

# American students and European nationalisms

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# WHAT THEY KNOW

- **Nationality** is a the relationship between a person and their state of origin, culture, association, affiliation and/or loyalty. Nationality affords the state jurisdiction over the person and affords the person the protection of the state.
- By custom, it is the right of each state to determine who its nationals are. Such determinations are part of nationality law.



# WHAT THEY DON'T KNOW....

- Existence of **STATELESS NATIONS**
- Example: Spanish law recognizes the autonomous communities of Catalonia, Galicia and the Basque Country as "nationalities" (Nacionalidades).

# CORE DEBATE

- How to define NATION and NATIONALISM



# OR IF THEY KNOW SOMETHING.....

...THEY TEND TO HAVE A ROMANTIC VISION OF NATIONALISM



# NATIONALISM AS A POLITICAL MOVEMENT



# BENEFITS

- . They question their world view
- . They adopt a more intercultural approach
- . They acquire new skills to interpret reality (even their own!)

Arcadia University  
The College of Global Studies  
Edinburgh Center

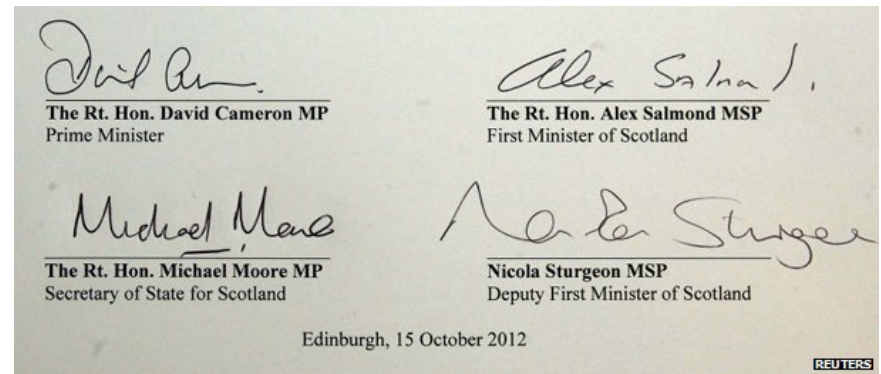
Constitutional Referenda and Study Abroad  
Case Study:- Scotland 2014

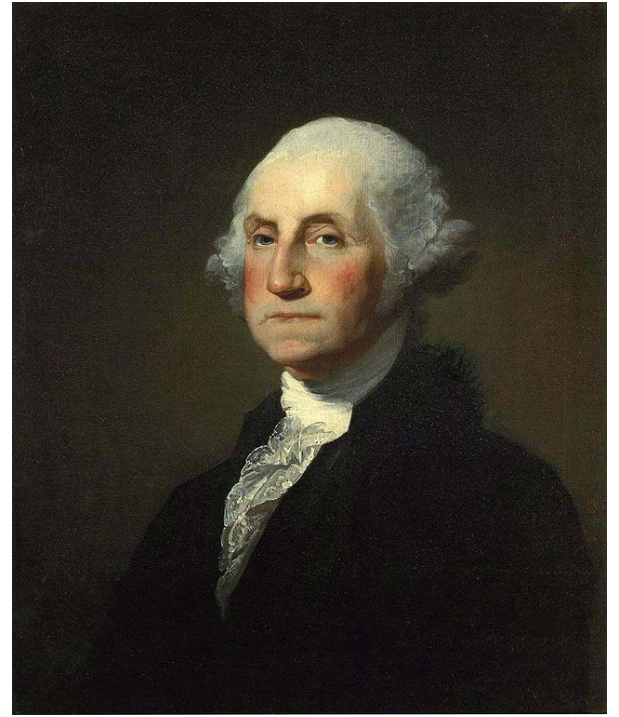
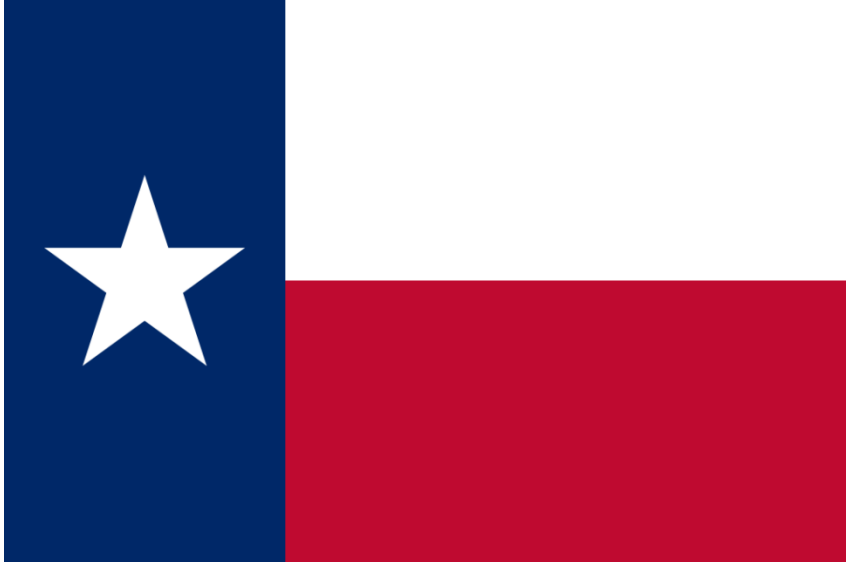
Dr Hamish Thompson (Director, Scotland Programs)



# Constitutional political questions offer tremendous pedagogical opportunities

1. Cultural cross cultural reflection
2. Insight into local cultural values and references
3. Reflection of a nation's history's relevance to identity
4. How did the Edinburgh Center adapt programming to reflect the debate?







