50 years: Deprivation Trajectories Census-based approach

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Research to support the eradication of poverty and deprivation

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50 years: Deprivation Trajectories
Census-based approach

- Traditional census composite measures are cross-sectional (for the census year)
- Changing deprivation **has** been calculated using inputs from successive censuses (e.g. Norman 2010; Norman *et al.*, 2016; Exeter *et al.,* 2019)

- In the main, as areas become less deprived, good health and other benefits accrue and *vice versa*
- If change in specific places can be tracked then the effect of a policy can be assessed for its success

- What we are doing here extends previous work 1971 to 2011

Specification

Time frame:
- Census years: 1971, 1981, 1991, 2001, 2011 & 2021

Geography:
- Coverage England & Wales; Northern Ireland & Scotland later
- 2021 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) (& Datazones)

Variables: inputs to Townsend deprivation
- Unemployment
- Non-home ownership
- No car access
- Overcrowding

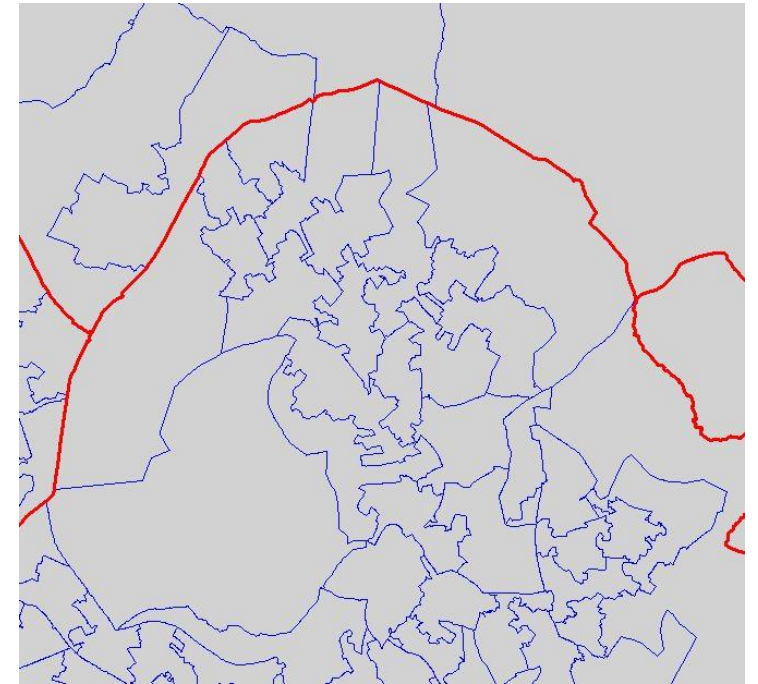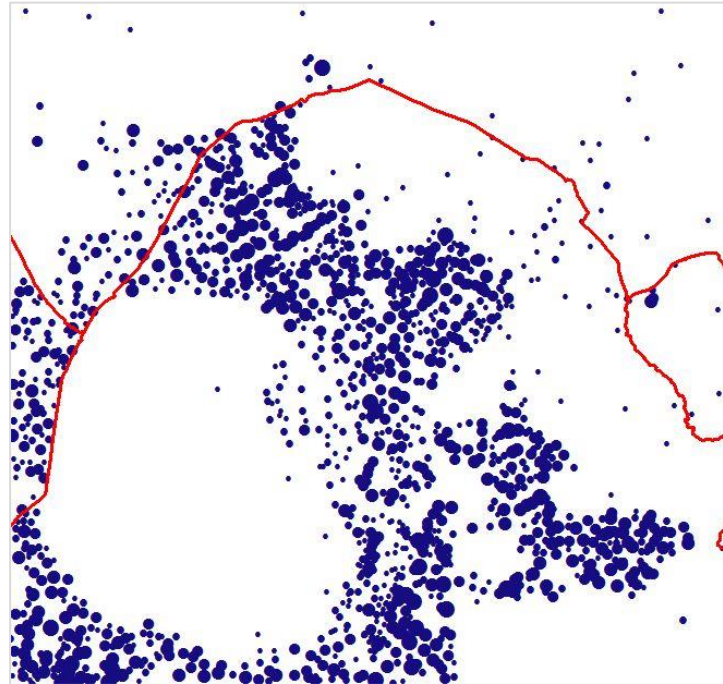Accepting (for now) that inputs are not without their critics

