



Australia's Relationship with the European Union: From Tensions to New Paradigms

DISSEMINATION REPORT

Erasmus+ Programme – Jean Monnet Activities (587060-EPP-1-2017-1-AU-EPPJMO PROJECT)

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We extend our thanks to Ms Tamara Tubakovic and Mr Nicholas Parry for their research assistance work. Tamara also provided invaluable assistance with the organisation of the three key events emanating from this projects and was the Rapporteur for the two Symposiums.

We also wish to gratefully acknowledge the support of the following:

- TANPEAR Steering Committee
- EU officials and Australian government officials for taking the time out of their busy schedules for be interviewed as part of this project
- All the speakers and participants of the two symposiums and Question and Answer Forum
- Egmont – the Royal Institute for International Relations and the Australian Embassy to Belgium and Luxembourg and Australian Mission to the European Union and NATO to their support with our Symposium in Brussels in June 2019.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

After decades of tension and conflict, Australia's relationship with the European Union (EU) has reached a milestone. The new engagement is comprehensive, reflecting an Australian all-of-government commitment to work with the EU, its institutions and member states. As the multi-faceted Framework Agreement, which provisionally came into force in 2018, this treaty level relationship constitutes a priority engagement. It will strengthen EU-Australia actions and interests on bilateral, regional and multilateral issues.

Yet significant challenges place the relationship at a critical juncture. Faced with Brexit, uncertainty about the United States' international role, and increasing regional and global instability, Australia and the EU are seeking to enhance cooperation to tackle these challenges.

The aim of the project has been to assess how relations between Australia and the EU might continue to develop and flourish. It has examined the dialogue and negotiation of key agreements and policy cooperation (e.g. multilateral and regional cooperation, security, trade, refugee flows) especially within the Asia Pacific. It has assessed the implications of the Framework Agreement and the negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA). This project has presented new paradigms for advancing the relationship including collaboration on issue-based leadership within multilateral and plurilateral forums. The steps taken towards a more comprehensive relationship have been significant. The distance that has been traversed from misunderstanding to the current engagement suggests that steady engagement, socialisation, political will and an incrementalist approach can all bear fruit.

The project will be conducted by Professor Philomena Murray (Jean Monnet Chair *ad personam*) and Dr Margherita Matera, both from the School of Social and Political Sciences, Faculty of Arts at The University of Melbourne.

PROJECT TEAM

Philomena Murray is Jean Monnet Chair *ad personam* and Professor in the School of Social and Political Sciences at the University of Melbourne. She was the Research Director on Regional Governance in the EU Centre on Shared Complex Challenges and was Director of the Contemporary Europe Research Centre, Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence. She received a national Carrick (Australian Learning and Teaching Council) Citation for Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning for pioneering the first European Union curriculum in Australia and leadership in national and international curriculum development. She is an assessor for the Australian Research Council and has been an assessor for the European Research Council and other European research bodies. She has run training courses on the EU for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Canberra. She is a media commentator on national and international TV and radio.



She is Visiting Research Fellow at Trinity College Dublin; Visiting Professor at the College of Europe, Bruges and Associate Research Fellow at United Nations University – Institute for Comparative Regional Integration Studies, Bruges. She was Vice-Chair of the Board of the International Political Science Association Research Committee on European Unification.

She currently directs the Jean Monnet Comparative Network on the Externalisation of Refugee Policies (CONREP), co-directs 'Australia's Relationship with the European Union: From Tensions to New Paradigms', with Dr Margherita Matera, and is joint

director of EAST: EU-Asia Security and Trade, led by University of Maastricht.

Her research interests are in comparative regional integration; EU-Asia relations; EU-Australia relations and EU governance and legitimacy and she has published extensively on these.

