



# Australian Senate Occasional Lecture Series

## Taking Back Control: Parliament, Sovereignty and Brexit

→ Dr Ben Wellings

Friday 13 April 2018, 12.15pm to 1.15pm • Theatre, Parliament House



Dr Ben Wellings

Brexit opened up serious questions about who was actually in charge in the United Kingdom. Popular sovereignty was asserted via the referendum vote to leave the European Union in 2016. The UK government initially sought to assert its own sovereignty over Parliament and the devolved administrations, provoking assertions of sovereignty from Scotland, Wales and London.

Brexit also challenged the shared sovereignty extant in Northern Ireland as the UK government, the Republic of Ireland, and the European Union sought to avoid a 'hard border' in the absence of government in Belfast. In short, Brexit created opportunities for the different locations of sovereignty to 'take back control' not only from the European Union but also from each other.

**Dr Ben Wellings** is Senior Lecturer in Politics and International Relations in the School of Social Sciences at Monash University. His current research concerns English nationalism, the Anglosphere and Brexit and he is the author of *English Nationalism and Euroscepticism: Losing the Peace*.