

Summer of Uncertainty: Referenda, Coups and Populist Politics

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The past month or so stumped the pundits -- and the elites. From the United Kingdom's 'Brexit' vote to an attempted coup in Turkey, events have upended any notion of politics as usual and ushered in a summer of uncertainty risking a further fragmentation of a fragile world order.

There are deeper, longer running currents at work in world affairs, though, which will continue to throw up surprises.

Globalisation and democracy, still under the long and dark shadow of the 2008 global financial crisis, are struggling to deliver the economic benefits and social cohesion expected of them.

In the rich countries, stagnant real incomes and the permanent post-de-industrialization loss of skilled manual jobs are bolstering populism, protectionism and isolationism -- challenging political elites in ways unprecedented in modern times.

In the Western democracies, this has taken the form of intemperate populist political insurgencies, which could reach their apogee in November with the election of the Republican party's nominee Donald Trump to the White House.

In Europe, wracked by slow or no growth, existential angst and an institutional inability to deal with its migration crisis, parties of the extreme left and right are on the rise with critical referenda and elections ahead for centrist governments in Italy, France and Germany.

Trust – in politicians, institutions, big corporations, the media – is at a low. Stridency and partisanship are the order of the day, pushing to the margins the compromise and diplomacy needed for the policymaking to solve the pressing global problems – from global terrorism and radical extremism to climate change and re-energising global trade and investment.

This all opens new opportunities for Russia and China, both increasingly illiberal and nationalist, to probe newly perceived vulnerabilities in their Western rivals.

Join us on Thursday, July 28 to put your questions to three of Oxford Analytica's expert advisors about what lies behind the rise of populist politics in the West, the risks and opportunities it poses to policymakers, strategists and investors, and where to look for the next surprise.

Chair

Paul Maidment, Director of Analysis and Managing Editor, Oxford Analytica

Paul Maidment joined Oxford Analytica in December 2014 as the Director of Analysis and Managing Editor of the Oxford Analytica Daily Brief.

He is an award-winning journalist who founded the New York-based digital editorial consultancy Bystander Media in 2010. A pioneer in combining digital and print journalism, he was previously Editor of Forbes.com and Executive Editor of Forbes, transforming a magazine website into the leading online destination for business, finance and up-scale lifestyle. Before joining Forbes in 2001, Paul was the founding Editor of the Financial Times' award-winning web site FT.com and Assistant Editor of the newspaper. His early career as an editor and foreign correspondent encompassed The Economist, the Asian Wall Street Journal and the BBC in the U.K. the U.S. and Asia — a depth of journalistic experience and breadth of media that gives him a unique perspective on the changes transforming publishing and the world economy. Paul was inducted into the Digital Hall of Fame in New York in 2010.

Panellists

Dr Diego Sánchez-Ancochea, Development economist, Director of the Latin American Centre at the University of Oxford and Fellow at St Antony's College

Previously, Diego was at the Institute for the Study of the Americas at the University of London. His research on globalization, industrial policy and social policy focuses on the policy architectures necessary for developing countries to promote economic upgrading and better income (re)distribution. He is the author with Juliana Martinez Franzoni of the University of Costa Rica of 'Good Jobs and Social Services', a study of how Costa Rica incorporated its population in to the labour market with goods jobs while simultaneously providing social services.

Desmond King, Andrew W Mellon Professor of American Government, University of Oxford

Andrew Mellon Professor of American Government at the University of Oxford and a Professorial Fellow of Nuffield College. He is one of the world's leading experts on US government and politics. He is the author of eighteen authored/co-authored and coedited books including *Obama at the Crossroads* (2012), *The Unsustainable American State* (2010) and *The Liberty of Strangers* (2005). His most recent book is about the Federal Reserve's response to the 2008 crisis – *Fed Power: How Finance Wins* (2016). He is a Fellow of the British Academy, a Member of the Royal Irish Academy and a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society.

R. Daniel Kelemen, Professor of Political Science and Jean Monnet Chair in European Union Politics at Rutgers University

Professor of Political Science and Jean Monnet Chair in European Union Politics at Rutgers University, Kelemen's research interests include the politics of the European Union, law and politics, comparative political economy, and comparative public policy. Prior to Rutgers, Kelemen was Fellow in Politics, Lincoln College, University of Oxford. He has been a Member of the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, visiting fellow in the Program in Law and Public Affairs (LAPA) at Princeton University, a Fulbright Fellow in European Union Studies at the Centre for European Policy Studies in Brussels and a visiting fellow at the Center of International Studies at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University. Kelemen was educated at Berkeley (A.B. in Sociology) and Stanford (M.A. and Ph.D. in Political Science).