

# Understanding Youth Participation Across Europe

Hilary Pilkington · Gary Pollock

Renata Franc

Editors

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From Survey to Ethnography

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*Editors*

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# MYPLACE Research Locations

The MYPLACE project was conducted in 30 locations in 14 countries across Europe.



**Plate 0.1** Map of MYPLACE research locations

## Short Descriptions of Research Locations (by Country)<sup>1</sup>

### Croatia

In Croatia, two districts of Zagreb—Podsljeme and Peščenica—were selected for the questionnaire survey and follow-up interviews. Zagreb is divided into 17 ‘city districts’. Podsljeme and Peščenica were selected as contrasting survey locations that are not adjacent and are very different in socio-economic terms as well as demographically. Podsljeme is a rather quiet, mostly residential and, in economic terms, a prosperous area; Peščenica can be described as a ‘troubled’ part of the city. It is a poorer city district, mostly (but not exclusively) industrial, and, to some extent, more ethnically mixed.

Several key factors were taken into account when selecting these locations. Firstly, based on the available literature and empirical data on young people’s political and social participation in Croatia, it was concluded that the most important factors influencing young people’s receptivity to radical political agendas in Croatia were: (1) community segregation/cohesion (especially the degree of contact with immigrants, ethnic and religious minorities); and (2) socio-economic inequalities (including levels of education and unemployment, but also socio-economic issues related to the 1991–95 Homeland War, numbers of war veterans and war refugees). Secondly, given the fact that different parts of the country had very different historical experiences, it was decided that selecting two locations geographically remote from one another could present a problem, as it would be difficult to make a meaningful comparison due to the different issues related to their historical past. While some regions were completely devastated during the Homeland War of 1991–95, others were left almost completely intact. Thirdly, considering that the survey required a sample representative of youth living in each of the selected locations (and, therefore, a robust sample frame), it was concluded that this information would be most easily available for administrative units (e.g. ‘city districts’ or ‘municipalities’).

### Denmark

In Denmark, the questionnaire survey and follow-up interviews were conducted in the city of Odense. Odense has a population of around

170,000, which makes it the third largest city in Denmark and the main city of the island of Funen. The fieldwork was conducted in Odense Centre and Odense East, which are two contrasting parts of the city. The population of Odense Centre is socially mixed, though with a preponderance of residents belonging to the middle class. Odense East is an area which includes the suburb Vollsmose, a ghetto-like area with a high proportion of residents with immigrant background. This area was a modern housing development project from the 1970s, and has about 10,000 inhabitants on its two square kilometres. Since the 1990s, this area has become known throughout Denmark, due to a relatively high crime-rate and the large density of people of foreign descent.

### **Estonia**

The selection of research sites for the questionnaire survey and follow-up interviews in Estonia was guided, firstly, by the potential for understanding youth socio-political (extremist) activism and, secondly, by the ability to demonstrate a considerable contrast between the locations in terms of the socio-economic characteristics and the ethnic-cultural composition of the population.

In Estonia, the questionnaire survey and follow-up interviews were conducted in two regions: Ida-Virumaa county, in north-eastern Estonia, and Tartu county, in central-eastern Estonia. In Ida-Virumaa county, interviews were carried out in three towns: Narva (66% of the sample of this location), Sillamäe (8%) and Kohtla-Järve (26%). These settlements are populated largely by Russians living on the socio-economic periphery and partly supporting anti-Estonian and pro-Soviet ideas. A high percentage of this population is elderly, relative to Estonia as a whole.

In the central-eastern region, the survey was carried out in Tartu (81%) and in neighbouring districts. The population of Tartu is almost entirely Estonian. They live in a large settlement, in a central location, and are characterised by relatively nationalistic ideas. This population has a high percentage of young people due to the presence of the university.

### **Finland**

The questionnaire survey and follow-up interviews were conducted in eastern Finland, in the city of Kuopio (the city centre and nearby areas

of Niirala, Haapaniemi and Rönö) and the region of Pielinen Karelia (in the towns of Lieksa and Nurmes).

Kuopio is the ninth largest city and an urban provincial centre in Finland. Every fifth person living in the selected four areas is young (aged 15–24). In Kuopio, especially in the chosen areas of the city, educational and income levels are higher than in the whole of Finland. The city has a relatively stable economy as it is a regional centre with quite a large and well-regarded university, plus other institutions of higher education, industries, commercial, financial and cultural services. However, the unemployment level in the whole Kuopio area is slightly higher than the national average. Ethnically, the city is relatively homogeneous and the number of ethnic conflicts (reported by the police) is low. In the selected areas of Kuopio, the support for ‘The Finns’ (the populist party Perussuomalainen) in the 2011 Parliamentary election was relatively low.

