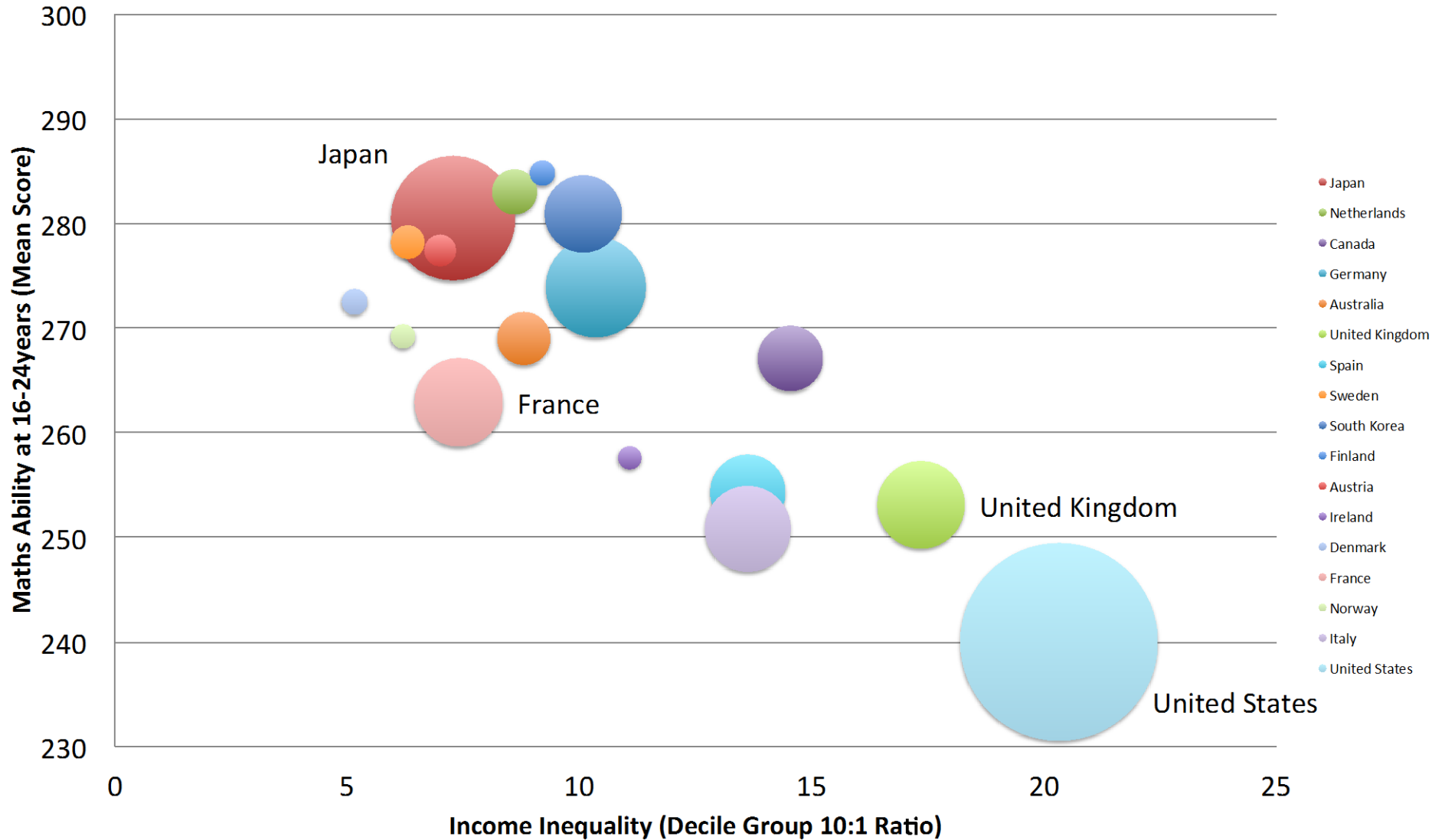
Trends in education and many others also tend not to look good but there are many factors at play: ONE FACTOR MAY BE THAT WE 'TEACH TO THE TEST' IN THE UK

