



SUMMER SCHOOL IN GLOBAL POLITICS, DEVELOPMENT AND SECURITY 2019

Secession in Contemporary Europe: Brexit, Scotland, Catalonia

Instructor: Martin Shaw (IBEI-University of Sussex)

Date: June 25 - 28

Time: 11.30 am - 2.00 pm

Room: 24.224 - Mercè Rodoreda Building 24 (Floor 2)

The secession of national units from larger states and empires has long been a feature of the international system, and emerged in many different contexts during the twentieth century. Historically, secession has often been associated with war and violence, but it has been argued that in democratic states, and especially within the European Union, peaceful secession is possible. This course will look at the problem of secession in Europe during the current decade, examining the similarities and differences between the movements for independence within the EU in Scotland and Catalonia and the British nationalist movement to exit the EU itself. The course will take Brexit, the only movement to have moved to a formal separation process, as a starting point, then examine the other two cases, and attempt to come to some conclusions on the issues involved in secession today.

Session 1. Secession in Global and European Politics

Part I. Secession in a Historical Perspective on the C20 International System

Part II. Secession in Advanced, Western Democratic States - Can Brexit Provide General Lessons for Secession in Contemporary Europe?

Session 2. The UK's Exit from the European Union

Part I. The Brexit Vote of 23 June 2016: Causes, Process and Consequences

Part II. The Brexit Process: the 'Divorce' and the Trade Negotiation

Session 3. The Scottish Independence Movement

Part I. Indyref: Causes, Process and Consequences of the Sept. 2014 Referendum

Part II. Aftermath: From the Scottish National Party's 2015 Electoral Triumph to the Uncertain Future of Scottish Independence in 2018

Session 4. The Catalan Independence Movement

Part I. 1-O: The Roots of the Catalan Independence Movement and the 2017 Vote

Part II. 21-D and beyond: The Aftermath ... and General Conclusions on Secession in Contemporary Europe

Required reading:

Robert A. Young, '[How Do Peaceful Secessions Happen?](#)', *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, 27(4), 1994, pp. 773-792. doi: 10.1017/S0008423900022022, and '[The road to secession: Estimating the costs of independence in advanced industrial states](#)', *British Politics and Policy at LSE* (blog)

Sir Ivan Rogers, '[Brexit as Revolution](#)', University of Liverpool 2018, and '[Where did Brexit come from and where is it going to take the UK?](#)', University College London 2019 (video)

Fintan O'Toole, '[England's Dreaming](#)', Prospect, December 2018.

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 Europe? A debate over secession within the European Union*, London: Routledge, 2016, pp. 189-223.

Further reading:

Laia Balcells, [Opening the black box of secessionism](#), unpublished paper.

Roland Vaubel, '[The Political Economy of Secession in the European Union](#)', paper given in Barcelona, 2013.

Sascha Becker, Thiemo Fetzer and Dennis Novy, '[Who voted for Brexit? A comprehensive district-level analysis](#)'. *Economic Policy* 32(92): 601-50, 2017

YouGov, [Trump, Brexit, Front National, AfD: branches of the same tree](#)

Eric Kaufmann, '[Racial Self-Interest' Is Not Racism: Ethno-Demographic Interests and the Racism Debate](#)'. Report. London: Policy Exchange, 2017.

John Curtice, '[The Emotional Legacy of Brexit: How Britain Has Become a Country of 'Remainers' and 'Leavers'](#)'. London: The UK in a Changing Europe, 2018.

John Curtice, '[How Brexit Became A Problem For Nicola Sturgeon](#)', 2018

[The UK in a Changing Europe](#), academic website on Brexit policy debates.

Vote Leave, [campaign video](#) (part of TV advertisement)

Scottish Government, '[Scotland's Future: Your Guide to an Independent Scotland](#)', Edinburgh 2013

John Curtice, '[Nicola Sturgeon can't rely on Brexit to win Scottish independence](#)'

Marina Dekavalla, '[Framing referendum campaigns: the 2014 Scottish independence referendum in the press](#)'. *Media, Culture and Society*, 38 (6), 2016, pp. 793-810.

Montserrat Guibernau, '[Prospects for an Independent Catalonia](#)', *International Journal of Politics, Culture and Society*, 27, 2014, 5-23.

Diego Muro, '[The Stillbirth of the Catalan Republic](#)', *Current History*, 117:797, pp.83 et seq, 2018.

Carmen Aguilera-Carnerero, '[Is a new style of politics coming to Spain?](#)', Centre for Analysis of the Radical Right, 2019