

# Descent or dissent? A future of social work education in the UK post-Brexit

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*Contemporary Social Work Practice, SocNet98*  
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# Aims

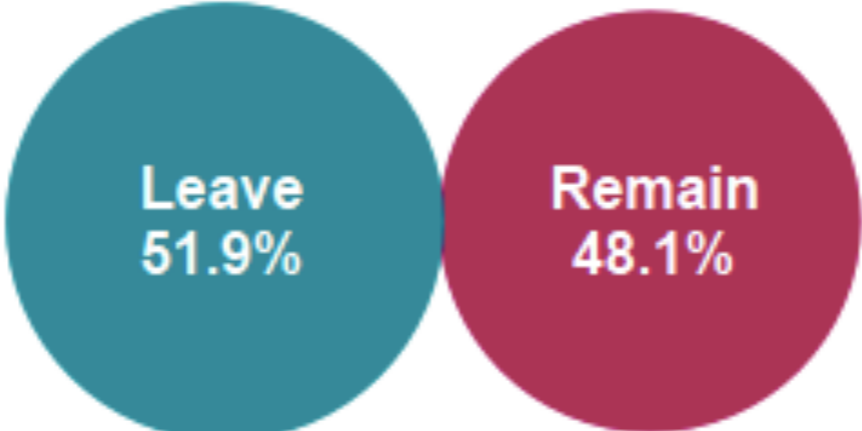
- What is Brexit?
- Implications for welfare and care
- Social work education
- Two scenarios: descent or dissent



**WHAT IS BREXIT?**

DEMOGRAPHICS AND STATISTICS

The Electoral Commission



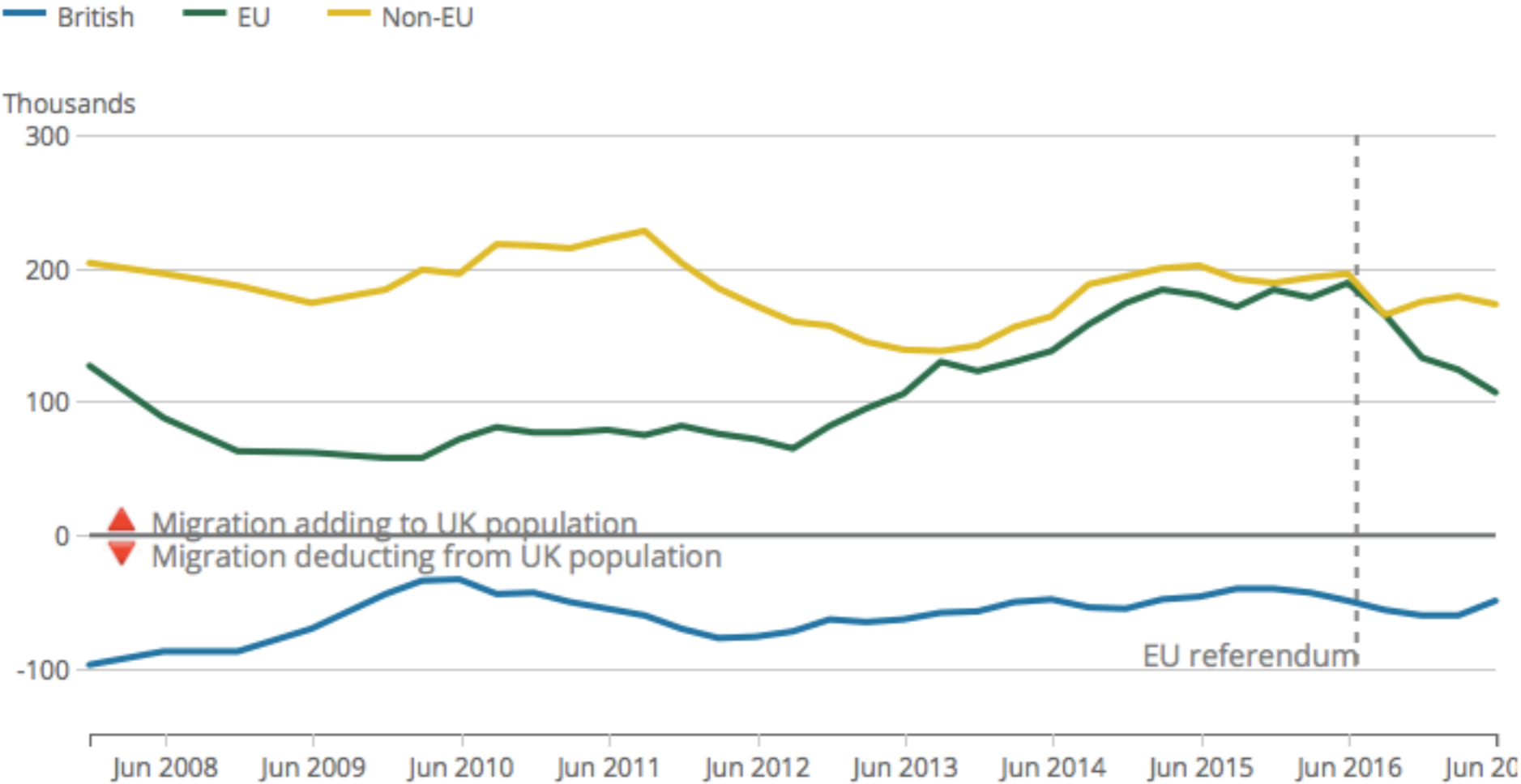
<b>Electorate</b>	46,500,001
<b>Valid Vot..</b>	33,551,983
<b>Turnout</b>	72.2%

