Euroscepticism and the Future of European Integration

#LSEEurope

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EUROSCEPTICISM AND THE FUTURE OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

Catherine de Vries

Oxford University Press
Thought Experiment

Founding Father
Jean Monnet

European Community for Coal and Steel

naar

European Union
First Reaction: Amazing!

A parliament, a court & decades of peace
A Second Reaction: Oh No!

BREXIT
Key Findings

1. **Euroscepticism as a luxury good**: develops in contexts where people perceive exit options to be viable.

2. **There is no such thing as a ‘Eurosceptic’**: consists of different types.

3. **Only certain types are worrisome for future**: Exit sceptics, yet regime & policy scepticism provide route in (Brexit as a break?)

4. **Euroscepticism reflect national experiences**: structural imbalances in Union support regional fault lines.

5. **Public is paying attention**: at a time where EU needs to deliver people (and political entrepreneurs) are watching.
Dilemma & Solutions?

• How to deal with the heterogeneous demands at a time when proposals aimed at increasing cooperation and electoral democracy at the EU level to deal with this preference heterogeneity are difficult to achieve as they require Treaty change and thus risk domestic ratification failure?

• Solutions? No one-size-fits-all, but more flexibility & differentiation