



UK immigration policy after Brexit: Implications for Scotland and the UK

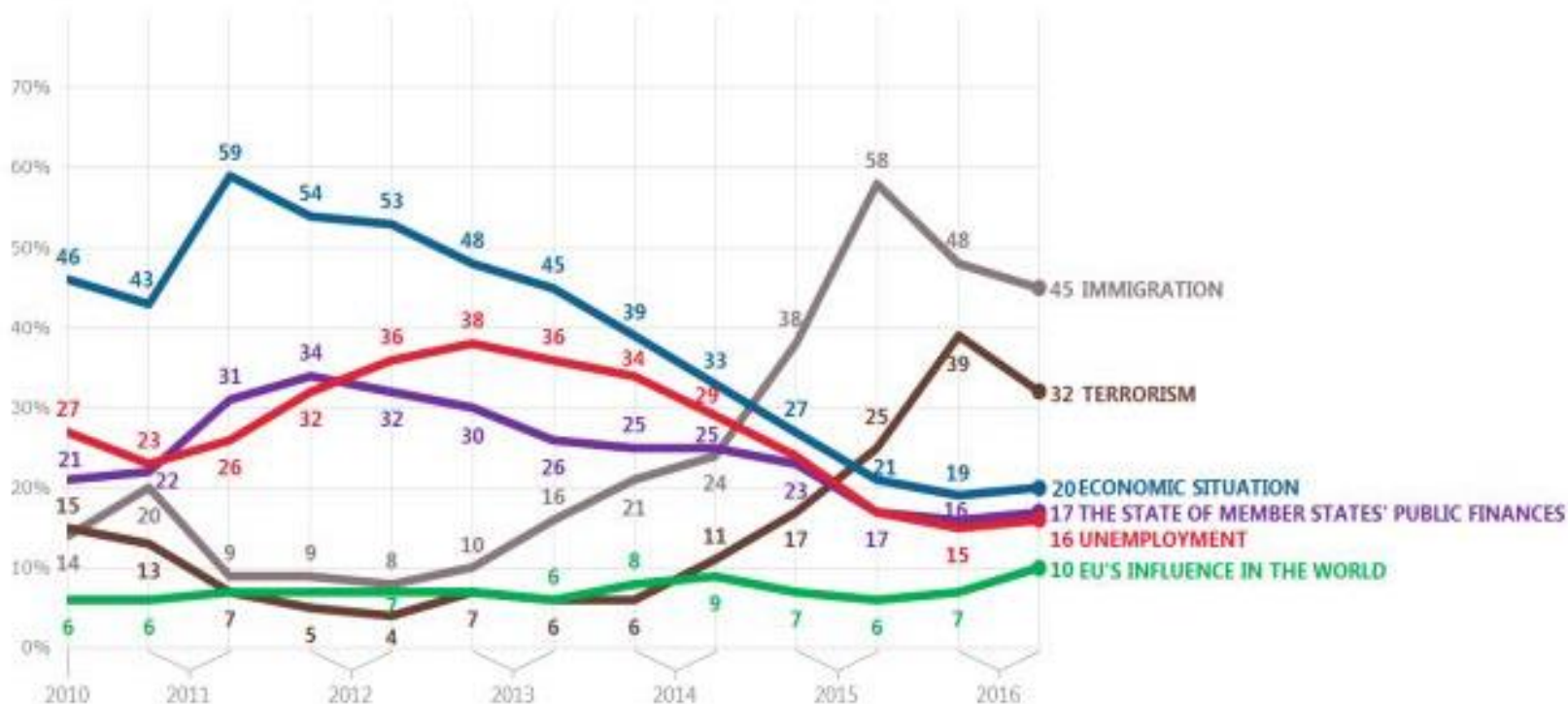
Christina Boswell

Brexit Seminar, University of
