

The Manchester Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence

Annual Review of Activities, 2019-20



June 2020

1. Introduction

The Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence was created in 2003 with the financial support of the European Commission under its [Jean Monnet Action](#) and co-funded by the University of Manchester.

At the end of a three-year funding period its focus was broadened away from its initial concern with the European Union to European Studies more generally. At the same time the JMCE became more broadly based with partners from the University of Manchester, Manchester Metropolitan University, the University of Chester and other local organisations.

The JMCE aims to provide a platform for European Studies-related activities and research in Greater Manchester and the North West of England. The Centre aims to strengthen the intellectual community in European Studies, while also facilitating local, regional and international links with practitioners, researchers, students and others interested in European affairs.

JMCE Centre relies on subscriptions from its principal stakeholders for its operation and is grateful for their continuing support.

The following pages report specifically on the structure and achievements of the Centre during the academic year 2019-20. The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent closure of campuses has had a very disruptive impact on our scheduled events. Postponed or cancelled events are marked with “*” in the pages that follow. The Centre’s activities in the first semester of the next academic will move onto an online platform.

Prof. Dimitris Papadimitriou

Director of the Manchester Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence



2. Stakeholders

The Manchester Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence showcases European expertise across the main Universities of the city. Its principal stakeholders are:

- **The University of Manchester**
 - School of Arts, Languages and Cultures
 - School of Social Sciences
 - Alliance Manchester Business School
- **Manchester Metropolitan University**
 - Business & Public Engagement
 - Department of Economics, Policy and International Business
 - Department of History, Politics and Philosophy
- **The University of Chester**
 - Social and Political Science

3. The Team

The JMCE is governed by a Steering Committee, meeting at least twice a year in order to set and approve the budget and set the priorities of the Centre.



Prof. Dimitris Papadimitriou,
Director (UoM)



Dr. Paul Tobin,
Deputy Director (UoM)



Dr. Kathryn Simpson,
Board Member (MMU)



Dr. Rosa Fernandez,
Board Member (UoC)



Prof. Matthew Jefferies,
Board Member (UoM)



Dr. Dimitrios Doukas,
Board Member (UoM)



Dr. Timm Frisch,
Board Member (MMU)



Dr. Jenny Rodriguez,
Board Member (UoM)



Russell Yates,
Board Member (MMU)



Louise Wylie,
Student Rep (UoM)



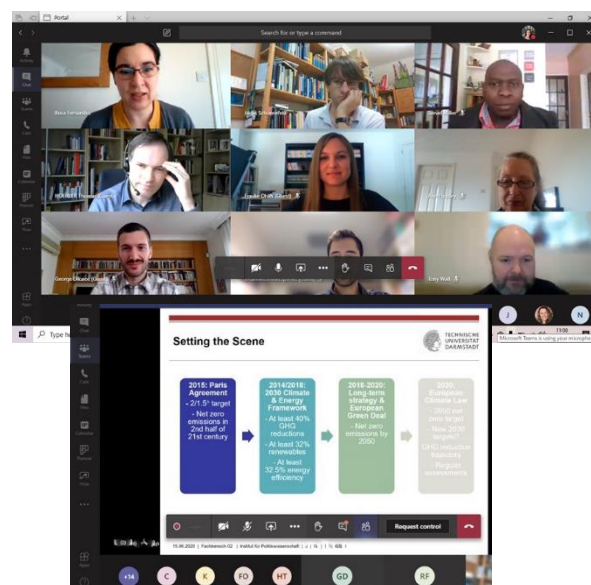
Konstantinos Kanelopoulos,
Administrator (UoM)

4. Review of Activities, 2019-20

4.1. JMCE-funded Bids

Conferences/workshops

- Researching employment (in)equalities in an uncertain Europe: PG Research Methods Series*
Sajia Ferdous, Eva Herman, Abbie Winton, Marilena Pagoni, Ceri Hughes (AMBS, UoM)
- Unlocking the Full Potential of the UK-EU-Australian Digital Market Post-Brexit*
Dr Nicolette Butler, Dr Jasem Tarawneh, Dr Dimitrios Doukas (SoSS, UoM)
- The History and Future of the Moral Economy*
Dr Patrick Doyle, Dr Sarah Roddy, Sean Irving (SALC, UoM)
- The role of Europe in global challenges: Climate change and Sustainable Development
Dr. Rosa Fernandez (SPS, UoC)
- Monetary Policy in Times of Crisis (5th-19th Centuries)*
Dr Stefano Locatelli (SALC, UoM), Dr Nuno Palma (SoSS, UoM)
- Religion, Materialism and Ecology*
Prof. Peter Scott (SALC, UoM)
- Where next? Trends in European climate change politics during turbulent times’*
Dr. Paul Tobin (SoSS, UoM)



Debating climate change in Europe at the UoChester



PhD Bursaries

- Marion Greziller (SoSS, UoM)*
- Madelaine Moore (Kassel University, Germany)*
- Temidayo Eseonu (SoSS, UoM)
- Alina Nychyk (SoSS, UoM)

I am very thankful for JMCE bursary, which enabled me to collect interview data in Brussels this March. My interviews with EU officials were helpful for my research on EU-Ukraine-Russia relations during the conflict in Ukraine.

