

## **Ben Rosher**

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I am an international political sociologist and Postdoctoral Researcher at the University of Gothenburg. My doctoral thesis explored the role that contingency plays in both producing and mediating the experience of the post-Brexit border in Northern Ireland. My research interests span critical border and ontological security studies and I have been published in high-ranking academic journals including *European Security* and *International Political Sociology*. I have submitted evidence to Parliamentary Select Committees and written research reports for both public and private sector stakeholders. I have also engaged in extensive public facing work, particularly through my role as a Research Associate with the Centre for Cross Border Cooperation and as a Research Assistant on the Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey where my work has been cited in national and international media outlets including *The Guardian*, *Daily Mirror*, and *Time Magazine*. Finally, I am co-founder and co-convenor of the Ontological Security Studies Research Network, a multi-disciplinary global network of over 150 members across all career stages working on ontological security studies.

### **Education**

PhD, Queen's University Belfast, 10/2020 – 08/2024

- Thesis title – Taking back control: Brexit, Northern Ireland, and the Damoclesian border
- Funded by NINE DTP
- Nominated for EISA Best Dissertation Award and BISA Michael Nicholson Thesis Prize

MRes Social research methods, Queen's University Belfast, 10/2019 – 09/2020

- Graduated with Distinction
- Funded by NINE DTP
- Dissertation title – “We live here, and we’re holding our breath again”: Brexit and ontological (in)security in the Irish border region

MA(SoSci) Politics with Quantitative Methods, University of Glasgow, 09/15 – 06/19

- Graduated with First Class Honours
- Dissertation title – “In the Frame: A Comparative Study into the Regional (de)securitisation of Immigration by the Daily Mail during the EU Referendum Campaign 2016

### **Academic Publications**

#### **Journal Articles**

Paterson I, and Rosher, B. (forthcoming, *Review of International Studies*). Wha’s like us? Desecuritisation of Migration as Ontological Security-Seeking in Scotland.

Gellwitzki CNL, Houde A-M, Rogers L, Rosher, B. (2024) Keep Calm and Carry on? Fissure, Perception, and Narrative Contestation Following the Demise of the Crown. *International Political Sociology* 18(4).

Rosher, B. (2022). “And now we’re facing that reality too”: Brexit, ontological security, and intergenerational anxiety in the Irish border region. *European Security*, 31(1), 21–38.

#### **Works in progress**

Rosher B. (Revise and Resubmit, *Political Geography*). Devolution, delegation, and digitisation: Accountability gaps in fragmented border regimes.

#### **Research reports**

Rosher B and Soares A (2021 - 2025). 1<sup>st</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> Quarterly Surveys on the conditions for North-South and East-West cooperation. Centre for Cross Border Studies. Available at: <https://crossborder.ie/what-we-do/projects/maintaining-the-necessary-conditions-for-cooperation-and-cross-border-lives/>

Hayward K and Rosher Ben (2024) Does Northern Ireland lean Left or Right? ARK. Available at: <https://www.ark.ac.uk/ARK/sites/default/files/2024-06/update154.pdf>

Hayward K and Rosher B (2024) Political identities and aspirations in Northern Ireland. ARK. Available at: <https://www.ark.ac.uk/ARK/sites/default/files/2024-06/update155.pdf>

Hayward K, and Rosher B (2023). Political Attitudes in Northern Ireland 25 Years after the Agreement. Available at: <https://www.ark.ac.uk/ARK/sites/default/files/2023-04/update151.pdf>

Rosher B (2022). Rebordering Northern Ireland after Brexit: Electronic Travel Authorisation, *DCU Brexit Institute*. Available at: <https://dcubrexitinstitute.eu/2022/06/rebordering-northern-ireland-after-brexit-electronic-travel-authorisation/>

Hayward K, Komarova M, and Rosher B (2022). Political Attitudes in Northern Ireland after Brexit and under the Protocol. ARK research updates. Available at: <https://www.ark.ac.uk/ARK/node/882>

Hayward K and Rosher B (2021). Political Attitudes in Northern Ireland in a Period of Transition. ARK Research Updates. Available at: <https://www.ark.ac.uk/ARK/sites/default/files/2021-06/update142.pdf>

Rosher B (2020). Brexit border: The Frontier Worker Permit. Centre for Cross Border Studies. Available at: <https://borderpeople.info/policies/brexit-border-the-frontier-worker-permit>