Glasgow, 28th March 2018

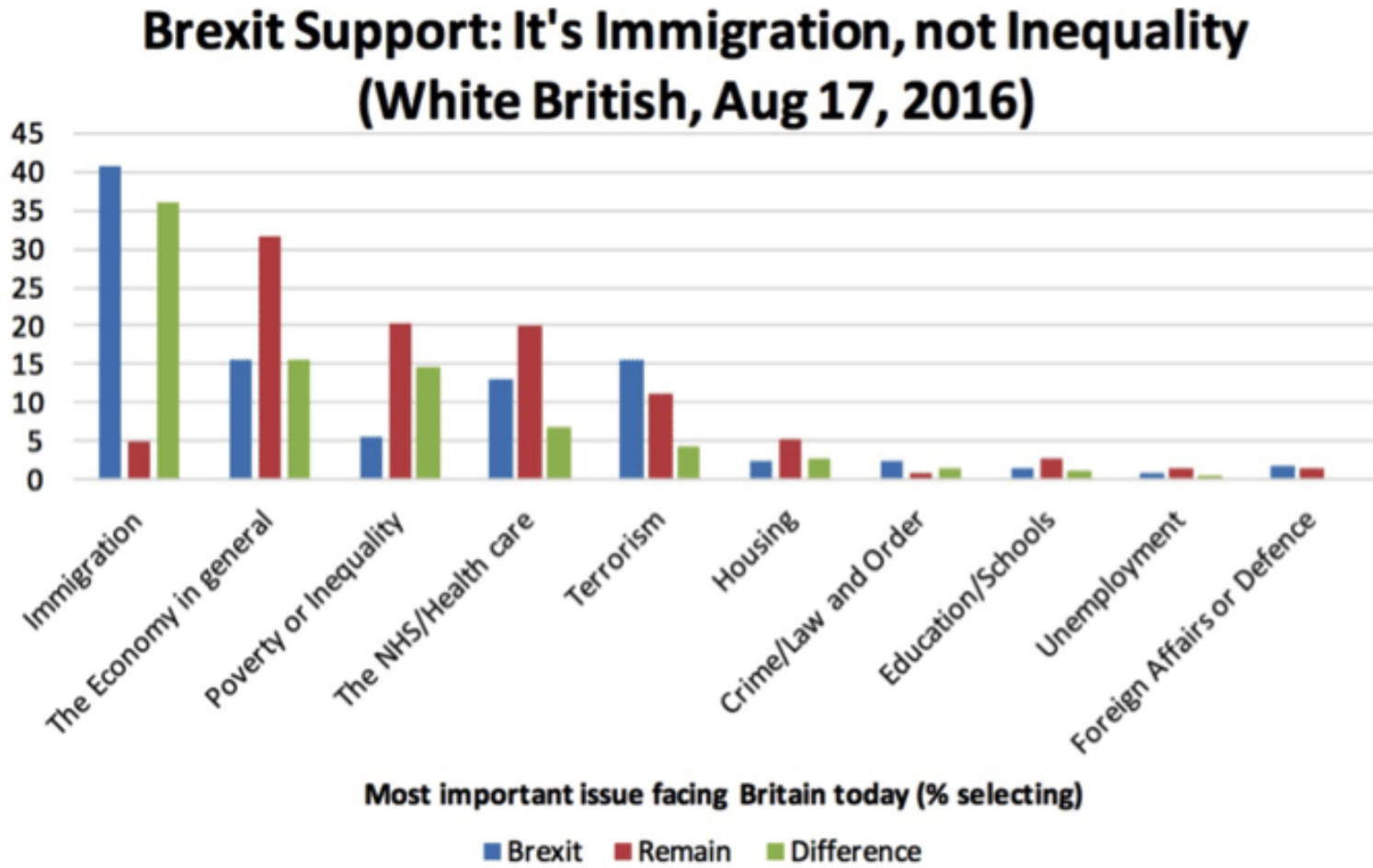
EEA immigration: the 'liberal dilemma'

What do you think are the most important issues facing the EU at the moment?

