# Selective Religious Migration across the Life course: Evidence from Northern Ireland 1981-2011

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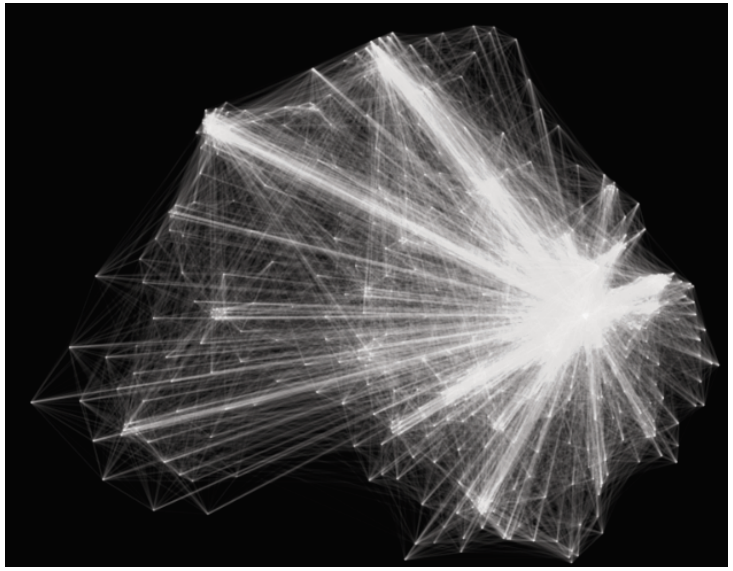
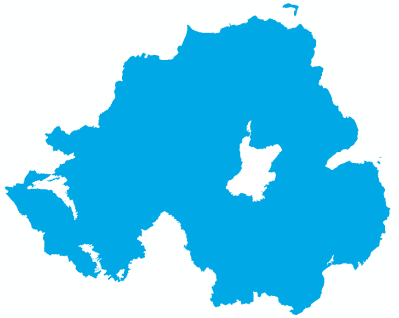


NILS-RSU

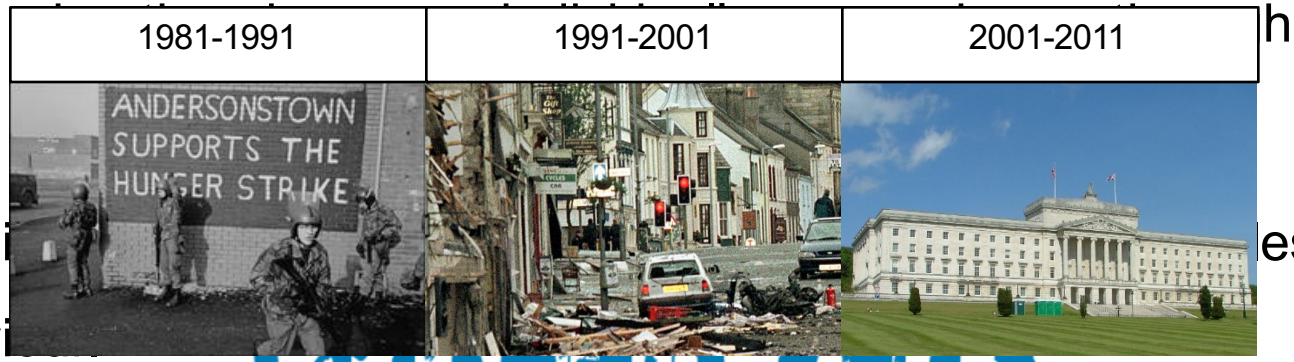
Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency

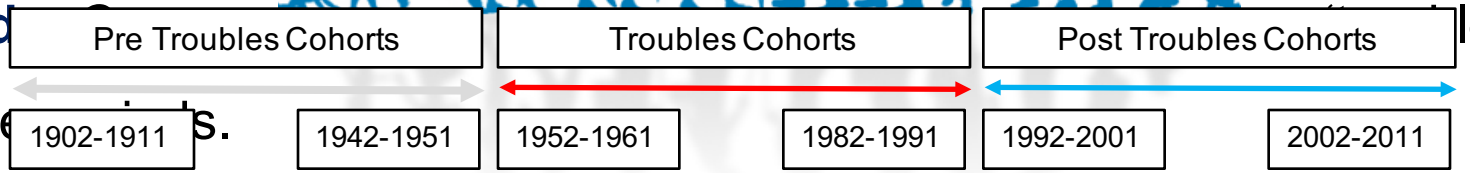
# Research Questions



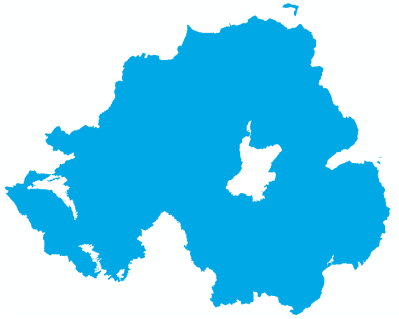
**Aim:** Understand how the propensity to move to a more/less religiously segregated area varies across the life course;

- **Age:** How does h key phases of the life course.
- **Cohorts:** Investi es influences their migratory behavi
- **Time Period** les' and 'post troubles' time s.

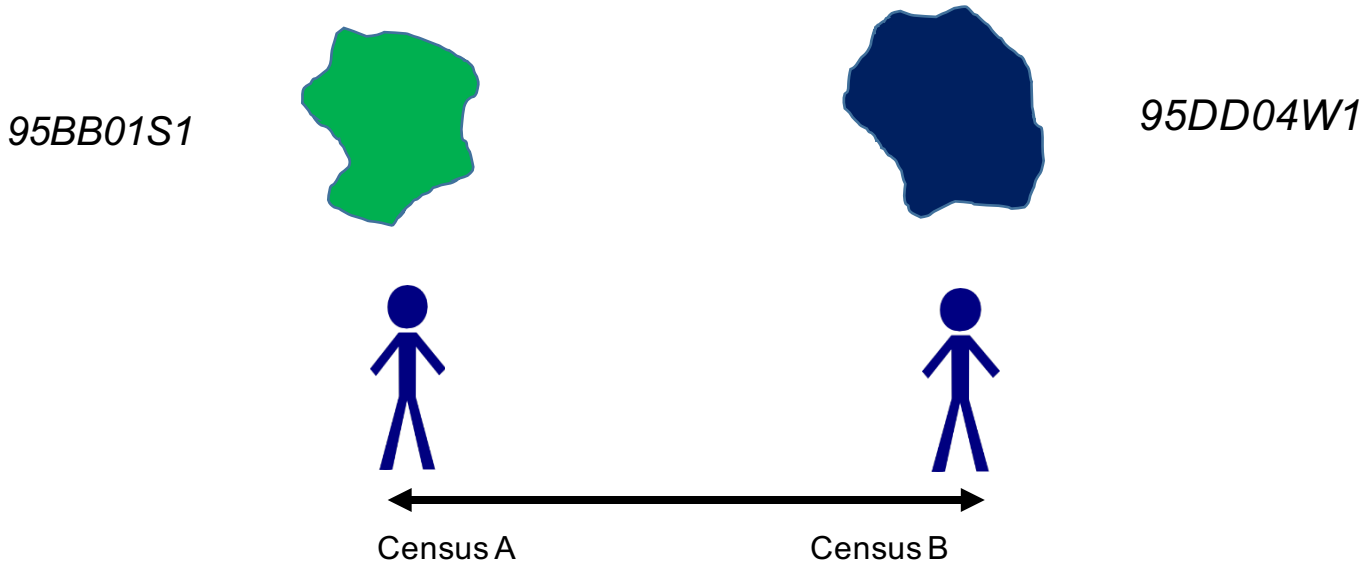


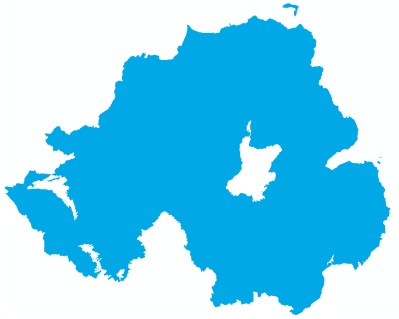
# Data



- Draw on data from the Northern Ireland Longitudinal Study (NILS).
- Represents a c.28% sample of the NI population spanning 1981 to 2011 containing;
  - Census variables i.e. religion, age and social class.
  - Identify members whose area of residence is different between censuses.



