



The Manchester Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence

Annual Review of Activities, 2020-2021



June 2021

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 2020-21. The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent closure of campuses has refocused the activities of the Centre for this academic year towards an online environment.

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,
Deputy Director (MMU)



Dr. Rosa Fernandez,
Board Member (UoC)



Prof. Matthew Jefferies,
Board Member (UoM)



Dr. Dimitrios Doukas,
Board Member (UoM)



Dr. Tilman Frasch,
Board Member (MMU)



Dr. Jenny Rodriguez,
Board Member (UoM)



Russell Yates,
Board Member (MMU)



Louise Wylie,
Student Rep (UoM)



Konstantinos Kannelopoulos,
Administrator (UoM)

4. Review of Activities, 2020-21

4.1. JMCE Seminar Series

Semester I



Prof. Pierre explaining the Swedish response to COVID

Wednesday 21 October 2020, 14:00 – 15:00

Speaker: Prof. Jon Pierre (University of Gothenburg, Sweden)

Title: Nudges Against Pandemics: Sweden's COVID-19 containment strategy in perspective



[Watch the seminar](#)



[Watch a 3' interview](#)

Wednesday, 4 November 2020, 14:00 – 15:00

Speaker: Dr. Andy Smith (Sciences Po Bordeaux)

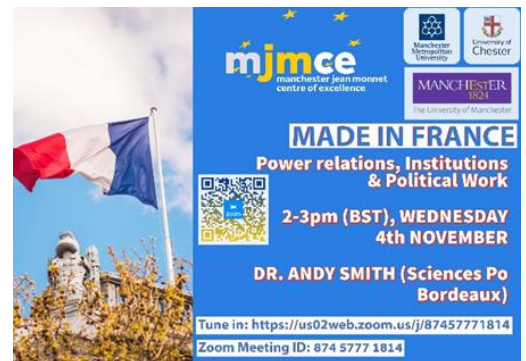
Title: Made in France: Power relations, Institutions and Political Work



[Watch the seminar](#)



[Watch a 3' interview](#)



Understanding France. Dr. Smith at the JMCE



Prof. Vasilopoulou discussing the far right in Europe

Wednesday, 18 November 2020, 14:00 – 15:00

Speaker: Prof. Sofia Vasilopoulou (University of York)

Title: 'Protesters' versus 'nationalists': why political trust prevents the far right from expanding its appeal, but has a different effect on its core electorate



[Watch the seminar](#)



[Watch a 3' interview](#)



Dr. Simon on the EU, the US and China

▪ **Wednesday, 2 December 2020, 14:00 – 15:00**

Speaker: Dr. Luis Simón (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)

Title: Subject or Object? Europe in Sino-American Competition



[Watch the seminar](#)



[Watch a 3' interview](#)

Semester II



Political Violence in Greece. Dr. Rori at the

Wednesday, 24 February 2021, 14:00 – 15:00

Speaker: Dr. Lamprini Rori (University of Exeter; EUI)

Title: The landscape of political violence in crisis-ridden Greece: evidence from the far right and the far left



[Watch the seminar](#)



[Watch a 3' interview](#)

Wednesday, March 10th 2021, 14:00 – 15:00

Speaker: Dr. Gabriel Siles-Brügge (University of Warwick)

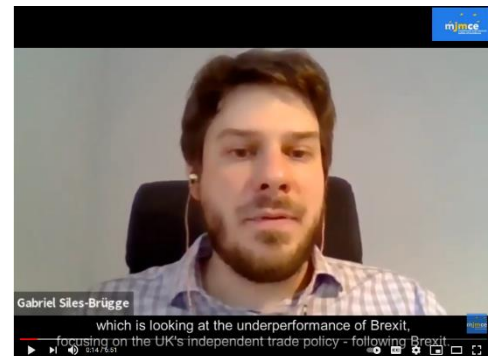
Title: Performing Brexit? The Case of the UK's Independent Trade Policy



[Watch the seminar](#)



[Watch a 3' interview](#)