Source: Eurobarometer



Eric Kaufman, 2017

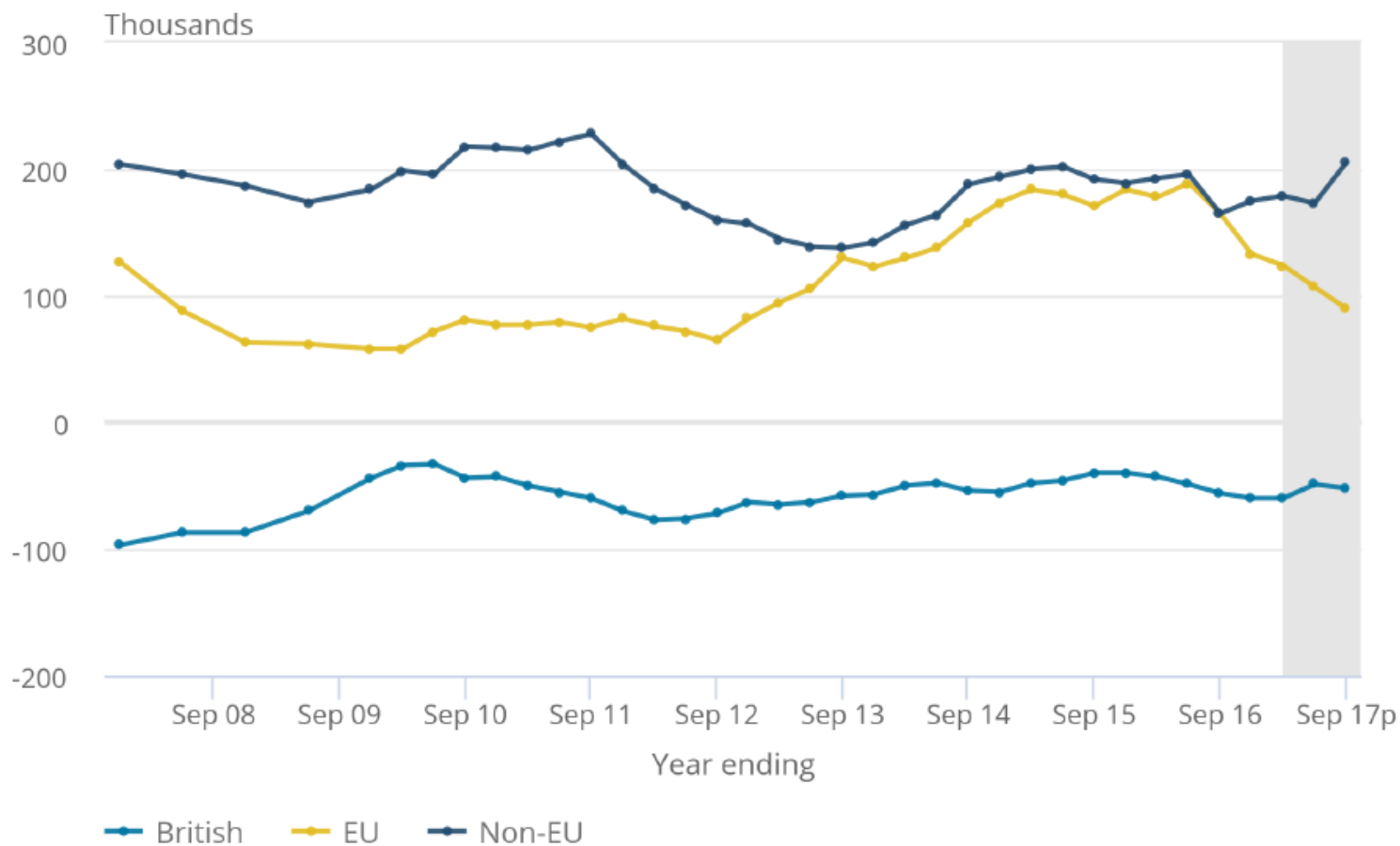


Liberal 'constraint'



