

## Centre for Britain and Europe, Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence Event Summary: Jean Monnet Winter School – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021

### **Professor Amelia Hadfield – Director of Centre for Britain and Europe, Head of Department of Politics and Dean International, University of Surrey**

Professor Hadfield began with a warm welcome to all guests and participants to the Winter School – the inaugural Jean Monnet event for the Centre for Britain and Europe’s Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence - which she aptly described as truly ‘a European event’.

Professor Hadfield went on to give a brief introduction to the Centre’s project for the next three years – ‘Open Doors and Building Bridges’, including points such as:

- The role and importance of multidisciplinary research and teaching.
- The opportunity to establish ourselves as a forum of expertise at such a pivotal time in the UK and EU relationship.
- The opportunity for developing a reputation among local partners and stakeholders.
- The five thematic strands of the Centre’s Jean Monnet project over the next three years: Gender and Identity, Electoral Behaviour, European and British Security and Defence, De and Re-Europeanisation and Cross-Thematic Outputs.

### **Dr Alia Middleton – Co-Director of Centre for Britain and Europe and Lecturer in Politics, University of Surrey**

Dr Middleton added to Professor Hadfield’s introduction by highlighting the point that the Winter School and Centre for Britain and Europe are both more widely about the interconnecting of studies in an interdisciplinary manner, where we can showcase our research base, and reflect on lessons learned.

## Session 1: De and Re Europeanisation – Dr Theofanis Exadaktylos and Professor Simon Usherwood

### **Dr Theofanis Exadaktylos - Deputy Head of Department of Politics and Reader in European Politics, University of Surrey and Professor Simon Usherwood – Professor of Politics, University of Surrey**

Dr Exadaktylos introduced this session by speaking of how this strand of the Centre’s work looks to gain a perspective on issues and key debates which we may see evolving in the next few years, including the ideas and circulation of ideas around policymaking, and the critical point in the EU’s existence of the departure of the UK. Dr Exadaktylos went on to pose the question: Do we need to reconceptualise Europeanisation, the events around it, and the pathways in place?

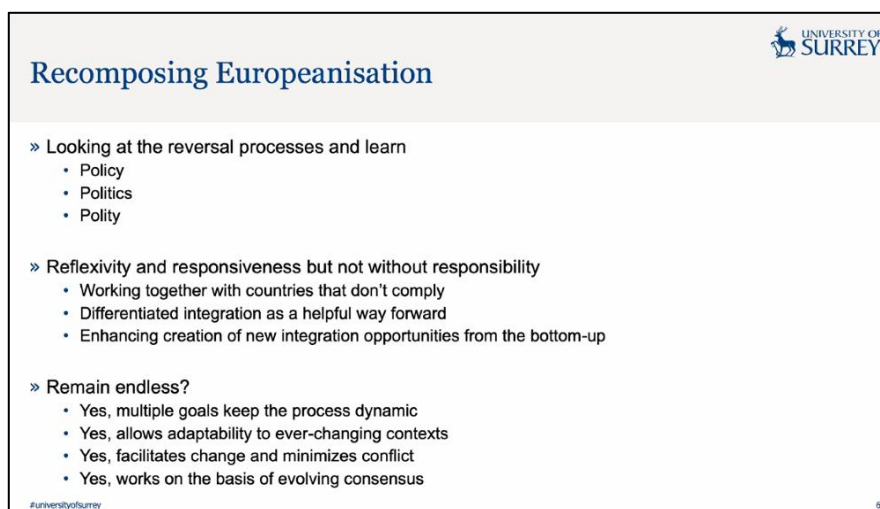


Topics/points covered by Dr Exadaktylos and Professor Usherwood in this session include:

- The non-linearity of Europeanisation
- Europeanisation in reverse
- Recomposing Europeanisation
- Brexit as de-Europeanisation

Within this session and the themes, some ideas which were discussed include:

- The idea of Europeanisation as having no destination, but being a journey with different pathways, possibilities and an element of multiplicity.
- The tension between sovereignty as a defensive concept, and as a more expansive agency.
- The idea of contingency and how different needs are institutionalised and internalised in different ways.