Nurmes and Lieksa are relatively small towns in eastern Finland. These towns have around 7,000 (Nurmes) and 10,000 (Lieksa) inhabitants and are surrounded by large, sparsely populated rural areas. The proportion of young people is low compared to Kuopio. The share of young people (aged 15–24) in the population of both towns is around 10%. In Nurmes and Lieksa, the population has relatively low levels of education and income, and the unemployment level is twice as high (or even more) as the average in Finland as a whole. The towns are located in a declining socio-economic area with decreasing economic activity and an ageing population. The future prospects of young people living in this area are limited due to a lack of higher, and even vocational, education and employment opportunities.

Both towns are relatively homogeneous in terms of ethnicity. Lieksa, however, has received some hundreds of asylum seekers, in recent years, many of whom have gained residential permits. In Nurmes and Lieksa, the level of support for the populist ‘The Finns’ party was relatively high at nearly 25% of the voters, which was above the national average (19%) during 2011.

### **Georgia**

The questionnaire survey and follow-up interview locations in Georgia were Kutaisi (more specifically, the Kakhianuri district of the city),

situated in the western part of the country, and the town of Telavi, situated in the east. The distance between Kutaisi and Telavi is approximately 300 km.

Kutaisi is the capital of the Imereti region, the second largest city in Georgia (with around 194,700 inhabitants, according to the National Statistics Office of Georgia in 2011), and one of the largest industrial cities of the country. The National Parliament of Georgia moved to Kutaisi in October 2012, when the MYPLACE survey fieldwork was conducted. It was expected that this would lead to important changes in the life of the city, since more attention would be paid to its infrastructure, more social and cultural events would be organised, and, potentially, there would be more job opportunities as well. The 'supply side' of all types of political movements, including radical ones, was also expected to increase significantly and try to influence the local population (although it was already rather high in Kutaisi even before the Parliament moved there).

Telavi, on the other hand, is the capital of the Kakheti region and a much smaller town, with a population of less than 30,000 inhabitants. Traditionally, political life is significantly less active in Telavi (compared with the situation in Kutaisi); hence, the 'supply' factor in radical politics is less prominent. Other important differences are observed from the point of view of infrastructure and living standards. Employment opportunities are more limited, as are the sources of information about current events (including local sources of information).

The eastern and western parts of Georgia are traditionally characterised by different styles and rhythms of life, as well as by differences in the dominant attitudes of the population towards major events and/or social and political institutions. The population of Imereti is, in general, believed to be rather active, while the population of Kakheti is considered to be more passive. Both desk research and expert interviews conducted in the early stages of MYPLACE suggested the same. Hence, different levels of engagement of young people were expected to be observed in these two locations.

### **Germany (Eastern)**

In eastern Germany, the questionnaire survey and follow-up interviews were conducted in Jena in Thuringia, and Rostock in

Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, both parts of the former German Democratic Republic. Jena is the second largest city in Thuringia with slightly over 100,000 inhabitants. It is comprised of a large number of young people and students. The historic Friedrich-Schiller University and the *Fachhochschule* host together about 25,000 students. It is therefore not surprising that in 2010, the age group 15–25 made up 13% of the city's population. Over the last decade, the foreign population in Jena has grown to 7% in 2011, which is almost twice as high as in Rostock (Thüringer Landesamt für Statistik).

After the reunification of Germany, Jena developed into a prosperous site for specialised industries, including the optical, chemical, pharmaceutical and medical industries. The unemployment rate is lower than in the rest of Thuringia, in eastern Germany, and even in western Germany as a whole.

Jena has a reputation for being a heartland for right-wing extremism. The Festival of the People, the largest right-wing extremist event in Europe, took place in Jena between 2005 and 2007. Core members of the right-wing terror cell the National Socialist Underground (*Nationalsozialistischer Underground*—NSU) originally came from Jena and were part of the Jena branch of the *Thüringer Heimatschutz*, a radical right-wing group, during the 1990s.

