

Seminar invitation

British and EU border controls - how compatible are they?

10 December 2019 — 18.00 - 21.00

Please join the Queen Mary University of London (QMUL) Criminal Justice Centre and Kingsley Napley LLP for a seminar on the legal and political issues which follow the disinvestment of state sovereignty in the control of borders among EU states and its implications for the UK.

One of the features of the Brexit debate in the UK and which has spilled over into the EU debate is where and how UK border controls should take place. This discussion is premised on the principle, frequently expounded in the UK, that border controls are an inherent part of state sovereignty and a necessary part of the UK's system of internal protection (against terrorism, crime etc). The EU, on the other hand, has chosen a very different approach to border controls. From 1995, EU states began to dismantle their border controls among themselves (now including 26 countries) and establish common external border controls.

However, the EU's approach to border controls as an exercise of pooled sovereignty exercised far from any (EU) physical borders has opened the way to the transfer of border controls not only to the edges of the EU but beyond into third countries. The most banal form of this 'export' of border controls is in the form of mandatory visa obligations. Among the more baroque forms is the use of EU naval assets in the Mediterranean to push little boats back to the Libyan coast guard. The UK has also had some success in pushing its border controls on persons outside of its territory into France under the Le Touquet Agreement, though the success of this effort is currently in some doubt. The UK-Irish border has been the site of intense concern and friction between the UK and the EU over the past three years – the meaning of border controls between the UK and Ireland has a long history which is profoundly related to political violence.

As the EU pushes its border controls outside of its territory what happens to its borders with the UK?

18:00 - 18.30	Registration
18:30	Chair's welcome: Nicolas Rollason, Partner and Head of Immigration, Kingsley Napley LLP
18:40	Presentations and discussion Professor Elspeth Guild QMUL School of Law Dr Violeta Moreno-Lax, QMUL School of Law
20.00 - 21.00	Networking drinks

Venue: Kingsley Napley LLP, Knights Quarter, 14 St John's Lane, London EC1M 4AJ

RSVP

Places are strictly limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. To RSVP, please let us know that you are able to attend by emailing us at events@kingsleynapley.co.uk quoting "QMUL 10 December event" in the subject line and providing your name and the organisation you work for/institution where you study.