

ISA INTERNATIONAL GUEST LECTURE

SHIFTING REPERTOIRES OF POPULISM AND NEO-NATIONALISM: AUSTRIA AND BREXIT BRITAIN

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This paper borrows the term 'action repertoire' from social movement analysis and applies it to contemporary populism and neo-nationalism in Europe. The concept has the advantage of highlighting the open-ended and shifting nature of populism. Repertoires shift and are open to innovation. The paper examines the pioneering phase in which small or peripheral countries had a disproportionate influence, and shows how the repertoire developed there is adopted and adapted in the course of – and after – the EU referendum in the UK. I take two examples from two distinct phases of the emergence of right-wing populist repertoires: Phase One (1980s/90s): the populist-neo-nationalist right in Austria; Phase Two (current): the UK and Brexit. The paper argues that populism and neo-nationalism have become increasingly mainstream; common property across the political spectrum. The broader context here is one in which nation states narrow their *raison d'être* and the source of their legitimacy as they increasingly focus upon a single task: the defence of borders, above all against migrants.



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