

Mind the Gap: Understanding the 'London Effect'

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Today's presentation

- Short, non-technical introduction to an early-stage project
- Using many data sources
- Only recently started working with LS - hoping to learn more today
- Comments and suggestions welcome throughout

London, then and now

To begin:

- Comparisons of London to all 8 other regions of England
- A number of different measures
- Focus on changes from early 1990s to recent years

London, then and now

Secondary education:¹

- Second-worst performance in GCSEs in 1991
- Best performance in 2011

¹Source: DfE School Performance Indicators

London, then and now

Secondary education:²

- Second-worst performance in GCSEs in 1991
- Best performance in 2011

Primary education:

- Second-worst performance in Maths in 1995, worst in English
- Best performance in 2011

²Source: DfE School Performance Indicators

London, then and now

Surveyed crime:³

- Second-highest rate of deliberate violent crime in 1994
- Second-lowest in 2011

³Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales

London, then and now

Drug deaths and suicides:⁴

- Highest drug-use death rate in 1994, second-lowest in 2011
- Highest suicide rate in 1994, lowest in 2011

⁴Source: ONS Mortality Statistics

London, then and now

Drug deaths and suicides:⁵

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Cancer and Obesity:⁶

- Smallest increase in obesity 98-11
- Greatest decline in cancer 98-11

⁵Source: ONS Mortality Statistics

⁶Source: Health Survey for England

London, then and now

Economy:

- Largest increase in median wages and inequality⁷
- Largest increase in poverty⁸
- Largest increase in house prices⁹

⁷Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings

⁸Source: Households Below Average Income statistics

⁹Source: UK Land Registry

Londoners, then and now

Londoners, then and now

Demographic changes 91-11:¹⁰

- Only region to get younger
- Fastest population growth (24% ↑)
- 20 ppts fewer whites
- 15 ppts fewer UK-born

¹⁰Source: UK Census

London, then and now

Huge changes, good opportunity to look at several questions:

- When the population of an area changes rapidly, are individuals displaced?
 - Where do displaced individuals go?
- What are long-run effects on children?
- How does policy influence 'gentrification'?

Difficult to make causal statements, need to refine question...

Tower Blocks

Tower Blocks



Tower Blocks

- Social housing built mainly in 1960s
- Wildly popular at the time
- But tastes change...

David Cameron vows to 'blitz' poverty by demolishing UK's worst sink estates

Government to spend £140m on rehousing and tearing up planning rules as PM says neglect has led to gangs and antisocial behaviour



Tower Blocks



Tower Blocks

- Since at least 1990s, policies to demolish tower blocks
- Possibly an important aspect of changes in London
- Very little quantitative work on topic
- No unifying dataset

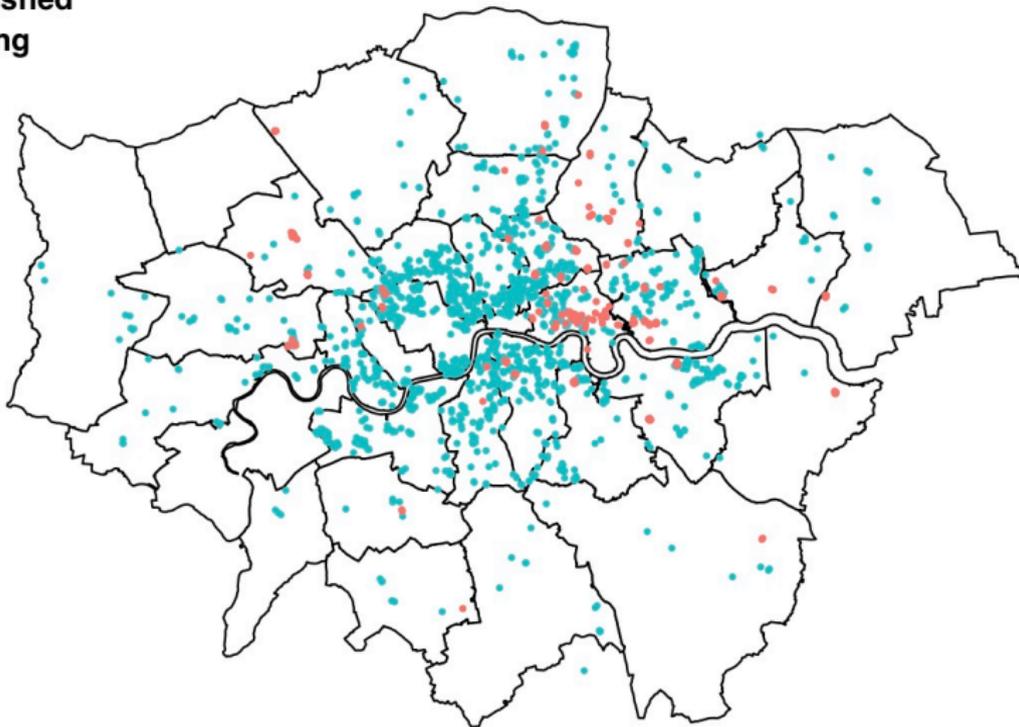
Tower Blocks

Constructed dataset of several thousand tower blocks using:

- FOI requests
- Architectural archives
- Blog / news posts

London Tower Block Locations 2017

- Demolished
- Standing



Tower Blocks

Two questions:

1. What happens to surrounding areas when a block demolished?
2. What happens to individuals living in demolished blocks?

Tower Blocks: Area analyses

Initial analysis / sense-check:

- Tower blocks in 1991 located in poorer, more ethnically diverse areas
- Among blocks, those demolished tended to be in poorer areas

Tower Blocks: Area analyses

Trends over time:

- Areas with demolished tower blocks see falls in crime relative to areas with standing tower blocks
- If anything, areas with demolished tower blocks become more ethnically diverse

Tower Blocks: Individual impacts

With micro-data, hope to match to individuals, asking:

- Where are individuals displaced to?
- What happens to later employment, education and health outcomes?

ONS Longitudinal Study

Potentially very useful resource for studying long-run effects of demolitions on individuals:

- Large representative sample
- Low attrition
- Little measurement error

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Currently waiting for access to postcode data, so watch this space...!

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- London's story is interesting
- Novel dataset on tower blocks helps fill gaps in literature
- Huge potential for using LS to understand long-run impacts on individuals