Identity divide(s) in post-Brexit Britain

JOURNÉE D’ÉTUDE

Vendredi 10 mars 2023
À partir de 09 h 00
Amphi FA.110 • Bâtiment Pi
Campus de Toulon-Porte d’Italie

Comité d’organisation
• Karine Tournier-Sol,
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• Agnès Alexandre-Collier,
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08h40  Welcome and coffee

**Chairs: Agnès Alexandre-Collier & Karine Tournier-Sol**

**09h00**  Keynote address: *Maria Sobolewska*, University of Manchester
«Identity divides over the role of race in British politics: Brexit and beyond»

**09h45**  Q&A session

**10h00**  Coffee break

**Chair: Karine Tournier-Sol**

**10h15**  *Françoise Orazi*, Université Lumière Lyon 2
“What is the identity in ‘identity politics’?”

**10h45**  *Emma Bell*, Université Savoie Mont Blanc
«Responding to Identity Politics: Thinking beyond the cultural divide»

**11h15**  *Mark Kay*, Université de Picardie-Jules Verne
“This Somewhere, This Anywhere – This Liverpool”

**11h45**  Q&A session

**12h15**  Lunch break

**Chair: Agnès Alexandre-Collier**

**13h15**  *Jordan White*, Université Le Havre Normandie
“The Home Office, Authoritarianism and Deepening Identity Divides in Post-Brexit Britain”

**13h45**  *Karine Tournier-Sol*, Université de Toulon
“Playing the identity card: opportunities, limits and dilemmas”

**14h15**  Q&A session

**14h30**  Coffee break
Chair : Emma Bell

14h45 Chris Allen, University of Leicester

“The re-emergence of ‘race’ within the rhetoric of the radical right since Brexit”

15h15 William Allchorn, Richmond American University, Centre for Analysis of the Radical Right (CARR)

“Dialling Down Divisiveness: An Online Pilot Project to Test Effectiveness of Counter-Messaging Among Far-Right Sympathetic Audiences in the UK”

15h45 Q&A

16h00 Concluding remarks

16h15 End
The concept of identity encompasses various aspects such as cultural liberalism, ethnicity, territory, religion, gender or sexual orientation. This conference aims to address this concept in its broadest sense and to embrace those different aspects together rather than separately, in order to examine how they overlap, intersect and complement one another.

Recent academic interest has focused on the emergence of identity politics in the British political landscape, blatantly illustrated by the 2016 Brexit referendum. The outcome of the referendum exposed and subsequently fuelled polarization between two groups, Leavers and Remainers – two tribes with an irreconcilable world view, who seem to be divided along a new cleavage, defined by Ford and Sobolewska as an identity conflict between what they call “identity conservatives” and “identity liberals”. The divide between these two tribes, labelled by Goodhart as the “Somewheres” and the “Anywheres” revolves around specific values, as also reflected in the libertarian/authoritarian scale.

As the identity divide emerges as a new structuring factor, how does it translate in the political arena? The aim of this conference is to explore this identity divide and reconsider pre-existing divides and traditional cleavages. Is this divide likely to be a permanent feature of the British political landscape?

The question of identity politics' potential for disruption is also worth raising, given its polarizing and exclusive dimension, relying on values often based on emotions and not always on rational thinking or arguments. Moreover, this identity conflict also tends to play into the hands and fuel the rise of radical right parties and ideas.

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