

Across Britain and Ireland

CCC blog series:

The CCC is hosting a series of edited blogs about constitutional developments and (shared) debates across the UK and Ireland. It aims to highlight and analyse new thinking about these issues as they affect Britain (England, Scotland, Wales), Ireland (North and South) and Europe as well as timely comment on continuing topics. These blogs will carry on the conversations over the last fifteen years ago in the framework of The Unions and Islands Network, linked to the CCC and the Institute of British and Irish Studies at University College Dublin.

The standard length of the blogs will be 900-1000 words but the editors are open to discuss other formats and longer pieces. We also welcome blogs already posted, with the permission of their hosts.

Background:

The series is based upon the following premises.

- The standard concepts and theories of constitutional reasoning are no longer adequate to the new circumstances (or even the old ones).
- In particular, ideas of sovereignty, borders and territory need to be rethought.
- It is not possible to look at the issues of Great Britain, Scotland, Wales, Ireland north and south and England separately. We adopt a perspective embracing what has been called “the totality of relationships amongst the peoples of these islands.”
- A European perspective is also necessary given that Brexit has by no means resolved the question of the relationship of the United Kingdom and its parts to Europe. The question of British withdrawal from the European Convention on Human Rights is now on the agenda.
- We also need a comparative perspective looking at the experience of plurinational unions and federations.
- There needs to be an interdisciplinary approach, including the social sciences, law, and history.

Examples of Blogs:

- New thinking ideas about nations, states, sovereignty
- populist authoritarianism and local democracy
- the changing landscape of territorial politics
- whatever happened to reform of the House of Lords?
- Is there a viable Scottish road to independence?
- prospects for an Irish border poll and debates about it
- a new constitution for the EU

- 50 years of EU membership: does the Irish experience set the bar for Scotland and Wales?
- the Westminster model – centralist, dysfunctional power system or capable of reform?
- How long can the FPTP electoral system survive in face of PR in devolveds and Ireland?
- What is the English question and is there an answer?
- Recent developments in European nations and regions

The series would be topical (as events/ideas emerge) but also take the longer view to the past and to the future.

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Blog proposals should be sent to Centre.Constitutional.Change@ed.ac.uk or any of the editors.