
The Challenges of Cohesion

Professor Dominic Abrams FBA

**Director of the Centre for the Study of Group Processes and
Professor of Social Psychology, University of Kent
Chair, Cohesive Societies programme, The British Academy**

@BritishAcademy_



10–11 Carlton House Terrace,
London, SW1Y 5AH

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Cohesive Societies landscape reviews

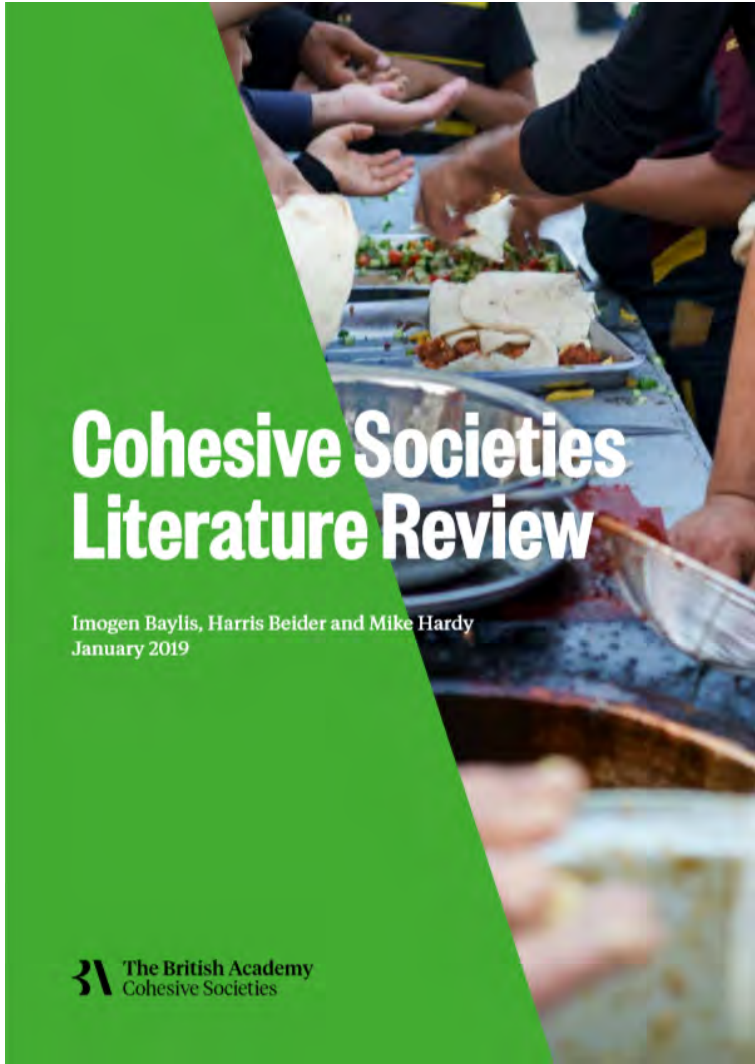
Cultural memory and tradition

Social economy

Meaning and mechanisms of social responsibility

