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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,

the CER team wishes you a happy new year! 2020 will be a year of effective UK withdrawal from the EU, bringing a series of policy and political challenges to both partners. Europe will continue to play a major role in the future of the UK and vice-versa, giving even more relevance to the work of CER this year.

Our new research project NEXTEUK on the future of EU-UK Relations, which is part of our Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence award co-funded by the European Commission, will provide a platform to debate and research these developments in depth. How will the withdrawal happen, with what consequences and what's next for the future of the relationship?

One of the first main contributions has been to hold our first NEXTEUK policy roundtable on 9 December to discuss the negotiating strategies of EU member states during Brexit and the lessons we can draw for the future of the EU-UK relationship. This event was a very successful one gathering academics, policymakers and diplomats. It was followed by a

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2020 will see more events taking place also at the [University of London Institute in Paris \(ULIP\)](#), our partner institution with two upcoming lecture series, the dates of which will be announced soon.

I am also glad to welcome in our team Agathe Piquet, our post-doctoral research assistant for the NEXTEUK project.

Thank you for your interest in following CER, please keep an eye on our upcoming events in 2020.

Dr Sarah Wolff  
Director of CER  
Principal Investigator, NEXTEUK

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



## Upcoming events

### **The Future of British Think Tanks**

**24th February at 6.30; venue TBC.**

This panel, on occasion of the release of **Marcos Gonzalez Hernando's book British think tanks after the 2008 global financial crisis**, focuses on the future of think tanks in Britain in relation to economic policymaking, Brexit, and the future of the relationship between the UK and the EU.

Gonzalez Hernando's book looks into the intellectual and institutional transformations of British think tanks from across the political spectrum in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis, focusing especially on how they reacted to a political environment where

public engagement to be seen as authoritative as possible in an ever more antagonistic public debate.

## A warm welcome to our new colleague, Agathe Piquet

Agathe Piquet joined SPIR and CER in January 2020 as a post-doctoral research assistant to work with us on the NEXTEUK project. She holds a MA in Politics (Sciences Po Toulouse) and a MA in International Relations and Security Policies (Toulouse University). She recently completed a PhD in political science at the Panthéon-Assas University in Paris. Prior to joining us, Agathe taught at Panthéon-Assas University, Saint-Denis University and Villetaneuse University. She will assist in the implementation of NEXTEUK's working programme and will also be teaching the course 'POLM072 Case studies in policy-making'.

## Past events

### **NEXTEUK Policy Roundtable - The Future of EU-UK Relations: What's Next? Insights from Negotiation Strategies**



This policy roundtable gathered practitioners, academics and think tank representatives to review how EU member states behaved during the implementation of their negotiation strategies over Brexit. The questions dealt with included: What key interests have driven EU member states and the UK to negotiate the way they did? What does this presage for the future geopolitical balance in Europe? Will the Franco-German couple still matter? For more information, click [here](#).

## **JM Centres of Excellence Coordinators' Conference**



Dr Sarah Wolff took part in the [Coordinator's Conference Kick-off meeting](#) in Brussels on 18 November 2019 and networked with fellow colleagues on future cooperation across Jean Monnet Centres of Excellence.

## Mobilising Around Europe: Pro and Anti-EU Politics in an Era of Populism and Nationalism



Organised by Professor [Adam Fagan](#) (King's College London) and Dr [Stijn van Kessel](#) (Centre for European Research, Queen Mary University of London), this two-day workshop, which also included a roundtable discussion that was open to the public, focused on contemporary mobilisation around the theme of European integration. The event was jointly organised by King's College London and the Centre for European Research, Queen Mary University of London (a Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence on the Future of EU-UK Relations). For more info, click [here](#).

## 'Secular Power Europe' and Islam



In this Jean Monnet EU Research Seminar, [Dr Sarah Wolff](#) explored Europe's secular identity and how it influences the European Union's foreign policy towards Islam. For more info, click [here](#).