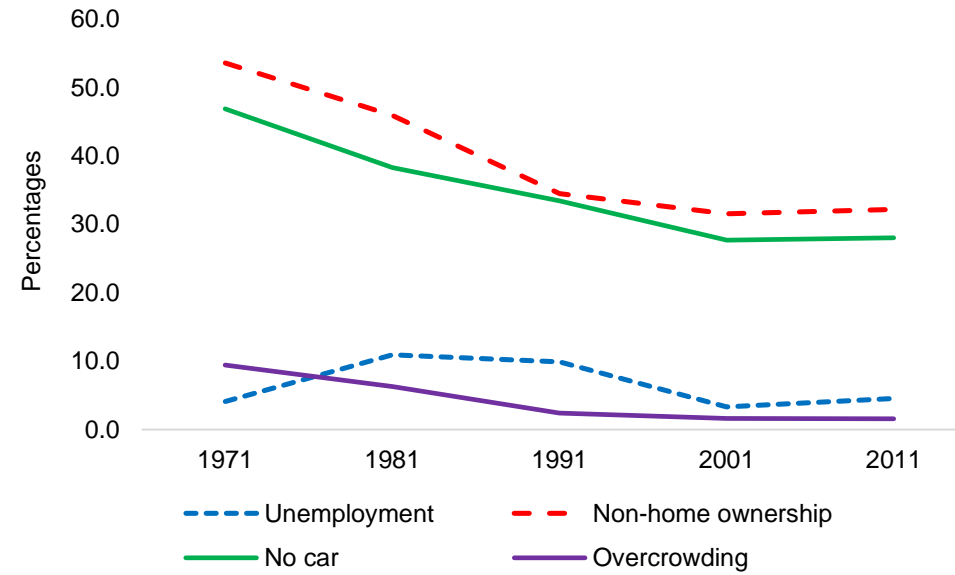**Deprivation calculation**
- Comparable over time

Geography

Boundary change

- Census years: 1971, 1981, 1991, 2001, 2011
- Convert from 'source' geographies EDs & OAs
- To 'target' 2021 LSOAs