# Methodology



## Measuring Segregation

- Simpsons Diversity Index: measure the level of religious diversity.
- Interaction Index (*P*): measure interaction between movers.
- Index of dissimilarity *(D):* measure the spatial unevenness of inflows.

$$1 - \sum_{i=1}^{k} \frac{n_i(n_i - 1)}{n(n-1)}$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} \left[ \left( \frac{x_i}{X} \right) \left( \frac{y_i}{t_i} \right) \right]$$

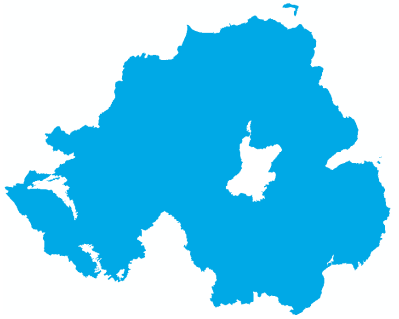
$$D = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} \left| x_{1(i)} - x_{2(i)} \right|}{n}.$$

## Modelling Events

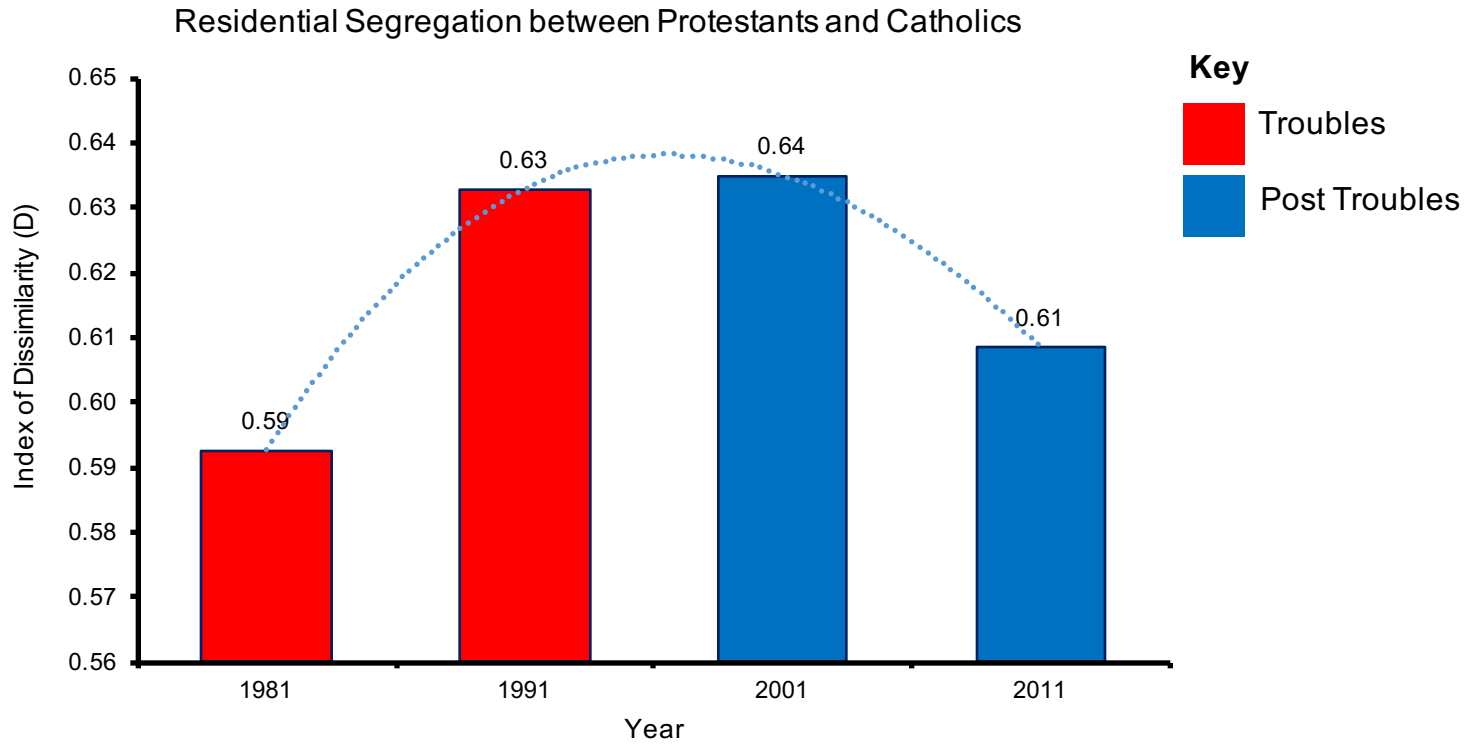
- Negative binomial regression;
  - Form of logistic regression for count data.
  - Predicts the chance of an event occurring through the rate ratio.

$$P = \frac{e^{a+bX}}{1 + e^{a+bX}}$$

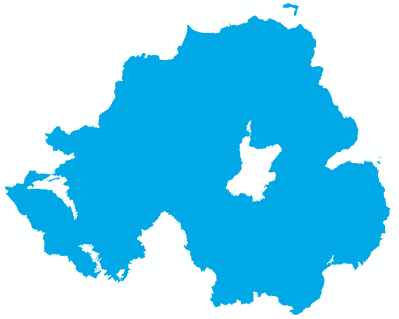
# Context

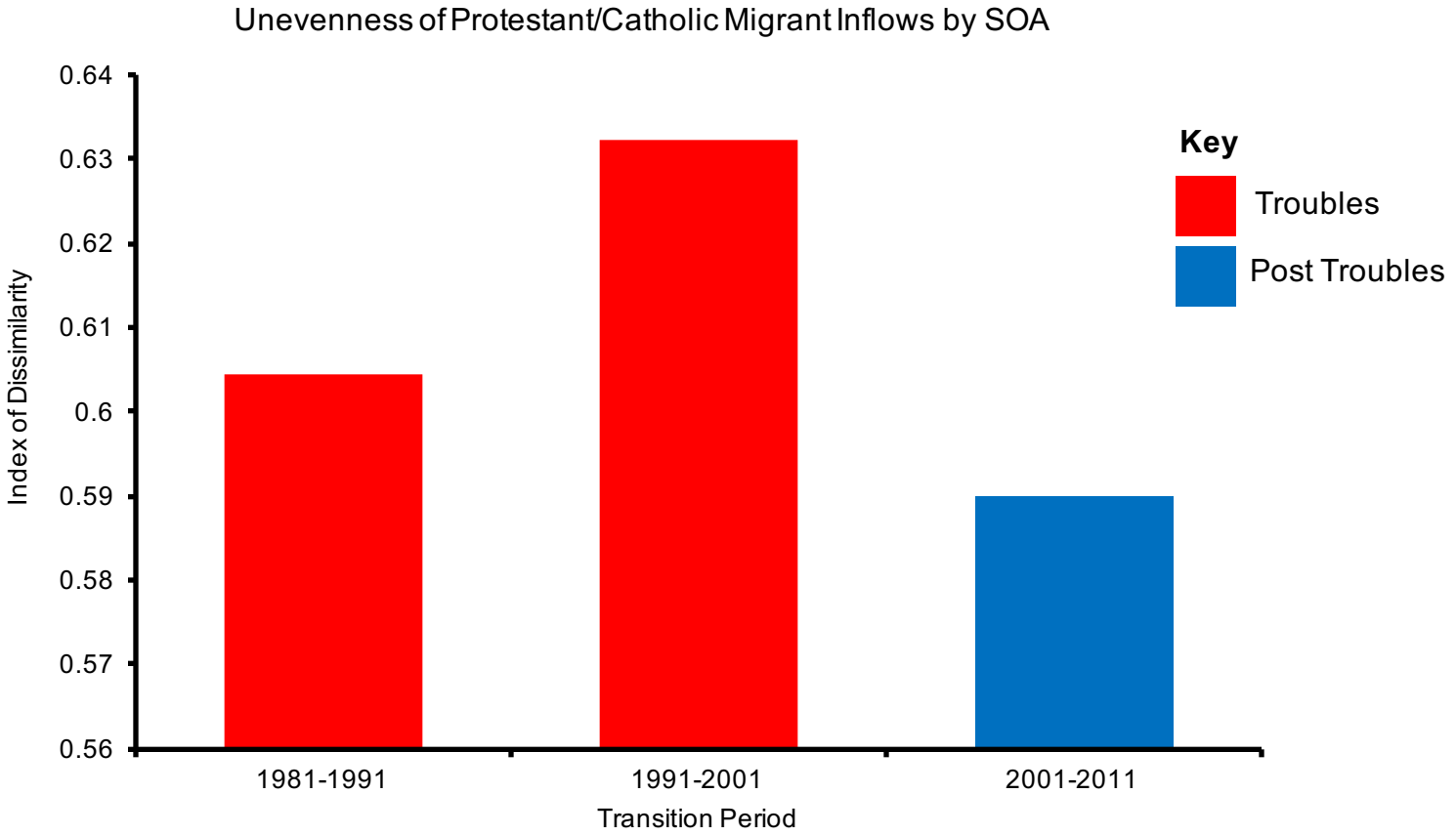


- NI has experienced high levels of violence and political instability up until the late 1990s.
- The outcome has been the physical separation of people along ethno lines (Doherty and Poole, 1996).
- Key policy aim of the NI assembly to encourage greater mixing and desegregation *(CRU, 2005; Darby and Knox, 2004; OFMDM, 2013).*
- Signs of a decrease in segregation in the post Good Friday Agreement era (Smith and Chambers, 1991).