## How Britain voted

Older people with fewer formal qualifications most likely to have voted Leave

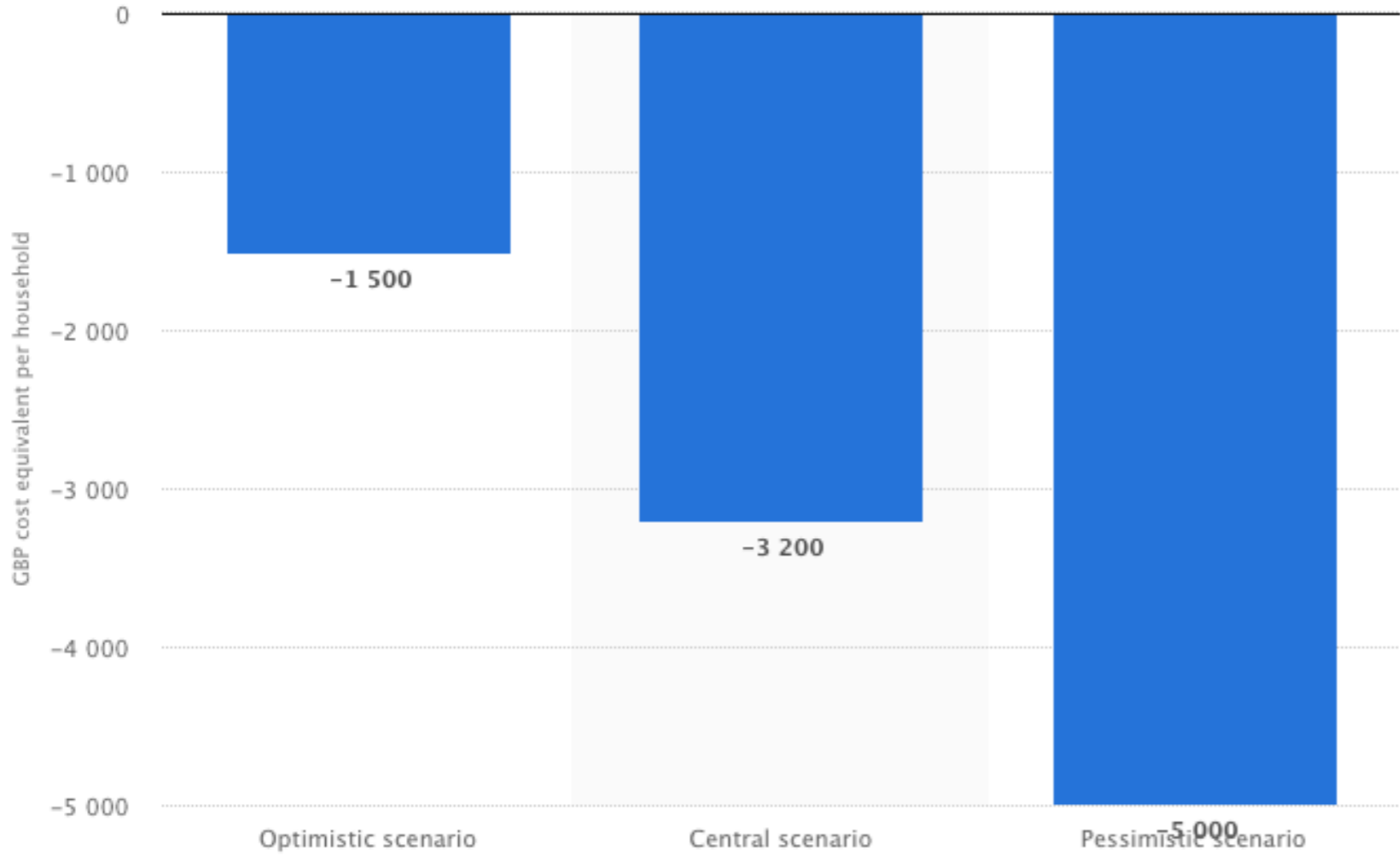
		<b>Remain</b>	<b>Leave</b>
2015 vote	<b>Conservatives</b>	39	61
	<b>Labour</b>	65	35
	<b>Liberal Democrat</b>	68	32
	<b>UKIP</b>	5	95
	<b>Green</b>	80	20
Age	<b>18-24</b>	71	29
	<b>25-49</b>	54	46
	<b>50-64</b>	40	60
	<b>65+</b>	36	64
Education	<b>GCSE or lower</b>	30	70
	<b>A level</b>	50	50
	<b>Higher below degree</b>	48	52
	<b>Degree</b>	68	32