The session ended with a brief opportunity for Q&A, during which attendees asked questions around subjects such as the definition of de and re-Europeanisation, the period of cycles involved in these processes, and around the different mechanisms involved in the process and what these can lead to.


## Session 2: Explaining Electoral Behaviour in the UK and Europe – Dr Roula Nezi and Dr Alia Middleton

### **Dr Roula Nezi – Lecturer in Politics, University of Surrey**

Dr Nezi started this session with a presentation around one of her recent and contemporary research projects, entitled: ‘The People and the Nation: Conceptions of National and European Identity and the Support for Radical Parties in Europe’, which was conducted around both national and European identities and how this can affect the support given by individuals to radical parties.

Dr Nezi took us through the research design and methodology for this project, in addition to her findings and the analysis of patterns found. Key themes of this project include:

- Patterns of Nationalism and Europeanism.
- Distinction in patterns between Western and European findings.
- Citizens’ attitude towards national identity.



**The People and the Nation:**  
*Conceptions of National and European Identity and the  
Support for Radical Parties in Europe*

Roula Nezi<sup>‡</sup> Carsten Wegscheider<sup>†</sup>

<sup>‡</sup>University of Surrey <sup>†</sup>University of Salzburg

January 29, 2021

### Research Design

**Data:** European Values Study (EVS) 2017

**Dependent variable:**

Support for radical parties in Europe classification based on the PopuList (Rooduijn2019)

**Independent variables:**

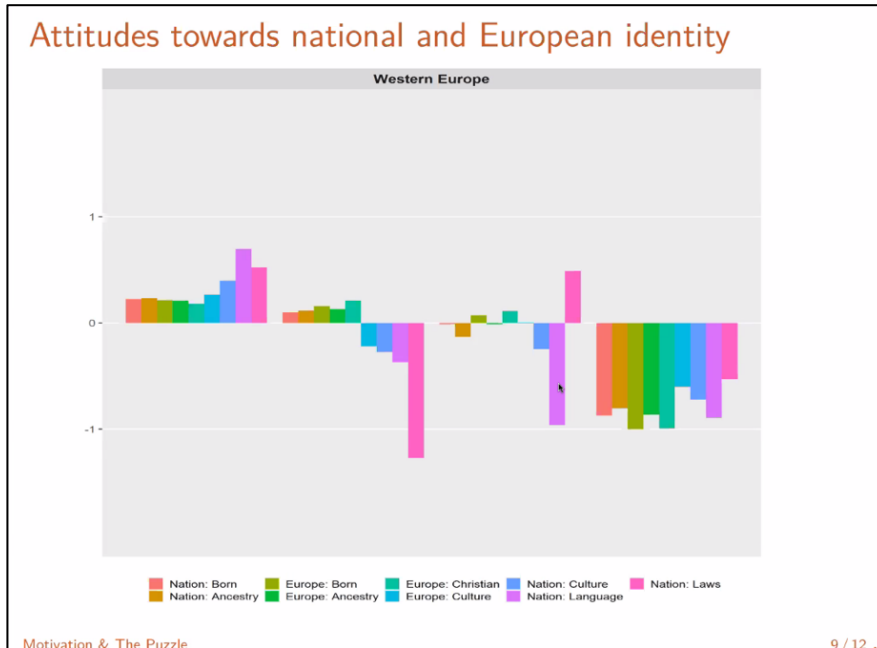
Attitudes towards national and European identity

**Control variables:**

Political ideology

Political discontent: i.e. lack of political trust, political satisfaction

Socio-demographics: i.e. education, gender, age




**Dr Alia Middleton – Co-Director of Centre for Britain and Europe and Lecturer in Politics, University of Surrey**

Dr Middleton then gave a presentation around her research on leadership in British elections, entitled '(Why) do leaders matter?'.

Dr Middleton took us through her methodology, research design, findings and conclusions, and touched upon themes such as:

- The effects of party leaders on voting behaviour.
- The significance of leader visits during the election period and the campaign trail.
- How the campaign trail affects the election.
- The significance of different types of visits and how these affect different people.
- Whether or not leaders matter, and how often they matter when looking at election outcomes.

