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The Acceleration of Exit, Voice, and Loyalty: Catalonia and Scotland

Abstract: In this paper we bring A.O. Hirschman's concepts of exit, voice, and loyalty into conversation with notions of acceleration and resonance in order to explore the current drives toward both Scottish and Catalan independence. We look at the different conditions and dimensions of the demands for Scottish and Catalan independence, discuss their potential, contradictions and possible limitations, and address the tensions and problems that arise when dynamic and democratic independence movements not only clash with the sluggishness of nationally constituted entities and states such as the UK and Spain but also with transnational regulations and frameworks such as the EU.

Keywords: exit, voice, loyalty, acceleration, resonance, Catalan and Scottish independence