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NEXTEUK - Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence

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



NEXTEUK KICKOFF ONLINE CONFERENCE 10-11 SEPTEMBER

The Centre for European Research is holding its first online international conference as part of the NEXTEUK project on the future of UK-EU relations.

The conference, entitled **Brexit and European Integration: political, policy, legitimacy challenges**, will be held over the afternoons of the **10th and 11th September**, starting at 13:00 and finishing at 19:00 on each day.

Leading academics from around the world will discuss a wide range of topics, including:

- British Euroscepticism and populism
- The role of national and European parliaments in Brexit negotiations

- The consequences for the UK leaving the EU
- Britain's role in the future of European integration

The conference is FREE to attend. To register for the event and see a full list of panels and participants go to: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/brexit-and-european-integration-political-policy-legitimacy-challenges-tickets-109017016832?aff=ebdssbonlinesearch>

Jean Monnet Virtual Seminar



The latest NEXTEUK Jean Monnet Virtual Seminar is available to [watch online](#) on CER's YouTube channel.

The seminar, entitled Negotiation the Future EU-UK Relationship in times of Pandemics, brings together Dr Sarah Wolff (NEXTEUK), Professor Anand

Menon (King's College London), Professor Patrick Le Galès (Sciences Po), Dr Elvire Fabry (Institut Jacques Delors) and Dr Agathe Piquet (NEXTEUK) to discuss the implications of Coronavirus on the ongoing EU-UK negotiations.

You can also [read Dr. Piquet's summary of the discussions](#) on the NEXTEUK blog.

Student-led Podcast

The NEXTEUK podcast series "**Pandemic Politics: A Student view of the EU in the time of Corona**" is available on [Spotify](#) and the [NEXTEUK website](#).

The first three episodes of the series have brought together together Queen Mary, University of London students from around Europe and beyond, and academics to discuss the various responses to Coronavirus.

- **Episode 1: Quarantines and Lockdowns.** A conversation on the various quarantine and lockdown policies in different European countries with a particular focus on Italy and Switzerland
- **Episode 2: The View from Greece.** Discussing why Greece has been so successful in its response to COVID-19, with Dr. Stella Ladi joining for a special, guest interview
- **Episode 3: The View from outside the EU.** Insightful summaries from students on how Brazil and the US have responded to the crisis, how it compares to the EU response, and how the EU's response is perceived. Professor Philip Cowley also joins to give his analysis of the situation in Hong-Kong and what COVID-19 could mean for Brexit.

The next episode discussing the European Commission's recovery

package is coming soon!

New Blog Posts

Several contributions have been made to the NEXTEUK and Europe Matters blogs in the last month.

Zaneta Bialek (BA student of International Relations at Queen Mary and MSc candidate in Political Economy of Europe at the London School of Economics and Political Sciences) wrote about [the consequences of COVID-19 on the political situations in Hungary and Poland](#).

Tabitha Baker from Bournemouth University, blogged about the [geographical nature of post-referendum polarisation in the UK](#) and how examining this can help us understand the emotions influences that underpins these divisions

Dr. Sarah Wolff examined [EU-China relations in the context of COVID-19](#), arguing that it presents a significant test for this relationship.

Dr Stijn van Kessel (Queen Mary), **Dr Javier Sajuria** (Queen Mary) and **Dr Steven M. Van Hauwaert** (University of Surrey) explored the [reasons behind support for populist parties](#), debunking popular perceptions of them are politically misinformed.

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

NEXTEUK Team Op-Eds and Media Appearances

Members of the NEXTEUK have been busy contributing to a range of media outlets.

Dr Stijn van Kessel

- Interview with [Financieele Dagblad \(FD\)](#) (in Dutch, registration required)
- [The anti-Brexit movement: failing to Remain \(united\)](#) *UK in a Changing Europe*

Dr Stella Ladi

- Interview with [Andrej Matisak on coronavirus crisis management in Greece, Pravda, 22/5/20](#)
- Interview with [Naomi O'Leary on coronavirus crisis management in crisis, The Irish Times, 19/5/20](#)

Professor Tim Bale

- [What is Keir Starmer up to over a Brexit Extension?](#) *New Statesman, 8/6/20*

Dr Robert Saunders

- [Crises are no time for Political Unity](#) *The Atlantic 20/5/20*

NEW Team Members

The Centre for European Research are delighted to announce the arrival of three new team members.

Roger Liddle joins as an Honorary Fellow, bringing a wealth of experience in the area of EU-UK relations. Currently a Labour member of the House of

Lords, Lord Liddle acts as a Labour Whip and a frontbench spokesperson on Europe and Foreign Affairs. Prior to becoming a life peer in 2010, Roger served as European Political Adviser to Prime Minister Tony Blair from 1997-2004. Between 2004 and 2007, Roger was part of the European Commission, first in the cabinet and then as an economic adviser to the European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso. Currently, Liddle is chair of international progressive think tank, Policy Network.

Roger has written extensively on British and European politics. His notable work includes: *The Blair Revolution* (with Peter Mandelson), *Global Europe*, *Social Europe* (with Anthony Giddens and Patrick Diamond) and *Beyond New Labour* (with Patrick Diamond). In addition, he has contributed to several books on the European Single Market and European Social Policy.



Dr Catherine Fieschi is a leading expert on populism and contemporary mobilisation in European politics. She is the founder and director of Counterpoint, a consultancy providing business, governments and NGOs with expertise on how to manage new forms of social and political risk. Catherine has also advised French political leaders and campaigns, as well as

businesses and political decision makers around the world.

Catherine regularly contributes her expertise to media outlets, including BBC television and radio, Sky News and Reuters. She was formerly a contributing editor for *Prospect Magazine* and has a regular column in the Chatham House magazine, *The World Today*.



Nicole Sykes has responsibility for the [CBI](#)'s work on Brexit and the negotiation of the future trading relationship between the UK and EU. Her team works with businesses of all sizes to develop post-Brexit policy on customs, regulation and services trade, as well to support companies to understand how negotiations are progressing. She works closely with the government, European representatives, trade experts and media organisations. She has worked at the CBI since 2015, when she joined as a policy adviser. Prior to the CBI, Nicole worked on political campaigns, while outside the CBI she has worked for Microsoft UK and is a trustee of a development charity working across Africa, Asia and the Middle East



Presentation: The Scapegoating of the EU for the failures of British Neoliberalism?



Humaira Mahmud presents the results of her working paper based on her dissertation which was awarded the 2019 CER MA Dissertation Prize. Humaira argues that Euroscepticism in the UK is a result of economic insecurity caused by decades of neoliberal globalisation, particularly after the 2008 financial crisis and the austerity measures that followed

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Centre for European Research · Mile End Road · London, London E1 4NS · United Kingdom

