

# Europe's year of elections: Pivotal polls in France, Germany, Italy and the Netherlands

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**Oxford Analytica Conference Call**

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## Europe's year of elections:

### Pivotal polls in France, Germany, Italy and the Netherlands

Four of western Europe's seven largest economies go to the polls this year, including the two central pillars of the EU, France and Germany.

In all four countries, the critical question is whether the populist anti-establishment sentiment that led the United Kingdom to vote for Brexit and the United States for Donald Trump in 2016 will continue to roil political elites or has it run its course.

Populist and eurosceptic parties have gained support in all four countries. Marine Le Pen, leader of France's National Front, and Beppe Grillo, leader of Italy's Five Star Movement, in particular, harbour credible ambitions of winning office. Germany's Angela Merkel looks more secure in the face of the challenge from the right-wing nationalist Alternative for Germany (AfD), but, like other mainstream parties across Europe, her Christian Democrats will trim their sails to navigate the new political winds blowing across the continent.

Join us on Thursday, January 19 at 3pm UK time to put your questions to three of Oxford Analytica's expert advisors such as:

- What Europe's year of elections will bring?
- How it will change the continent's politics and economics?
- Who will likely be Europe's key leaders by year's end?
- What it may mean for the challenges facing the continent, from the Brexit negotiations to the future of the European 'project' and dealing with a fragmenting world exacerbated by the uncertainties of the incoming Trump administration in the United States? and
- Whatever else concerns you about Europe.

## 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](http://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](http://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

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### **Hartmut Mayer, Fellow in Politics and International Relations, St Peter's College, University of Oxford**

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Fellow in Politics at St Peter's College, Oxford; currently also Adjunct Professor in European and Eurasian Studies at Johns Hopkins University, SAIS Bologna. Previous Visiting Professorships at Hitotsubashi University (Tokyo), Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB), Sciences Po in Paris, University of Hamburg and GIGA German Institute for Global and Area Studies (2011-14). His main research interests are IR theory, international institutions, foreign policy analysis, comparative regionalism, contemporary European history, the politics of the European Union, and German politics; has also worked as a journalist for various newspapers, radio, TV and news services.

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### **David Hine, Fellow and Tutor in Politics, Christ Church College, University of Oxford and Oxford Analytica Region Head**

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David Hine, MA, D.Phil., is an Official Student (i.e. tutorial fellow) of Christ Church, University lecturer in Politics, and Director of the Centre for the Study of Democratic Government in the Department of Politics and International Relations. His main teaching interests cover comparative European government, comparative politics, and European integration. His current research is on public ethics and the machinery of public integrity enforcement in western Europe.

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### **Lise Herman, European Institute, London School of Economics and teaching fellow at Sciences Po, Paris**

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Dr Lise Herman was awarded her PhD in European Studies from the London School of Economics and Political Science and is currently a Teaching Fellow at Sciences Po (IEP de Paris - Euro-American campus, Reims). Her research seeks to develop new theoretical and methodological tools to study the role of parties and partisanship in contemporary democracy. She has published her work in outlets such as the European Political Science Review, the LSE Review of Books and Books and Ideas, and her work is forthcoming in the American Political Science Review. Lise Herman has been an external expert for Oxford Analytica since April 2014, and in this quality regularly writes OA briefs and profiles on French and Hungarian domestic politics.