Visiting Student at the University of St  
Andrews Spring 2014 discusses  
relevance of referendum to her  
experience (7.30-10.30)

<http://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/gallery/2014/sep/01/eye-art-alternative-scottish-independence-referendum-posters-in-pictures>



# Edinburgh Center Lecture Series (David Stewart MSP)

<http://www.ustream.tv/recorded/39655327/highlight/565623>

How did we adapt programming?

# Lecture Series

- Edinburgh Center Lecture Series focussed on politics inviting MSPs over the the last 2 years:- Marco Biagi (SNP - Yes), David Stewart (Lab - No), Margo Macdonald (Ind - Yes), Alison Johnson Scheme (Green - Yes).
- <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/arcadia-scotland-lecture-series>

# Orientation Events

Visit to the National Museum of Scotland focussing on key points in English Scottish relations:- e.g., Mary Queen of Scots, Darien, Culloden.





# Co-Curricular Events Programming

E.g.,

Craigmillar Castle  
(Primarily associated  
with Mary Queen of  
Scots)



Union: The Play  
by Tim Barrow

# **Secession & Study Abroad: Does it Matter? Catalan & Scottish Nationalism in Center Programming**

**Dr Jaume Gelabert, Arcadia University**

**Barcelona**

2014



# Introduction

- 2014 marks the year of the referendum for Scottish independence (18 September) and Catalan independence (???) (9 November)
- Both nations have a history of friction with the UK and Spain respectively

# The origin of the independence movement

- Different factors: history, economy, identity and culture
- Catalonia: great autonomy until 1714. Philip V and 'New Rule' (Nueva Planta) decree. Battle of September 11, 1714.
- Scotland had been an independent kingdom for 700 years and part of the UK since 1707. On Sept. 18 decided to remain in the UK

# Student project

- Students are being exposed during this semester to a lot of information about the implications of such referenda.
- All students take a Core Course, part of the Arcadia Center curriculum.
- This semester, all students are engaged in a self-guided research project, as part of the Core Course.

# Student based project

- Students meet with the Center Director four times:
- Session 1: History of Scotland and Catalonia, a brief overview. Origins of Independence movement. **OCTOBER 6**
- Session 2: Political parties and media. What do they say/ Who is who? **OCTOBER 20**
- Mandatory Lecture: Dr Hamish Thompson, Director of Scotland Programs. **OCTOBER 23**

# Student based project

- Session 3: What now? Comparison of the future of Catalonia and Scotland: hypotheses  
**NOVEMBER 17**
- Session 4: Wrap up. What it all means.  
**NOVEMBER 24**
- Each group interviews 10 local students about their group's topic.
- There is a digital discussion board and the result of the research will be submitted to Arcadia University's magazine (IMPACT)



# Results

- Student-based research is highly participative: students use various digital tools (Google Drive, Google hangouts, Blackboard) to split the tasks among themselves
- Students' focus is on the impact and portrayal of the issues in the media, the social networks and audiovisual channels (TV, Youtube)

# (Actual examples) Pro- Catalan Independence Parties

- President of the Government of Catalonia
  - Artur Mas
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HAD-MEFIBxE>
- Support in Catalonian Politics
  - Republican Left of Catalonia→ ERC
    - Oriol Junqueras is the president.
  - Convergence and Union→ CiU
    - CDC
    - UDC
  - Initiative for Catalonia Greens→ ICV
  - Popular Unity Candidacy→ CUP
- Bibliography
  - <http://www.debatingeurope.eu/focus/independence-catalonia/#.VEPkfldW8x>
  - <http://global.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/135719/Convergence-and-Union>
  - [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Artur\\_Mas\\_i\\_Gavarr%C3%B3](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Artur_Mas_i_Gavarr%C3%B3)
  - [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Popular\\_Unity\\_Candidates](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Popular_Unity_Candidates)
  - <http://cup.cat/>



# Actual examples:

## Pro-Scottish Independence Parties

- **Scottish National Party (SNP)**
  - Social democratic political party for independence
  - “Together We Can Make Scotland Better”
  - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4o6bNNsHzpE>
- **Scottish Green Party**
  - “Scottish Greens”
  - Membership increased after referendum
- **Scottish Socialist Party (SSP)**
  - Authored the Declaration of Calton Hill
- **Solidarity Party**
  - Breakaway from SSP, backed by Socialist Worker’s Party



Sources: <http://www.snp.org>, <http://www.scottishgreens.org.uk>, <http://www.scottishsocialistparty.org>, <http://www.new.solidarityscotland.org>

# Twitter

- Popular hashtags:
- #9N2014, #votarem #volem votar #barcelona #catalonia #Noupais #siosi
- [||★|| 9N2014 #SíSí:](#)
  - The General government of Catalonia has its own facebook, twitter, and blog account

catalan gov

**Catalan Government** @catalangov · Oct 17

During first 5 hours of online sign-up, the #Catalan Government got 30% of the volunteers it needs for #9N2014 vote (5,220 of 18,000 people)

RETWEETS

60

FAVORITES

18



11:49 AM - 17 Oct 2014 · Details

Collapse

↩ Reply ↻ Retweet ★ Favorite ⋮ More



**Lluís Salvadó** @LISalvado · 14h

Ens veiem d'aquí unes hores, #femunpasendavant per fer el pas definitiu el més aviat possible

↩ Reply ↻ Retweet ★ Favorite

# Conclusions

- Student-based research is a very powerful tool to have students engage in historical events
- The political processes of Scotland and Catalonia are unavoidable backdrops of the students' experience during their time on-site.

- Gràcies! Mòran Taing! Gracias! Thank you!
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