**Do they affect voting behavior?**




*The impact of leader visits on the electorate*

	Conservative share of electorate	Labour share of electorate	Liberal Democrat share of electorate	Conservative share of electorate	Labour share of electorate	Liberal Democrat share of electorate
	<b>2010</b>			<b>2015</b>		
Con visit	1.166**	-.044	-1.222**	1.541***	.352	.005
Lab visit	.228	-.120	-.726	-.010	.796	-.685*
LD visit	-.264	-.863	2.237***	.202	-.003	1.275**
	<b>2017</b>			<b>2019</b>		
Con visit	.194	-1.117**	1.250***	.130	-.928**	.507
Lab visit	-.408	-.128	.075	.211	.747*	-.127
LD visit	-.031	-3.222***	3.068***	-.156	-2.171***	2.794***

Note: table displays unstandardised beta values.  $P < .05 = *$ ,  $p < .01 = **$ ,  $p < .001 = ***$ . Source: Norris 2019 and author's own data.

» Own your mistakes!  
» Impact on vb not constant

## New developments




» Not all visits are equal – happen in different places and affect different people

» Inward/outward-facing

*Change in electorate between outward and inward facing visits 2010-2019*

	Conservative		Labour		Liberal Democrat	
	Outward	Inward	Outward	Inward	Outward	Inward
Electorate change	3.17	4.55	.77	.89	-.01	.83
	.602**		1.411		.090	

Source: Norris, (2019), author's own data.  $p < .00 = ***$ .



Dr Middleton concluded on a very important note which was an encouragement to push the boundaries with your research, as you never know where it could lead you!

The second session of the Winter School also ended with a brief opportunity for Q&A, where questions were raised around issues such as the effects of crises in other countries (such as southern European countries) on British electoral behaviour, the mobilisation of radical parties, and the role of political language in electoral outcomes.

## Session 3: Key Trends in Europe from an Interdisciplinary Perspective – Professor Holger Breinlich, Dr Noreen O’Meara and Dr Venetia Evergeti

### **Professor Holger Breinlich – Professor of Economics, University of Surrey**

Professor Breinlich gave us an insight into this research around the economic consequences of

Brexit.



### ‘The Economic Effects so Far’

- Uncertainty for businesses for trading in the future.
- Anticipation Effects – how certain businesses may be worried about access to the EU being more difficult in the future, so they may even stop making investments as early as now.
- Exchange rate movements.

### Economic Effects So Far

- Enough data has become available since the referendum to compare forecasts to actual outcomes.
- Key question:
  - What would indicators be if Remain had won?
  - Need a counterfactual!
  - Not so good: no change, pre-referendum forecasts
  - Most commonly used approach: compare UK performance to that of other economies
  - Naïve approach: compare UK performance to that of the G7.
  - Using statistical methods to construct a “doppelgänger” of the UK by combining data from other countries.
  - Both approaches yield a similar picture: UK GDP is approx. 2% lower because of the referendum outcome.

### Other questions/points raised were:

- The fact that the UK’s economic performance deteriorated after the referendum (2017-18) - from coinciding with the highest G7 countries to then the lowest G7.
- The future economic effects of Brexit were also questioned, and it was suggested that this will depend upon the future relationship – could this be closer to what used to be called a Canada Plus Scenario or Switzerland Scenario?
- The expectation that negotiations will continue for years as happened with the case of Switzerland.
- The conclusion that the more sovereignty, the larger the economic losses.

**Dr Noreen O'Meara – Senior Lecturer in Human Rights and European Law, University of Surrey**



Dr O'Meara gave us a snapshot into her research around the key trends in EU law. Topics discussed and touched upon include:

- Key Trends in the CJEU – including anniversaries of the General Court and the Charter, the Commission's enforcement strategy, the rule of law backsliding in countries such as Poland and Hungary, and the Court of Justice.
- The adjusting priorities in the European Commission and their monitoring of the application of law in European member states, as well as their key focuses such as the environment, energy, the internal market, and transport. A focus was placed upon the trends we can see here in the relationship between the Commission and member states.
- The future of Europe – the vision of the EU for a post-Covid, post-recession, sustainable European Union, in addition to the 'Convention on the Future of Europe' which was aimed to begin in the middle of 2020 and to finish in mid 2022 – but has now been temporarily delayed.