Hayward K and Rosher B (2020). Political attitudes at a time of flux. ARK Research Updates. Available at: <https://www.ark.ac.uk/ARK/sites/default/files/2020-06/update133.pdf>

### **Parliamentary evidence**

Robb N, Rosher B, Neilson F, Brennan M (2022). *Written evidence submitted by Mr Niall Robb, Ben Rosher, Frances Neilson and Mylie Brennan, relating to the effectiveness of the institutions of the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement inquiry (GFA0028)*: <https://committees.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/114133/pdf/>

Hayward K and Rosher B (2019). *Discontinuing seasonal changes of time: Written evidence*. Available at: <http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/eu-internal-market-subcommittee/discontinuing-seasonal-changes-of-time/written/106343.html>

### **Public engagement**

Hayward K and Rosher B (2023). The Good Friday (Belfast) Agreement at 25: a matter of trust. UK in a Changing Europe. Available at: <https://ukandeu.ac.uk/the-good-friday-belfast-agreement-at-25-a-matter-of-trust/>

Hayward K and Rosher B (2023). 20 years of the Young Life & Times (YLT) survey: Good Relations and politics. ARK. Available at: <https://www.ark.ac.uk/ARK/node/999>

Hayward K and Rosher B (2023). Political priorities, attitudes and identities since the Agreement Launch. ARK. Available at: <https://www.ark.ac.uk/ARK/node/974>

Hayward K, Komarova M, Rosher, B (2022). Political Attitudes in Northern Ireland after Brexit and under the Protocol. ARK. Available at: <https://www.ark.ac.uk/ARK/node/882>

Komarova M, Hayward K and Rosher B (2021). Hamming it up: sausage wars, porky pies and party roastings. Available at: <http://qpol.qub.ac.uk/hamming-it-up-sausage-wars-porky-pies-party-roastings/>

Komarova M, Hayward K and Rosher B (2021). 100 Years On: Something Old, Something New.... Queen's Policy Engagement. Available at: <http://qpol.qub.ac.uk/100-years-on-something-old-something-new/>

Komarova M, Hayward K and Rosher B (2021). A touch of Frost to a heated atmosphere: Weeks 6-12 of implementing the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland. Queen's Policy Engagement. Available at: <http://qpol.qub.ac.uk/a-touch-of-frost-to-a-heated-atmosphere-weeks-6-12-of-implementing-the-protocol-on-ireland-northern-ireland/>

Komarova M, Hayward K and Rosher B (2021). Predictable uncertainty: The first six weeks under the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland. Queen's Policy Engagement. Available at: <http://qpol.qub.ac.uk/predictable-uncertainty-the-first-six-weeks-under-the-protocol-on-ireland-northern-ireland/>

Hayward K, Rosher B, and Komarova M (2020). Attitudes towards Irish unification in Northern Ireland after Brexit. ARK. Available at: <https://www.ark.ac.uk/ARK/node/695>

Hayward K, Rosher B, and Komarova M (2020). Northern Ireland and the future of the Union: NILT data on Brexit. ARK. Available at: <https://www.ark.ac.uk/ARK/node/850>

Rosher B (2020). The patient citizenship of the pandemic body. Covid19 Health Diaries. Available at: <https://covid19healthdiaries.com/diary?did=388>

Rosher B (2020). The anxiety of border crossing during Covid. Covid19 Health Diaries. Available at: <https://covid19healthdiaries.com/diary?did=319>

Hayward K and Rosher B (2019). When the Middle Ground came Centre Stage: What do the results of the Brexit election mean for the constitutional debate in Northern Ireland?. Available at: <https://www.scer.scot/database/ident-12205>

### **Conferences, talks, and presentations**

Rosher B (2024). The cruel optimism of a bordered world. British International Studies Association Conference. Queen's University Belfast, 17 June 2025.

Rosher B (2024). Unsettled status: Contingent borders and ontological anxieties. Ontological (In)Security in Europe: Theories, Methods, and Approaches Workshop. University of Birmingham, 20 February 2024.

Rosher B (2023). Contingent borders: The citizen border guard and everyday border enactments. Political Studies Association (PSA) conference. University of Liverpool, 3-5 April 2023.

Rosher B (2023). Casualisation, digitisation, and accountability gaps in the post-Brexit border. European Workshops in International Studies (EWIS). University of Amsterdam, 12-14 July 2023.

