

Economic Citizenship and Governance in Brexit times

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Preamble

It is in the context of the great unravelling of the global economy since the global financial crisis that the decision to leave the EU, following the Referendum of June 2016, can be used to exemplify the shock to the polity and economy of the UK; a process now referred to as Brexit.

Austerity in the Eurozone and the United Kingdom (UK), reinforced these economic influences and have led to a period of apparent fracture and shock in the advanced economies, made visible by political debates and election successes of far-right representatives in, e.g., France, Germany, Italy and the Netherlands.

The Research Proposal

The key question for this research investigation is how economic citizenship and governance can be reformed and restructured in order to produce outcomes that are legitimate, accountable and inclusive.

It is apparent that the socio-economic, political and governmental challenges in the UK and the rest of the EU are constitutionally grounded but spill over legal and jurisdictional boundaries, which makes research in this area particularly multi-disciplinary.

Depending on the chosen focus taken when analysing economic citizenship and governance a number of possible research topics present themselves, with the following offering a limited selection:

- *Resolving the tension between different forms of governance:* Brexit represents the biggest challenge to governance in the United Kingdom since 1945. In the light of increased powers to the devolved nation of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales as well as current proposals for England, the key question is the degree to which political, socio-economic and territorial decentralisation will be enhanced or constrained by the outcomes of Brexit.
- *Is Brexit an Error Masquerading as an Opportunity?*
The Referendum result and subsequent debate highlight the symbiotic nature of culture, identity and citizenship that for many citizens have fractured, leading to the description of many places and communities being 'left behind'. What kind of post-Brexit constitutional settlement, and institutions of governance are appropriate in addressing this challenge.

- *Exclusivity v Inclusivity*

The post-Referendum environment has created a number of cleavages and tension between post sides of the Brexit debate. As a consequence, standard notions of citizenship and identity have been challenged with resulting tensions over the rights of EU and non-EU migrants living in the UK. Given the uncertainty of the timing and full socio-economic impact of Brexit, a key issue for citizenship is the degree to which its current benefits are future enabled or disabled. In this context, will a more open and global UK create more inclusivity for all its citizens or will the outcome create more exclusivity for different communities and places.

These topics are not exclusive and we are open to applications involving research proposals under the general theme of economic citizenship and governance. Potential students should have an interest and some expertise in studies and/or research of law and/or economics, specifically in relation to citizenship, governance and constitutional change. We are particularly interested in candidates that can offer a multi-disciplinary academic formation in the social sciences. The successful student will join a vibrant and growing community of academics and post-graduate students within the [Citizenship and Governance Strategic Research Area](#) in a University that is open to people, places ideas and methods.

Further Reading:

- Bailey, D. and Budd, L. (2017) Introduction: the political economy of Brexit, in D. Bailey and L. Budd *The Political Economy of Brexit*, Newcastle: Agenda Publishing.
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- Cave, S. and Allen, M. (2016) Possible models for the UK-EU relationship post-'Brexit' *Research and Information Service Briefing Paper 47/16*, Belfast, Northern Ireland Assembly.
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- Hill, C. (2018) Turning back the clock: The illusion of a global political role for Britain in B. Martill, B and U. Staiger, (eds) *Brexit and Beyond: Rethinking the Futures of Europe*, London; University College Press.
- House of Commons Exiting the European Union Committee (2018) *EU Exit Analysis – Cross Whitehall Briefing*, Westminster; UK Parliament
- Portes, J. and Forte, G (2016) The economic impact of Brexit, Immigration, *Oxford Review of Economic Policy*, 33, (IS1,1), SS 31-44