



# IBEI RESEARCH SEMINAR

27 February 2015, 2pm  
Room 24.120 – IBEI (1<sup>st</sup> Floor)

**Dr. Diego Muro**  
Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals

## *Do International Threats Work? EU Membership in the Cases Of Catalonia and Scotland*

What explains citizen's support for secession? Is the desire to create an independent state exclusively grounded on domestic considerations or are international factors also important? The conventional wisdom is that support for the creation of a new sovereign state is the function of ethnic or national identity. This paper is interested in examining whether changes in the international context can affect the relationship between nationalism and secession. More specifically, we are interested in examining whether different scenarios about EU membership (e.g., inclusion or exclusion) can influence citizens' preferences for separation from the host state. In order to examine the impact of international factors, we carry out an original survey experiment (n=2,408) that provides a robust test of the effectiveness of international sanctions and incentives. Our findings show that 'EU membership' matters to respondents, especially when it can drastically reduce the transaction costs of secession. Results also show that, overall, the effect of our treatments was stronger on individuals with shared identities than on voters with exclusive identities.

### **Dr. Diego Muro**

Diego Muro is Assistant Professor at the Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals (IBEI). Prior to joining IBEI he was Associate Professor in European Studies at King's College, London (2003-2009). He obtained his PhD from the London School of Economics (LSE) and was Max Weber Fellow at the European University Institute (EUI) and Santander Fellow at St. Antony's College, University of Oxford. He is the author of *Ethnicity and Violence* (Routledge, 2008) and *The Politics and Memory of Transition* (Routledge, 2011). His work has also been published in *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics*, *Nations and Nationalism*, *Politics, South European Society and Politics*, and *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism*. His main research interests are comparative politics, ethnic conflict and asymmetric warfare. He is currently working on a MINECO funded comparative study of terrorist disengagement in Southern Europe.

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