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*Wishing you a happy festive season,
and our best wishes for 2021,*

The Centre for European Research/NEXTEUK team

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NEXTEUK - Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence

Centre for European Research (CER), Queen Mary University of
London



Dear Colleagues, Friends and Followers,

2020 has been an exceptional year, the pandemic has surprised us by its scale and its multifaceted nature. Although it has drifted our attention away from the Brexit negotiations, this month is proving crucial for both the EU and the UK in defining the terms of the relationship for 2021 and beyond. We are at a critical juncture whereby choices will need to be made for recovery, climate change and fighting inequalities in the UK and in the EU. NEXTEUK is supporting these choices by providing leading research and engaging academics, policymakers and the wider public in a meaningful dialogue whereby Europeans and Brits will continue the dialogue beyond 31st December.

In 2021 NEXTEUK will engage with students in a Coffee and Politics event on 2nd February as well as with PhD students in our first ever Virtual PhD summer school,

in order to foster and promote research excellence amongst the younger generation of scholars. Retrospectively, NEXTEUK had a rich program of events despite lockdowns and Covid, with several webinars online. Our kick-off conference that took place last September was one of our flagship projects with more than 200 participants. We also managed to hold a Virtual Seminar series and a successful podcast series entitled *Pandemic Politics: A Student View of the EU in the Time of Corona*. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Agathe Piquet for her excellent work as post-doctoral research assistant for NEXTEUK as well as Tinahy Andriamasomanana our social media assistant and Griffin Shiel our intern this year as well as all the colleagues involved with CER and NEXTEUK and who have been actively contributing to European studies with their research and public events.

I would like to wish you a restful holiday season,

Dr Sarah Wolff
Director of CER
Principal Investigator, NEXTEUK

P.S.: Don't forget to follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) to stay up-to-date with our work.

Upcoming Events

Coffee and Politics 2 February 2021

On February 2nd, the NEXTEUK project will hold its first 'Coffee and Politics.' This original format offers QMUL students a unique opportunity to engage and discuss with leading experts. The debate will focus on **the current state of British democracy** and students will be able to listen and exchange with [Professor Kalypso Nicolaïdis](#) from Oxford University. Other guests will be confirmed soon.

Virtual PhD Summer School July 2021

In 2021, the NEXTEUK team will organise a Virtual PhD Summer School the first week of July. We will provide an innovative format focused on peer-learning and with involvement of leading experts in the field of EU-UK relations. **Please stay tuned for more information, we expect to issue the call for participation in February 2021.**

Past Event:

The impact of the 2020 US Elections on Europe and the future EU-UK Relationship

The NEXTEUK webinar on '**The impact of the US elections on Europe and the future EU-UK relationship**' took place on 17 November.

Three experts, [Alexandra de Hoop Scheffer](#) (Director of Research, Paris Office-German Marshall Fund), [Christian Lequesne](#) (Professor at Sciences Po), and [Richard Johnson](#) (Lecturer at Queen Mary University of London), debated the impact of the 2020 US elections on Europe and the future EU-UK relationship. The following questions were considered: Is the incoming Biden presidency good news for Europe? What does this victory mean for Brexit and the future of the EU-UK relations? Will a UK-US trade deal be delayed? What impact would it have for Ireland?

The debate was moderated by Sarah Wolff (Director of the Centre for European Research, Queen Mary University of London).



The impact of the US elections on Europe and the future EU-UK relationship

New Blog Posts

Contributions have been made to the NEXTEUK and Europe Matters blogs.

Dr. Agathe Piquet wrote a blog entitled ['The post-Brexit police cooperation: An act of tightrope walk.'](#)

Dr. Gulay Icoz (independent Researcher/Blogger) wrote a blog entitled ['Reckless and Hasty— three Brexit moments and three UK PMs.'](#)

Samuel Kolawole (MA student of International Relations at Queen Mary) wrote a blog entitled: ['Could nationalism gain momentum in a post-Angela Merkel Europe?'](#)

The Centre for European Research regularly publishes blogs on a range of issues. They can be found on the [NEXTEUK website](#) and the [Europe Matters blog](#) page.

NEXTEUK Policy Briefs

Issue 4 of the [NEXTEUK policy briefs](#) has been published.

The paper is entitled '[The EU-UK future police cooperation: The difficult balancing between operational needs and legal frameworks](#)' by **Agathe Piquet**, NEXTEUK post-doctoral researcher and team manager.

The paper explores why, in spite of shared mutual operational interests, the EU and the UK have not achieved any major success in the negotiations on police cooperation. It argues that the UK and the EU have diverging views on how to balance those operational interests with legal constraints and frameworks. After introducing the existing mechanisms for police cooperation and the British part in it, the paper analyses the respective positions of the UK then of the EU.

NEXTEUK Team Publications and Blog Posts

Members of the NEXTEUK Team have recently published new articles and blog posts. They have also made contributions to the media.

In Summer 2020, **Dr. Sarah Wolff** and **Dr. Stella Ladi** teamed up to lead a special issue on '**European Union Responses to the Covid-19 Pandemic: adaptability in times of Permanent Emergency**' which will come out for publication before the end of the year on the [Journal for European Integration \(JEI\) website](#). The special issue gathers a leading team of scholars exploring the impact on climate change, health policy, economic governance, international relations, judicial politics etc.

Dr. Sarah Wolff has also written a new piece on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on migration in the Mediterranean for the 2020 edition of the IEMed

Mediterranean Yearbook.

She has also taken part in a podcast entitled '[Connecting the dots: integrated approaches to migration, peace & security](#)' on the relevance of the peace-migration nexus for peace policy and practice, by The Swiss Platform for Peacebuilding (KOFF), Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance (DCAF), and Paxion.

Dr. Stella Ladi has two articles in the forthcoming Journal of European Integration special issue on '**European Union Responses to the Covid-19 Pandemic: adaptability in times of Permanent Emergency.**' The first article, jointly authored with **Dr. Sarah Wolff**, is entitled 'European Union Responses to the Covid-19 Pandemic: Adaptability in Times of Permanent Emergency.' The second article is entitled 'EU Economic Governance and Covid-19: Policy Learning and Windows of Opportunity.'

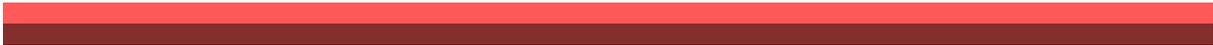
She also has a chapter in the *The Oxford Handbook of Modern Greek Politics* by K. Featherstone and D. Sotiropoulos, entitled 'Government Policy-Making.'

She has also been awarded £40,000 from Research England Quality Related Strategic Research Priorities Fund for the Project title: 'Global Government Approaches to evidence in combatting Covid-19.'

Dr. Françoise Boucek has written an article for the LSE British Politics and Policy blog entitled '[Explaining Tory factionalism: why Johnson's Conservative majority has proved more vulnerable than expected.](#)' In this article, she cautions that the Conservatives' internal tensions now pose a similar threat to Boris Johnson as to his predecessors.

Dr. Robert Saunders published an article in the Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History entitled '[Brexit and Empire: 'Global Britain' and the Myth of Imperial Nostalgia.](#)'

Professor Tim Bale has written two articles for UK in a Changing Europe. The first article, co-authored with Dr Alan Wagner, is entitled '[Are lockdown-scepticism and Euroscepticism linked?](#)' The second article is entitled '[Northern Research Group: faction or tendency?](#)'



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