



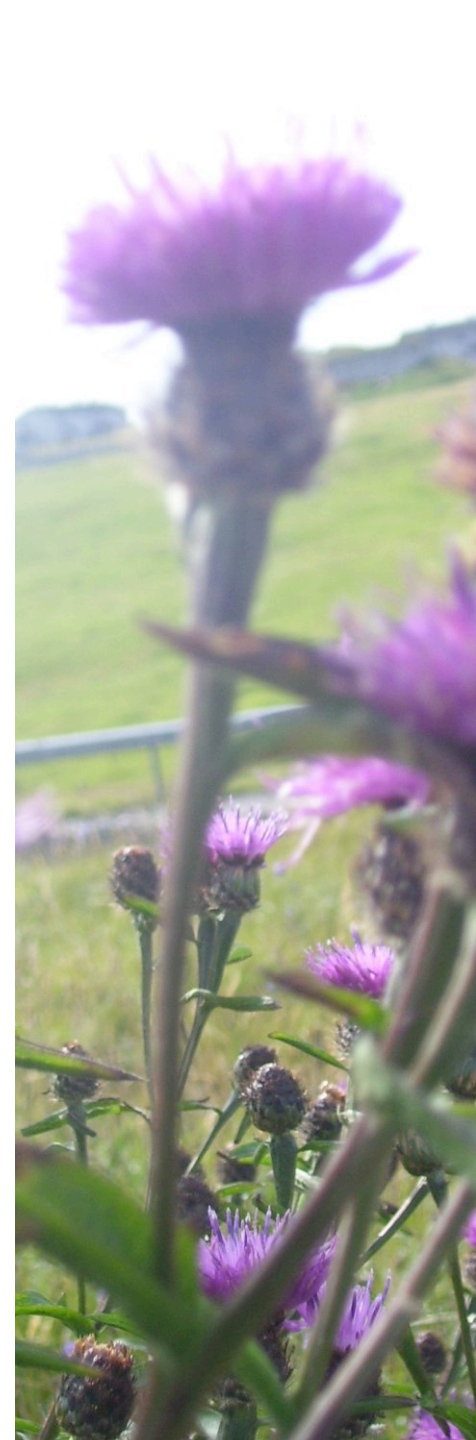
Remotely Interesting?

Political sociology and rural Scotland

Michael Rosie



SCRR Researching Scotland's Ruralities:
*Social Science Perspectives on Current Issues
in Rural Scotland*
20 March 2013, Perth.



Rural Scotland in the Sociological Curriculum

❖ **Not core concern**

(neither 'rural' or 'Scotland')

❖ **Not specialist option**

(rural sociology notable by its absence)

❖ **Unappealing?**

(Students as consumers?)



What we're not talking about

(and who we're not talking to)

Land ownership

Energy policy (Windfarms)

Farming politics

Decline of fishing communities



Map of % of people born in Scotland for Census Output Areas within IV23 2 Census Area Statistic Sector

What we're not talking about

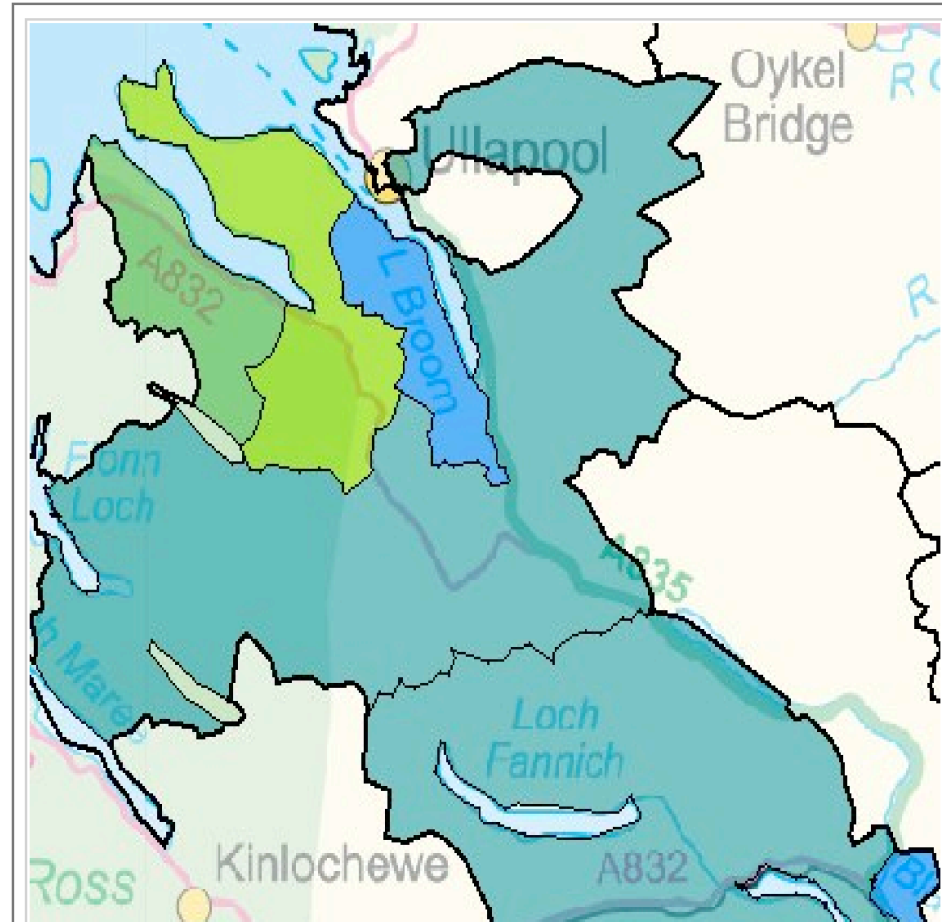
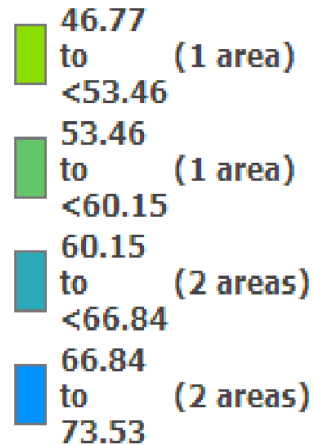
(In-)migration

Elections and politics

The constitution

Culture/identities

Frequency Distribution



Support for Independence (2011)

Urban areas 34%

Rural areas 23%

Identity in the Far North: Caithness



In that area there are many Gaelic [place] names and, I am sure, there is Gaelic spoken there. But at Highland Council we have a policy and we are agreed to that policy and that applies throughout the region. *Areas cannot be selective.*

Identity: A sense of difference

I just love the area, geographically. I love the scenery, I love the wildlife, and I love the fact that it's *different*. There's this element of strange pride in Caithnessians that we're the Northern area beyond the Highlands, we're different. **Jean**





Identity: a sense of Distance / Loss

There is no doubt Gaelic was here, but the population don't feel Gaelic now, they feel strongly ... part of Caithness. *That's* their identity ... I think that permeates right across the county, certainly for Caithness identity. **Steven**

... every community in the Highlands is different. And one thing that does irk me is that Highland Council is now striving to turn us all into this bland, creamed soup, whereas we are really a scotch broth. **Robert**



Conclusions

Need for networking.

Need for consortia?

Not just pooling
research resources but
teaching too?