Publications include Murray, P. and Beeson, M. eds. (forthcoming 2020) ;Great Power Rivalry and Regionalism in the Asia Pacific;, Asian Studies Review: Murray, P. and Matera, M. eds. (2018); Australia's relationship with the European Union: From conflict to cooperation;, Special Issue, Australian Journal of International Affairs, 72:3; Longo, M. and Murray, P. (2015) Europe's Legitimacy Crisis: From Causes to Solutions, Palgrave Pivot; Brennan, L. and Murray, P. (2015, paperback 2017) Drivers of Integration and Regionalism in Europe and Asia: Comparative Perspectives, Routledge; Christiansen T., Kirchner E., Murray P. eds. (2013, paperback 2015), The Palgrave Handbook of EU-Asia Relations, Palgrave.

Dr Margherita Matera is a researcher in the School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Melbourne. Her research focus on the EU's security and defence cooperation, the EU as a foreign policy, security and crisis management actor, the externalisation and securitisation of EU refugee policy, NATO, the transatlantic relationship, EU-Australia relations, Brexit and comparative regionalism. She teaches on EU integration, comparative European politics and international relations.



She is a co-recipient of two Jean Monnet grants: this Jean Monnet Project on Australia's relationship with the European Union with Professor Philomena Murray); and a Jean

Monnet Network that examines the externalisation of the refugee policies within the EU and Australia (Comparative Network on the Externalisation of Refugee Policies - CONREP) with five other partners universities. She is also the Research Coordinator on CONREP. She is a media commentator on national and international TV and radio.

DISSEMINATION REPORT

This Dissemination Report provides details of all the activities that were conducted during the during this two year project. The project's core activities fall under three categories:

1. Events
2. Research
3. Deliverables (dissemination of results)

EVENTS

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUMS

Brussels Symposium: The Future of Australia-EU Relations: Synergies and Shared interests, held on 11 June 2019

This Symposium was held in Brussels and brought together individuals from academia, think-tanks and the policy making community to debate and engage in dialogue on the key challenges and opportunities in the EU-Australia relationship. Participants were asked to reflection on: What the partnership can achieve in an era of great power rivalry and populist pressures; how and in what way the Australia-EU partnership can make a positive difference at a global and regional level. The sessions covered:

- Enhancing EU-Australia Engagement
- Strengthening the International Trading System
- The Australia-EU Free Trade Agreement
- Tackling Relational and Global Security Challenges
- Opportunities for Regional and Multilateral Engagement: the EU, Australia and Asia
- Climate Change and Environmental issues
- Research and Educational Collaboration
- Synergies and Shared Concerns: where to from here?

This symposium was organised by the School of Social and Political Sciences at The University of Melbourne, in collaboration with Egmont – the Royal Institute for International Relations, and with the support of the

Australian Embassy to Belgium and Luxembourg and Australian Mission to the European Union and NATO.

A report of the Brussels Symposium can be found on the TANPEAR project website.



Melbourne Symposium - Australia and the European Union: Towards New Paradigms, held on 26 July 2018

This was the first of three major events of this project. The aim of this Symposium was to develop a deeper understanding of how the relationship between Australia and the EU might progress in the context of the Framework Agreement; the negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA); and cooperation across a range of policy areas and in the region. The Symposium provided an opportunity for participants to contribute to strengthening dialogue on the core challenges and opportunities in the relationship. The sessions covered:

- Assessing the Framework Agreement: Towards a Strategic Engagement?
- Towards an FTA: Priorities and Implications within a Global Context
- Australia's relationship with the EU and the UK in the context of Brexit
- Regional Engagement

A report on the July 2018 Symposium was produced and distributed to members of the Steering Committee in February 2019. The report can be found on the TANPEAR project website.



QUESTION AND ANSWER FORUM

Australia-Europe Q and A (Questions and Answers) Forum, (20 August 2019).

This Q&A Panel, at the University of Melbourne, featured representatives from the European Union, the Australian government, business, civil society and academia. Panellists interrogated the Australia-EU relationship from a variety of perspectives. Members of the audience had the opportunity to ask questions, to which the panel responded and debated.

The Q&A was moderated by Dr Isaac Kfir, Australian Strategic Policy Institute.

