

Towards Independence?

How minority nationalism is re-configuring European space

Conference at the University in Aarhus, Denmark on the 25th and 26th of October 2017

The pro-independence movements of stateless nations in Europe are currently experiencing an unprecedented support. Led on by Scotland and Catalonia where pro-independence political parties are firmly in government, it appears 2017 and 2018 will be supremely eventful years. In Scotland, political negotiations surrounding Scotland's role in not one but two Unions and the lead-up to a second referendum on independence fills the agenda following the UK's decision to leave the EU. In the case of Catalonia, there is talk of a unilateral declaration of independence if the Spanish government in Madrid continues to disavow dialogue with the pro-independence Catalan government following their planned October independence referendum.

In all cases, issues of belonging, identity, politics, diplomacy, and the great level of uncertainty make for stimulating discussions in political as well as academic fields. In light of these highly important circumstances, the Department of European Studies at the University of Aarhus in cooperation with the Public Diplomacy Council of Catalonia (Diplocat) invite participants to a conference on contemporary pro-independence movements in Europe. We welcome papers on the intersections between self, nation, culture, and politics in stateless nations such as Scotland and Catalonia, but also the Basque Country, Northern Ireland, Wales, Flanders, and elsewhere.

We invite abstracts (around 250 words) dealing with political mobilization, identity politics, nationhood, and minority nationalism, especially in regards to supranational or European issues and identities. Gender, public space, symbolic geographies, constructions of collective will, myths, narratives, and nationhood in the arts are other themes we invite participants to explore. The presentations should not exceed 20 minutes. Proposals from junior researchers and postgraduate students are welcome. Please include a short biographical note and information about your institutional affiliation with your abstract.

Please send the 250 word abstract in English in an email addressed to Mark Hau at mark.hau@cas.au.dk entitled "Towards Independence" before the 1st of September 2017.

Participation is free of charge and there will be **no registration fee**. Lunch and refreshments will be provided by the organizers, but participants are kindly requested to make their own travel and accommodation arrangements.