Rosher B (2023). Taking back control: contingent borders, uncertain futures. British International Studies Association (BISA) conference. University of Glasgow, 10-23 June 2023.

Rosher B (2023). The border of Yet and When. International Studies Association (ISA) conference. Montreal, 15-28 March 2023.

Rosher B (2022). Digitisation, delegation, and casualisation: accountability gaps in the UK's post-Brexit border. University Association for Contemporary European Studies (UACES) conference. Université Catholique de Lille, 5-8 September 2022.

Rosher B (2022). Digitisation, distance, and disaggregation: accountability gaps in the UK's digital border. British International Studies Association (BISA) conference. Newcastle University, 5-7 June 2022.

Rosher B (2022). Blurring the Margins: Settled Status and Taking Back Control of the Irish Border. Political Studies Association (PSA) conference. University of York, 11-13 April 2022.

Rosher B (2021). "And now we're facing that reality too": Brexit, ontological insecurity, and intergenerational anxiety among border communities. Political Studies Association of Ireland (PSAI) postgraduate conference. University College Dublin, 8-9 October 2021.

Rosher B (2020). Northern Ireland and Brexit. Queen's University Belfast Qstep Summer School. Queen's University Belfast, 19 July 2020.

## **Employment** **Research**

University of Gothenburg, Postdoktor, 10/2025

- Principal researcher on the Affective Borders research project. Seeking to understand public attachments to borders and the ontological security needs that they underpin with a view to conceiving of less violent border(less) imaginaries

University of Liverpool, Postdoctoral Researcher, 11/24 – 04/25

- Research design, data analysis, focus group organisation and facilitation and presenting results to academic, civic, and political stakeholders for the Northern Ireland General Election Survey, 2024

Centre for Cross Border Cooperation, Research Associate, 03/2021 – present

- Research design, data analysis, and presenting results for a project monitoring the conditions for North-South and East-West cooperation under the Protocol for Ireland/Northern Ireland/Windsor Framework

Irish Central Border Area Network, Research Assistant, 01/2021 – 06/2021

- Media analysis for a project monitoring the social and political temperature of the Island of Ireland, and particularly the border region, in the early stages of Brexit after the transition period

Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey, Research Assistant, 03/2020 – Present

- Data analyst and research assistant for the Political Attitudes module

## **Guest Lecturer**

Indiana University of Pennsylvania. *International Relations (PLSC-282)*, Undergraduate elective module. September 2024.

Queen's University Belfast. *Geopolitics (GGY7003)*, MA elective module. February 2023 & February 2024.

Richmond American University in London. *Security and Insecurity: Bodies, Identity, Images (INR7303)*, MA elective module. October 2022.

Queen's University Belfast. *Issues in Contemporary Irish Society (SOC3005)*, MA elective module. March 2021.

### **Graduate Teaching Assistant**

University of Glasgow, 09/2021 – present

Graduate Teaching Assistant on the University's Q-Step and undergraduate level research methods programmes

### **Service**

Co-founder and Co-convener, Ontological Security Studies Research Network, 2022 – present

- Co-founded the Ontological Security Research Network with Lauren Rogers in order to foster collaboration and mentorship among scholars working in the field of ontological security studies. We have grown the membership to 150 members across five continents and all career stages. The network has produced several panels at international conferences and currently has a number of papers under review in high-ranking journals including *International Political Sociology* and *Conflict and Cooperation*

Voices in Mobility and Migration Network (VIMM), Social Media Manager, 09/2021 – 09/2022

- Managing social media for the VIMM network to develop membership and drive engagement

Peer Reviewer

- *European Journal of International Relations*; *European Journal of International Security*; *European Security*; *European Urban and Regional Studies*; *Global Studies Quarterly*; *Review of International Studies*, *International Organization*

Professional Memberships

- British International Studies Association (2021-present); UACES (2022-2024); EISA (2023-present); International Studies Association (2023-24)

### **Funding and awards**

NINE DTP scholarship – Masters and PhD (1+3) (2019-2023) - £250,000

EISA Mobility Fund (2024) - €400

UACES microgrant (2023) - £500

Emily Sarah Montgomery Travel Scholarship (2023) - £500

University of Glasgow ICPSR scholarship (2018) £2,500

University of Glasgow Qstep Centre Student of the Year award (2016/17)