Identity and belonging

Care for the future



Cohesive Societies Literature Review


Imogen Baylis, Harris Beider and Mike Hardy
January 2019

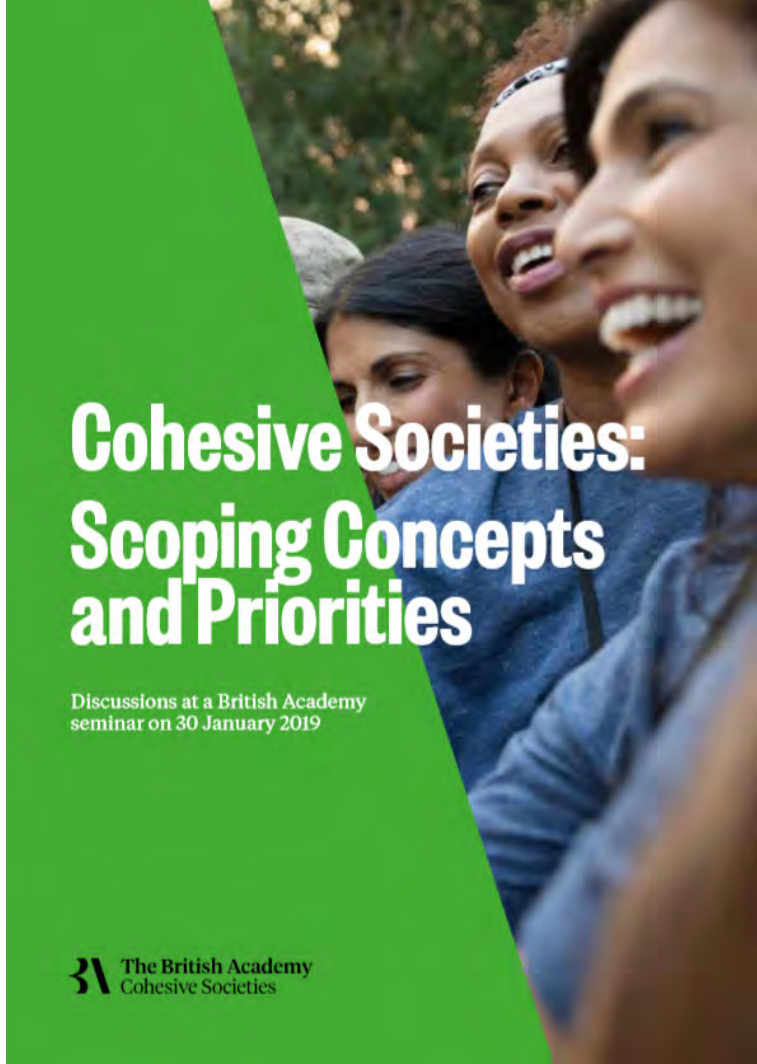
 The British Academy
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Cohesive Societies Policy Review


Matthew Donoghue and Sarah Bourke
January 2019

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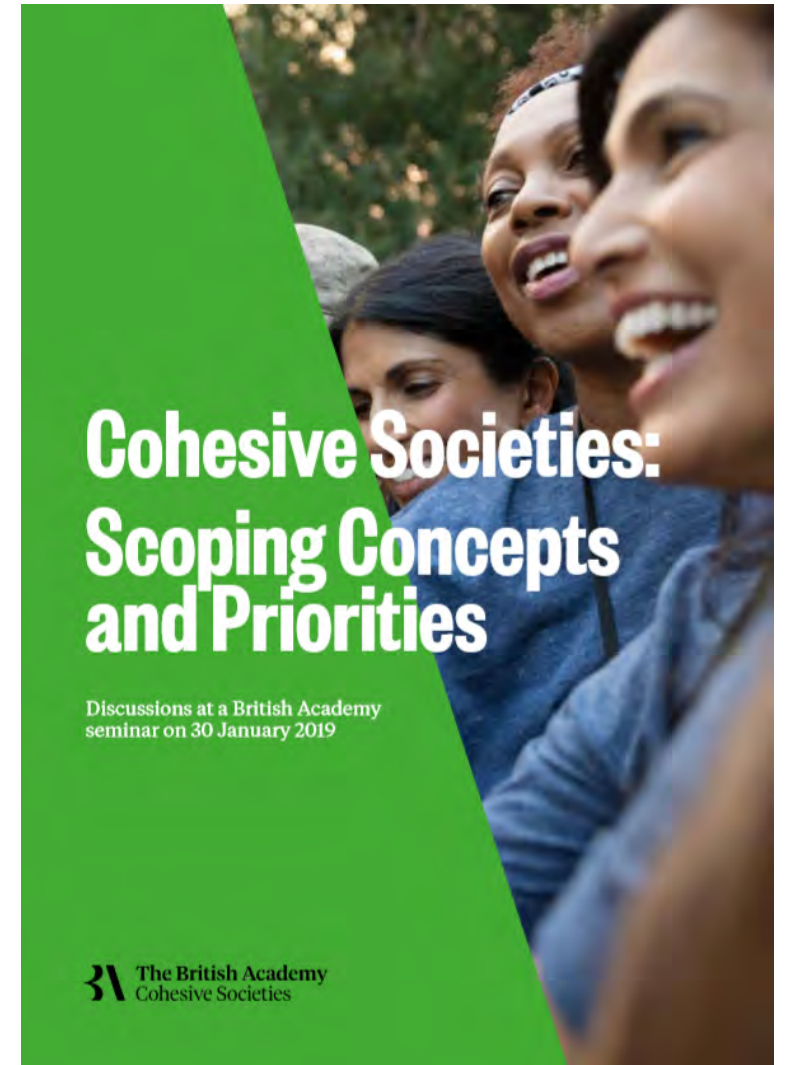
Cohesive Societies: Scoping Concepts and Priorities