## **FUTURE OF (EU)ROPE?**

- Vision for a post-Covid, post-recession, sustainable EU?
- 'Convention on the Future of Europe' on the agenda
- Originally planned for 2020-22, dovetailing with Brexit
- Prospects for EU reform? Treaty change?
- Which voices will influence the process? Citizens?



Dr O'Meara concluded on the following points/questions:

- What are the prospects for EU reform, and for treaty change?
- Which voices will influence the process? Will citizens have an influence?
- Is this a tipping point for the EU and Europe at a wider level?
- What is the goal?
- What will the institutions do?

Dr Venetia Evergeti – Senior Teaching Fellow in Sociology, University of Surrey

Dr Evergeti presented her research entitled: 'Transnationalism and Migration: Transnational Grandparenting and family care across national borders', which discusses transnational Grandparenting, and how this is impacted by the current social and political climates.

## Key Trends in Europe 2021

### Transnationalism and Migration: Transnational Grandparenting and family care across national borders

Dr Venetia Evergeti  
Department of Sociology  
University of Surrey, UK



Dr Evergeti discussed themes and issues such as:

- The ongoing development and importance of Transnationalism – and its dynamic and fluid nature.
- The connection of Transnationalism and temporal/Grandparent migration to socio-political trends.
- The effect of Brexit upon exchanges, connections and practices across borders.
- Emerging themes such as ethnic food and gifts, language, contact-enabling technology, space and time, cultural specificities and transnational care responsibilities.

## Conclusion

Looking at Transnationalism (specifically in relation to migrant grandparents) reveals that their involvement not only provides practical care but it also reinforces links to cultural practices → important policy implications for state provision of care and intra European co-operations

However, we found a diversity of experiences, practices, circumstances and situations → particularly important for current circumstances of travel bans due to Covid, further complicated by Brexit.

Recognition of the support that transnational grandparents provide is particularly timely given that UK border controls are being tightened in the context of Brexit.

"If your children or grandchildren are citizen or PR visa holder in UK, then you can apply for visa to stay with them as per following categories: Adult Dependant Relative"


Dr Evergeti concluded this presentation by mentioning the diversity of experiences, practices, circumstances and situations, which are important in the circumstances of Brexit, and of Covid-19 travel bans.

## Session 4: The College of Europe

### **Ogerta Lala – College of Europe**

Introduced by Dr Exadaktylos who touched upon his professional connections with the College, Ms Lala made a presentation around the College of Europe and its campuses – specifically the Natolin campus, and outlined a few of the several reasons as to why the College is a fantastic place to study, and an institution which can open several doors for young students and researchers. Ms Lala covered points such as:

- The mission of the College of Europe to underline the necessity of European unity.
- The benefits and significance of the Natolin campus in attempting to bridge the Eastern and Western divide.
- The goal of programmes at the College: understanding of the challenges of the present and preparing students for the challenges of the future.
- An outline of the programmes available to study at the Natolin campus, and the opportunities for trips as part of the programme.
- The creation of 'nests' in 2019 - thematic hubs and units outside of the programme.



 A flyer for the Postgraduate Institute of European Studies. It features a photo of a man presenting to a group. On the left, a vertical list of program details: "1-YEAR PROGRAMMES", "ADVANCED MASTERS", "66 ECTS", and "ENGLISH FRENCH". On the right, the heading "ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES" is followed by two sections: "NATOLIN CAMPUS" (listing MA in European Interdisciplinary Studies with sub-points: EU Public Affairs and Policies, The EU in the World, The EU and its Neighbours, European History and Civilisation) and "BRUGES CAMPUS" (listing MA in European Political and Governance Studies, MA in EU International Relations and Diplomacy Studies, MSc in European Economic Studies, and LL.M in European Law). At the bottom, it includes the hashtag #THEWIDERPERSPECTIVE, the website COLEUROPE.EU/EIS, and a small graduation cap icon.