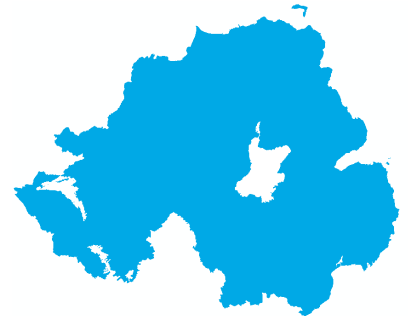
# Time Period Analysis

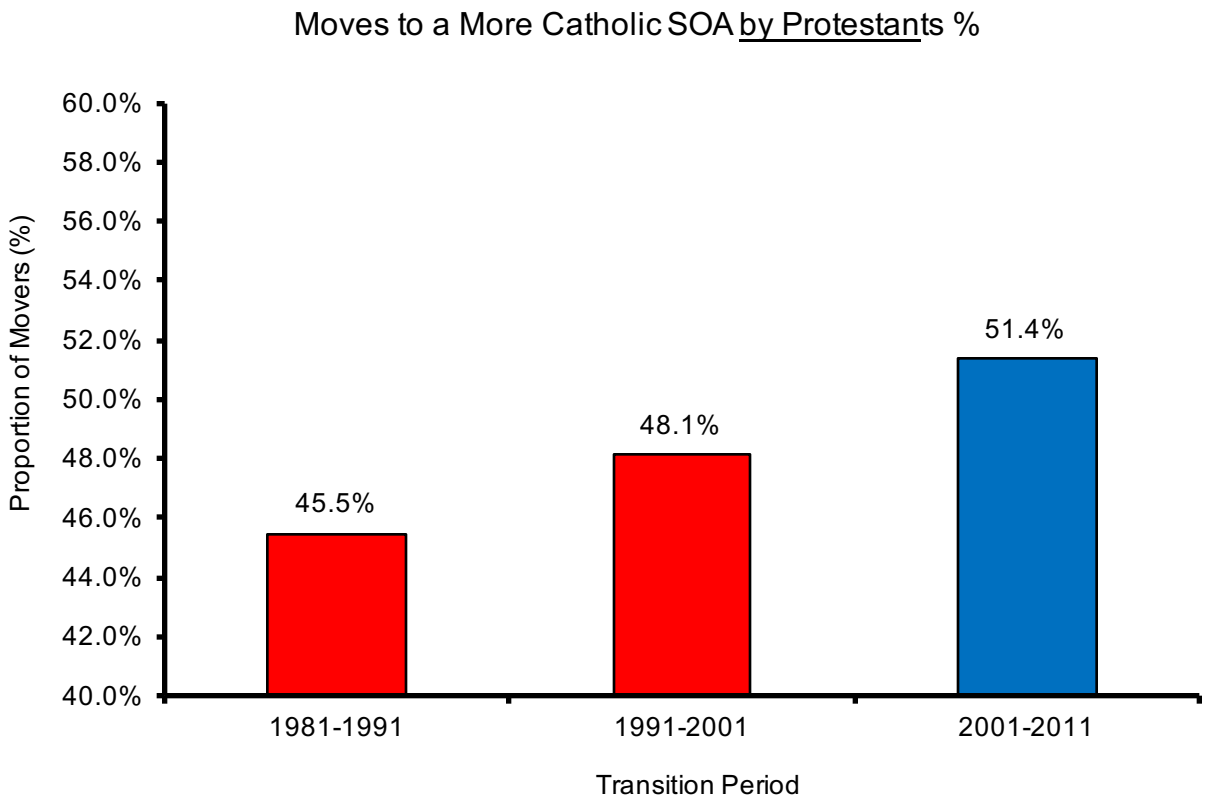


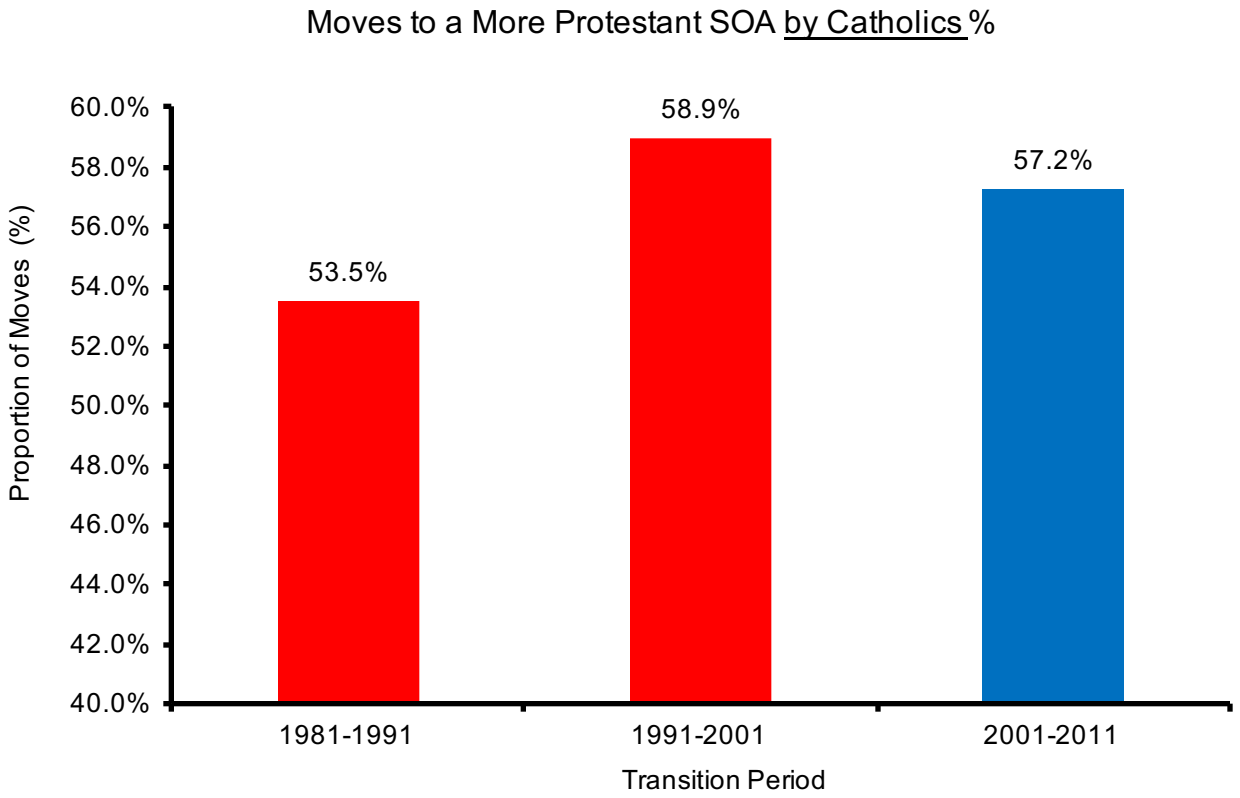



- Protestant and Catholic inflows were more spatially uneven during violent years.
- Signs that during periods of peace people are moving to dissimilar areas.