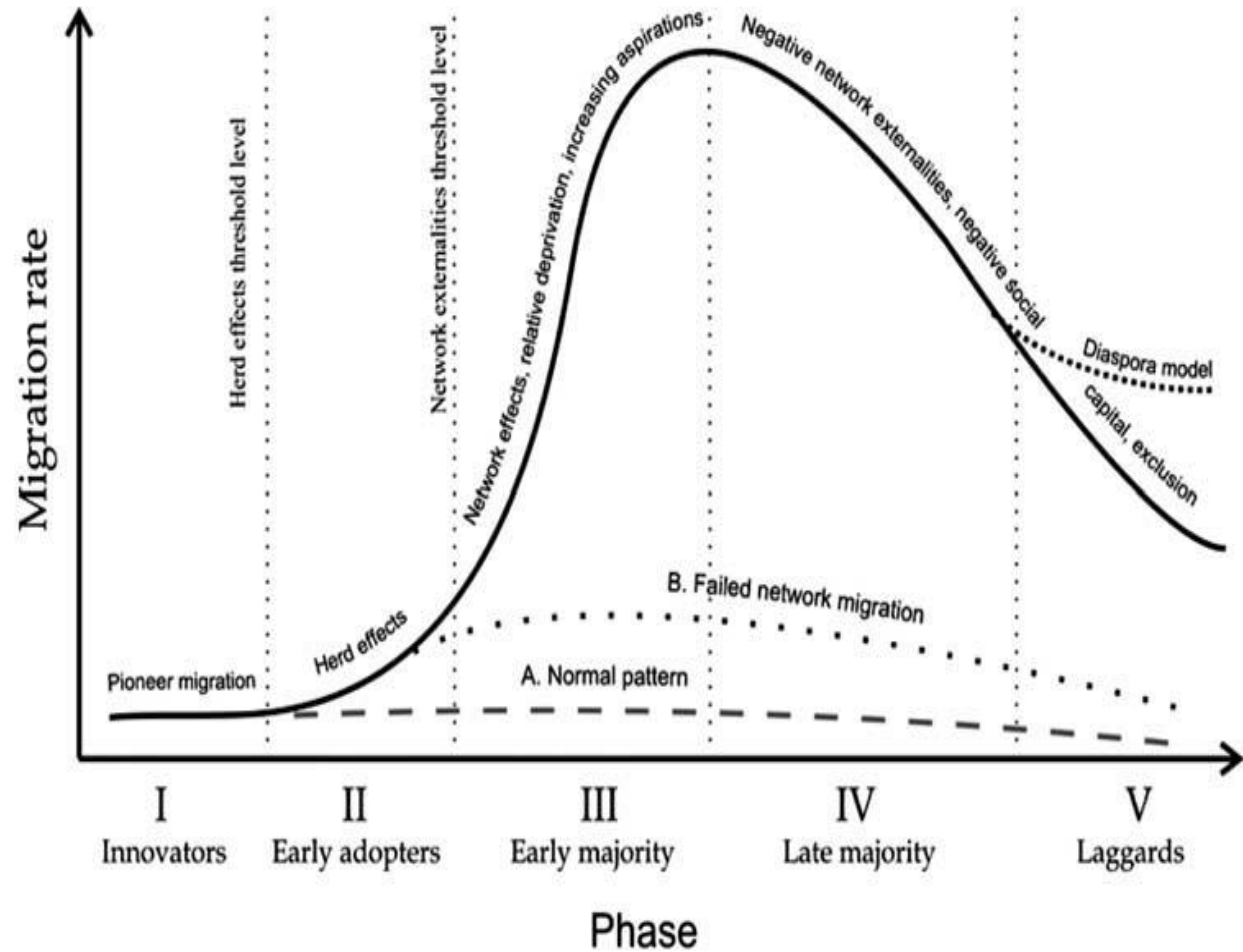
Net migration to the UK by Citizenship (year ending Sep 2017)

