

London's political landscapes

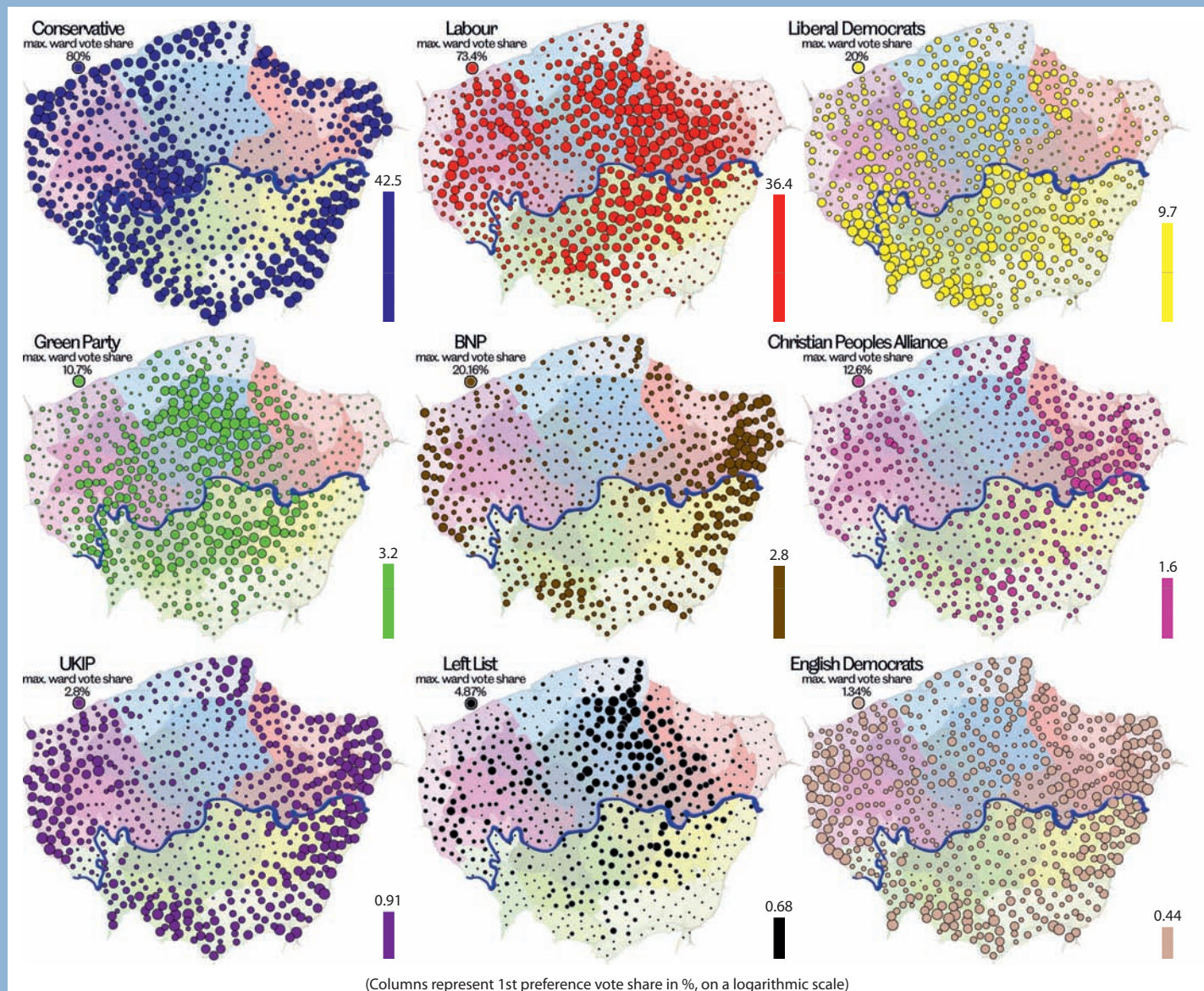
Ahead of this year's vote, **Benjamin Hennig** and **Danny Dorling** look at the geography of the 2008 London mayoral election.

2012 is not only the year of the London Olympics. In May, Londoners will decide on who they want to see leading their city for the next four years. The 2008 mayoral election in London was won by the Conservative candidate Boris Johnson, who secured over 50 per cent of the votes, after second preferences are taken into account. But the political message from the last election goes beyond the usual fight between the Labour and Conservative parties over who has power in Britain's capital.

This map series shows the specific distribution of first preference votes for each of the candidates and their respective political party in the 2008 London mayoral election mapped onto an equal population projection, where every Londoner is given exactly the same amount of space in the map. Instead of showing the total shares in comparison, the maps take the maximum share of votes into account. The range of votes is shown in five graduated circles based on a natural breaks classification that highlights the vari-

ance of the particular support for a party's candidate across London.

Although the candidates of the smaller parties hardly stood a chance of taking over the job that currently pays an annual salary of £143,911, the electorate that voted for these candidates is just as concentrated in particular clusters across the city as are those supporters of the two main political camps. The geographical relevance of these patterns is a manifestation of the socioeconomic patchwork of a divided city.



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