

ABSTRACTS

Funda Tekin

What are the Consequences of Brexit? Scenarios of Differentiated (Des-)Integration

In the referendum on the United Kingdom's EU membership of 23 June 2016 the British people voted by a very small margin of just 51.9 per cent in favour of leaving the Union. Following the decision, Brexiteers revealed that they do not have a plan for Brexit. Against this backdrop the article briefly reviews the British EU membership to discuss three scenarios for a Brexit: The first – least likely – scenario with the United Kingdom leaving the EU without negotiating a new special relationship would leave the Union least affected. In the second scenario, the country leaves the Union but negotiates a new kind of association to the block. That would result in differentiated integration outside the EU. In the third scenario, Great Britain remains in the EU, but negotiates new concessions. That would be the first incident of differentiated disintegration inside the EU. The article concludes that the Brexit negotiations will revive the debate on differentiated integration. The crucial question remains whether we will observe differentiated integration or disintegration.

Lisa H. Anders, Annegret Eppler and Thomas Tuntschew

European Integration: Bidirectional and Multidimensional

Recent developments raise the question whether integration scholars still use adequate “conceptual containers”. Against this backdrop, we discuss the ontological scope of European integration and its empirical manifestations. Drawing on early theorising on integration we, firstly, argue for a bidirectional understanding of integration. Integration and disintegration are understood as inverse processes that can be measured by means of the same indicators. Secondly, we argue for a multidimensional concept of European integration and conceptualise it as a process that comprises political, economic and social integration.

Roland Sturm

Europeanisation of the German System of Government

The transfer of competences to the EU level entails the obligation of implementing European laws at the national level. Deepening of European integration is not limited to treaty reforms, but a continuous process driven by the EU institutions. As a consequence, the German – like other member states' – political system and society have changed due to the country's EU membership. For describing these processes of adaptation the term “Europeanisation” is used. The article reviews processes and results of the Europeanisation of German political institutions, parties, associations, and policies. It concludes that the German system of government has fundamentally changed due to Europeanisation. This is most obvious in certain policy fields.

Iain Begg

Brexit: Why, What Next and How?

Now that the unexpected has occurred, what about half the British electorate regard as the unpalatable process of leaving the EU is likely to happen. Even though there are commentators who query whether Brexit will go ahead, for Theresa May's government, at least, there can be no turning-back. Yet there are still many unknowns about how Britain will go about disengaging itself from the EU, the timetable and what the most likely outcome will be, and what it will imply for the future of European integration. This article looks at the economics of Brexit, considers why the referendum resulted in the vote to leave and finally explores what the ramifications are for both Britain and the future of the European Union.