Source: ONS

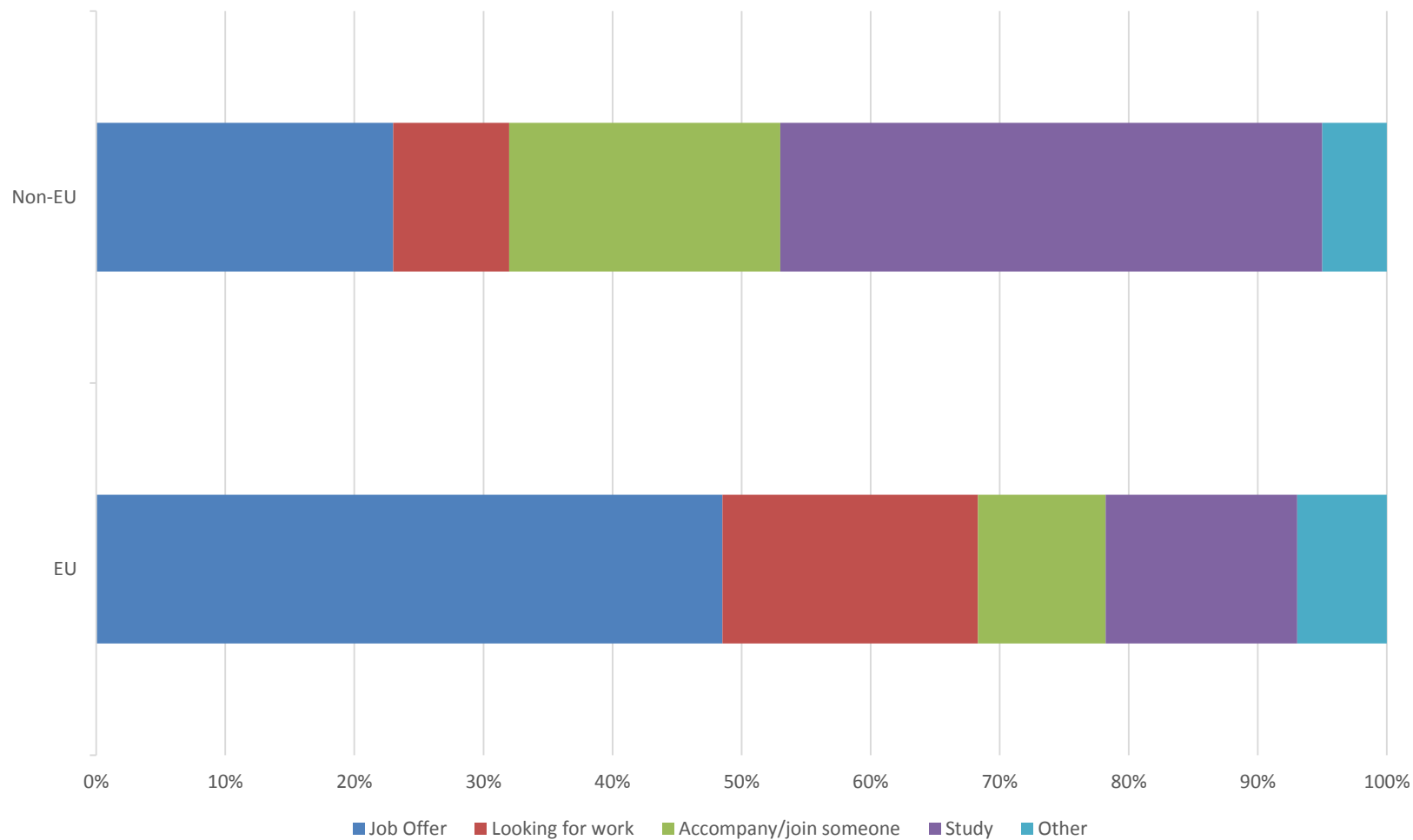


Migration systems: formation and decline

Source: Hein de Haas,
2010



Flows by main reason for immigration, EU and non EU, 2017



Options post-Brexit

1. Remain in Single Market



- Bespoke arrangements for N Ireland – and Scotland?
- Norway model – plus emergency stop?

2. Accommodate within existing system

Points-Based System
Tier 1 Highly valued
Tier 2 Skilled workers
Tier 3 Unskilled workers
Tier 4 Students
Tier 5 Youth mobility

- Channeled through PBS?
- Family/humanitarian routes?
- Revive Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme?

3. New immigration channels

- Preferential treatment for EEA?
- Sectoral approach?
- Low-skilled?
- Regional differentiation?



Low-skilled

75% EEA in lower skilled jobs (70% UK-born, 64% non-EEA)



- Cleaners/domestics
- Elementary storage occupations
- Food, drink and tobacco
- Packers, bottlers, canners, fillers
- Sales and retail assistants
- Kitchen and catering assistants
- Chefs
- Care workers/home carers
- Waiters/waitresses

Temporary/seasonal schemes



- Widespread across OECD
- Limited rights
- Inadvertent effects
 - Vulnerability/exploitation
 - Irregular work/overstay
 - Churn
 - Recourse to public funds?

Regional differentiation?

- **Demographic goals**
 - Population decline/ageing
 - Depopulation and geographical distribution
- **Economic goals**
 - Different labour market needs
 - Income differentials
- **Social/cultural goals**
 - Outward looking, welcoming



Options

- Scottish points-based system
- Post-study work
- Adjust PBS
 - Extended shortage occupation list
 - Lower skills/salary threshold



Boswell, Kyambi & Smellie 2017

Conclusion

- Limited political feasibility of more expansive/regional schemes; but:
- Strong employer interest (liberal constraint)

How to reconcile?

- EEA immigration declining
- Employer needs likely to be accommodated

→ Sup-optimal programmes?

- UK wide
- Sectoral
- Restricted schemes for low-skilled





Thank you!

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