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OD Maps for Studying Historical Internal Migration in Ireland

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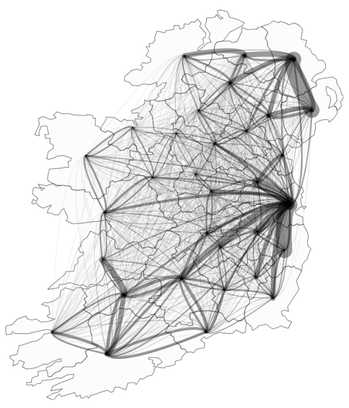
OD Maps have helped us study historical migration patterns in Ireland (1851 and 1911) because they **preserve spatial structure**, are **non-occluding** and provide **overviews** that can can show differences in distance and direction. This is important on a small island like Ireland where internal migration patterns have been difficult to discern.

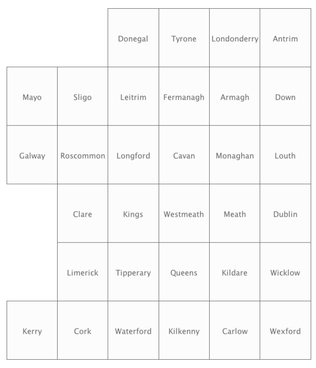
How OD Maps work



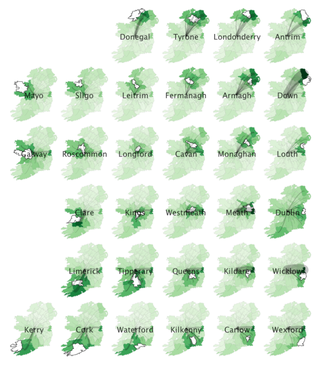
County-county migration flow map

Take the 32 counties...

...and transform to...

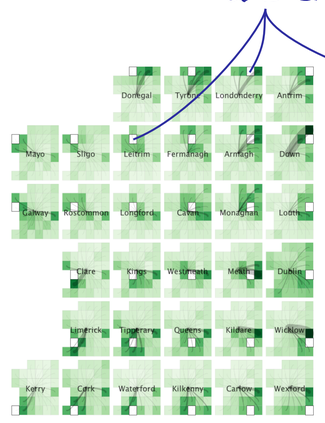


...a grid map, trying to preserve county adjacency.

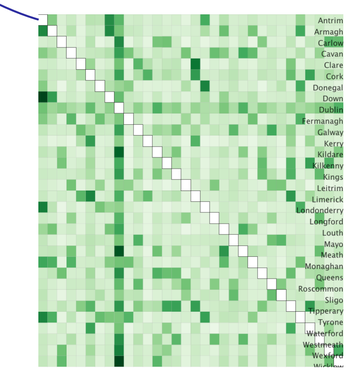


Nest destination maps in each origin.

Home square, where origin and destination are the same



Transform nested maps to grid maps. **This is an OD Map.**

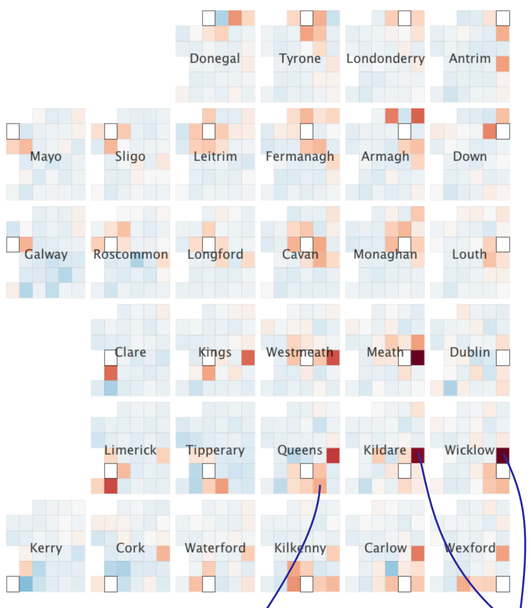


It's just a geographically reordered OD matrix!

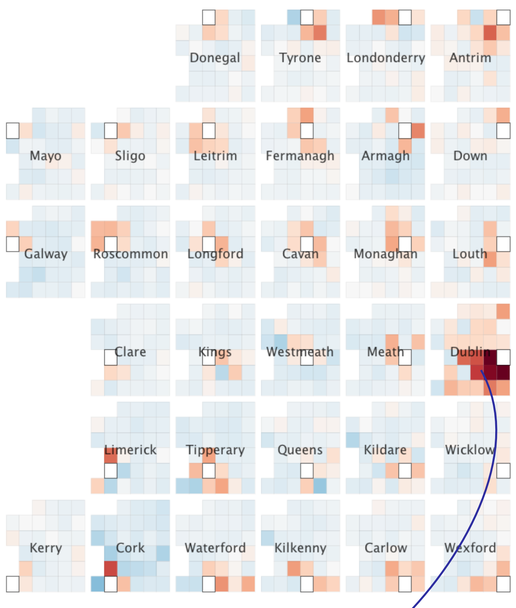
Gender differences in 1851

Red indicates a higher proportion of women migrated than men.

