

Center for Comparative Immigration Studies, UC San Diego
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Brexitland: Identity, Diversity and the Reshaping of British Politics

Friday, January 21, 2022 | 12:00PM - 2:00PM Pacific Time

Will be held via Zoom



Co-Author: Maria Sobolewska

Maria Sobolewska is a Professor of Political Science at the University of Manchester and works on the political integration and representation of ethnic minorities in Britain and in a comparative perspective, public perceptions of ethnicity, immigrants and integration. She has been working with the Electoral Commission and both Houses of Parliament to improve access to elections, and has been a Specialist Adviser to a HoL committee reviewing the 2013 Electoral Registration and Administration Act. Maria is the 2021 Winner of the Political Science Association Joni Lovenduski Prize for outstanding professional achievement by a mid-career scholar.



Co-Author: Robert Ford

Robert Ford is a Professor of Political Science at the University of Manchester and works broadly in the areas of public opinion, electoral choice and party politics. His first book (co-authored with Matthew Goodwin) - "Revolt on the Right" - examined the rise of the UK Independence Party. It was named Political Book of the Year in 2015. He has edited two volumes of short essays for a general audience looking at voter behavior and public opinion - "Sex, Lies and the Ballot Box" and "More Sex, Lies and the Ballot Box". He comments regularly on elections, public opinion and politics for various media outlets, and via his twitter feed @robfordmancs.



Long-term social and demographic changes – and the conflicts they create – continue to transform British politics. In their new book Sobolewska and Ford show how deep the roots of this polarisation and volatility run, drawing out decades of educational expansion and rising ethnic diversity as key drivers in the emergence of new divides within the British electorate over immigration, identity and diversity. They argue that choices made by political parties from the 1960s onwards have mobilised these divisions into politics, first through conflicts over immigration, then through conflicts over the European Union, culminating in the 2016 EU Referendum. Providing a comprehensive and far-reaching view of a country in turmoil, Brexitland explains how and why this happened, for students, researchers and anyone who wants to better understand the remarkable political times in which we live.

Discussant: Michael F. Thies

Associate Professor of Political Science, University of California, Los Angeles

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For more information please email w2tam@ucsd.edu