Alina Nychyk, PhD student, SoSS, UoM

Semester I



Dr. Copeland on the erosion of the EU's social model

- Wednesday 2 October 2019, 14:00-15:00 @ University Place, 3.211

Speaker: **Dr. Margarita Markoviti** (Université Libre of Brussels)
Title: From the Burqa to the Crucifix: Religious Freedoms and European Governance in a Context of Increasing Radicalisation

- Wednesday 16 October 2019, 14:00-15:00 @ University Place, 3.211S

Speaker: **Dr. Francesca Batzella** (University of Hertfordshire)

Title: EU energy policy in challenging times. What lessons can be drawn from Nord Stream 2?

- Wednesday 6 November 2019, 14:00-15:00 @ University Place, 3.214

Speaker: **Dr. Nieves Perez-Solorzano Borraran** (University of Bristol)

Title: Brexit: Path dependency, unintended consequences and the Article 50 Process

- Wednesday 13 November 2019, 14:00-15:00 @ University Place, 3.214

Speaker: **Dr Ruairidh Tarvet** (University of Edinburgh)

Title: Northern Nationalisms: Renegotiating Swedish and Danish National Identities



Dr. Wright on the EU's digital diplomacy

- Wednesday 27 November 2019, 14:00-15:00 @ University Place, 3.214*

Speaker: **Lamprini Rori** (University of Exeter)

Title: The landscape of political violence in crisis-ridden Greece

Semester II



Scandinavian nationalism? Dr. Tarvet at the JMCE

- Wednesday 5 February 2020, 14:00-15:00 @ Simon Building, Room 2.39

Speaker: **Dr. Paul Copeland** (Queen Mary University of London QMUL)
Title: The EU's social dimension and the crisis of European Integration

- Wednesday 19 February 2020, 14:00-15:00 @ Simon Building, Room 2.39

Speaker: **Dr. Katharine Wright** (University of Newcastle)

Title: Gendering EU External Relations: the case of digital diplomacy

- Wednesday 18 March 2020, 14:00-15:00 @ Simon Building, Room 2.39
Speaker: **Dr. Othon Anastasakis** (St. Anthony's College, University of Oxford)*
Title: Russia and Turkey in the Balkans: Parallel trajectories and legacies of the past

- Wednesday 22 April 2020, 14:00-15:00 @ Simon Building, Room 2.39
Speaker: **Dr. Peg Murray–Evans** (University of York)*
Title: Constructing Rising Power from the Outside In: South Africa in Global Climate Governance

- Wednesday 6 May 2020, 14:00-15:00 @ Simon Building, Room 2.39
Speaker: **Dr. Nagore Calvo Mendizabal** (King's College London KCL)*
Title: The Politics of Austerity in Spain



Dr. Solorzano at the JMCE discussing Brexit

4.3. The 2020 JMCE Annual Lecture

The EU between Brexit and Enlargement: reflections on the new European architecture*

4 May 2020, 17:00-18:30, University Place, Theatre A * (now in Autumn 2020)

Mr. Edi Rama
(Prime Minister of Albania)



The PM of Albania, Edi Rama to be hosted by the JMCE



Reflecting on Brexit: former ally of Tony Blair, Alastair Campbell

Mr. Alastair Campbell
(Former 10 Downing Street Press Secretary, 1997-2003)

4.4. Special Events

Dynamics of the UK-EU Relationship post-Brexit*

13 May 2020, 18:00-19:30, University Place, Theatre A (now in Autumn 2020)

Speaker:

H.E. João Vale de Almeida

(Head of the EU Delegation to the United Kingdom)



The Head of the EU's Delegation H.E. João Vale de Almeida

Rethinking Economic Governance in the Eurozone*

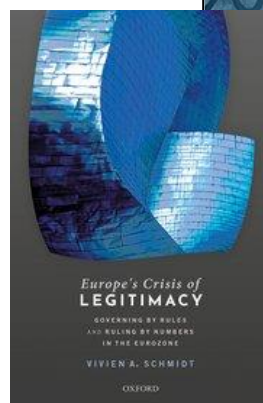
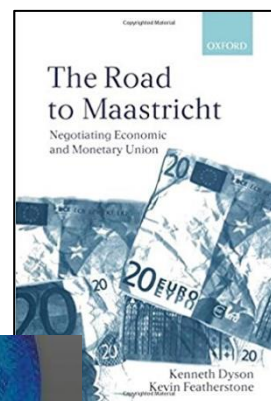
3 June 2020, 14:00-16:00, Boardroom, ALB (now in February 2021)