# UK net migration by citizenship, years ending December 2007 to June 2017



Source: Long-Term International Migration (LTIM) estimates, ONS

# Forecasted long-term effects of the Brexit on GBP per household in the United Kingdom (UK) in 2030, by scenario



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DESCRIPTION SOURCE MORE INFORMATION

This statistic shows the predicted effect of the "Brexit" on GBP per household in the United Kingdom (UK) in 2030, the results are sorted by scenario. The data suggests that the Brexit will have a negative impact on each household by an minimum of 1,500 pounds sterling (GBP) by 2030.





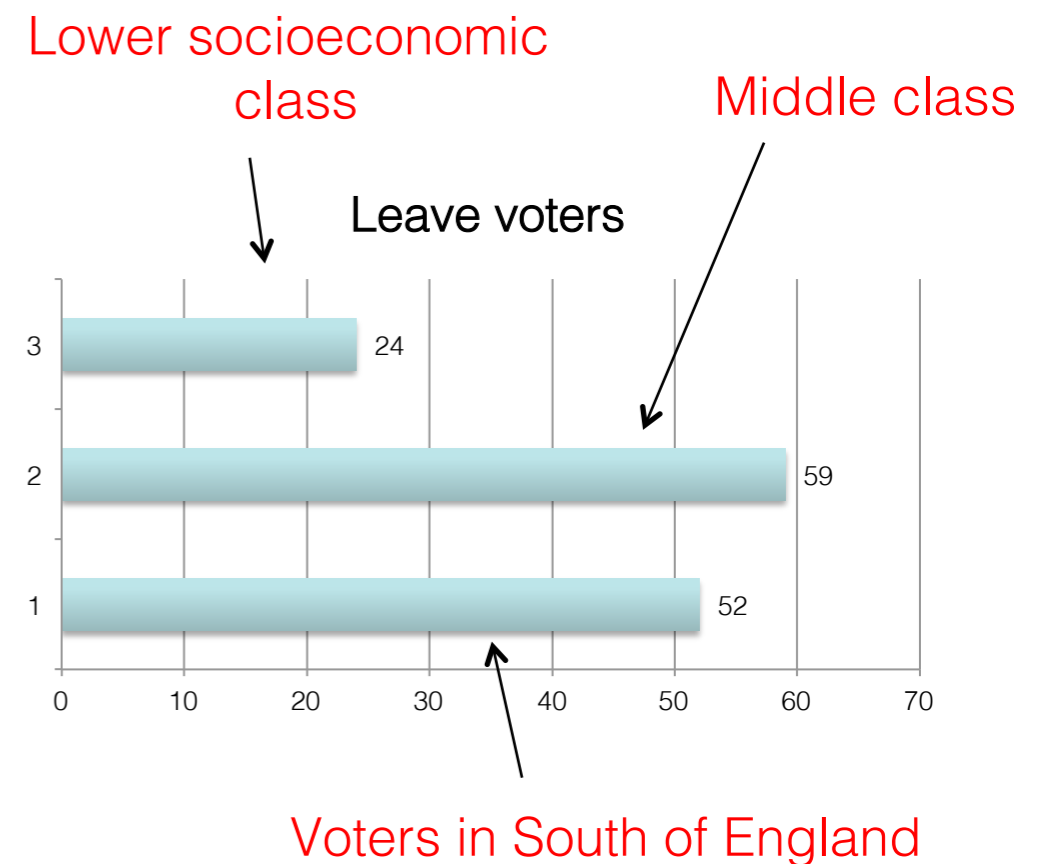
**WHAT IS BREXIT?**

**POLARISATION IN SOCIETY & WHY DID THE  
UK VOTE FOR BREXIT?**



- Seidler (2018) – shock: anger, rage and resistance to neoliberal globalisation
- Conditions for the rise of right-wing ethno-nationalism
- Rising hate crime post-referendum

- Austerity
- Right-wing populism
- Working class ‘howl of anger’
- Bhambra (2017) – more nuanced
- Education levels also important



**EU market vs. social Europe**



**BREXIT**

IMPLICATIONS FOR WELFARE AND CARE

- \$3 trillion wiped off value of financial markets after vote
- Welfare supported by competitive markets
- Low cost markets of EU lost or in conflict
- Upset in markets has caused problems in welfare

- Health and social care staff warned of dangers
- 209,000 staff 4.5% of NHS; 5% of social care and social work for EU
- Reduction in numbers migrating to work