With slightly over 200,000 inhabitants Rostock is the only major city in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, which has a predominantly rural character. Whilst the countryside in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern is acutely affected by population loss, an ageing society and a low share of the foreign population, due to its educational offerings, including a historic university with around 15,000 students, research institutes and related businesses, Rostock has been able to attract a young population. In 2010, Rostock comprised a higher proportion of young people (12%) than the German average (11%).

In contrast to Jena, Rostock has faced economic decline since German re-unification. Like Jena, Rostock has been stigmatised as a stronghold for right-wing extremism. Twenty years ago, in the summer of 1992, a group of 100 people attacked an asylum (*Zentrale Aufnahmestelle für Asylbewerber*—ZAST) for Vietnamese guest workers in Rostock-Lichtenhagen.

### **Germany (Western)**

In western Germany, the questionnaire survey and follow-up interviews were conducted in wards in Bremen and Bremerhaven. The selection of locations was driven by the basic interest of the MYPLACE project to learn more about young people's involvement in radical, extreme, or populist movements. The two most important criteria for being influenced by radical movements in western Germany were community segregation/integration and socio-economic inequalities ('deprivation').

In medieval times, Bremen was a Hanseatic port but the river silted up and there was a need to site a port closer to the sea; hence, Bremerhaven (Bremen's harbour) was founded. Bremen has a large and well-regarded university and has higher levels of prosperity than Bremerhaven. While de-industrialisation has impacted on Bremerhaven it remains an important German port; for example, in relation to off-shore wind turbines. Bremerhaven has had much investment along the sea front and there have been high-priced property developments in this area; these contrast markedly to the residential districts situated around half a kilometre from the centre.

### **Greece**

In Greece, the questionnaire survey and follow-up interviews were conducted in two suburbs of Athens: municipal departments of Argyroupoli and New Philadelphia. They were selected based on their population size (around 30,000) and their characteristics regarding community segregation/cohesion, socio-economic inequality, 'supply' of radicalism, political heritage and civic engagement.

Argyroupoli is situated in the relatively affluent south-eastern region of Athens and is populated by representatives of the middle and upper-middle classes. Although there are no official data available regarding socio-economic inequality within and between the selected areas, available information suggests a higher income and standard of living in Argyroupoli, where real estate is significantly more expensive than in New Philadelphia. Argyroupoli has significant development potential due to the new metro station, which opened to the public in the summer of 2013, and the neighbouring area of the former US military air base, which is a public asset and is considered to be the largest

urban waterfront property in Europe. Politically, the population of Argypoli is characterised by a centrist-liberal tradition.

New Philadelphia, on the other hand, is located in the poorer north-western part of the city and has characteristics of a lower-middle-and working-class area. It includes neighbourhoods that are vulnerable to social deprivation and exclusion, such as a social-housing district and parts of the refugees' old neighbourhoods. The latter were populated by Greek refugees who had been expelled from the Asia Minor coastline after World War I, following the Greek–Turkish war of 1919–22, and the 'Catastrophe of Smyrna' in 1922. New Philadelphia has a left-wing political tradition due to the working-class origin of its population.

According to 2001 census data, the vast majority of the population in both locations is of Greek origin. Both locations exhibit similar voting patterns in national and local elections, which also follow the general voting pattern in Greece. However, in the context of the current crisis, it is anticipated that receptivity to radical political agendas will be present in both locations to some degree. In both locations, there are open assemblies and the residents have mobilised against austerity measures. In New Philadelphia, however, such activism seems to be more intense and there was an anarchist occupation. In both locations, there are citizens' associations and clubs while, during the crisis, there has been an increase in participation in voluntary initiatives.

## **Hungary**

In Hungary, the questionnaire survey and follow-up interviews were conducted in the towns of Sopron and Ózd. Both towns are on the border of Hungary and far from the political, economic and cultural centre, Budapest. However, they differ from each other in a number of respects. Sopron is located on the Hungarian–Austrian border and has around 61,000 inhabitants (Hungarian Central Statistical Office 2011). Since Austria is a developed country, its vicinity offers more advantages in transborder relations (tourism, employment, trade). Sopron has historic civic traditions. There are several secondary schools and university departments in Sopron. The economic indicators of Győr-Moson-Sopron County are above the national average. The average unemployment rate during 2011 was 4.6%. The average annual



unemployment rate is the third lowest in Hungary, just behind the capital and Pest County. The proportion of Roma population in Győr-Ménfőcsanak County was 2.7% in 2003.