Income inequality and 15 year-olds' maths ability 2012



Income inequality and 16-24 year-olds' maths ability

2012

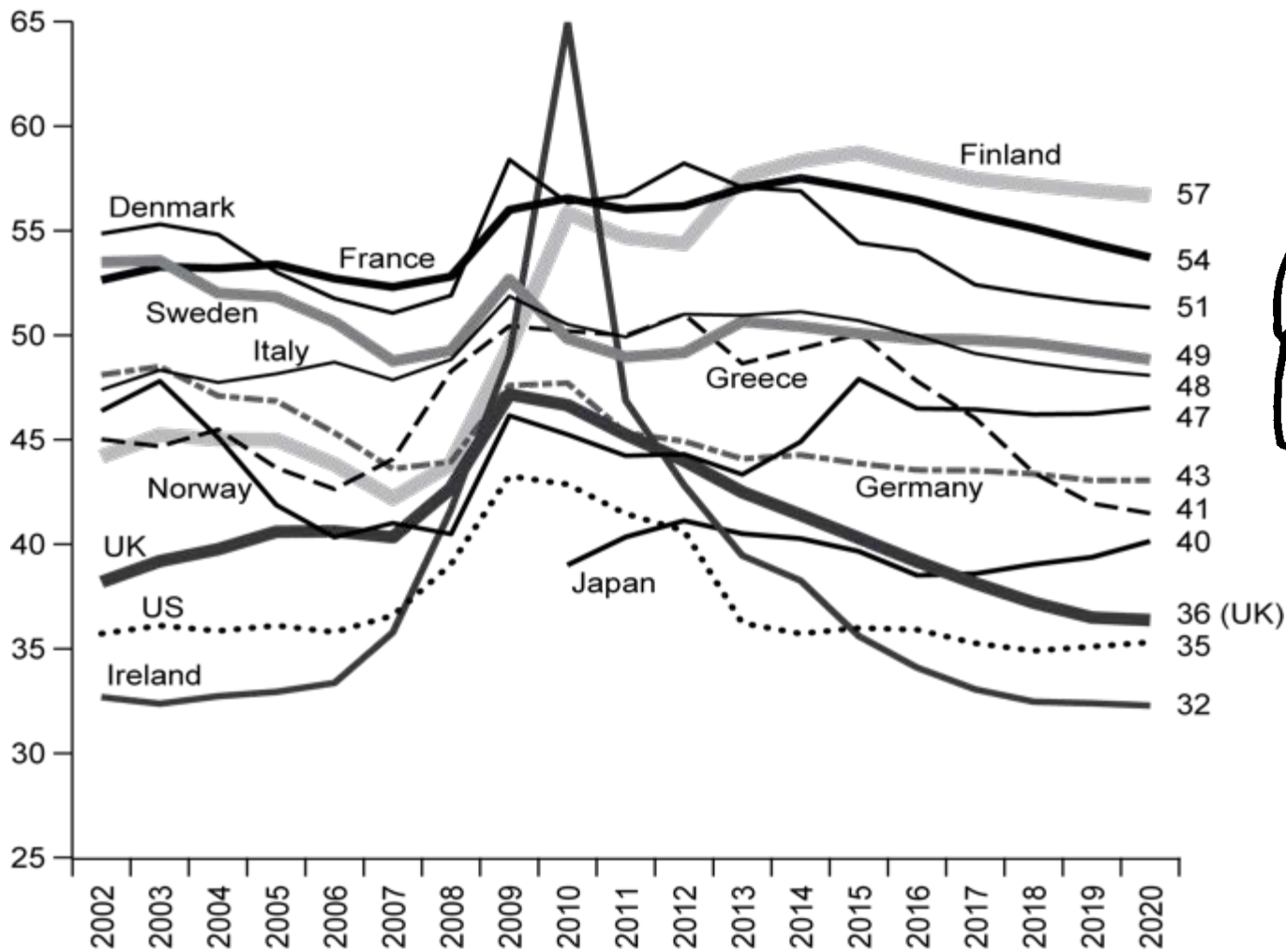