- Diminishing workers' rights/conditions???



**BREXIT**

SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION

- Risk to higher education
- Social work education: context of austerity, the neoliberal project and globalisation
- 2003 degree – 4 nations
  - 1970s CQSW
  - 1989 DipSW
- 2009 Baby Peter, Reform Board



*Influences on social work education*

*Political  
Populist opinion/  
tragedies*

*Instrumental  
Employer needs*

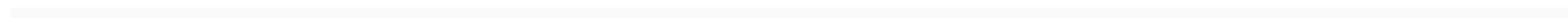
*'Professional'  
regulation/  
standardisation/  
convergence*

**Social Work Education**

*Service user/  
carer voice*

*Shared global  
outlook*

*Human rights and  
social justice  
principles*



# **Continued and increasing regulation and prescription**

- Social Work Reform Board
- Professional Capabilities Framework
- GSCC to Health and Care Professions Council to Social Work England (other 3 nations maintained Care Councils)
- Narey & Croisdale-Appleby reviews 2014
- Knowledge and Skills Statements
- Green paper on adult social care summer 2018



**BREXIT**

**TWO SCENARIOS: DESCENT OF DISSENT?**



Social work education???



- Bologna, Erasmus and internationalising the student experience
- Austerity and residualism
- Deprofessionalisation, control and the New Public Management
- A new radicalism

# In summary

- What Brexit is, how it happened and its consequences
- The impact on welfare and social work
- Changes to social work education
- Dialectic praxis for the future of social work education



Thank You!