Ózd is located near the Hungarian-Slovakian border and has around 34,000 inhabitants (Hungarian Central Statistical Office, 2011). Historic civic traditions are absent; it is a typical socialist industrial town. There are only two secondary schools in Ózd. It has the third largest Roma community in Hungary, according to 2001 census data (according to some estimates, 37% of the population is Roma). Unemployment, which has affected many since the fall of socialism in this industrial and mining region, doubled between 2002 and 2009. A significant proportion of the population is not highly educated. Earlier, they were employed as semi-skilled workers, and they are currently long-term unemployed. Ózd lies within 10 km of the Slovak MYPLACE location of Rimavská Sobota.

### **Latvia**

In Latvia, the questionnaire survey and follow-up interviews were conducted in the urban areas of Riga and Daugavpils. Āgenskalns apkaimē was the area surveyed in Riga. In Daugavpils city, Forštate (Jaunā Forštate and Vecā Forštate) and a part of the Jaunbūve district were used. The selected areas present contrasting cases in terms of economic development, ethnic composition and social situation.

Āgenskalns is one of the 58 'apkaimes' (localities) in Riga, the capital of Latvia, and the most economically developed region in the country. There are more jobs available, salaries are significantly higher and the overall economic situation is arguably the best in Latvia. There are many opportunities for young people to get involved in different social, civic and political activities. Riga, and Āgenskalns apkaimē in particular (due to several university branches located there), has a quite diverse population, since it hosts a mix of people from different regions that come to work or study there. Thus, people in Āgenskalns appear more open, liberal, and tolerant to different ideas and cultural influences. The ethnic proportions of Russians and Latvians are similar, yet Āgenskalns is seen as one of the predominantly Latvian parts of the city. Āgenskalns has a number of schools and kindergartens, a university branch, one of

Riga's largest hospitals, several churches and museums, an old and lively market, and one of the city's largest parks; it is very well connected to other districts and to the centre of the city. The number of inhabitants in Āgenskalns district is around 29,000 (Riga city municipality data 2010).

Daugavpils is located in the Latgale region. For a long time, this region was considered as lagging behind others in terms of economic development, infrastructure, employment, innovation and so on. The emigration rates from this region are very high, especially among the youth. Latvians are numerically one of the smallest groups in this city, while 85% of the population are ethnic minorities. The ethnic composition of the population and the closeness of the city to Russia, in combination with economic struggles of the population, provide fertile ground for the rise of radical ideas.

The areas selected in Daugavpils city are similar to each other, yet have their distinct history and character. *Jaunā Forštate*, like the city itself, has a mostly Russian population and a comparatively high number of young people live there. Transport connections to other parts of the city have been relatively poor until recently, but the infrastructure is improving. There are kindergartens, a school, a few churches (Russian Orthodox and Catholic) and a cultural centre in this district.

*Vecā Forštate* is a small area neighbouring *Jaunā Forštate*. Due to its small size, in some sources it is not even distinguished from the latter, but is merged with *Jaunā Forštate* as 'Forštate'. Historically, *Vecā Forštate* is one of the oldest districts of Daugavpils, and the 19th-century ancient wooden architecture has been partially preserved here. There are significant numbers of Old Believers and pensioners among the locals and very few young people. Almost all buildings are private homes and gardening is a popular occupation. The local school was recently closed, yet the 'cultural centre' is still functioning.

*Jaunbūve* began to develop in the second half of the nineteenth century thanks to the development of the nearby railroad. Many and varied economic, social and spiritual activities are concentrated there. A symbol of multi-culturalism and mutual respect between different groups of the local society is the 'Church hill', where four churches of different denominations stand right next to each other. *Jaunbūve* district is one

of the largest districts in Daugavpils, thus only a part of it was selected for the MYPLACE survey—the area bordering Jaunā Forštate. The total population of the merged Forštate/Jaunbūve area was 28,680 inhabitants (Daugavpils municipality 2011).

## **Portugal**

In Portugal, the questionnaire survey and follow-up interviews were conducted in Telheiras and Barreiro. The first site consists of a recently built neighbourhood located in the north of Lisbon. Telheiras is a middle-class neighbourhood, with a professional population, and corresponding lifestyle and consumption patterns. Despite being recently established, this neighbourhood has a relatively vibrant community life, stimulated by local institutions and associations. Electoral behaviour is quite similar to the national average.