Discussions at a British Academy
seminar on 30 January 2019

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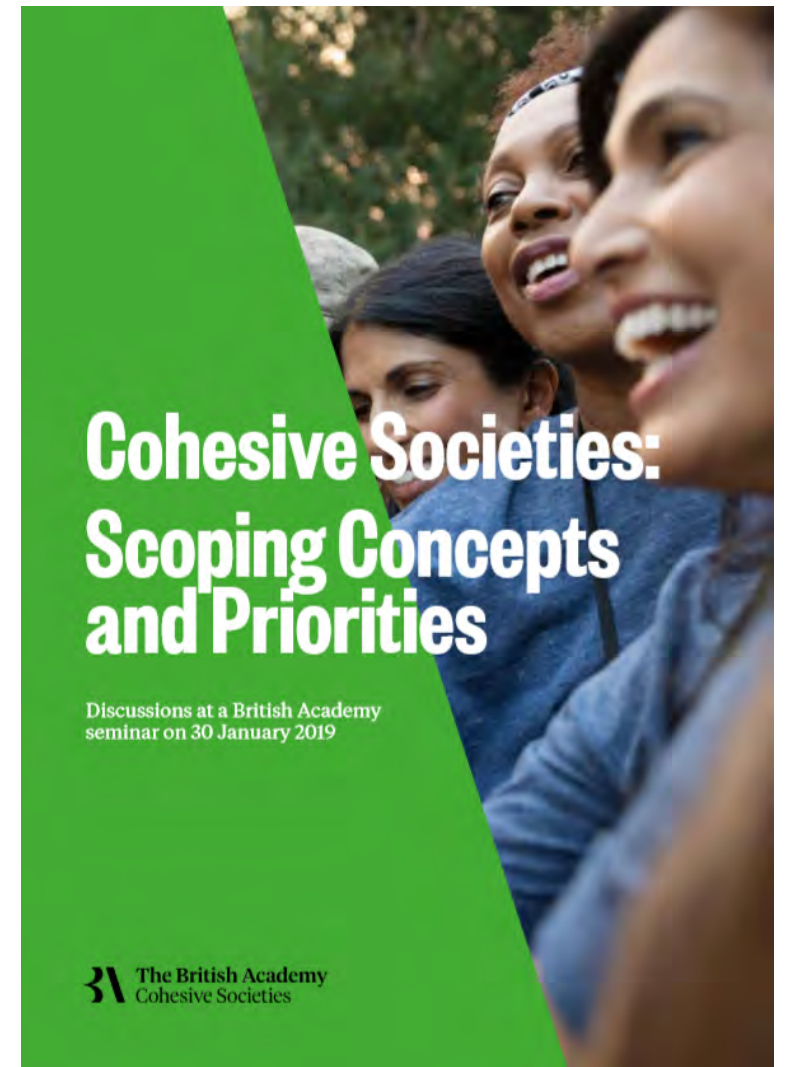
Key findings

- Discussion of societal cohesion is often reactive
- Definitional ambiguity has up and downsides
- Cohesion may be a positive goal in its own right
- Cohesion can be a process or a destination
- Includes social and structural components
- Arises at different geographical/social levels



Priorities for deeper investigation

- How societal cohesion relates to other social goals
- How it relates to economic and political priorities
- How it works with different identities
- How it changes over time and place
- New and better ways to measure, understand and improve societal cohesion
- More coherent policy involving societal cohesion



Processes of Prejudice: Theory, Evidence and Intervention

A Report to the Equality and Human Rights Commission

Dominic Abrams 2010



It is a vital part of the Big Society that people feel they can give, they can contribute, and they can play a part. To me that is a really important vision for the future of our country.

Prime Minister, David Cameron



Overcoming these divisions and bringing our country together is the central challenge of our time.

That means building.....

A society that doesn't just value our individual rights but focuses rather more on the responsibilities we have to one another;

a society that respects the bonds of family, community, citizenship and strong institutions that we share as a union of people and nations;

a society with a commitment to fairness at its heart.