Dr. Siles-Brugge discussing trade policy and Brexit



Expert analysis on the Balkans, Turkey and Russia

Wednesday, March 24th 2021, 14:00 – 15:00

Speaker: Dr. Othon Anastasakis (St. Antony's College, University of Oxford)

Title: Russia and Turkey in the Balkans: Parallel trajectories and legacies of the past



[Watch the seminar](#)



[Watch a 3' interview](#)

Wednesday, April 28th 2021, 14:00 – 15:30

Speakers: Kalliopi Stefanaki (UNHCR Protection Officer)

Title: Greece: a laboratory for the testing of EU asylum policies. A practitioner's view



[Watch the seminar](#)



A senior UNHCR official at the JMCE

4.3. The 2021 JMCE Annual Lecture

The European Union and the United Kingdom: a new relationship in a changing World

Wednesday, April 21st 2021, 14:00 – 15:30

Speaker:

H.E. João Vale de Almeida

(Head of the EU Delegation to the United Kingdom)



 [Watch the 2021 JMCE Annual Lecture](#)



4.4. Special Events

The Eurozone between Perpetual Crisis and A New Paradigm: Looking back to move forward

Wednesday, 10 February 2021, 14:00-16:00

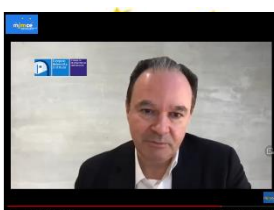
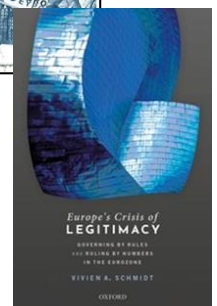
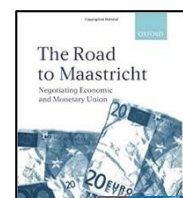
Speakers:

- 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)

 [Watch the Special Event](#)

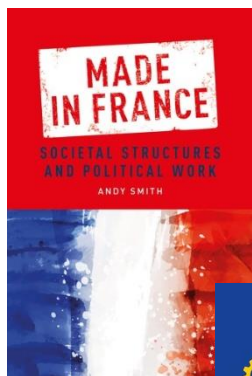


4.5. The JMCE -sponsored Book Series on European Politics (MUP)

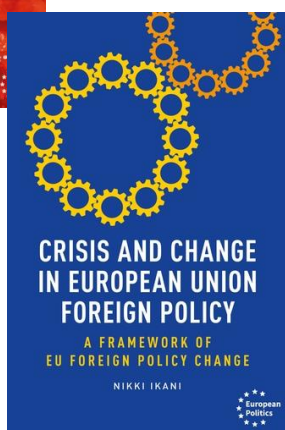
Since 2019 senior members of the JMCE's Board have teamed up with Manchester University Press to relaunch the European Politics Series. The JMCE is actively sponsoring the series, both in terms of editorial guidance and promotion.

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

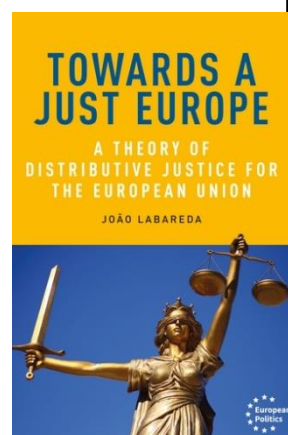
New titles coming soon:



- Michael Holmes and Kathryn Simpson, *Ireland and the European Union in a changing world*
- Catherine Moury, Stella Ladi, Daniel Cardoso and Angie Gago, *Capitalising on constraint: Bailout politics in Eurozone countries*
- Govin Perman, *EU pharmaceutical regulation: The politics of policy-making*



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



4.6. Partnerships

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/>

4.7. The JMCE in the News

i. Media Work and Policy Engagement



The JMCE Director discussing Brexit and its impact on students at Young Fabians event



Historical legacies: Prof. Papadimitriou at the European Movement



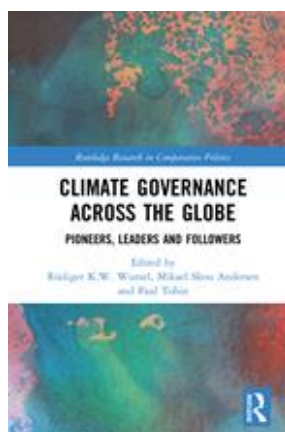
The JMCE Deputy Director, Dr Simpson, addressing an event of the European Movement, Ireland