Deprivation change: GB 1971 to 2011
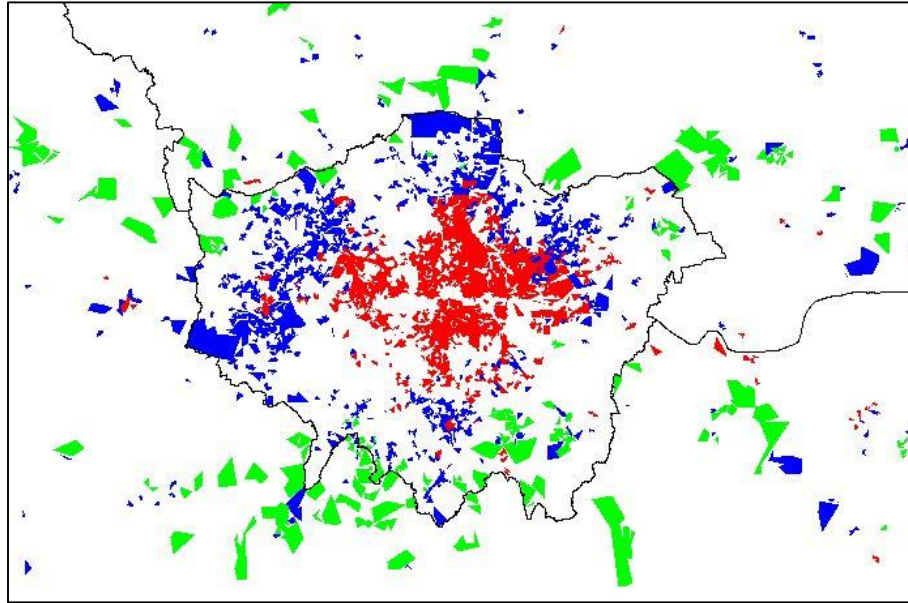
GB change in inputs
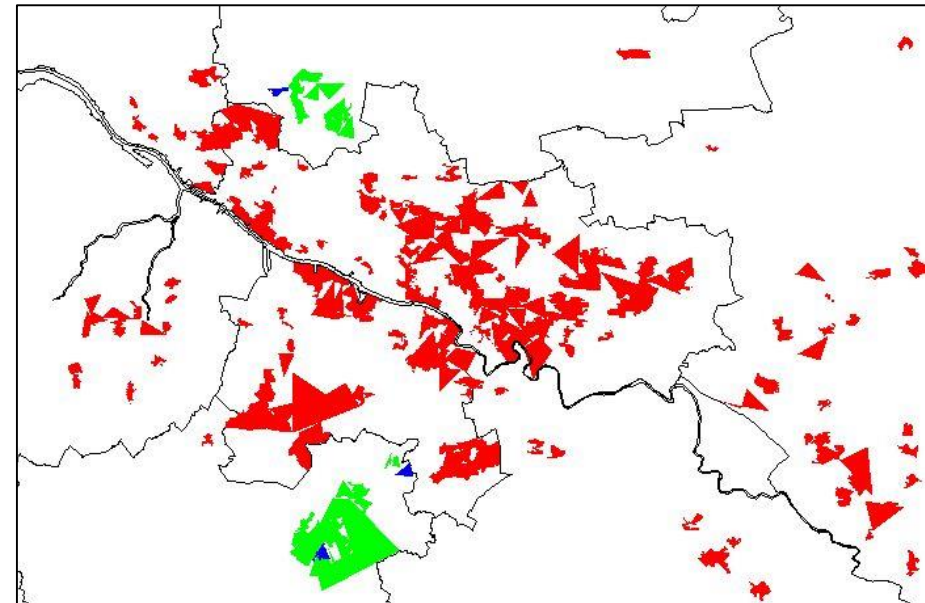