# Movements to a Religiously Dissimilar Area

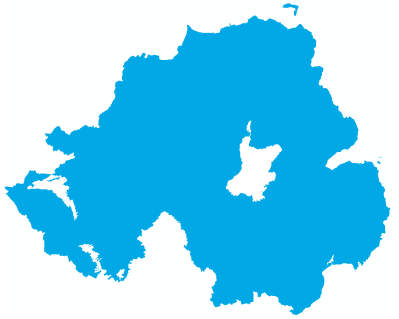


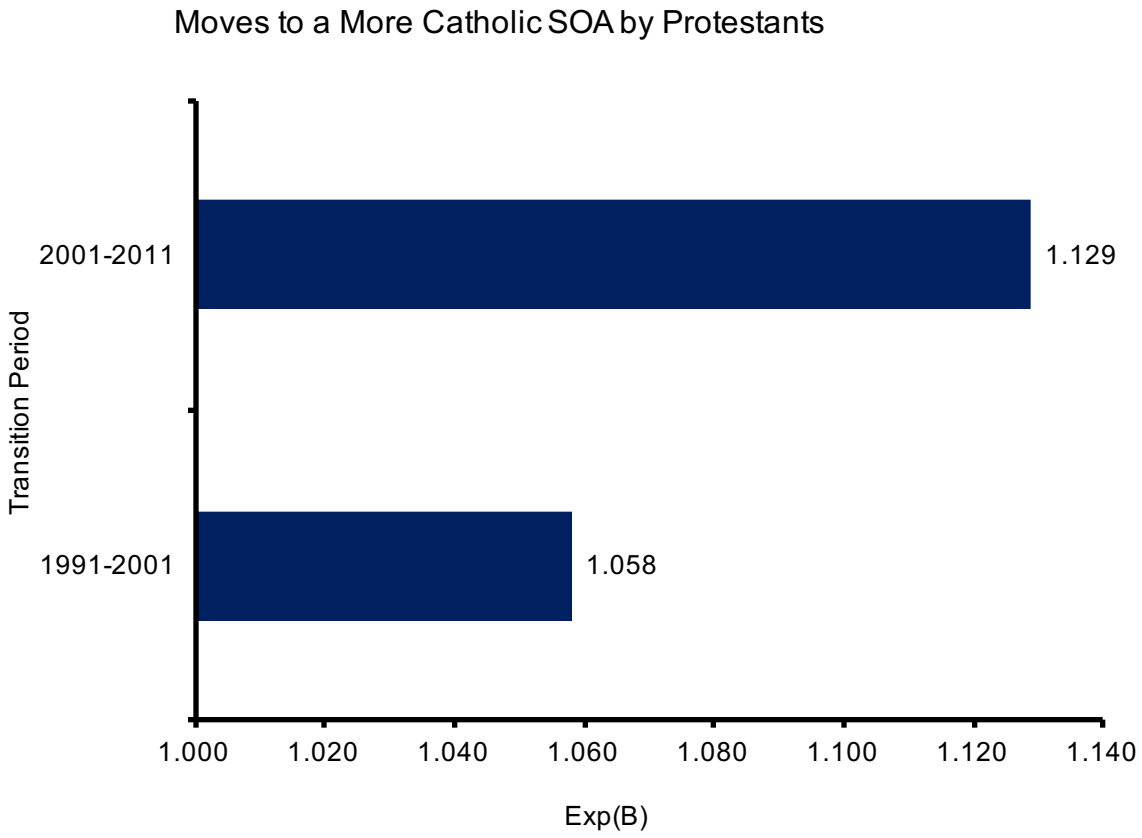


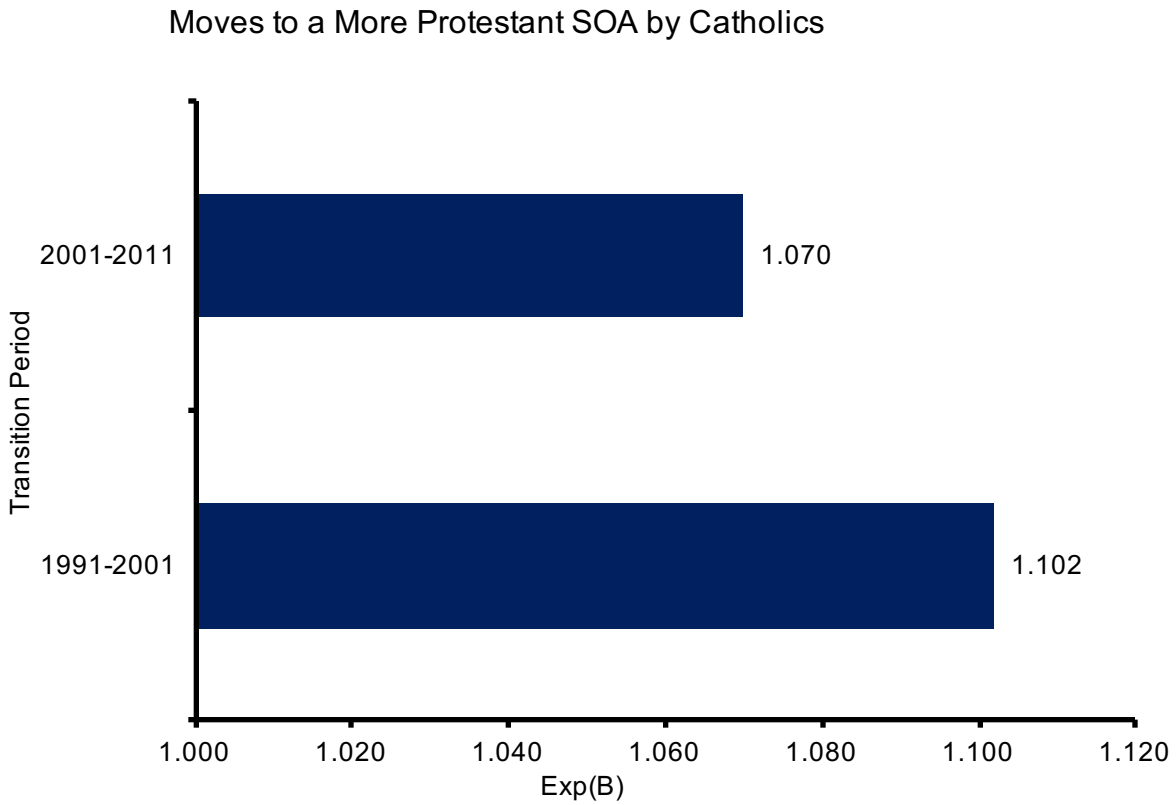

- Catholics are more likely to move to a religiously dissimilar area than Protestants.
- Over time there are signs of greater movements out of segregated areas.

