

# **Irrational nationalism: Euro scepticism and Europeanisation in Britain and Denmark**

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Abstract:

We examine whether the professed Euro-scepticism of Britain and Denmark in terms of political opinion or identification with the EU – and now Brexit – is due to a genuinely outlier position to the European project, or whether their overt political hostility may run counter to a deep seated sociological Europeanisation in the two countries, in terms of physical and virtual mobilities: everyday practices, knowledge, flows and connections across international borders at a regional and global scale. Using new data from the recent EUCROSS survey about the transnational practices and identifications of ordinary European citizens in six member states, we show that Britain and Denmark are positioned close to Germany in terms of the degree and type of transnationalism and cosmopolitanism found in these countries, and are more transnational societies than Spain and Italy. In many ways, Britain and Denmark have been exemplary "good" European societies, embodying the EU's cosmopolitan "normative power" agenda. We go on to suggest that the marked divide between the everyday Europeanisation of these societies and their political hostility to the EU and what it has led to is a paradox that can be understood in terms of "irrational nationalism", a problem of democracy that is now directly corrosive to the progressive achievements of the EU in terms of growing cosmopolitanism.

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