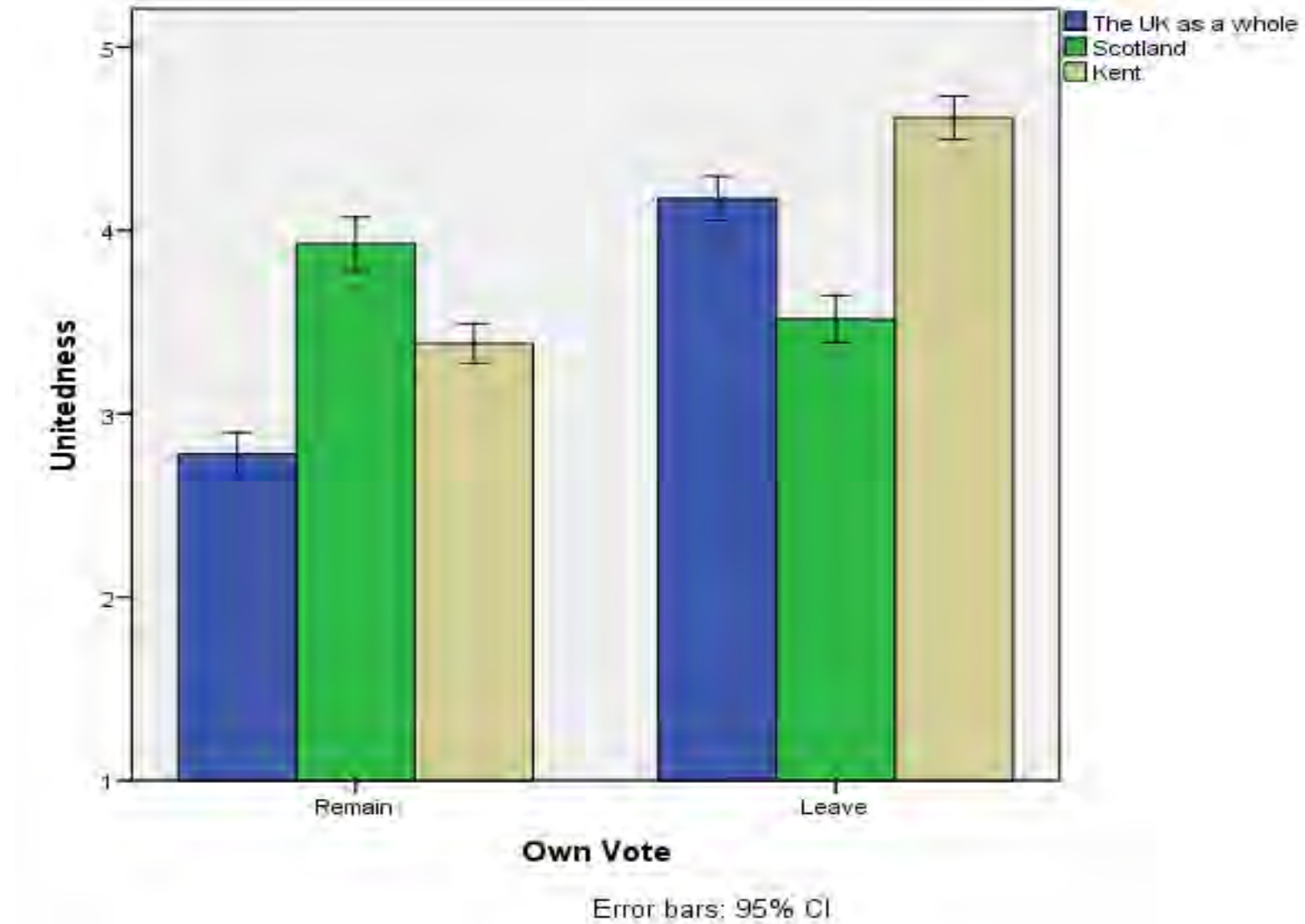


Forms of Cohesion

		Prejudice	
		Low	High
Good Relations	Low	<p>Benign Indifference</p> <p>Atomised, disengaged community, unconcerned about others</p>	<p>Malign Antipathy</p> <p>Fragmented, discontented, disengaged community hostile to both internal and external rivals or enemies</p>
	High	<p>Harmonious Cohesion</p> <p>Cohesive, engaged community, open and flexible</p>	<p>Rivalrous Cohesion</p> <p>Cohesive, engaged community but is competitive towards subordinates, rivals, enemies</p>