# Time Period



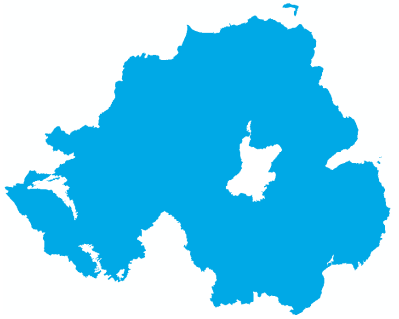


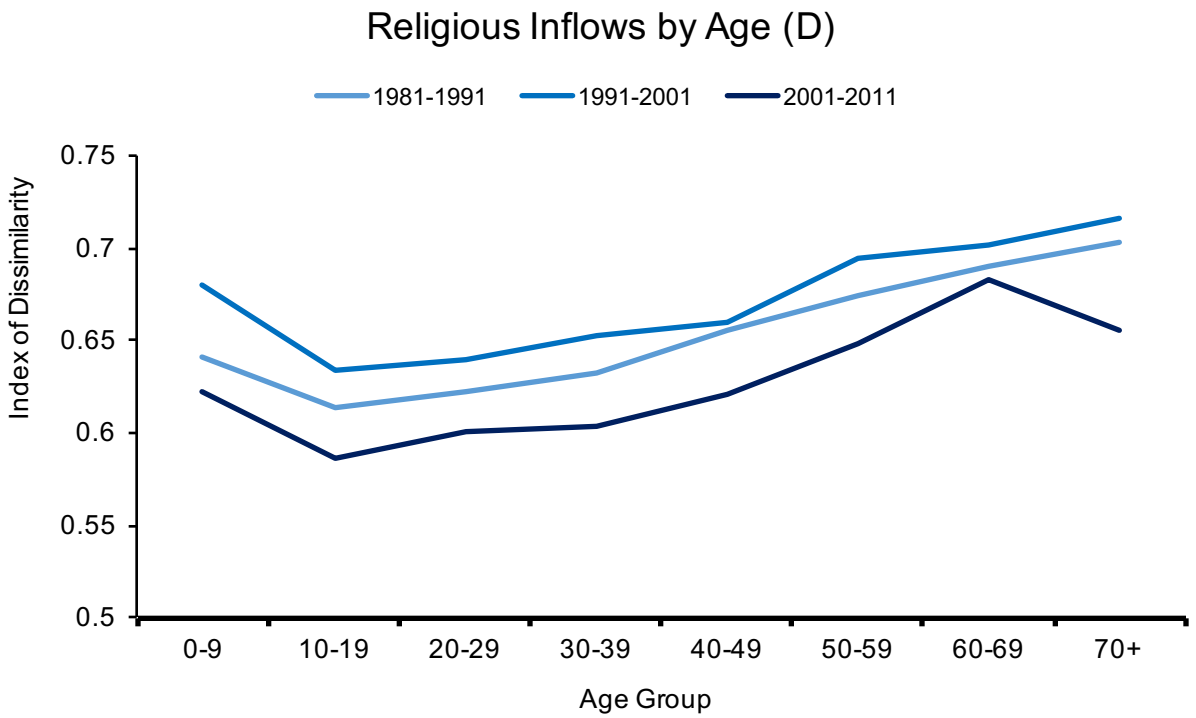

*Reference 1981-1991*




*Reference 1981-1991*

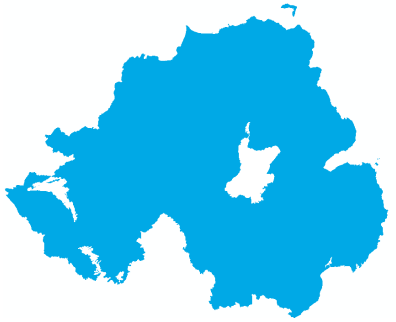
# Age Analysis

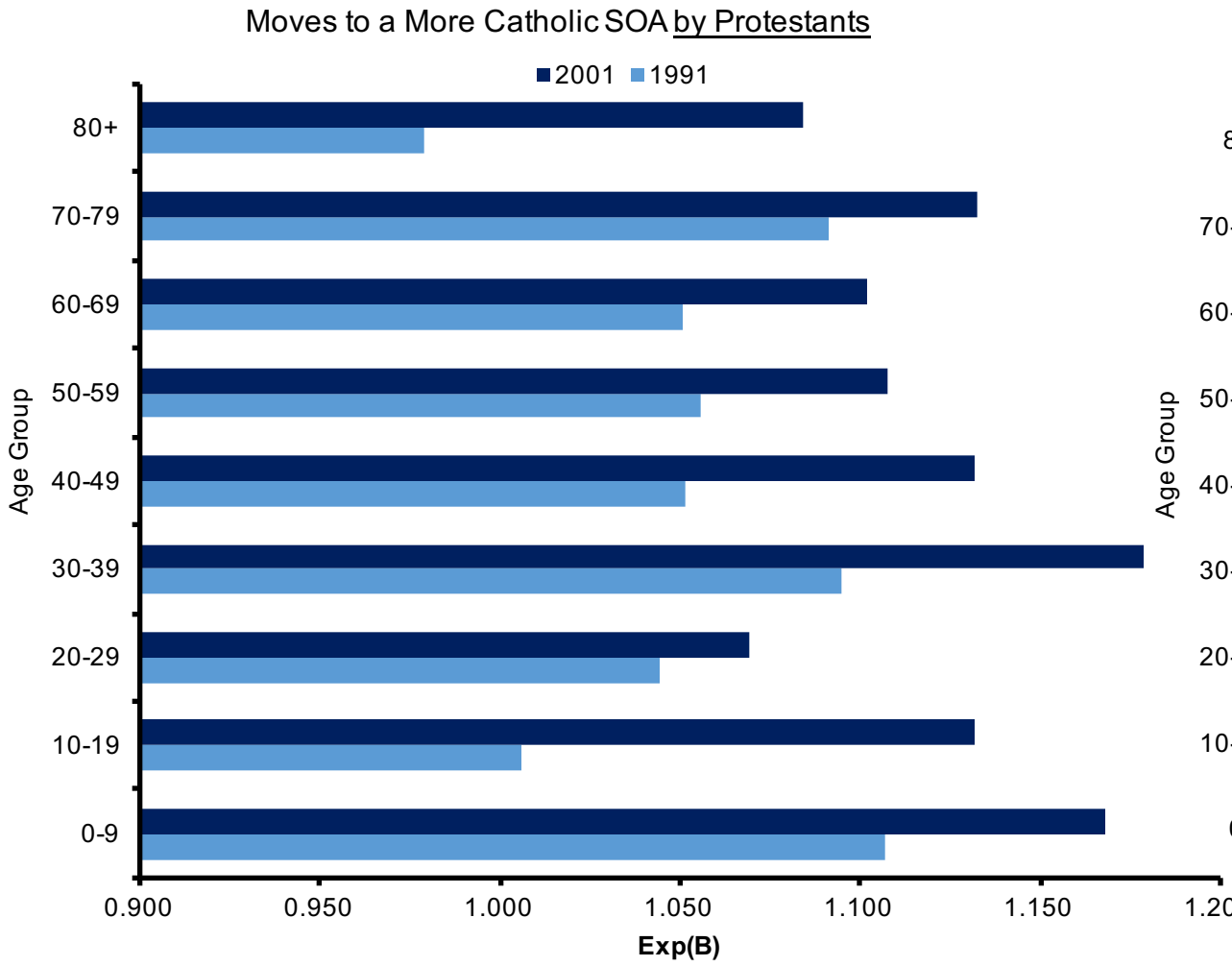


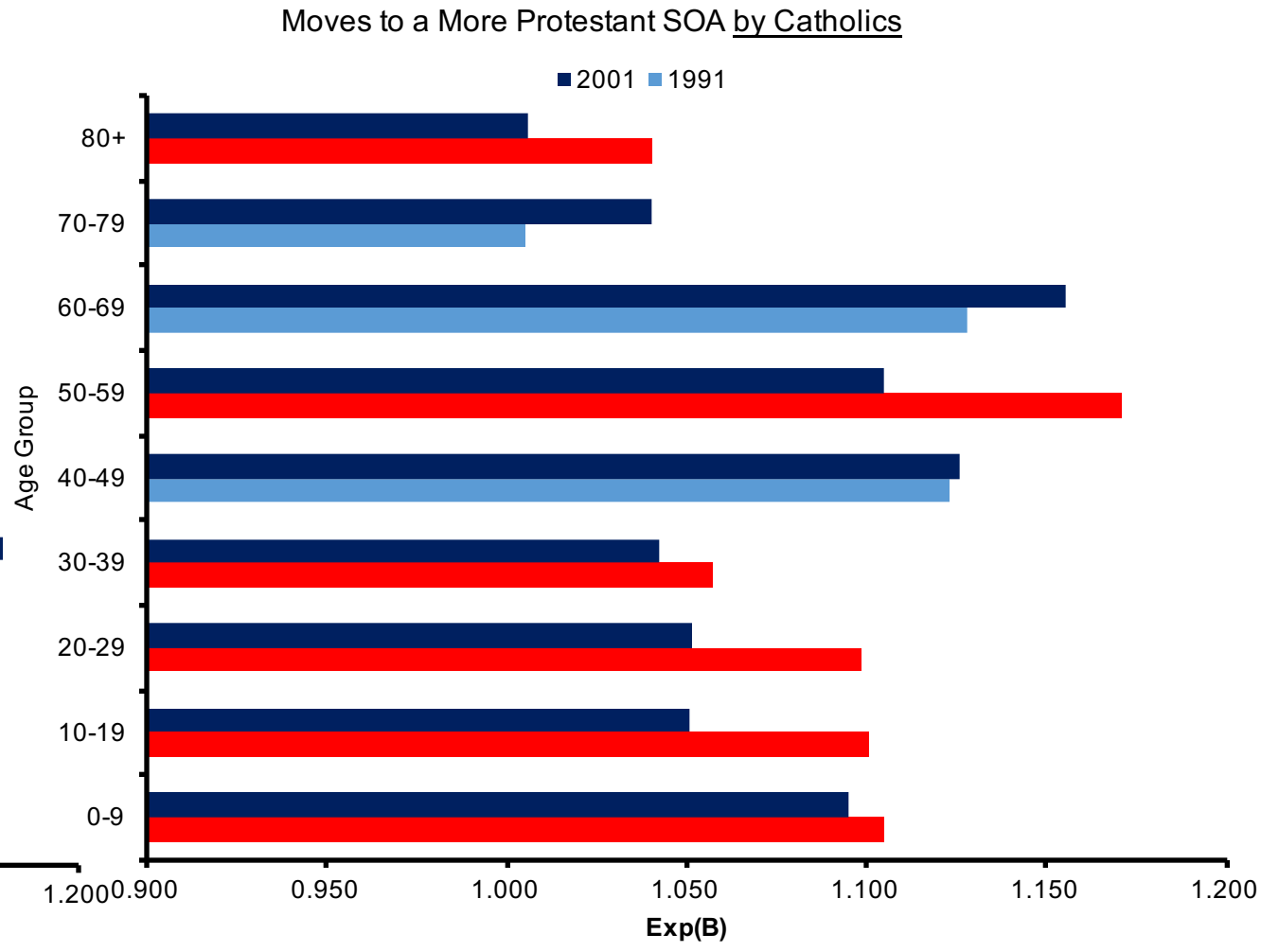



- Migratory behaviour is highly relational to age.
- Young people are the least segregated.
- As people age they are more likely to move into segregated areas.
- Overall decline in segregation between census years particularly for younger people.

