

SINGAPORE-ON-THAMES: BREXIT AND THE ANGLOSPHERE IMAGINARY

BY DR BEN WELLINGS (MONASH UNIVERSITY)

13 November 2018 (Tuesday) | 10.30 am – 12 pm (Registration starts at 10am)
NTU @ one-north, SR901 (Level 9)
11 Slim Barracks Rise Executive Centre Singapore 138664

Register (by 11 November 2018, 2359hrs)

<http://bit.ly/13Nov18-Event-Registration>

Directions to venue: <http://bit.ly/NTU-OneNorth-Directions>

Abstract

Brexit is often presented as revolt of those 'left behind' by the benefits of globalisation; part of a wider populist and protectionist surge in western liberal democracies. But as an elite project, Brexit was driven by a desire to expose the United Kingdom's economy to more globalisation, not less. For Brexiteers, the 'Anglosphere' provided an existing and viable alternative to the UK's membership of the European Union. A loose, values-based grouping of like-minded English-speaking countries, the Anglosphere was an idea that emerged on the right of politics across English-speaking countries after 2000. Supporters of the Anglosphere sought the re-alignment of domestic and global politics along hyper-globalist lines. The desire to make the United Kingdom more like Singapore had been nurtured amongst Brexiteers long before the 2016 referendum, but Brexit was their most significant achievement to date. This Anglosphere imaginary can help explain the politics of the UK's withdrawal from the EU and the re-orientation of 'Global Britain' as Brexit opens up new political divisions within the UK and challenges the post-War order in Europe.



Speaker

Dr Ben Wellings is Senior Lecturer in Politics and International Relations at Monash University in Melbourne, Australia. He is author of *English Nationalism, Brexit and the Anglosphere* (Manchester University Press, 2019) and is editor (with Andrew Mycock) of *The Anglosphere: Continuity, Dissonance and Location* (Proceedings of the British Academy, 2019).