Brexit: Causes, Process and Consequences

Instructor: Prof. Martin Shaw (University of Sussex - IBEI)

Date: June 26 - 29
Time: 11.30 am - 2.00 pm
Room: 24.224 - Mercè Rodoreda Building 24 (Floor 2)

This course will examine the shocks to the national, European and global system which Britain's exit from the EU represents. Sessions will deal with the origins of Brexit in the United Kingdom's long-term and recent political history; the referendum campaign, the roles of sovereignty and immigration issues, and the consequences for British politics including the position of Scotland; the British government’s strategy for Brexit and the response of the EU27; and finally the implications for the future of the European Union and for regional and global security, in the context of uncertain relations between the EU, Trump's USA, Russia and China.

Session 1. The origins of Brexit in the long-term and recent political history of the UK and Europe

Part I Long-term roots
Part II Short-term dynamics

Session 2. The referendum campaign and the consequences for British politics, in a comparative perspective on right-wing populism

Part I The campaign
Part II Consequences for British politics
Session 3. The British government’s strategy for Brexit and the response of the EU27 - in a comparative perspective on secession

Part I Brexit: the problematic process
Part II A double (triple?) secession? Brexit, Scottish Independence and Irish Reunification, together with implications for Catalonia

Session 4. Implications for the future of the European Union and for regional/global security: the uncertain global context (relations between the EU, Trump’s USA, Russia and China)

Part I Has Europe a future?
Part II Brexit, Trump and global flux

Selected Readings


Fernando Guirao, ‘An Independent Catalonia as a Member of the European Union? Terra Ignota’, in Xavier Cuadras-Morató (ed.), Catalonia: A New Independent State in

Political Insight, 8, 1, April 2017. ‘Brexit Britain: Future of UK Politics’, http://journals.sagepub.com/toc/pli/current