

Inspired by Theme 5 (“International Organization and Disorganization”) of the 2019 Geography2050 Symposium, this project illustrates the geographical discontinuity between anti-immigrant sentiment and foreign-born population densities. The political movements that resulted in the passage of the Brexit referendum and the election of Donald Trump were, at least in part, backlash to recent waves of immigration. However, these campaigns’ supporters were located in the areas least populated, and in turn, least influenced by said immigration.

Such results call into question the validity of existing borders. The referendum results clearly demarcate the border between Scotland and England. Northern Ireland, too, appears more aligned ideologically with the firmly European Republic of Ireland than with the rest of the United Kingdom. In the United States, the ethnic enclaves do not dot the landscape from coast to coast while the GOP dominates the middle of the country. Here, the borders fall less along state lines and more upon the edge between urban and rural.

These maps were created by cleaning tabular data sourced from the web, and then joining these tables to county-level shapefiles.