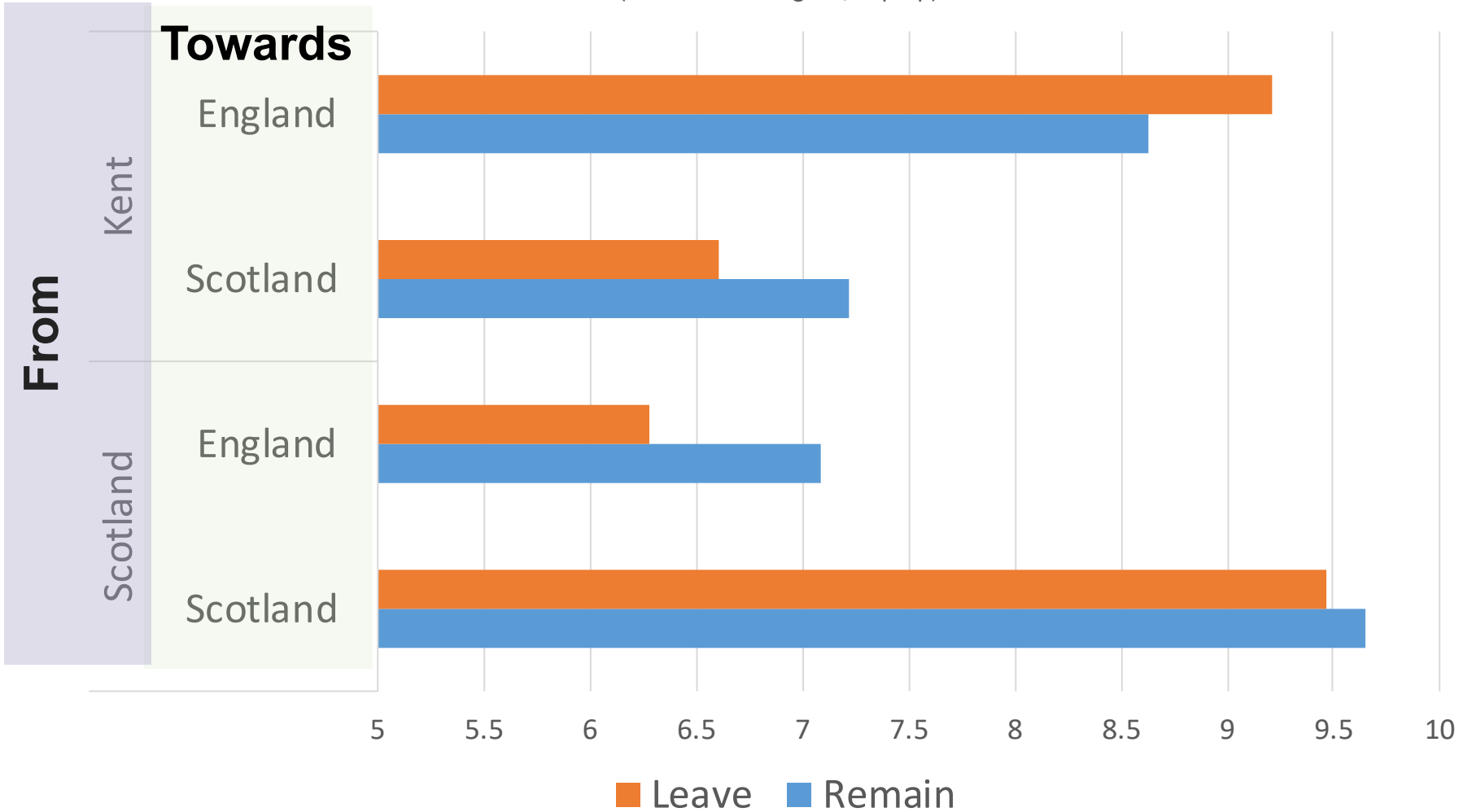
Some implications of Brexit(ing)

