



CSPP

TURNING PUBLIC OPINION INTO A REFERENDUM QUESTION

PROFESSOR RICHARD ROSE FBA

U. of Strathclyde Glasgow

richard.rose@strath.ac.uk

EPOP Conference Cardiff

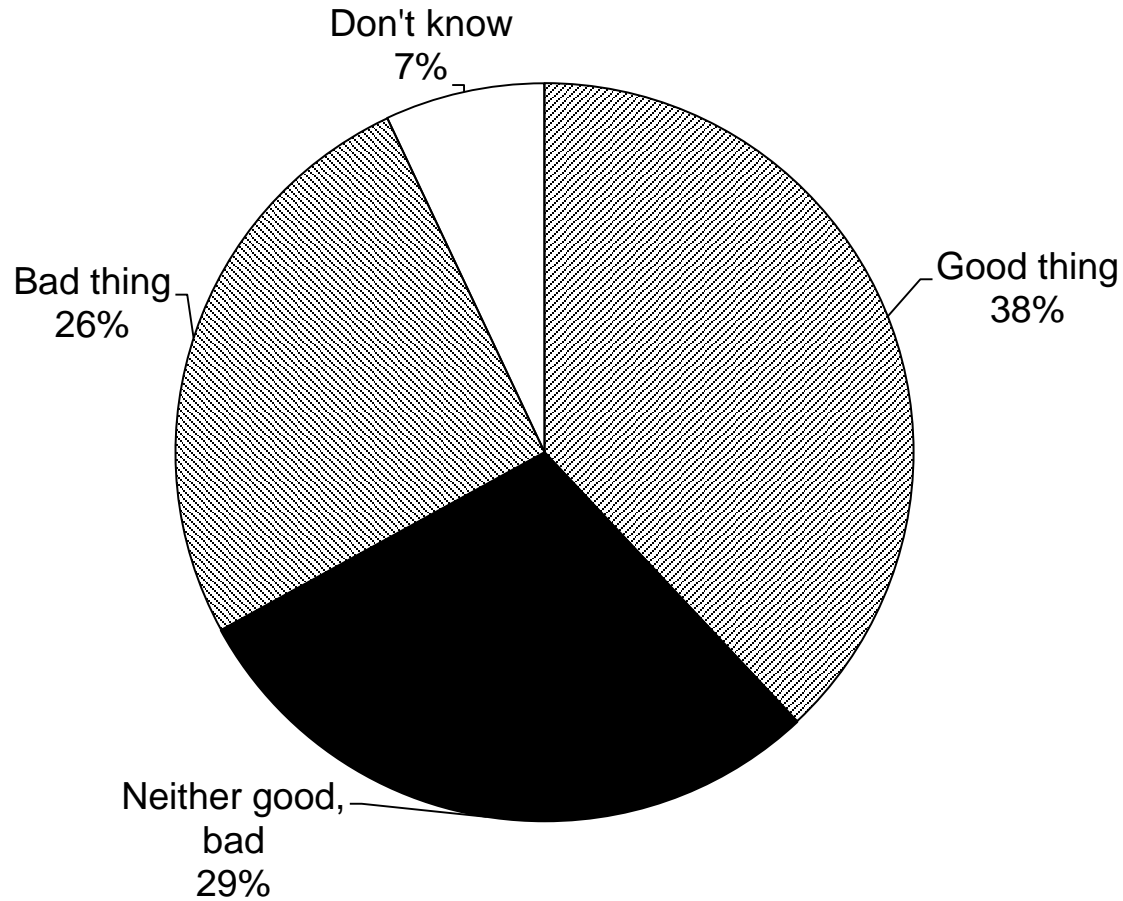
Friday 11 September 17.15

Panel discussion with Geoffrey Evans & YouGov

Panel organised as part of Rose's work as a Commissioning Fellow of the ESRC programme on A Changing UK in a Changing Europe