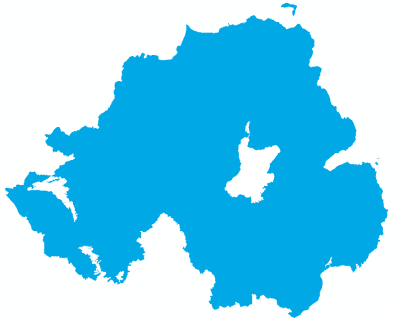
# Age by Year Analysis

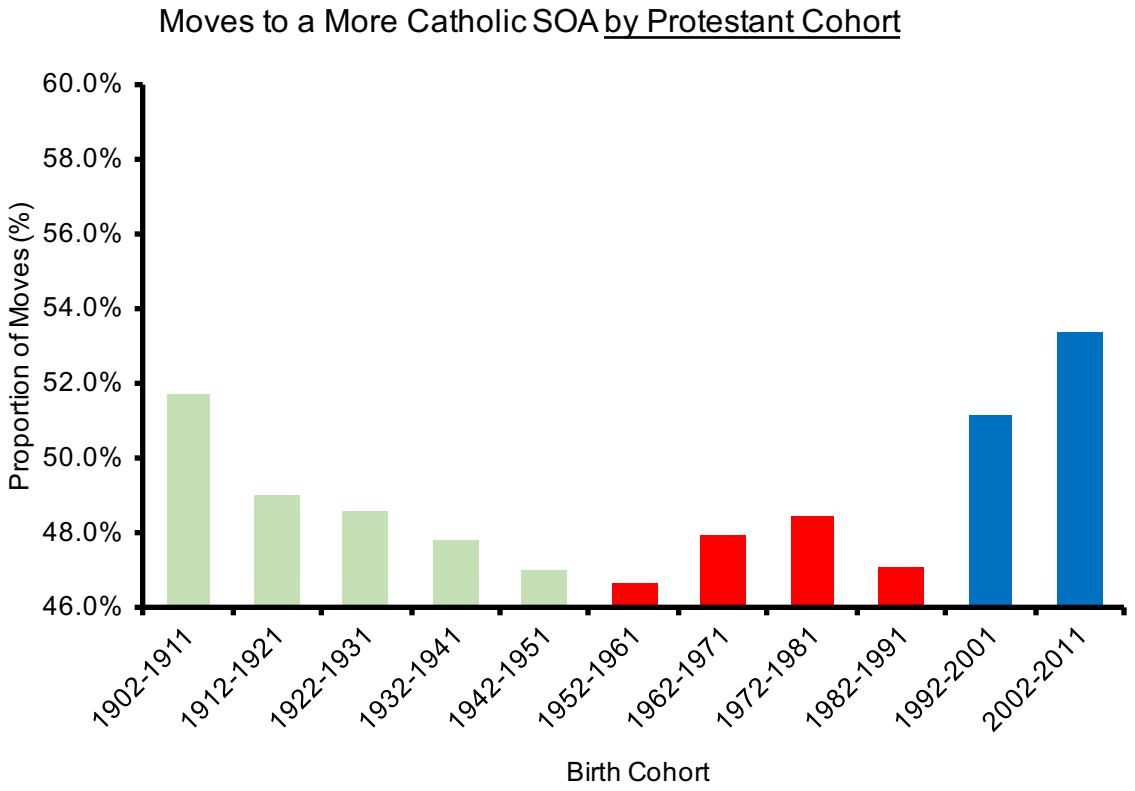


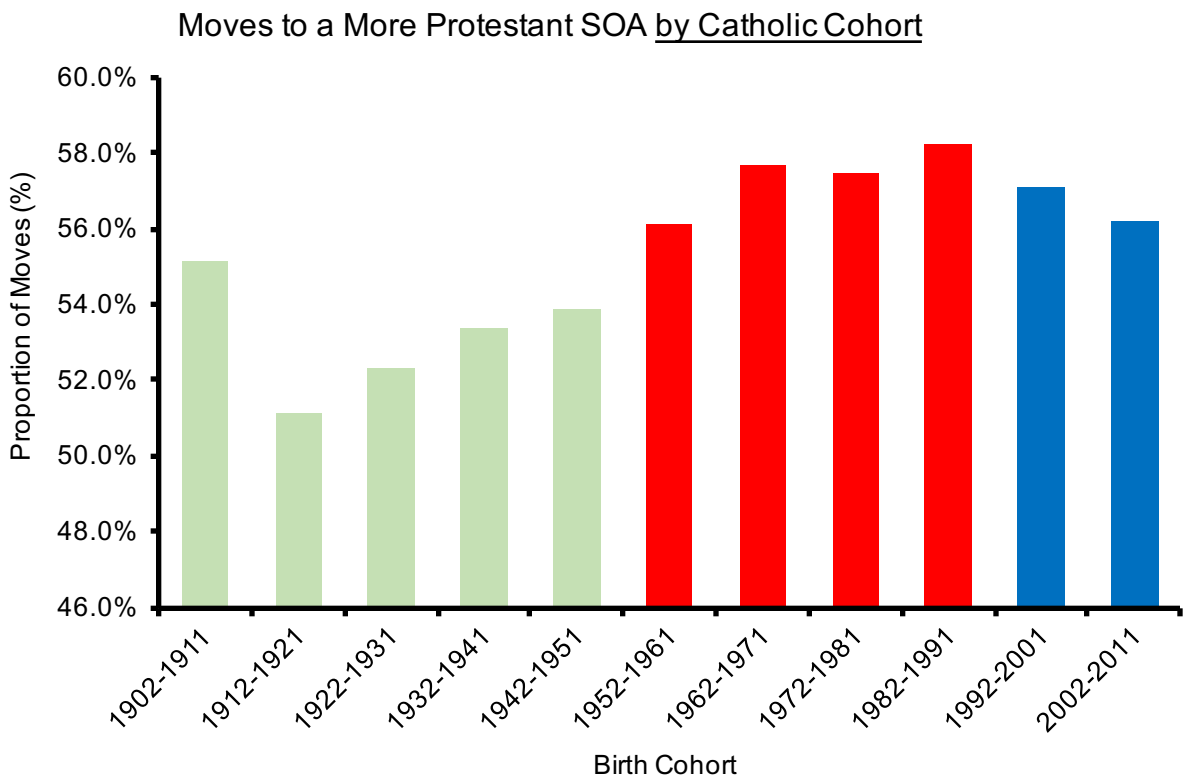


# Cohort Analysis

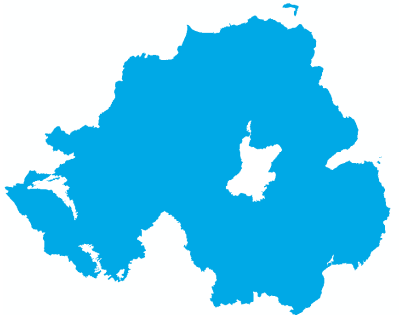


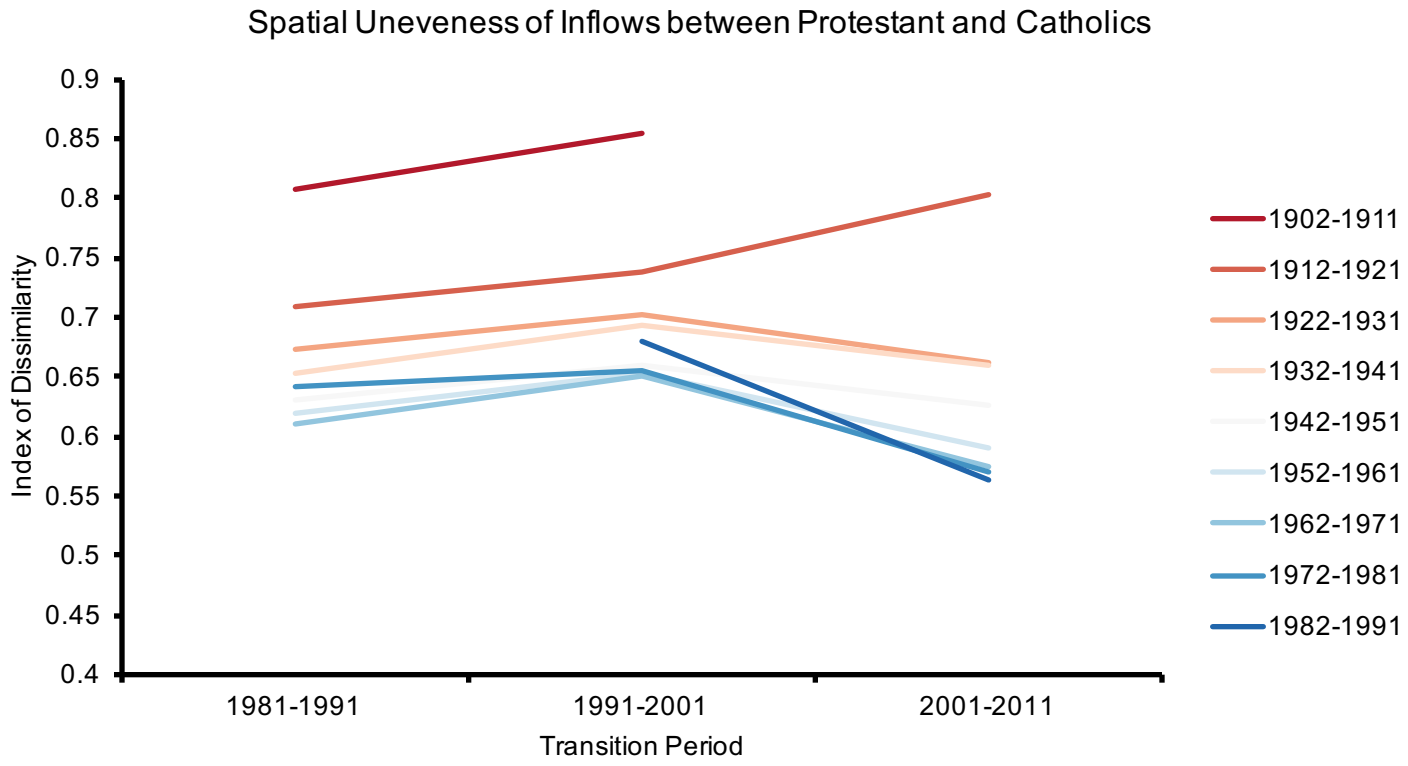



- Change in migratory behaviour can be explained by a combination of;
  - Individual behaviour.
  - Underlying contextual demographic change.