The second location, Barreiro, is a district located on the south bank of the river Tagus that has been undergoing a period of economic decline during the last few decades. Barreiro was the location of a large industrial conglomerate, CUF. With 10,000 workers living in factory villages in the 1960s, Barreiro was also the headquarters of the Portuguese Railways maintenance workshops, and was called ‘Portuguese Barcelona’ during the dictatorship. Barreiro’s population is positioned more towards the left wing of the Portuguese political spectrum than that of Telheiras.

Due to sampling constraints, the two locations had to be enlarged, while maintaining basically the same contrasting characteristics. The Telheiras location was enlarged to include Lumiar, the civil parish where it is integrated, which is inhabited by around 41,000 residents (National Population Census 2011). Its population is relatively young (26% below the age of 25 years, with 11% aged between 15 and 24 years). Barreiro was initially comprised of two civil parishes and then was enlarged to four (Barreiro, Lavradio, Alto do Seixalinho and Verderena). These four parishes contain around 52,000 inhabitants. The population of this location is slightly older, with 22% being under the age of 25 years and 9% (around 5,000 people) of its residents aged between 15 and 24 years. The educational profiles of the two populations are strikingly different: in Telheiras and Lumiar, 42% (around

17,000) have a tertiary degree in contrast to Barreiro, where only 11% (around 6,000) have such a qualification. Portugal's average is 17%.

### **Russia**

In Russia, the questionnaire survey and follow-up interviews were conducted in Kupchino and Vyborg. Kupchino is one of six municipal districts included in the Frunzensky administrative district of St. Petersburg, and Vyborg is a municipal district which is located in the Leningrad oblast. Kupchino is located within the city of St Petersburg, which is the centre of the north-western region of Russia, and the second most important city in the country after Moscow; Vyborg is a smaller town in the region bordering Finland. In both locations, migration issues and inter-ethnic tension are important issues.

Kupchino is the unofficial name for the main area falling within the Frunzensky administrative district of St. Petersburg. It is a typical suburb ('sleeping district') with huge Soviet housing blocks constructed in the 1960s–1980s. The municipal district of Kupchino is inhabited by around 55,000 people, with around 6,000 young people among them. It is located in the centre of Kupchino. It experiences significant problems with public transportation; the Kupchino district has only two underground stations on the edges of its territory for 400,000 people living in the Frunzensky district. It is physically separated from the rest of the city by two railways in the east and the west, as well as an industrial 'grey zone' in the north, separating the district from the city centre. While Kupchino may not be objectively the most socially deprived district of St Petersburg, it suffers significant deprivation because of the isolation caused by transportation problems and the urban mythology surrounding the district (it is perceived as criminal and marginalised). The neighbourhood is ethnically mixed and has experienced a significant impact from immigration from the southern ex-Soviet republics; immigrants tend to concentrate here because of relatively low apartment prices.

The second location is the town of Vyborg in the Leningrad oblast, which is a municipality with around 81,000 inhabitants (of which young people constitute around 11,000). Vyborg is interesting because of its specific history and heritage, on the one hand, and its economic and political situation, on the other. The town became part of the

Soviet Union in 1944. This medieval town and its castle were built by the Swedes; it subsequently became the second largest city in Finland. After 1944, the Finns were expelled and their homes occupied by new inhabitants. Today, history is a complex issue here—the locals appear alienated from the medieval history of the city, although a number of historical reconstruction clubs actively try to engage young people in Vyborg.

### **Slovakia**

In Slovakia, the questionnaire survey and follow-up interviews were conducted in the city of Trnava and a district of Rimavská Sobota. The selection of these locations was based on the assumption that the most important factors for the growth of political extremism and radicalism are social and economic deprivation of the regions and communities, on the one hand, and the possibility of potential ethnic conflicts, on the other hand. The selected locations differ significantly in these regards.

Trnava has a homogenous ethnic structure and a relatively low level of social and economic deprivation. The location ranks among ‘strongly developing’ areas with regard to its economic situation. Factors conditioning this include its proximity to the capital and the PSA Peugeot automobile factory. Several universities are located here, as a consequence of which the concentration of the youth population is high.

In contrast, the district of Rimavská Sobota is characterised by a high ethnic heterogeneity, as well as by an above average level of social and economic deprivation. Several ethnic groups meet in this location—Slovaks, Hungarians and Romany. The area ranks among the poorest locations in the country (high unemployment and poverty rates, social issues). Problems have accumulated here for several decades and are mainly caused by lack of economic opportunities. Rimavská Sobota is within 10 km of the Hungarian MYPLACE location of Ózd.