Speakers:

- Dr. George Papakonstantinou (EUI, former Finance Minister of Greece)
- Prof. Kevin Featherstone (European Institute, London School of Economics)
- Prof. Vivien A. Schmidt (Boston University)

Moderator:

- Prof. Dimitris Papadimitriou (UoM)



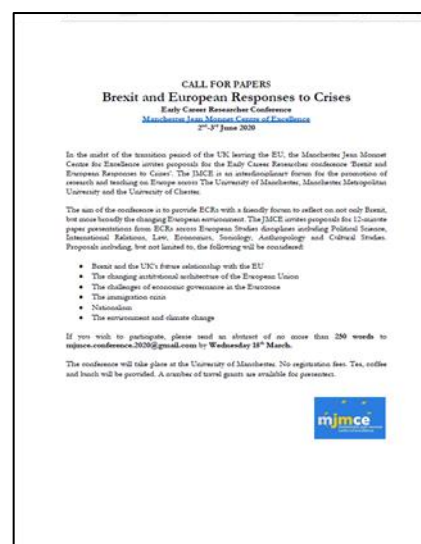
4.5. 6th JMCE Post-Graduate Conference: Brexit and European Response to Crises

Date: 2-3 February 2021, University of Manchester (moved from June 2020)

In the midst of the transition period of the UK leaving the EU, the Manchester Jean Monnet Centre for Excellence invites proposals for the Early Career Researcher conference 'Brexit and European Responses to Crises'.

Proposals including, but not limited to, the following will be considered:

- Brexit and the UK's future relationship with the EU
- The changing institutional architecture of the European Union
- The challenges of economic governance in the Eurozone
- The immigration crisis
- Nationalism
- The environment and climate change



An exciting opportunity for ECRs

For more details see: <http://www.manchesterjmce.ac.uk/pastevents/>

4.6. Alliance Manchester Business School

Researching employment (in)equalities in an uncertain Europe: Postgraduate Research Methods Series*

In the contexts of Brexit and migration/freedom of movement debate coupled with the damaging side of technological advances affecting working conditions, growing work intensification and shrinking workers' rights, there has been widening disparities between EU nation states' rising trends of precarity. In addition to this, austerity cuts have left a funding crisis in public services such as health and social care in the UK.



A Joint initiative between the JMCE and the WEI

Such crises and disparities have become central concerns in the academic and policy discourse across Europe, particularly in the area of research focusing on the world of work, which have found a more complex pattern of intersecting inequalities appearing as well as increasing gaps/hierarchies in pay, power and gender in different forms of employment. Adding an increasingly diverse workforce to the scene introduces more complexities and creates new challenges for businesses, employers, and workers.

The seminar series aims to help develop a methodological foundation to equip doctoral students to tackle these complex, and often sensitive, issues that arise during their research.

- Seminar 1: Accessing and utilising existing data
- Seminar 2: Accessing organisations and participants
- Seminar 3: Undertaking research on sensitive topics
- Seminar 4: Doing Ethical Research
- Seminar 5: Conducting cross-national comparative research projects

4.7. The JMCE -sponsored Book Series on European Politics (MUP)

Since 2019 senior members of the JMCE's Board have teamed up with Manchester University Press to relaunch the European Politics Series. The JMCE is actively sponsoring the series, both in terms of editorial guidance and promotion.



Prof. Papadimitriou, Dr. Simpson and Dr. Tobin are the series editors

New titles coming soon:

- Nikki Ikani (Kings College London), *European Union foreign policy: crisis, continuity and change*
- João Labareda (EUI) *Towards a just Europe: A theory of distributive justice for the European Union*
- Michael Holmes (LHU) and Kathryn Simpson (MMU) *Ireland and the European Union in a changing world*



For more details visit: <https://www.manchesteruniversitypress.co.uk/series/european-politics/>

4.8. Partnerships

The European Affairs Society at the University of Manchester

The Manchester JMCE was instrumental in the creation of a European Affairs Society at the UoM Students Union. The European Affairs Society has made a very significant contribution to campus life with a number of well-attended, student-led, events.

