

Ax:son Johnson London Seminars 2015



**The Future of Political
Stability in Europe:
Are mainstream parties
becoming marginalised?**

12th March 2015

at the British Academy, London

**A SEMINAR ARRANGED BY
AXEL AND MARGARET AX:SON JOHNSON FOUNDATION**

POLITICAL STABILITY IN EUROPE: THE MARGINALISATION OF MAINSTREAM PARTIES IN EUROPE

The rise of a new wave of populist parties across Europe raises questions about political stability in the continent. UKIP in the UK, Sweden Democrats in Sweden, Podemos in Spain and many others are increasingly vocal political movements which are troubling mainstream parties: the recent success of Syriza may inspire such new parties to go further as defections to such parties are eroding their traditional voters.

In Britain, high levels of immigration, and the sense that economic policy is being conducted to improve macro economic performance which is not translating into improvements in living standards for ordinary people may explain the rise of UKIP. In Sweden, the Sweden Democrats are forcing controversial questions of immigration onto the Swedish political stage. In Greece and Spain, the stranglehold of German-led austerity is challenging the fabric of the single currency and of the European Union itself.

Are these differing groups changing the nature of European politics? Are we seeing the emergence of new political circumstances in which mainstream parties are being marginalised in favour of new, populist, single issue political groups? What are the causes of this development? What will it trigger? Is this heralding political instability across Europe? What can be done?"

The Ax:son Johnson London Seminar Series

Monday 12th March 2015

5.30 pm REGISTRATION & DRINKS

5.45 p.m. Opening by Bella Thomas

The Marginalisation of Mainstream Political Parties across Europe

Moderated by Jeremy O’Grady

Vernon Bogdanor	<i>Economic Integration & Political Instability</i>
Matthew Goodwin	<i>The rise of the Right in the UK: a special case?</i>
Andreas Johansson Heinö	<i>The paradoxes of Populism: Case of Sweden</i>
Bruno Waterfield	<i>The rational & positive element of populism</i>
Sofia Vasilopoulou	<i>The Case of Greece and the EU</i>
Sergi Pardos Prado	<i>Three Strategies to deal with populism</i>

7.00 Discussion

7.45 pm DRINKS & DINNER

PARTICIPANTS

Jeremy O'Grady	CEO, The Week; Co-Founder, Intelligence Squared
Vernon Bogdanor	Professor of Government & History, Kings' College, London
Matthew Goodwin	Professor of Politics, University of Nottingham
Andreas Johansson Heinö	Head of publishing at the Swedish liberal think tank Timbro
Sofia Vasilopoulou	Lecturer in Politics, University of York
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