Editorial

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Welcome to the third issue in volume 11 of *British Politics*. Our first contribution for this issue is from Peter Dorey and Andrew Denham, who provide an examination of the Labour Party's leadership election of 2015. Through a discussion of the factors which led to the election of Jeremy Corbyn as leader, the authors conclude that the election revealed the serious tensions that can exist between ensuring party electability whilst attempting to maximise intra-party democracy. Our second main article, from Michael Higgins and Fiona McKay, examines the portrayal of women political leaders in the media. Focusing on press coverage of Scottish First Secretary, Nicola Sturgeon, the authors contend that the mediatisation of her image has been driven by competing logics, creating a marketable political persona accompanied by residual gendered discourses.

The third contribution for this issue comes from Betsy Thom, Rachel Herring, Anthony Thickett and Karen Duke. The authors analyse the emergence and early development of the Alcohol Health Alliance, and consider the success of its strategies for reframing and raising awareness of the alcohol problem. Following this, our next contribution is from Julie Smith, who provides a comparative study of the respective decisions of Harold Wilson and David Cameron to hold referendums on Britain's membership of the EC/EU. From a detailed historical comparison, the author concludes that, although the dynamics of the politics around both referenda show a number of close parallels, they also reveal important differences that render over-interpretation of the parallels a risky endeavour.

These original articles are accompanied by a symposium on Michael Kenny's *The Politics of English Nationhood* (OUP, 2014). Featuring contributions from Arthur Aughey, Krishnan Kumar, Ben Wellings and Michael Kenny, the papers here offer a range of thoughts and perspectives on the development and future political impact of nationalism in England. Finally, we conclude this issue with a contribution to our Forward Thinking section, from Jennifer Thomson, looking at Northern Ireland's exceptionalism with regard to the UK policy on abortion. Considering the question of why Northern Ireland has been able to remain exempt

from broader UK law, the author argues that abortion in Northern Ireland has always been treated as a regional issue, rather than as a women's rights issue.

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