

WORKSHOP

RELOADING THE NATION? ALTERNATIVE CONCEPTS OF SOVEREIGNTY AND CITIZENSHIP IN NATIONAL MOVEMENTS (1960-2014)

3-4 DECEMBER 2015

BRUSSELS

UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION (3 DECEMBER)

ROYAL LIBRARY OF BELGIUM (4 DECEMBER)

Convenor: Xosé M. Núñez Seixas – Ludwig Maximilian Universität, Munich

The workshop is co-funded by



DISCUSSION TOPICS

Through the twentieth and twenty-first century, substate national movements have attempted to find a place in a World Order dominated by the existence of internationally-recognised nation-states.

The demographic turmoil, border changes and ethnic massacres perpetrated during the interwar period and the Second World War, as well as the problems of legitimacy that the term 'nationalism' was invested with from 1945 to, at least, the 1970s and beyond, together with the advancement of the project of European unity, made substate claims appear obsolete and in some cases even reactionary.

The end of the Soviet block and the birth of new nation-states since 1991 in East-Central Europe, as well as the electoral progress made by some nationalist movements in Western Europe, posed again the central question of how remapping Europe on the basis of the nationality principle, now subject to a severe process of rethinking.

Substate nationalists aiming at creating new sovereign nations, either in Scotland, Catalonia, Québec or South Tyrol, have been forced to think again what 'national sovereignty' means, how to define the criteria for admission to a newly created citizenship and how to make it compatible with other local, regional, national, ethnic or supranational loyalties, as well as how to re-imagine their national projects in order to make nationalism attractive for non-nationalist oriented citizens, whose 'ethnic' background is increasingly multicultural.

This workshop brings together a group of historians, political scientists and political philosophers, in order to discuss these issues from a multidisciplinary and comparative perspective.

They will try and answer the following discussion topics:

- *Does it make any sense in the 21st century to set up 'old-fashioned' new nation-states?*
- *Is the new wave of pro-independence claims in Western Europe and outside Europe effectively revising the inherited 19th and 20th century ideas about the nation?*
- *Are 21st century 'minority nationalists' really rethinking in a postmodern way the nature and future of their national communities?*

PROGRAM

THURSDAY 3 DECEMBER 2015 (UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION - ROOM A)

09h00 **Welcome** - Luc Boeva (NISE)

09h10 **Introduction** - Xosé M. Núñez Seixas

Panel I: Sovereignty, Citizenship and Devolution during the Cold War and beyond

Chair: Alan Sandry

09h30 **Presentations**

- XOSÉ M. NÚÑEZ SEIXAS (LUDWIG MAXIMILIAN UNIVERSITÄT MÜNCHEN)
Reloading the minority nations in the long postwar period: some transnational suggestions
- ANWEN ELIAS (ABERYSTWYTH UNIVERSITY)
From a 'Europe of the Regions' to 'Independence in Europe'?

10h30 *Coffee break*

10h45 **Discussion**

Panel II: Sovereignty, Citizenship and Devolution in East-Central Europe after the Fall of Communism

Chair: Louis Vos (NISE)

11h45 **Presentations**

- JÖRG HACKMANN (UNIwersytet Szczeciński)
Baltic National movements after 1989
- STEFANO BIANCHINI (UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA)
Lessons not learned from the Yugoslav dismemberment and the crisis of the European integration

12h45 *Lunch*

14h00 **Presentations (continued)**

- JOSÉ M. FARALDO (UNIVERSIDAD COMPLUTENSE DE MADRID)
Ukraine and Moldavia

14h30 **Discussion**

15h30 *Coffee break*

Panel III: From Europe of Regions to inner enlargement

Chair: Anwen Elias

15h45 Presentations

- KLAUS-JÜRGEN NAGEL (UNIVERSITAT POMPEU FABRA, BARCELONA)
Catalonia and the Basque Country: From autonomy to independence?
- JAMES KENNEDY (UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH)
Scotland and Québec: referenda and sub-state nations

19h00 Conference dinner

FRIDAY 4 DECEMBER 2015 (ROYAL LIBRARY OF BELGIUM - RAADZAAL / SALLE DU CONSEIL)

09h15 Presentations (continued)

- DAVE SINARDET (VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSEL)
The relation between the ethno-linguistic and the socio-economic fault line. The case of Belgium
- DANIELE PETROSINO (UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI BARI ALDO MORO)
Italy: old and new territorial claims

10h15 Comment - Alan Sandry (Swansea University)

10h30 Coffee break

10h45 Discussion

11h45 Conclusions - Xosé M. Núñez Seixas

12h15 Lunch

The workshop is organised by NISE, an international organisation of academics as well as research and heritage institutes for the comparative study of national and regional movements. More at: www.nise.eu.

The workshop is financially supported by the Centre Maurits Coppieters, a political foundation linked with the European Free Alliance and recognised by the European Parliament. It promotes policy research at a European and international level, focusing on the management of cultural and linguistic diversity in complex societies. More at: www.ideasforeurope.eu.