GB change in deprivation

Deprivation change: GB 1971 & 2011

London & surrounds
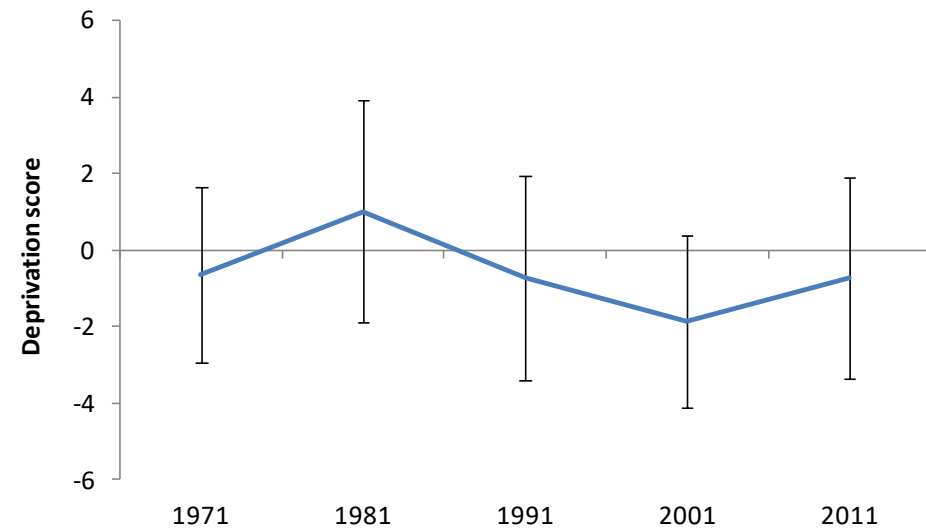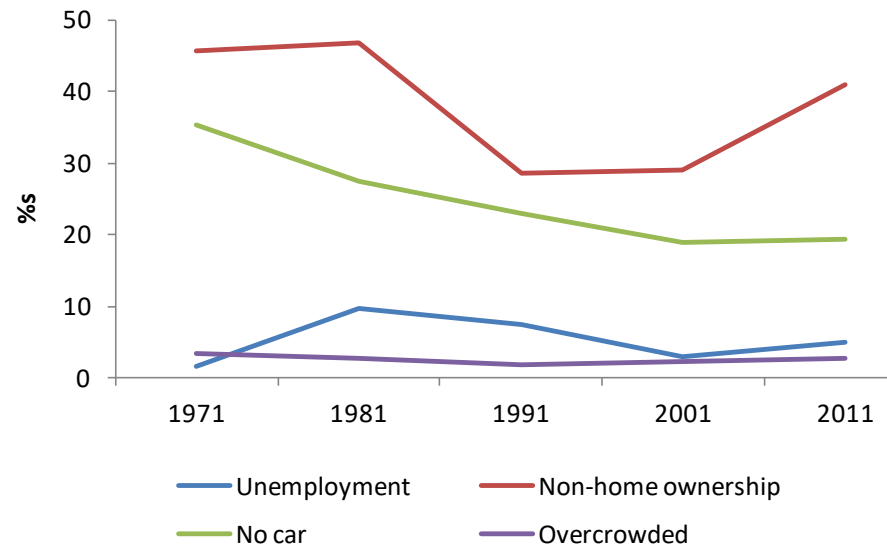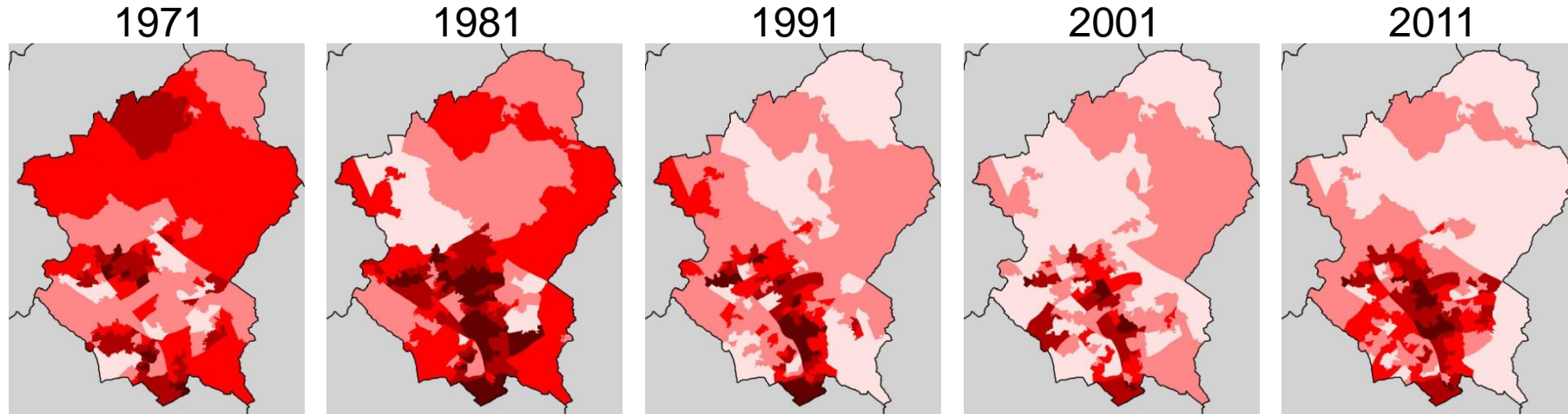

Glasgow & surrounds

Green = Least; White = Less; Blue = More; Red = Most

Milton Keynes: villages & fields to concrete cows & roundabouts

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Reflection & the future

Caveats: 'measured in this way'
- LSOAs (Datazones) not necessarily the 'right' geography
- Townsend not necessarily the 'right' deprivation
  - Input indicators assumed relevant over time
- Decennial censuses miss the intervening years, etc. …

State of play: England & Wales 1971 to 2021 done, write up underway

Grouping areas
- Combinations of quintiles
  - Q1 ('71) & Q1 ('21) Persistently Non-Deprived
  - Q5 ('71) & Q5 ('21) Persistently Deprived; etc.
- K means classification of input variables
- & some alternative explorations

Further work
- Extend to Northern Ireland & Scotland
- Explorations using alternative variables
- Social housing; Lack of qualifications; Lone parents