(Kent) Remainers' and Leavers' Sense of National and Local Unity

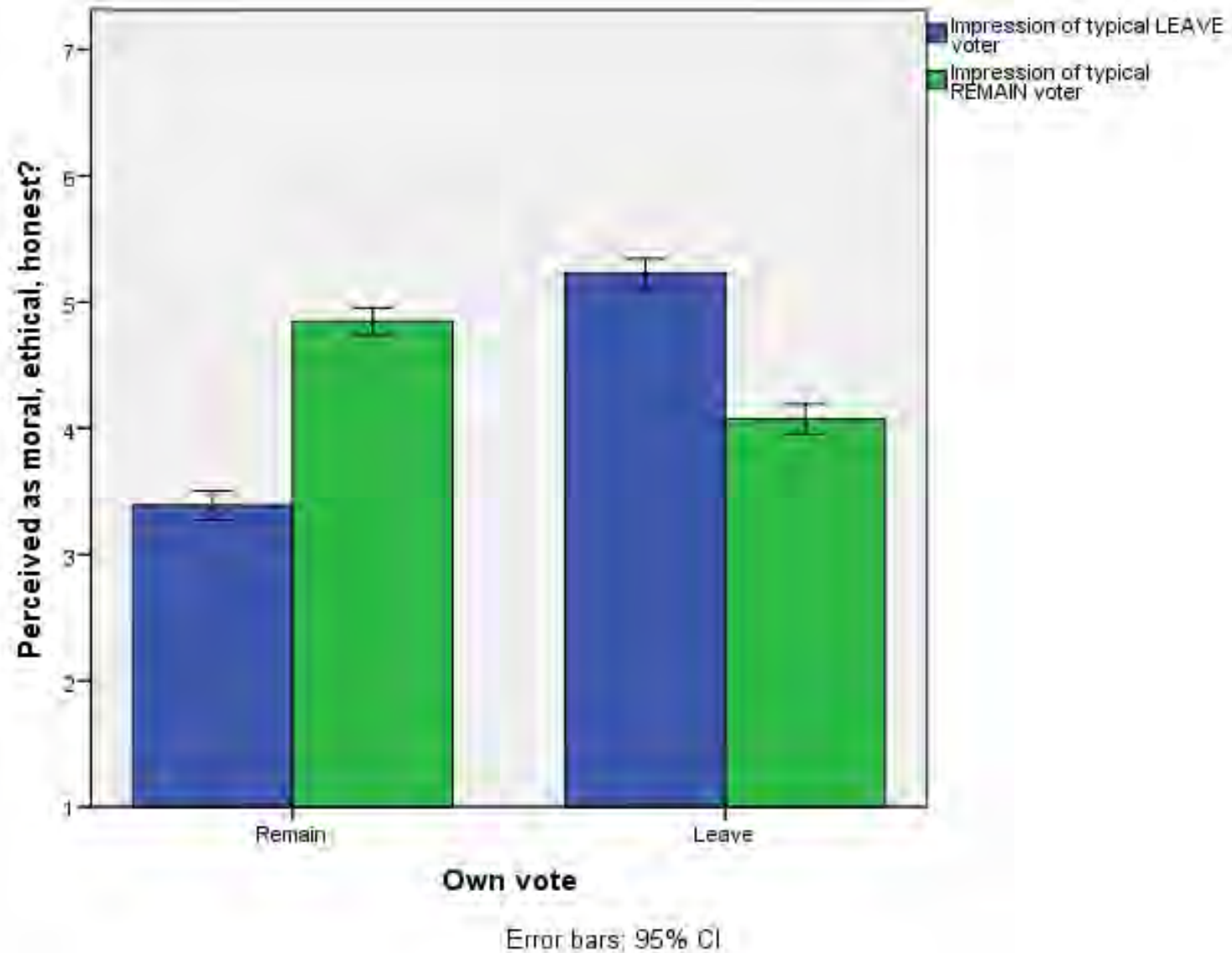


Remainers and Leavers in Kent and Scotland's feelings towards Scotland and England

(Abrams & Travaglino, in prep)



And what do they think of one another?



Questions and challenges

- The benefits and costs of cohesion?
- How cohesive can society be?
- How cohesive should society be?
- How rapidly may cohesion change?
- Who should be responsible for it?
- Effective routes for influence?
- How do we join all this up?



Thank you

Further information:

<https://www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk/programme/cohesive-societies>



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