The panellists were:

- H.E. Dr Michael Pulch, EU Ambassador to Australia
- Professor Philomena Murray, Jean Monnet Chair *ad personam*, The University of Melbourne
- Ms Alison Burrows, Chief Negotiator for Australia-EU FTA negotiations, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Mr Jason Collins, Chief Executive Officer, European Australian Business Council
- Dr Prudence Gordon, General Manager of Trade & Economics, National Farmers' Federation
- Ms Reem Mussa, Humanitarian Advisor on Forced Migration at Médecins Sans Frontières

This event was also recorded as part of the ABC Radio National Big Ideas series ([click here](#) to access the recording).



SEMINARS

Seminars at the University of Melbourne.

Seminars and a public lecture have been held at the University of Melbourne:

- 'Brexit: back to the future for the UK?', Professor Richard Whitman, 6 February 2019. The lecture was also recorded as part of the ABC Radio National Big Ideas series ([click here](#) to access the recording).
- 'Does the EU have a future?', Professor Loukas Tsoukalis, 24 October 2017. The lecture was also recorded as part of the ABC Radio National Big Ideas series ([click here](#) to access the recording)



RESEARCH

We have been researching and publishing on this topic and were invited to both submit and to present to the Public Hearing of the Australian Parliament on the implications of Brexit for Australia. See Deliverables, below, for a list of some of our work.

We have conducted very fruitful interviews with EU officials and diplomats, and with Australian government officials, and these have assisted us with our research.

DELIVERABLES (DISSEMINATION OF RESULTS)

PROJECT WEBSITE

A dedicated project website has been established. It can be accessed [here](#).

PUBLICATIONS

We formally launched the publication of a special issue of the *Australian Journal of International Affairs* on [Australia's relationship with the European Union: from conflict to cooperation](#) at the Melbourne Symposium in July 2018. This special issue includes articles from senior scholars and early career academics.



PUBLICATION OF REFEREED ARTICLES AND CHAPTERS

Allison-Reumann, L., Matera, M. and Murray, P. (forthcoming 2020), 'Differentiated disintegration and third countries: the implications of Brexit for relations between the EU, the UK and Australia' in S. Gänzle, B. Leruth and J. Trondal eds., *What future for European integration? Differentiated (dis)integration in light of Brexit*, Routledge

Beeson, M. and Murray, P. (forthcoming, 2019), 'Testing Times for Regionalism: Coping with great power rivalry in the Asia-Pacific', *Asian Studies Review*, forthcoming Volume 43, Issue 4.

Brianson, A., Murray, P. (forthcoming, 2019), 'Rethinking Britain's Role in a Differentiated Europe – A Comparative Regionalism

Perspective on the Consequences of Brexit,' *Journal of Common Market Studies*
Murray, P. (forthcoming, 2019), 'Managing Security: Reimagining ASEAN's regional role', *Asian Studies Review*, Volume 43, Issue 4.

Matera, M. and Murray, P. eds., 2018 'Special Issue: Australia and the European Union', *Australian Journal of International Affairs*, 72(3).

Allison-Reumann, L., Matera, M. and Murray, P. 2018, 'Assessing Australia's options in the context of Brexit: engaging with the UK and the EU', *Australian Journal of International Affairs*, 72(3), 287-303.

Matera, M. and Murray, P. 2018, 'Australia's relationship with the European Union: from conflict to cooperation'. *Australian Journal of International Affairs*, 72(3), 179-193.

Matera, M. 2018 'Enhanced European Union-Australia security cooperation through crisis management'. *Australian Journal of International Affairs*, 72(3), 224-239.

Murray, P. 2018, 'Australia's engagement with the European Union: Partnership choices and Critical Friends'. *Australian Journal of International Affairs*, 72(3), 208-233.

Murray, P. 2018, '[EU, ASEAN and ASEM: "co-regionalism" in action](#)', in Friends of Europe, *My ASEM Wishlist. How Asia and Europe should really be Working Together*, Brussels, Friends of Europe, 21-23.

POLICY REPORTS

Murray, P and Matera, M. 2019. [Australia and the European Union: Trends and Current Synergies](#), May, The University of Melbourne.