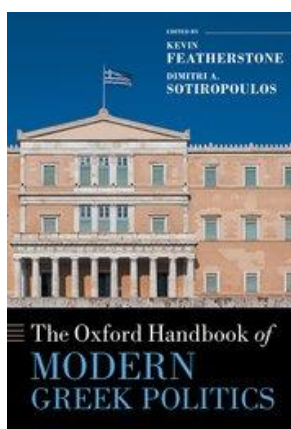
The JMCE Director on Iranian TV discussing tensions in Eastern Mediterranean



ii. Publications



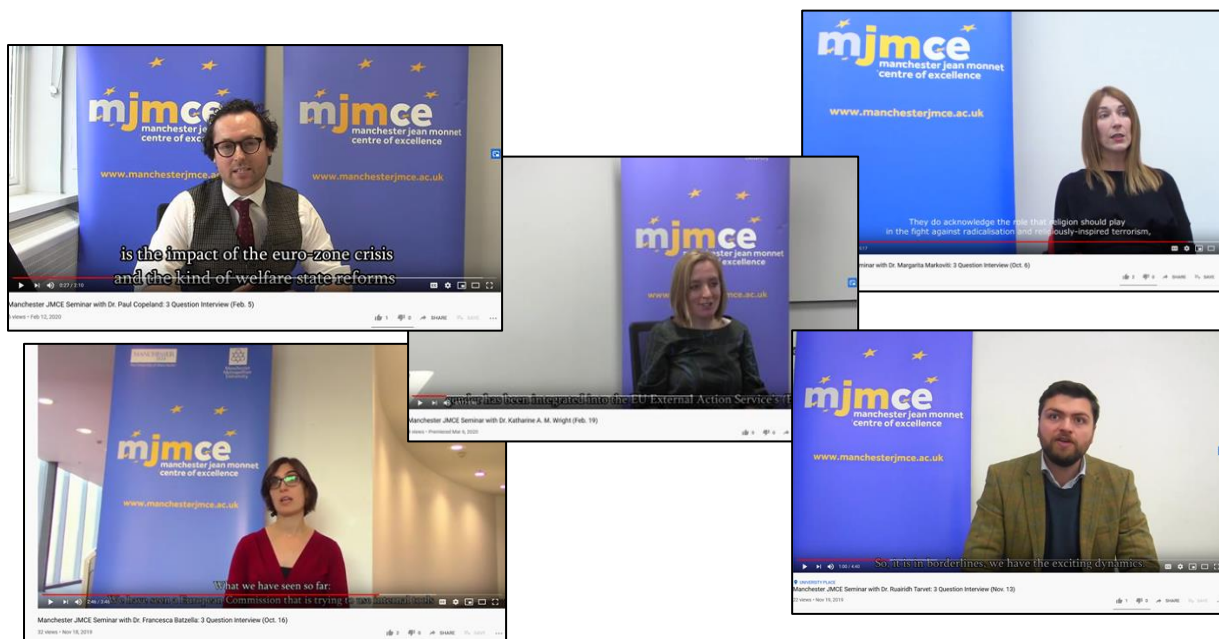
A major new publication on climate change by JMCE deputy Director, Dr. Paul Tobin



JMCE Director contributed to this leading publication on Greek politics by OUP

iii. Web Presence and Social Media

In October 2019 the JMCE launched a series of short videos interviews on matters of European interest. This year alone our dedicated utube channel has received over 2,500 views! Our Facebook and Twitter pages are followed by over 1,500 people.



For more details see: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOL2FP3xgbqATw4igkzItoQ?pbjreload=101>

4.8. Forthcoming Events & Diary Dates

- **September 2021:** Watch out for the publication of our regular seminar series
- **September 2021:** Watch out for the JMCE funding calls (Workshops, T&L Activities and PhD Bursaries)
- **April 2022:** The 2022 JMCE Annual Lecture