## Session 5: Brexit and the pandemic: The challenges ahead (Co-ordinated by Dr Roula Nezi)

Our final session for the day took the form of a question and answer panel on the subject of the challenges ahead for young graduates and researchers. Coordinated by Dr Roula Nezi, questions around the future of academia in a post-Brexit and post-Covid world were posed to Professor Roger Awan-Scully (Political Studies Association), Dr Nicholas Startin (UACES) and Dr Olga Litvyak (UACES Graduate Forum).

**Question: *What is the impact of Brexit on the job market? (For scholars and universities?)***

**Responses:**

### **Professor Roger Awan-Scully - Political Studies Association**

Professor Scully responded to this question with a variety of points and ideas around the issue:

- The idea that Brexit and the pandemic have acted as to accelerate/accentuate existing issues.

- The fact that those who work in academic or University positions have a large work load, but also autonomy and security – but that these positions are under pressure and diminishing as a result.
- The fact that Brexit could see less money spent on universities.
- The overall notion that the current issues of Brexit and Covid-19 are accelerating and accentuating negative trends which have already been underway for a while.

### **Dr Nicholas Startin - UACES**

Dr Startin touched upon ideas and notions such as:

- The fact that it is currently challenging to be upbeat regarding both the impact of the pandemic and of Brexit.
- The fact that we have seen a slowing down of the job market in UK and globally in terms of posts currently being advertised as a result of the pandemic. Will we return to normality in terms of course delivery?
- Will the job market re-emerge as a result of this – will we see more posts advertised at different levels at universities?
- The fact that Brexit poses more challenges for the discipline of European studies than for political science in general.
- The fact that we have never needed experts as much as we do now and that young early career scholars in UACES are the future generation of experts on EU studies.

### **Dr Olga Litvyak – UACES Graduate Forum**

Dr Litvyak concluded responses to this particular question by stating that:

- As a researcher who has recently completed their PhD – in 2019 – Dr Litvyak actually received several job offers before their doctorate was even complete.
- That the key piece of advice is the earlier you start to look for positions, the better.
- There are several benefits to signing up to the UACES Graduate Forum, as there can be different processes and systems, and salary scales in places across the different countries involved.

**Question: *The lack of networking now - e.g. conferences - how can new researchers build a network?***

**Responses:**

### **Professor Roger Awan-Scully - Political Studies Association**

Professor Scully mentioned several key topics and ideas in response to this:

- Networking can be enormously important, but can be difficult for junior scholars.
- If departments can organise both academic and social events it would be helpful.
- Online conferences are key to attend – and are now also a lot cheaper or even free to attend.
- A suggestion to PhD students would be to keep their options open and not to hone in exclusively on one avenue too early, but to explore several paths and avenues.

### **Dr Nicholas Startin – UACES**

Advice given by Dr Startin in response to this particular question includes:

- Signing up to various research/academic associations and staying in touch with them, and ensuring you remain up to date. Here, we can attempt to maintain the contact that we are now lacking as a result of the pandemic.
- Dr Startin also talked about being an academic in the current climate, and in general; it was described as a great opportunity to create your own path and to give you an element of freedom in your working week.

#### **Dr Olga Litvyak – UACES Graduate Forum**

Dr Litvyak again concluded responses to this question and mentioned:

- How the UACES Graduate Forum supports young students and researchers in the current climate.
- The applicability of skills – research, problem solving, analysis, project management and how these are applicable across several different disciplines.
- The resources offered by the UACES Graduate Forum – Seminars, Panels, Online Events and Networking Opportunities.
- The importance of using this opportunity to make a presence online, to network and meet new people, and to make new connections, as communication is now more important than ever.

## Summary and Conclusions

#### **Professor Amelia Hadfield – Director of Centre for Britain and Europe, Head of Department of Politics and Dean International, University of Surrey**

Professor Hadfield gave her thanks to everyone who participated and attended the Winter School, and made concluding remarks on the topics discussed throughout the morning, such as upon her journey as an academic and what she would change, the importance of finding topics for your research which matter to you, the current challenges faced in Higher Education and the importance of associations such as those discussed earlier, throughout the career of an academic.