Follow the Society's Facebook page here: <https://www.facebook.com/UoMEuropeanAffairsSociety/>



Manchester for Europe / Britain For Europe



The Manchester JMCE is collaborating with the Manchester branch of Britain for Europe, seeking to promote a closer relation between the UK and the EU. We have already worked together to organise a number of joint events in Manchester and the JMCE has been facilitating the group's meetings in campus.

Follow the Manchester for Europe Facebook page here:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ManchesterforEurope/>

The 3Million

The Manchester JMCE has supported the activities of the 3 Million organisation, seeking to safeguard the rights of EU nationals in the UK.



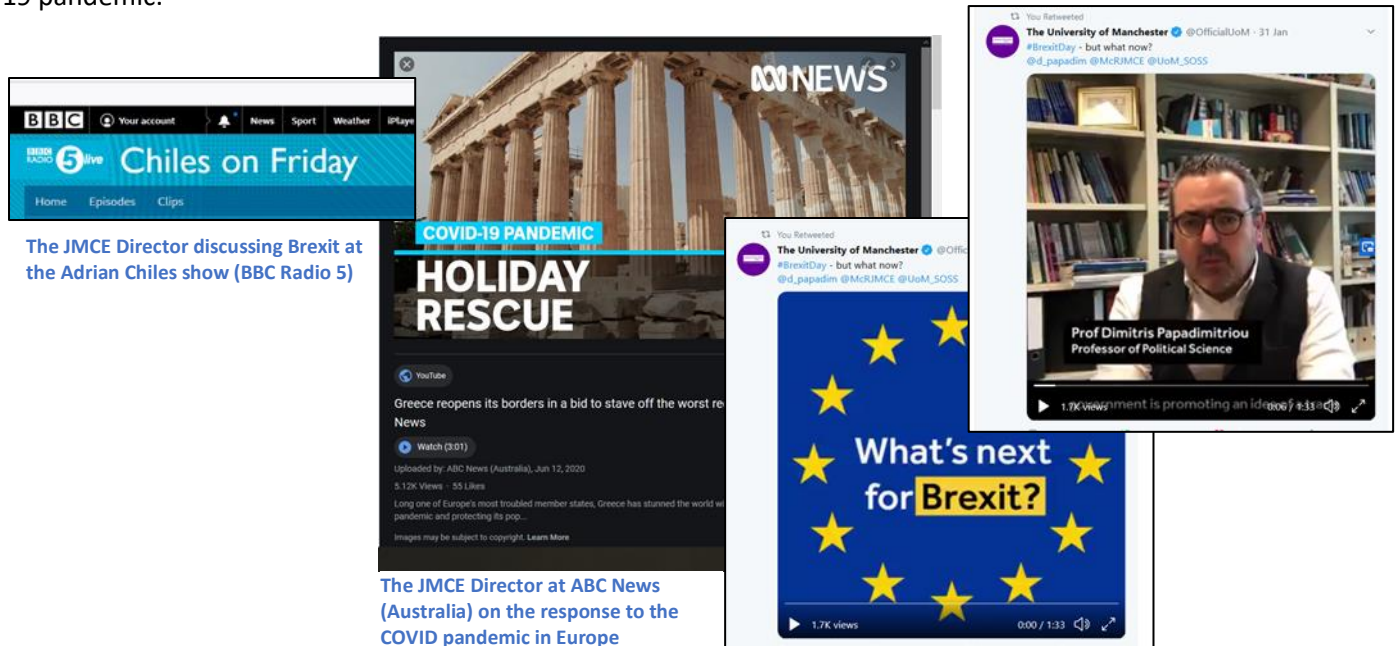
Follow the 3 Million Facebook page here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1454925024531154/>



4.9. The JMCE in the News

i. Media Work and Policy Engagement

The JMCE Director, Prof. Dimitris Papadimitriou, has made a number of media appearances on Brexit and the COVID-19 pandemic.



ii. Web Presence and Social Media

In October 2019 the JMCE launched a series of short videos interviews on matters of European interest. So far our dedicated utube channel has received over 5,000 views! Our Facebook and Twitter pages are followed by over 1,500 people.



For more details see: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOL2FP3xgbqATw4igkZltoQ?pbjreload=101>

4.10. Forthcoming Events & Diary Dates

- **September 2020:** Watch out for the publication of our regular seminar series
- **September 2020:** Watch out for the JMCE funding calls (Workshops, T&L Activities and PhD Bursaries)
- **Autumn:** Rescheduled 2020 JMCE Annual Lecture and Special event with the Head of the EU Delegation to the United Kingdom
- **February 2021:** The 6th JMCE Graduate Conference
- **February 2021:** Special Event on Economic governance in the Eurozone
- **May 2021:** The 2021 JMCE Annual Lecture

