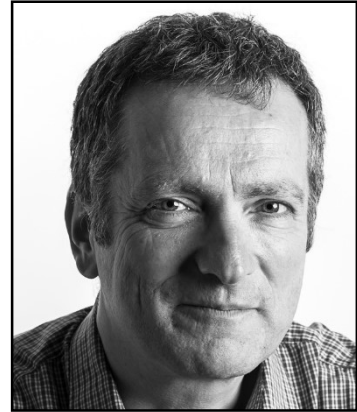


# Reunion Lecture

Saturday 11.15am, Auditorium

## Will Brexit lead to the break-up of the UK?

Professor Michael Kenny



The on-going political crisis occasioned by Brexit is testing some of the main conventions and traditions of the British constitution to the limit. In this lecture Professor Michael Kenny reflects on one area of considerable strain - the union between England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. He explores the different challenges to the union which are now apparent in all of these territories. And he argues that to understand why Brexit is the source of such strain upon the relations between them, we need to take a longer view, and consider how and why older habits of territorial governance have fallen by the wayside, and appreciate the frictions generated by devolution in the last twenty years. Further back still, we should consider the increasing ambiguity and centrality of the question of where sovereignty lies inside the UK and the deep historical roots of the various nationalisms that have emerged across the UK.

**Michael Kenny** came to Fitzwilliam in 2017 as a Professorial Fellow. He is Professor of Politics at the University of Cambridge, and Director of the Bennett Institute for Public Policy, which was launched in 2018. He has published extensively in the fields of public policy, British politics and the constitution. His publications include *The Politics of English Nationhood* (Oxford University Press, 2014), *Shadows of Empire: the Anglosphere in British Politics* (Polity Press 2018), and (as joint editor) *Governing England* (Proceedings of the British Academy, 2018).