Panel 3.15 Assessing the domestic and European implications of BREXIT

This panel intends to trace and explain the first concrete developments that have surrounded Brexit in both the United Kingdom and the European Union. In particular, it focuses on one specific aspect – the impact of Brexit on the political systems of both polities and on the distribution of political power within them.

In the 45 years of EU-UK integration, these two political systems have become significantly integrated and have ‘learned’ to grow and change together, while also contributing to create a high number of institutions, agencies, offices, patterns of power on the European continent. Brexit is likely to trigger a period of changes within what once were relatively stable, path-dependent trajectories – which (might) lead to new, different courses of action. Investigating these repercussions on the UK’s and EU governance is the main question that this panel intends to address.

We understand Brexit as a “political crisis” or as a “critical juncture” (in the language of historical institutionalists) in the evolution of the UK and EU political dynamics mentioned above. Brexit is likely to trigger a period of changes within what once were relatively stable, path-dependent trajectories – which might lead to new, different courses of action. Theoretically, the contributions in this panel will therefore consider Brexit as “a relatively short [period] of time during which there is a substantial heightened probability that agents’ choices will affect the outcome of interest’

As most contributions on Brexit to date have analysed possible scenarios in one context, in ‘isolation’ – without showing the possible parallel/divergent/complementary/etc. evolution of the political dynamics in both systems, we welcome papers that analyse the impact of Brexit on the pan-European governance and distribution of power, in their different aspects (party systems, constitutional boundaries, economic and security underpinnings), at different moments (tracing the political dynamics before, during and slightly after Brexit) and in different polities (the UK and the EU).

Chairs: Nicola Chelotti