STANDARD EU EVALUATION OFFERS FOUR CHOICES

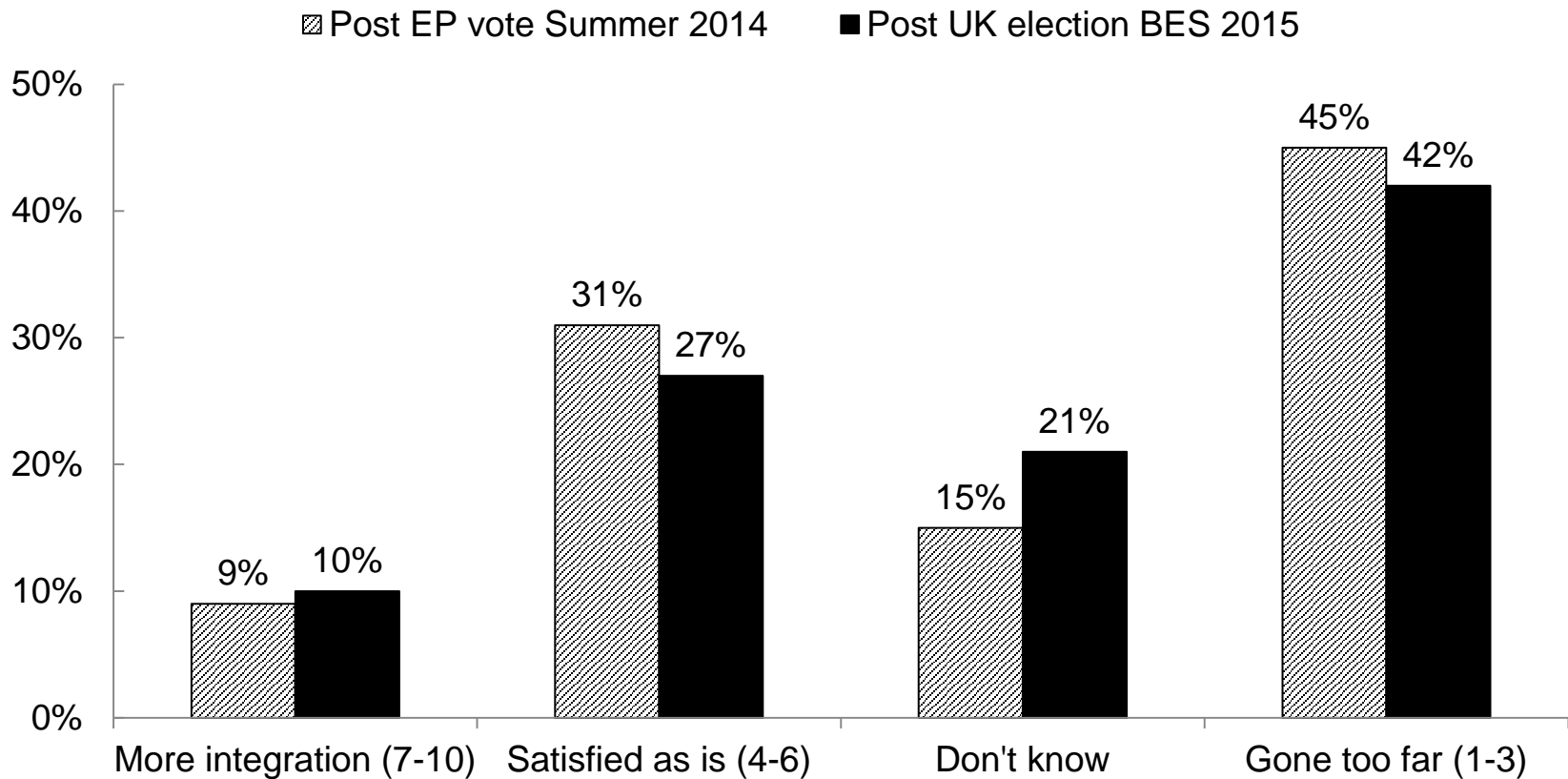
Q. *EU is a good thing, bad thing, neither good nor bad, don't know*



YES/ NO REFERENDUM CHOICE SQUEEZES MEDIAN BLOC OF VOTERS

BIG MAJORITY OF UK VOTERS AGAINST FURTHER INTEGRATION

Q. Some say *European integration should be pushed further*. Others say *it has already gone too far*. What is your opinion? (11 point scale)



Sources: European Election Survey, 2014. British Election Survey, spring, 2015.

Note: EU DYNAMIC FAVOURS MORE INTEGRATION (Monnet, Haas, Eurozone)

VOTERS SATISFIED WITH STATUS QUO ARE:

JUST AS POSITIVE AS PRO-INTEGRATION VOTERS

- Just as much knowledge about EU
- Just as likely to vote in an EP election
- Watch European election news
- Educated

BUT SIGNIFICANTLY LESS LIKELY THAN PRO-EU TO:

- Favour EU
- Identify as a European
- Accept level of immigration
- See self on the left or right
- Have interest in politics

Source: Polynomial logit of all four sets of EES respondents. See Rose & Borz, "Static & Dynamic Views of European Integration", Jl Common Market Studies (on line; forthcoming in print) Table 3.

LOTS OF VOLATILITY

***EU under multi-dimensional pressure to act from: ¹**

Eurozone/ Unemployment/ Refugees/ Ukraine/ US trade

***UK opinion historically volatile since 1973 ²**

Range saying good thing: 23% to 57%

No trend around mean of 38% (R^2 0.02)

Only SNP and UKIP give clear partisan cues on voting

Journalists don't understand a poll about how you would vote today is not a forecast

***No majority saying EU a good thing since October 1991**

How the ambivalent divide will be critical for the result

¹ See R. Rose, Representing Europeans (OUP) expanded paperback edition, October, 2015

² See R. Rose, "Is the English Channel Widening?" Talking Point at www.cspp.strath.ac.uk