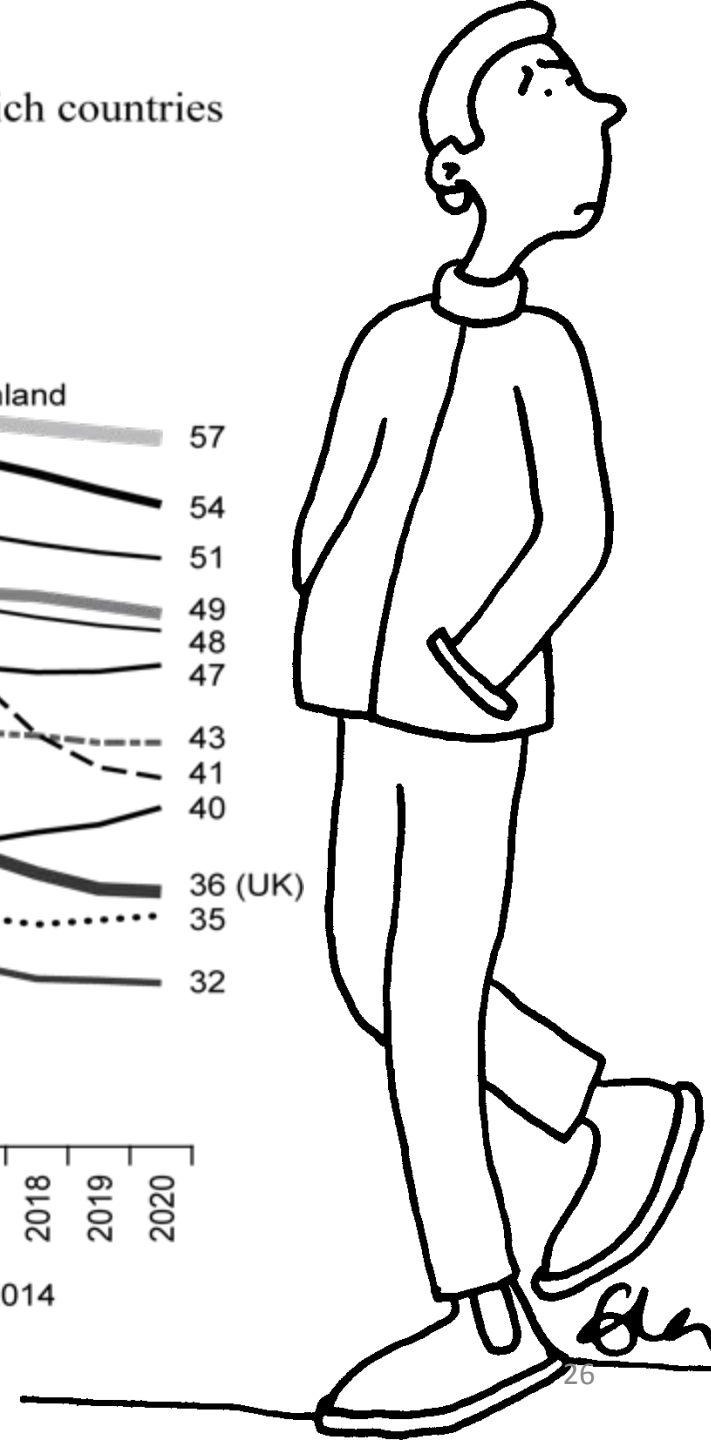
Social mobility at the bus stop

There comes a point when it is not more social mobility you need but less inequality.