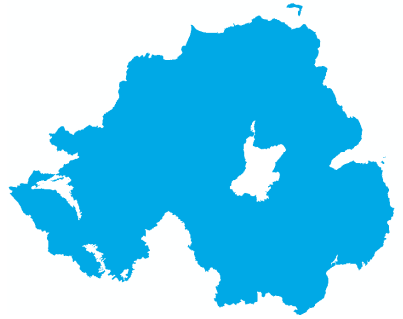
# Cohorts by Time Period

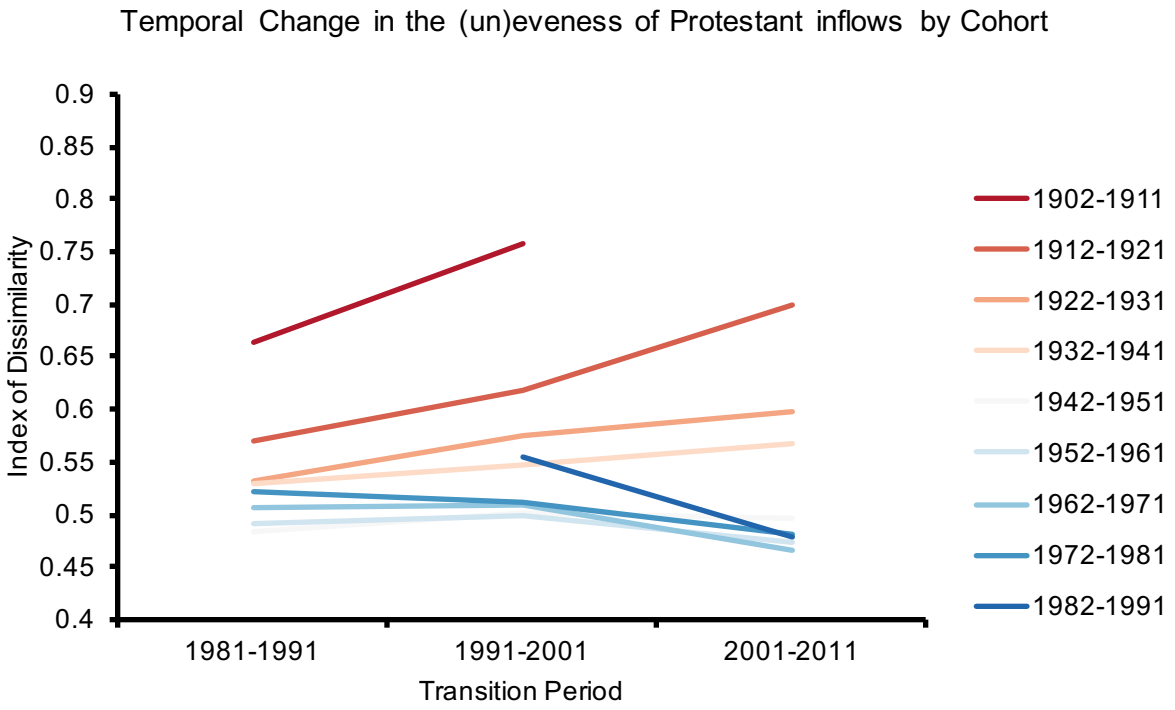


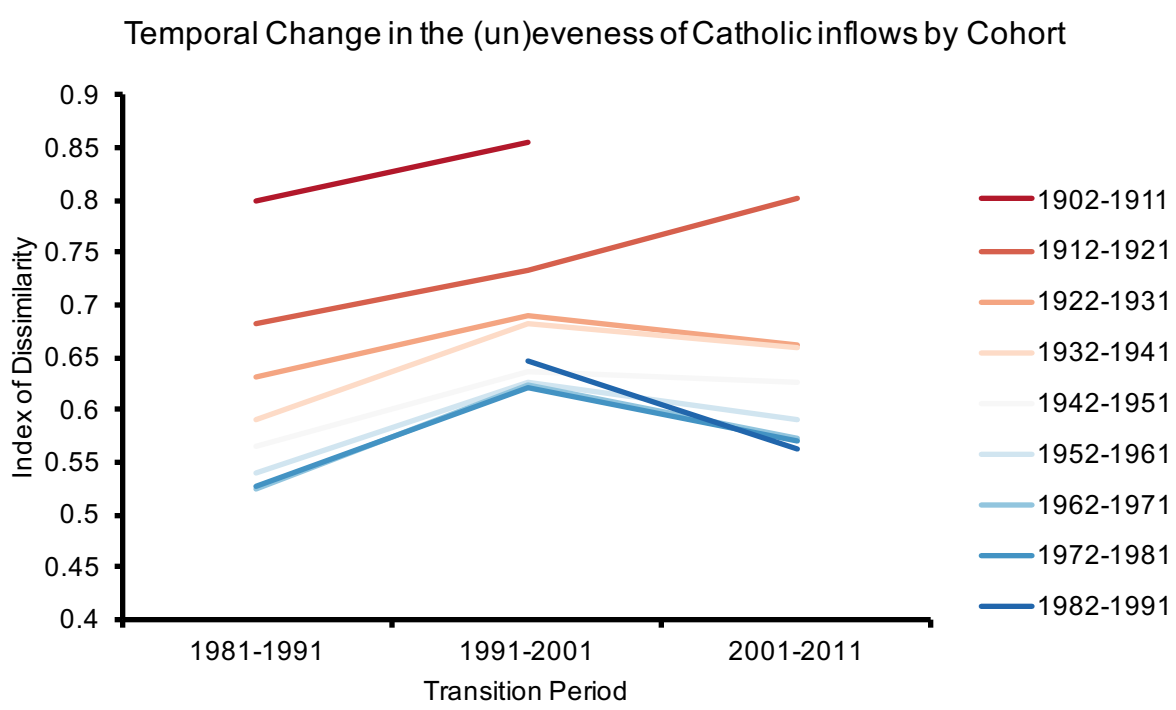



- The inflows of the ‘pre troubles’ cohorts have became more spatially uneven over time.
- Decline in segregated moves for birth cohorts post 1922 between 91-01 and 01-11.
  - Reflective of peace on the aggregate population.