### What's next for British Democracy?



You can now watch one of our latest NEXTEUK Debating Europe Seminar Series online featuring Professor Pauline Schnapper (Sorbonne), Professor Tim Bale and Dr Sarah Wolff (CER/QMUL)

*The event was organised with the support of the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union*



## Centre for European Research (CER) News



### Europe Matters blog



The CER [blog](#) offers analyses of significant events and pressing developments in Europe. Our latest blog posts include:

[Mobilising around Europe: Pro and anti-EU politics in an era of populism and nationalism](#)

David Gazsi

[Is national populism really waning away in Europe?](#)

Antonio Astolfi

### CER Members

#### Recent publication highlights

Stella Ladi (with Crespy, A.) "[In the Name of 'the People'? Popular Sovereignty and the 2015 Greek Referendum](#)", *Journal of European Integration*, 2019, 41:7, 871-885.

Stijn van Kessel & Javier Sajuria (with Van Hauwert, S.M.) "[Informed, Uninformed or Misinformed? A Cross-national Analysis of Populist Party Supporters Across European Democracies](#)", *West European Politics*, 2020, online first.

online first.

### Recent media input highlights

Tim Bale (with Webb, P.) - [Labour leadership race](#) - The Conversation

Stella Ladi - [Los británicos deciden en las urnas si se regalan el 'brexit' por Navidad](#) - EFE

Tim Bale - [Will the new Tory intake help to build a more progressive party? Don't count on it](#) - The Guardian

Tim Bale - [Labour leadership: Tories fear just one candidate as expert makes stunning prediction](#) - Express

## CER Best Dissertation Prize 2019



We are delighted to announce that the first Centre for European Research [Best Dissertation Prize](#) was awarded to **Ms Humaira Mahmud** for her dissertation titled '*Brexit: The Scapegoating of the EU for the failures of British Neoliberalism?*'. A version of Humaira's manuscript will soon be published as part of the CER Policy Paper series.

The Best Dissertation Prize goes to MA/MSc dissertations submitted at the School of Politics and International Relations (QMUL) written in the fields of European Union studies, European integration, contemporary European politics or comparative European politics.

### Ex-CER Intern Antonio Astolfi at the European Parliament



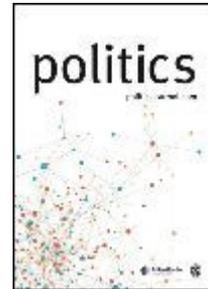
## CER Journal Highlights

### [Mediterranean Politics](#)



Check out the [latest issue](#) focusing on the Arab uprisings, Iran's intervention in Syria, the militaries of Egypt and Tunisia, UN sanctions against the MENA, as well as creativity, Islam and democracy in Turkey.

### [Politics](#)



Did you know that if you are a PSA member you can access all Politics articles [here](#)? In addition, and for non-PSA members, the journal also offers a [blog](#) with exciting content.

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## Get involved!

We welcome applications from **graduate students** and **post-doctoral candidates** who wish to study and research various aspects of European politics and policy (find more info in the box below).

We are also delighted to receive applications from **external junior and senior scholars** who wish to become visiting fellows at CER.

In addition, applications from **non-academic professionals** engaged in aspects of European politics and policy who wish to spend time in a scholarly environment are also warmly welcome.

For any applications or enquiry please contact our Director, Dr. Sarah Wolff  
(s.wolff@qmul.ac.uk)



## Interested in doing a PhD or a post-doc fellowship with us?

### PhD

The School of Politics and International Relations (SPIR) encourages applications for PhD projects in European Politics and Policy.

The CER, based in the School of Politics and International Relations, can offer expertise and supervision to students interested in Comparative European politics, British politics, EU internal and external policies with a special focus on relations between Europe and the Mediterranean as well as the Western Balkans, EU migration policies, EU Justice and Home Affairs, EU environmental policies, EU economic and social policies, EU-Islam relations, Euroscepticism and populism.

If you are interested in doing a PhD with us, you can contact our Director, Dr Sarah Wolff ([s.wolff@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:s.wolff@qmul.ac.uk)) or any other relevant member of CER's staff. Please make sure to attach your CV and a draft research proposal to your email.

For more information on the application process, click [here](#).

If you would like to get informed about studentship (funding) options, click [here](#).

### **Postdoctoral fellowships**

For info on postdoctoral fellowships, please get in touch with us at [politics@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:politics@qmul.ac.uk).



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