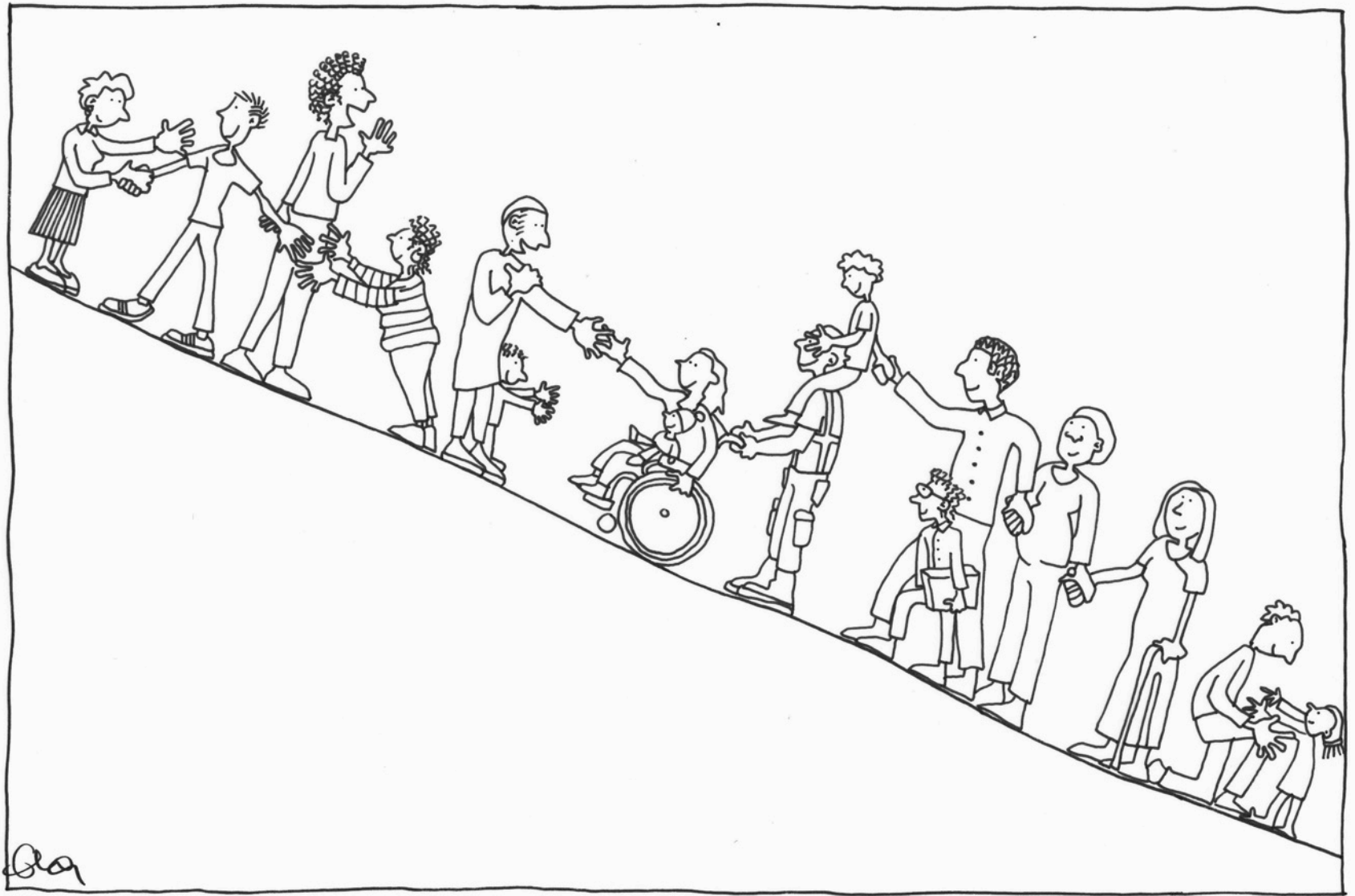
Figure 2: State spending as a proportion of GDP, twelve rich countries 2002–2020 (%)



