

## Hunting the Snark (Lewis Carroll): The Politics of Brexit

Michael Keating  
The School of Social Science, University of Aberdeen

Thursday, October 3, 2019  
2:30 pm – 4:00 pm  
Mackintosh-Corry Hall, Room D216



**About the Speaker:** Michael Keating is Professor of Politics at the universities of Aberdeen and Edinburgh and Director of the Centre on Constitutional Change (CCC). He graduated from the University of Oxford in 1971 and in 1975 was the first PhD graduate from what is now Glasgow Caledonian University. In 1981 he gained the title of incorporated linguist (Institute of Linguists) and speaks English, French, Spanish and Italian. Michael is a fellow of the British Academy, Royal Society of Edinburgh, Academy of Social Sciences and European Academy and has taught in universities in Scotland, England, Canada, the USA, France and Spain and at the European University Institute in Italy. Among his publications since 2000 are *Plurinational Democracy* (Oxford University Press, 2001); *The Independence of Scotland* (Oxford University Press, 2009) and *Rescaling the European State* (Oxford University Press, 2013)

and (edited) *Debating Scotland. Issues of Independence and Union in the 2014 Referendum* (Oxford University Press in 2017). With Donatella della Porta, he edited *Methods and Approaches in the Social Sciences* (Cambridge University Press, 2008) and with David McCrone he edited *The Crisis of Social Democracy in Europe* (Edinburgh University Press, 2013). He is currently leading a major project on the UK constitution and Brexit and preparing a monograph on constitutional accommodation in the UK and Ireland for Oxford University Press.

**About the Lecture:** In 2016, the UK voted by a majority of 52 per cent to leave the European Union. 'Brexit' the Prime Minister declared, 'means Brexit'. Three years later the project is still not defined and no form of it has succeeded in getting through Parliament. The resulting political turmoil has pushed the largely unwritten constitution to its limits and may break up the United Kingdom itself. Brexit comes in several, incompatible, versions, from hyper-globalism to national protectionism. It is predicated on the return to a unitary nation-state, an English concept that contradicts the vision of the UK (especially since 1999) as a plurinational, post-sovereign union.

