Scottish independence and the disUnited Kingdom: interpreting the economic, political and social significance of the 2014 Scottish independence referendum

Tetάρτη 2 Απριλίου 2014
Όρα 6.30 μ.μ.
Αίθουσα Πανεπιστήμιο Κύπρου

The United Kingdom of Great Britain came into being over three centuries ago with the Treaty of Union between the Kingdom of England and the Kingdom of Scotland. (For England, read England and Wales: Wales had been absorbed into England in the 16thC under the reign of Henry VIII.) On September 18, 2014, at the initiative of the majority party in the Scottish Parliament (the Scottish National Party) and with the agreement of the UK government, the residents of Scotland over the age of 16 will have the chance to vote yes or no to the question ‘Should Scotland be an independent country?’. How did such a situation arise after three centuries of union? Will Scotland become an independent country as it was for the 800 years before the Treaty of Union? What is the economic, political and social significance of the referendum and the possibility of Scottish independence for the UK, for Europe and for the idea of national identity in a global context? The lecture will try to answer these questions drawing on personal experience and current debate, with the hope of stimulating a discussion about nationhood.

Dr Richard Stephenson is a British citizen, born of a Scottish mother and an English father. He is a lecturer at the University of Franche-Comté in English and British area studies and director of two Master programmes. Trained originally as a geographer and urban planner he has worked on a range of topics including regional governance of land use change and economic development in France and the UK.