BREXIT:
Trick or Treat!

a discussion with

Luke Reader
Instructor in History

October 25, 2019  12:30 – 1:30 p.m.
Kelvin Smith Library DAMPEER Room, 11201 Euclid Ave

The Witching Hour Approaches. Perhaps.
The literature about public policy includes some discussion of "wicked problems." A wicked problem is difficult or impossible to solve for a mix of reasons; one list emphasizes incomplete or contradictory knowledge, the number of people and opinions involved, large economic burdens, and the interconnected nature of these problems with other problems. Climate change, educational achievement, energy supply and antibiotic resistance are among the issues that have been described as "wicked."

Brexit, British exit from the EU, certainly involves intense disagreement, especially about whether Brexit is a "problem" or a "solution." The battling politicians sometimes (especially in the Labour Party) have trouble figuring out their own opinions. The economic stakes are huge (unless you think they're not!) and the interconnection with other problems, especially the (temporarily?) former "troubles" in Northern Ireland, are central to debate. Most important, Brexit does not seem to have a "solution" that anyone but its most fervent proponents views as acceptable.

But Brexit is unusually wicked because there isn't even agreement on how to decide – creating a seeming constitutional crisis in a country with no constitution. And some would say it is not a wicked problem but a stupid problem, totally unnecessary and created by dumb choices.

In March, October 31 was set as the date for Brexit. Luke Reader, a scholar of British politics and especially British party politics, joins us again to discuss whatever the situation will be less than a week before the deadline.

The Friday Public Affairs Discussion Lunch is an opportunity for students, faculty, staff, emeriti and other members of our communities to learn and question each other about public policy issues at the international, national, and local levels. Faculty and other speakers share their research and experience to get beyond the headlines and repetition in the mass media, and the wild rumors of the internet. Lunch is brown bag, but cookies and some beverages are provided by the Center for Policy Studies of the College of Arts and Sciences.

http://fridaylunch.case.edu/