Murray, P and Matera, M. 2019. *Australia and the European Union: Towards Deeper Engagement*. Forthcoming. The University of Melbourne.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Murray, P. 2018, '[EU-Australia FTA: From Trade Tensions to Fruitful Engagement](#)', in Australian Institute of International Affairs, *The EU and Australia: Towards a New Era*, Canberra, Australian Institute of International Affairs/EU-Australia Leadership Forum, November 2018, 45-48.

OPINION PIECES/POLICY BLOGS

Murray, P. 2019, '[Negotiating Trade post-Brexit](#)' *Pursuit*, 2 July.

Murray, P. 2019, '[The externalisation of refugee policies in Australia and Europe: The need for a comparative interdisciplinary approach](#)' Blog of the The Comparative Network on Refugee Externalisation Policies (CONREP), June.

Allison-Reumann, L., Matera, M. Murray, P. 2019, '[The impact of Brexit on Australia's trading relations with the UK and EU](#)', *LSE blogs, European Politics and Policy*, 28 May.

Murray, P. and Matera, M. 2019, '[Theresa May and Brexit Fatigue](#)', *Australian Outlook*, 29 March.

Murray, P. 2019, '[Nine days and counting: what options does the UK have before the Brexit deadline?](#)' *The Conversation*, 21 March.

Murray, P., 2019, '[Interview with Daniel Flitton, Brexit barneys and three big questions](#)', Sydney, Lowy Institute, January.

Allison-Reumann, L., Matera, M. Murray, P. 2018, '[Australia's options in the context of Brexit](#)', *Australian Outlook*, 11 July.

Murray, P. 2018, '[EU-Australia FTA: From Trade Tensions to Fruitful Engagement](#)'. *Australian Outlook*, 15 June.

Murray P. and Matera M. 2018, '[EU and Australia: From Conflict to Cooperation](#)'. *Australian Outlook*, 29 May.

Murray, P. 2018, '[EU-Australia FTA: From Trade Tensions to Fruitful Engagement](#)', *Australian Outlook*, 15 June.

Murray P. and Matera, M. 2018, '[The EU and Australia: From Conflict to Cooperation](#)', *Australian Outlook*, 29 May.

EDITED VOLUME

Matera, M. and Murray, P. eds., 2019, *EU-Australia Relations: Synergies and Shared Concerns*, The University of Melbourne.

Table of contents:

- *Introduction* – Margherita Matera (The University of Melbourne) and Philomena Murray (The University of Melbourne)
- *Reflections on EU-Australia engagement and prospects for the future* – Philomena Murray (The University of Melbourne)
- *Convergence of EU and Australian Views on the International Trading system in the Twenty-First Century* – Richard Pomfret (University of Adelaide)
- *The EU and Australia's Approaches to Trade Bilateralism: Discrepancies and Synergies* – Lachlan McKenzie (ANZSOG) and Evgeny Postnikov (The University of Melbourne)
- *EU-Australia Security Cooperation: strengthening crisis management engagement* – Margherita Matera (The University of Melbourne)
- *Australia and the European Union promoting a normative, security agenda in the South Pacific Islands* – Isaac Kfir (Australian Strategic Policy Institute)
- *Climate and Energy: Divergent interests and approaches between Australia and the European Union* – Nicholas Parry (The University of Melbourne)
- *Cooperation Beyond Deterrence: The Prospects for an EU-Australia Rights-Based Approach to Refugee Protection in Southeast Asia* - Tamara

Tubakovic (The University of Melbourne)

- *After Brexit: Australia's relations with the EU and the UK* – Laura Allison-Reumann (Nanyang Technological University)

PRESENTATIONS

We gave the following presentations nationally and internationally:

Murray, P. 2019, Introductory Address: Legitimacy and Externalisation of Refugee Policies: legitimising extraordinary responses? Refugee Externalisation Policies Comparative Network Conference on Responsibility, Legitimacy and Accountability, 14 June, Monash Prato Centre, Prato, Italy

Matera, M. Enhancing EU-Australia Security Cooperation through the Framework Partnership Agreement, International Symposium on The Future of Australia-EU Relations: Synergies and Shared Concerns, Auditorium, Avenue des Arts/Kunstlaan 56, Brussels 1000, 11 June 2019.