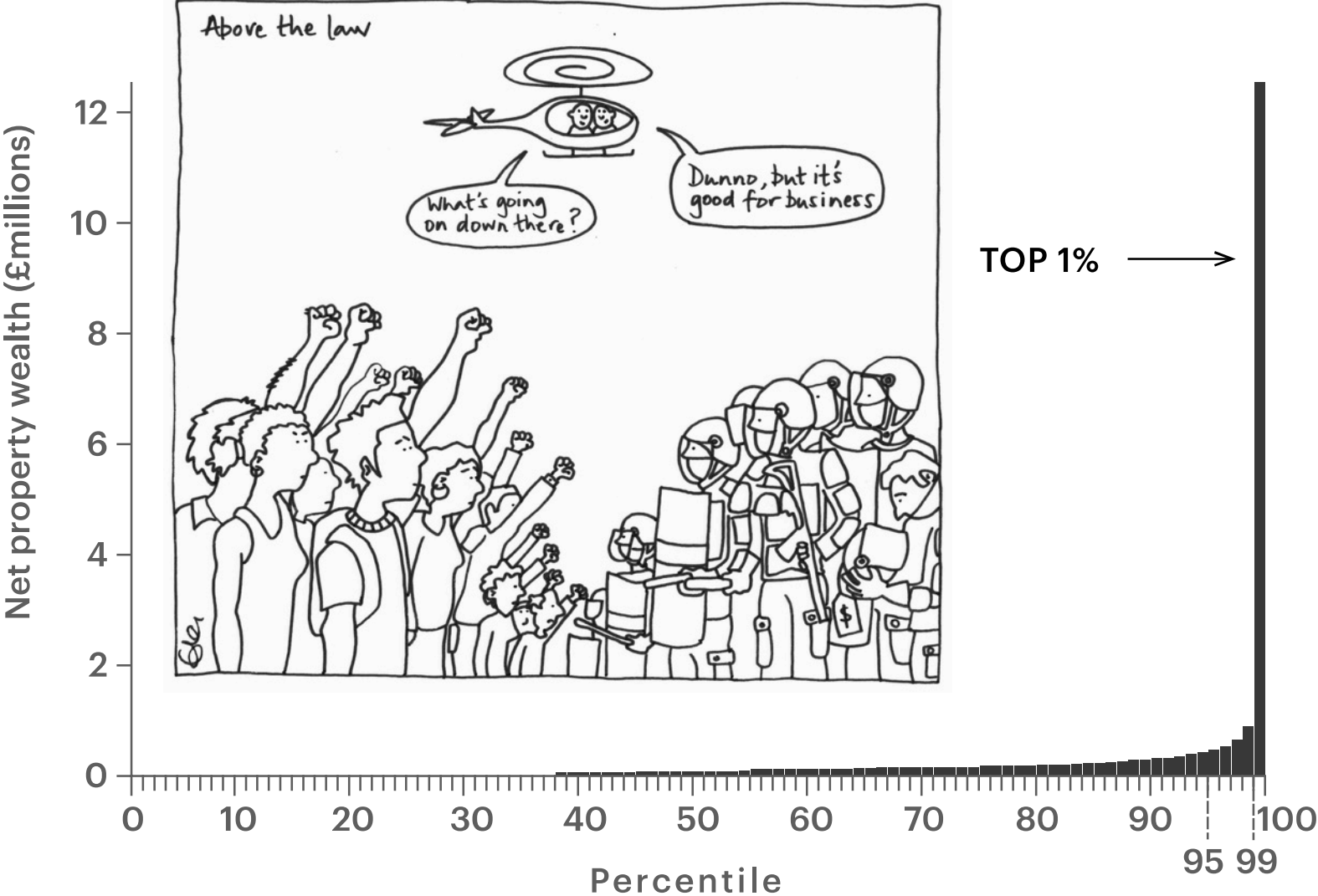
Source: The 2010, 2012 and 2015 IMF database, projections after 2014