# Unevenness of Inflows by Cohorts & Year

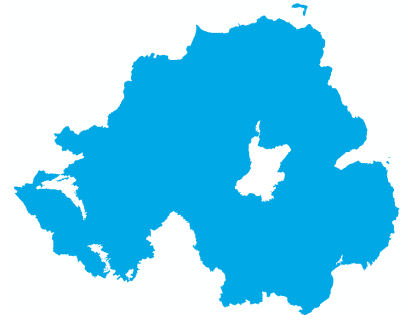


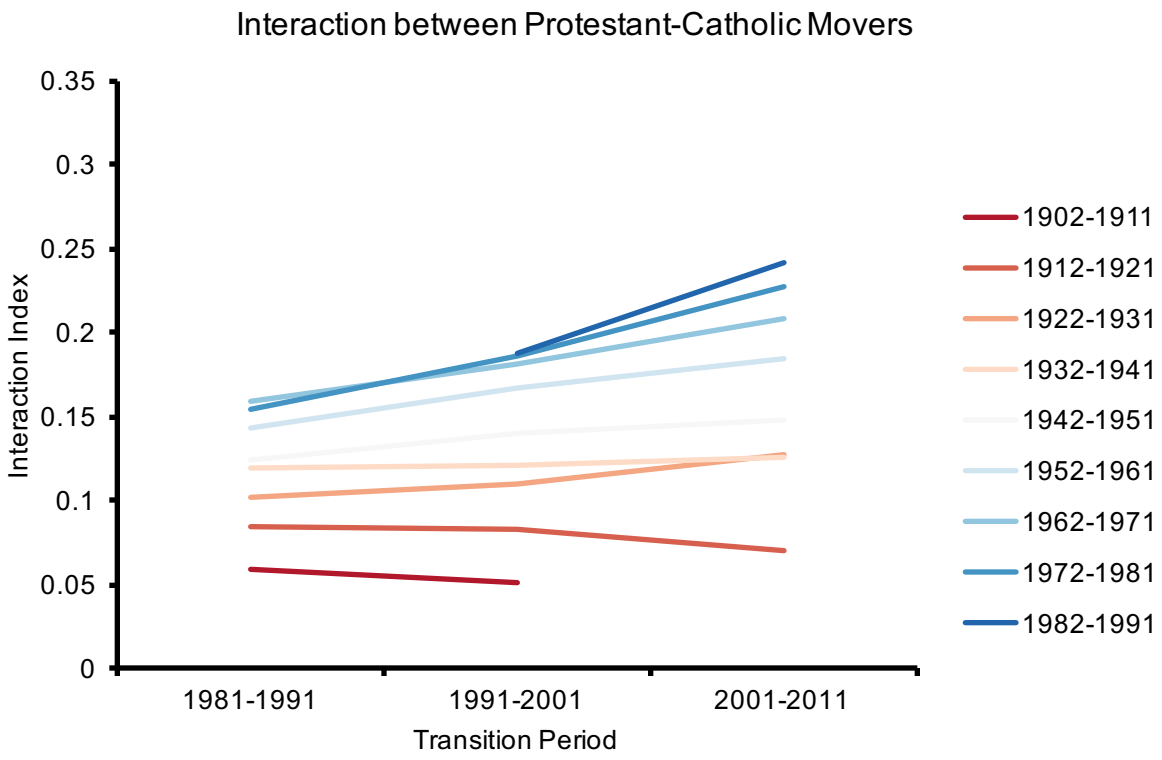


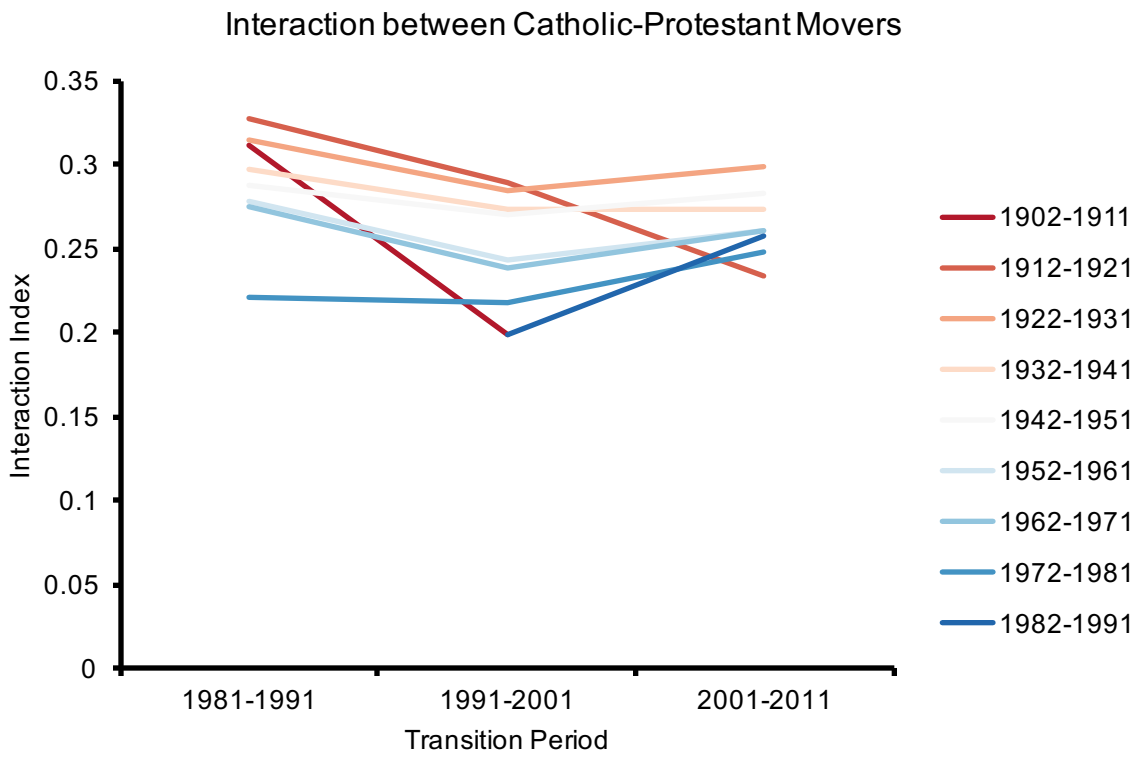




- Greater spike in segregation for Catholics than Protestants between 81-91 and 91-01.
- Decline in segregation is more pronounced for post 1922 Catholic cohorts between 91-01 and 01-11.

# Interaction between Movers

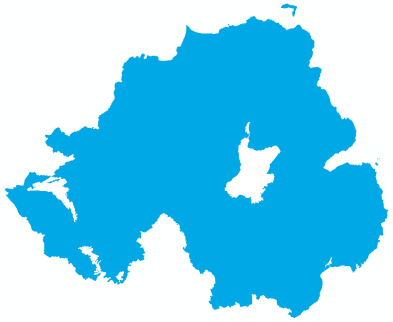




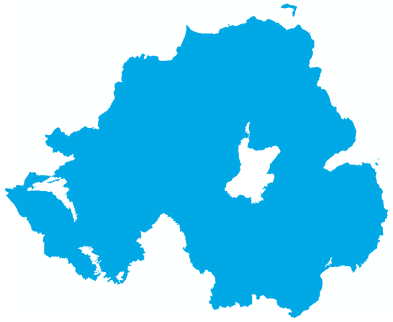

- Signs that the younger cohorts are moving together;
  - They are more likely to meet migrants of the opposite religion than older cohorts.

# Conclusion



- Evidence to suggest that in the presence of peace people are more likely to move to a less segregated area.
  - However there are variations between religions and by age.
- Evidence that the ‘post troubles’ cohorts are moving to similar areas and are becoming increasingly mixed.

# References

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# Acknowledgements

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