Murray, P. Towards closer engagement: regional cooperation and linkages, International Symposium on The Future of Australia-EU Relations: Synergies and Shared Concerns, Auditorium, Avenue des Arts/Kunstlaan 56, Brussels 1000, 11 June 2019.

Murray, P. Welcome and Opening Address, International Symposium on The Future of Australia-EU Relations: Synergies and Shared Concerns, Auditorium, Avenue des Arts/Kunstlaan 56, Brussels 1000, 11 June 2019.

Murray, P. The UK's post-Brexit relations with non-EU countries: the case of Australia, European Studies Centre, St Antony's, University of Oxford, 4 June 2019.

Murray, P. 2019 Prospects for interregionalism and co-regionalism in the Asia Pacific, Opening roundtable, Conference of the Jean Monnet Network on EU-Asia Security and

Trade, 8-9 April, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.

Matera, M and Murray, P. 'EU-Australia Security Relations: Past trends and future prospects', Second Conference of the Jean Monnet Network on EU-Asia Security and Trade, Singapore, 8-9 April 2019.

Murray, P, Allison-Reumann, L. and Matera, M. 'Australia and the EU: From trade tensions to FTA negotiation', Second Conference of the Jean Monnet Network on EU-Asia Security and Trade, Singapore, 8-9 April 2019.

Matera, M. Participant in a panel on 'Navigating the New EU', Brexit Conference, Irish Australia Chamber of Commerce, 15 March 2019.

Murray, P. Brexit: from referendum to Exit? Binary choices and Narratives in Brexit Debates. Australian Chamber of Commerce Conference on Brexit – The 2019 St Patrick's Conference, Melbourne, 15 March 2019.

Murray, P. Europe: challenges and populism, presentation to Panel on Navigating the "New EU", Irish Australian Chamber of Commerce Conference on Brexit – The 2019 St Patrick's Conference, Melbourne, 15 March 2019.

Murray, P. Australia's choices post-Brexit, Panel Discussion on Brexit and the Future on EU-UK-Australian Relations, Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House., Canberra, 26 February 2019

Allison-Reumann, L., Matera, M., Murray, P. The implications of Brexit for relations between the EU, the UK and Australia, Presentation to UACES 48th Annual Conference, University of Bath, UK, 2-5 September 2018.

Murray, P. and Brianson, A. Awkward State or Middle Power After Brexit? Reflections on the UK's future role in comparative perspective, Paper presented to UACES 48th Annual Conference, University of Bath, UK, 2-5 September 2018.

Murray, P. The European Union in the Asia Pacific: a changing actor in changing geopolitics. Australian Strategic Policy Institute State of the Region 2018 Masterclass, Melbourne, 15 March 2018

[episode](#). Podcast with Isaac Kfir and Renee Jones, 21 January.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Murray, P. Presented the Annual Government House Lecture, The Future of Europe and what it means for Australia, Government House and Australian Institute of International Affairs, Hobart, 20 September 2017

This has been ongoing through Twitter.

Murray, P. Brexit: Unexpected Outcomes and Implications for the UK and Australia, Australasian Study of Parliament Group Victorian Chapter, Parliament of Victoria, Melbourne, 22 August 2017.

Allison-Reumann, L., Matera, M., Murray, P., Australia's options in the context of Brexit: Balancing relations with the EU and the UK, Paper to the International Conference on Rethinking governance in an era of global insecurities, regional tensions and rising nationalism, 17-19 July 2017, EU Centre on Shared Complex Challenges, The University of Melbourne.

MASTER CLASS

Murray, P. Ran a Master Class for the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office and UK government officials, The UK's post-Brexit relations with non-EU countries: the case of Australia, FCO, London, (by invitation of the FCO), 20 June 2019

MEDIA

We have been undertaking media interviews on Australia, the EU and Brexit with the ABC, BBC, CNBC and community radio as well with the Lowy Institute and the Australian Strategic Policy Institute.

PODCAST

Australian Strategic Policy Institute, 2019, Philomena Murray and Margherita Matera [Brexit - a Policy, Guns & Money special](#)

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