David Cameron’s promise to renegotiate the terms of British membership and organise an in/out referendum rested on a double gamble. The first one was that he would achieve a successful negotiation in Brussels. The second is to convince a majority of British voters to support staying in the EU. This is made difficult by the long-standing anti-EU political culture in the UK, the divisions in the Conservative Party and a crisis of British democracy. The outcome of the referendum is therefore hard to predict.

Pauline Schnapper is Professor of British Politics at the University of Paris 3 Sorbonne Nouvelle. Her latest book Britain and the Crisis of the European Union (2015), co-authored by David Baker, provides a great analysis of the UK’s relations with the EU.

This lecture is part of the summer 2016 series “The Future of the UK: Between Internal and External Divisions”.

Everyone is welcome to attend.