Origin-destination



Destination-origin



Women migrate more locally than men

Women prefer Dublin

A higher proportion of women migrate to Dublin than men

Gender differences in 1911

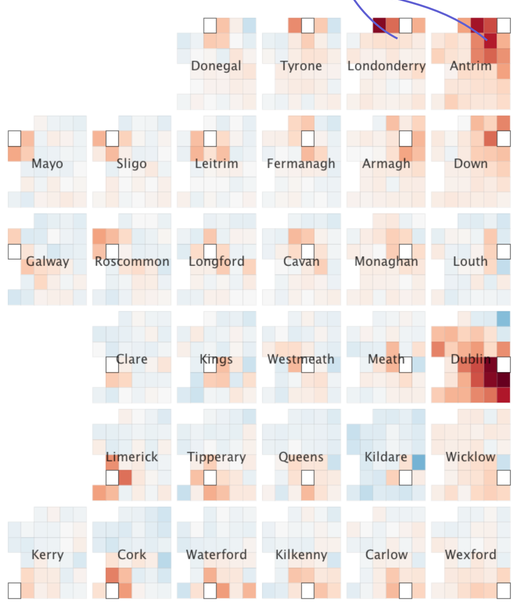
Red indicates a higher proportion of women migrated.

More women migrated to Northern Irish counties from all over

In the north, women still migrate more locally then men...

...but less so in the south.

Origin-destination



Destination-origin

A higher proportion of women migrate than in 1851

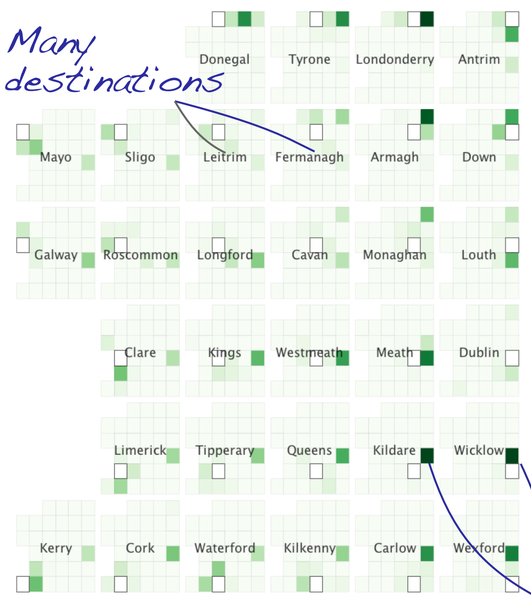
Differences between 1851 and 1911

Purple indicates a higher proportion of migration in 1911, orange indicates this was higher in 1851.

Diversity of destination counties

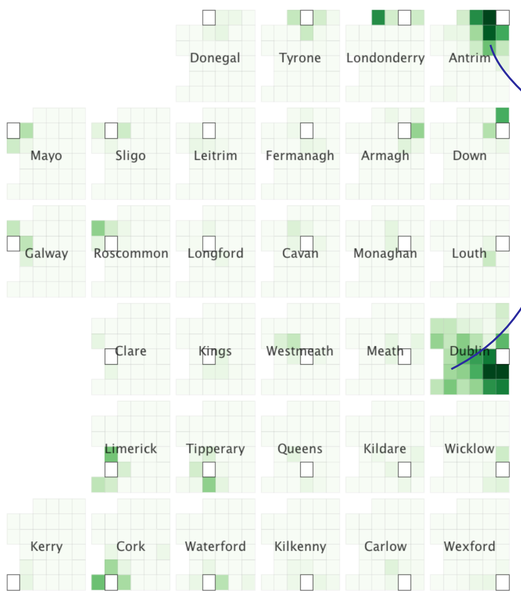
Darkness shows what proportion of migrants in the origin county went to destinations in 1911. Darkest colours indicate most migrants went to one county.

Origin-destination



Many destinations

Destination-origin

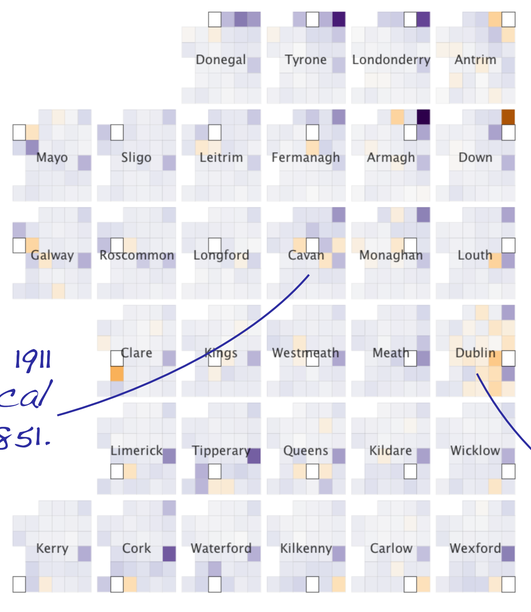


The top destination were Atrim and Dublin

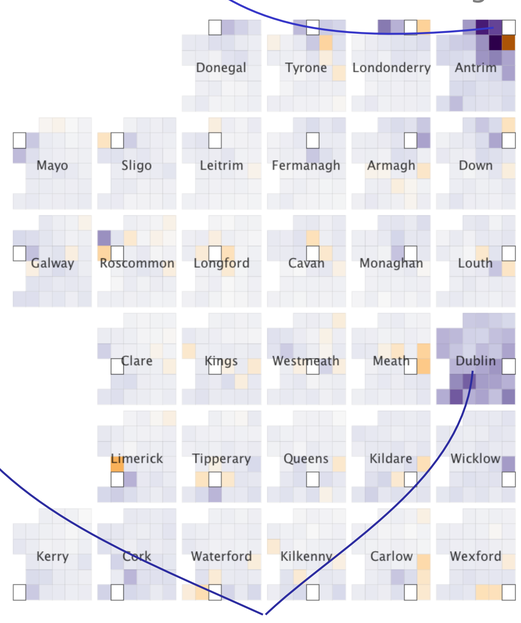
Counties in the east had lowest diversity of destinations

A lot of migration into Antrim compared to 1851, especially from local counties, but not Down.

Origin-destination



Destination-origin



Migration in 1911 was less local than in 1851.

Less outward and more inward migration from and to Dublin

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