

England was 'divided along educational lines' at Brexit vote, research says

November 1 2017, by Tony Trueman

People who voted for Brexit were more likely to live in areas where the overall level of education was lower, according to a major new study.

However, Dr Peter Tammes, of the University of Bristol, found no link between leave-voting and higher unemployment or lower socio-economic status.

In a paper in the journal Sociological Research Online, Dr Tammes analysed the 2016 referendum vote result and compared this with census and other data on people in each of the 380 local authorities in mainland Britain.

He found that in the 25 percent of [areas](#) with the highest proportion of people with lower educational qualifications in England, on average 63 percent of people voted Brexit. In the 25 percent of areas with the lowest proportion of people with lower educational qualifications, on average only 49 percent voted for Brexit. This was after other factors such as unemployment rate and turnout rate were discounted statistically.

Writing in the journal, Dr Tammes says: "In England, the percentage of lower educated was positively associated with the proportion of Leave-votes. This indicates that England was divided along educational lines."

He also found that the Brexit vote was bigger in areas that had seen a large rise in the proportion of immigrants between 2004 and 2011.

This finding contrasts with suggestions from some analysts that the highest vote for Leave were in areas with the lowest levels of immigration.

Dr Tammes said: "The percentage of migrants who arrived between 2004 and 2011 in local areas was positively associated with the proportion of leave-voters.

"This indicates that the relative number of recently-arrived migrants in local areas might have been a key factor in voters' decisions."

The study also found that in areas where relatively more people self-reported, poorer health showed higher proportion of Leave-votes, particularly if they had a large proportion of elderly [people](#) in poorer health.

The research aimed to "provide us with a better understanding of the underlying factors of the Brexit-vote and directions for future research," said Dr Tammes.

Provided by British Sociological Association

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