### **Spain**

In Spain, the questionnaire survey and follow-up interviews were conducted in two locations in the autonomous community of Catalonia: Vic and Sant Cugat.

The local 15-M (‘The Indignant’) movement exists in both locations. The city councils have developed active youth policies, and the main

party is Convergence and Union (Convergència i Unió: CiU—the centre-right Catalan nationalist political party, now governing Catalonia as well).

Vic has a population of about 40,000. In 2010, 25% of the inhabitants of Vic were immigrants, compared with Catalonia's overall 16%. A significant proportion of immigrants are from Morocco and sub-Saharan Africa. According to the General Union of Workers of Spain (*Unión General de Trabajadores*: UGT), the foreign-born citizens of Vic suffer a 43% unemployment rate, as compared with the average rate of 17.8% for Catalonia. Vic is the seat of a small university (Universitat de Vic) and has a dynamic civil society.

Vic is governed by a coalition of CiU (its electoral support is 32%) and the *Esquerra Republicana de Catalunya* (ERC—a centre-left secessionist party with 20% of the votes). Two more political parties—the *Plataforma per Catalunya* (PxC) and the *Candidatura d'Unitat Popular* (CUP)—are active in Vic and demonstrate the polarisation of politics at both ends of the left–right spectrum. Each of these political parties has different party manifestos, action strategies and discourses about immigrants. On the one hand, the PxC is a populist right-wing party generally considered by academics, the mass media and public opinion as extremist and xenophobic. PxC holds a firm stance on the control of immigration. Its leader, Josep Anglada, was born in Vic, and the party has five seats on the town council of Vic, which is the largest representation the party has in any local government. At the opposite extreme, the CUP, a leftist secessionist party that promotes a more participatory democracy, has two representatives on the town council. Young people are over-represented in the CUP, enjoying a horizontal organisational structure. The CUP is not renowned for anti-immigration discourse, but the very fact that it defends self-determination of Catalonia might represent a basis to consider it as not being sufficiently inclusive, and as ignoring certain sectors of the population. In sum, Vic has a greater propensity for receptivity to radical ideologies than other places in Catalonia.

Sant Cugat is an affluent town to the north of Barcelona, with a high level of investment from high-tech companies. Its central district, the most densely populated, has a population of around 56,000. Sant Cugat

has a registered population of immigrants of only 14%, half of whom are Latinos, which is not characteristic for Catalonia. For linguistic and cultural reasons, immigrants from Latin America integrate more easily than foreigners from other countries outside Europe. In other words, there are no a priori reasons to suspect a high propensity for receptivity to radical ideologies in Sant Cugat. In the last regional elections, the electoral support for the PxC was only 0.58% (5.82% in Vic). The centre-right Catalan nationalist party, the CiU, governs Sant Cugat with a majority on the town council.

## UK

The two locations for the questionnaire survey and follow-up interviews in the UK were Coventry and Nuneaton. These locations are geographically close to one another, only 13 km apart, in a wider area commonly known as the West Midlands.

In Coventry, parts of Foleshill and St Michaels wards were surveyed. These areas extend north-east from the city centre. This location represents an inner city with high-density housing and a variety of housing types. The majority of the dwellings are Victorian, terraced homes with a number of high-rise flats. Foleshill and St Michaels have large student populations (who attend either Coventry University, part of which is within the research location, or Warwick University) and a number halls of residence. These were excluded from the sample. Both wards are ethnically mixed and are characterised by low levels of radical political activity.

This location consists of 13 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA), which are the smallest administrative units geographically available. The total population for these areas was around 25,000 (Census, 2011), with around 14,000 aged 15–24 years. There were around 9000 households within the research location.

The wards of Arbury, Camp Hill, Kingswood, Abbey and part of Wem Brook were selected for fieldwork in Nuneaton. These wards cover approximately half of Nuneaton in the north and west of the town. This location is a market town with mixed housing, and is predominately white British.

The research location consists of 26 LSOAs. The total population for these areas was around 40,000 (Census, 2011), with around 7,000 aged 15–24 years. There were around 17,000 households within the research location. In a number of selected wards, there has already been significant radical right-wing activity, including the election of local councillors to the Nuneaton and Bedworth councils. Levels of deprivation varied across the research location, with a number of LSOAs within the 10% most deprived and least deprived nationally.

## Note

1. Information on research locations is correct for 2011–12, when the research locations were selected.