

Global Friday Presents

The Disunited Kingdom: Separatism in the Post-Brexit Era

November 4, 2022

The new British government faces multiple economic and political crises, not least a fundamental challenge to the state itself. Brexit has strengthened support for Scottish nationalism. This October, the UK Supreme Court decides whether a second independence referendum can go ahead. Meanwhile, a trade dispute with the EU is threatening peace in Northern Ireland.

Can the Truss government keep the United Kingdom together? Should it even try? How can a country navigate break-up when it doesn't have a clear written constitution to guide it? In this talk, Dr. McGovern will examine the British government's response to these existential threats, comparing it to Canada and Spain's approaches. She will argue the Supreme Court of Canada's 1998 Secession judgment offers a useful blueprint, and that the UK should guarantee a legal right to secession, if a region votes for it in a free and fair referendum. While there is no guarantee the UK will stay together, this approach offers the best chance of peacefully and democratically deciding the future.



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<https://unbc.zoom.us/j/61550856895>

When: Friday November 4th from 12pm to 1:30pm

Where: Agora 7-150 or online through Zoom