More equal countries have a gentler slope



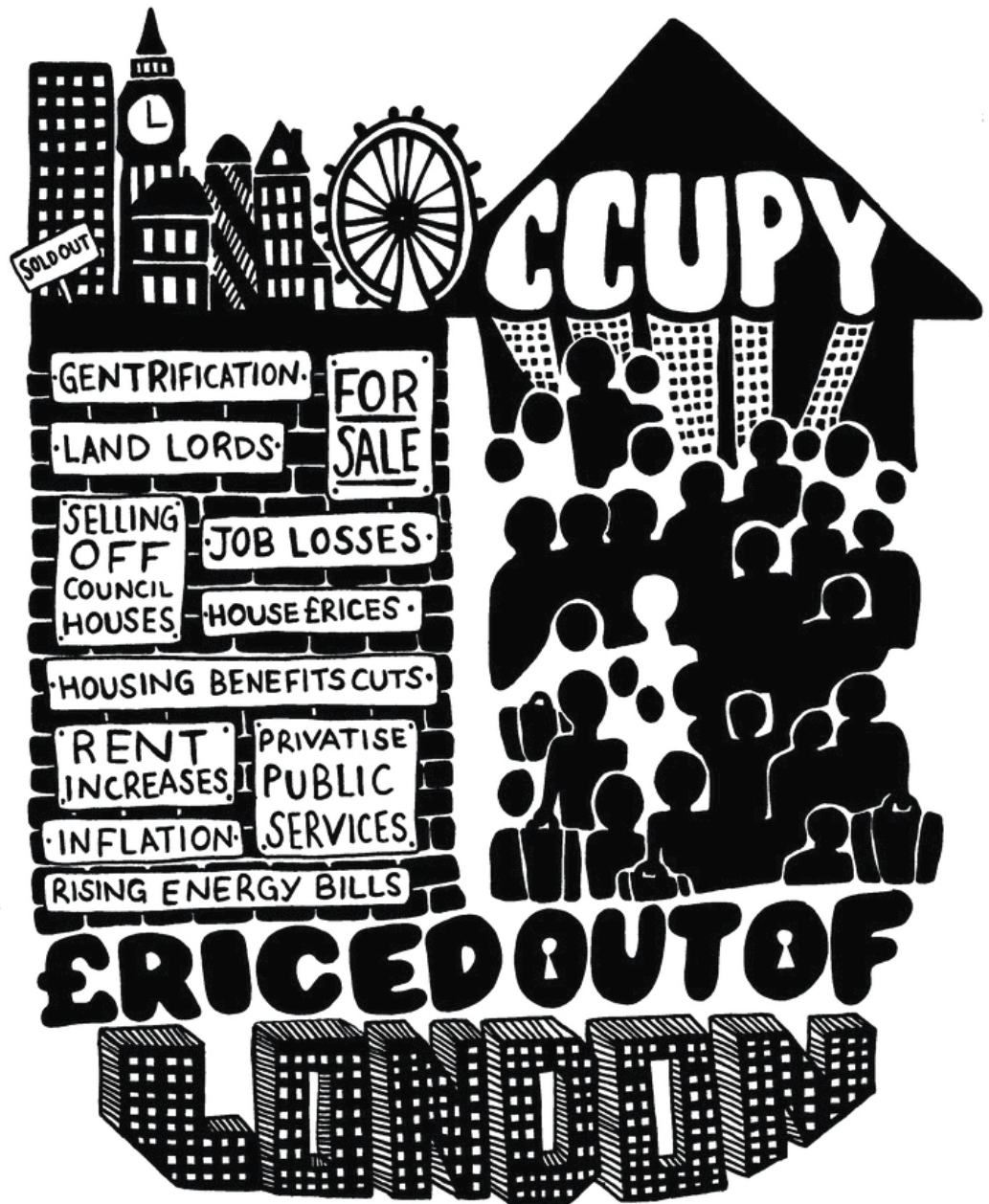
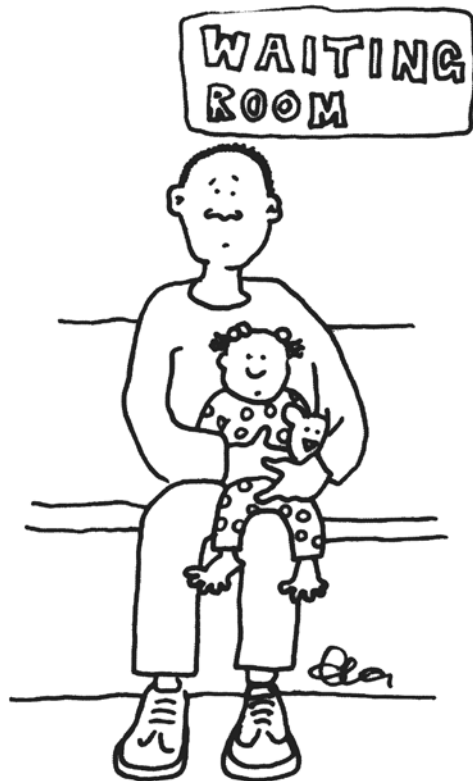
What does taking back control really mean, who really has control in the UK today and might some of them wish you to think it was faceless bureaucrats in the EU or migrants coming to the country who somehow had the upper hand over most of what is decided here?



To build a better city you need an enabling state and you need

- Taxing at the normal European level
- Spending on education & health normally
- Having housing laws that are fair to tenants
- Working towards a basic income for all
- No sanctions and student loans for the young
- Introducing a fair system of voting (PR)
- Not allowing the 1% who take a 7th of everything every year in the UK – to also run political parties, newspapers, companies, even university building programmes unchallenged. This is best done by reducing their income/wealth – and that can be done in many ways – which they are aware of.

We should
predict
trouble
ahead



It isn't too late – but some want you to think it is – that there is no alternative

