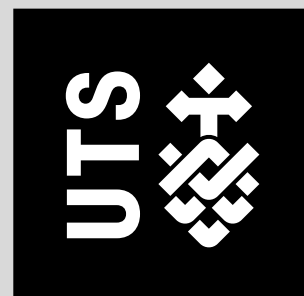


976451 Contemporary Spain

Week 12 – The Future of Spain?

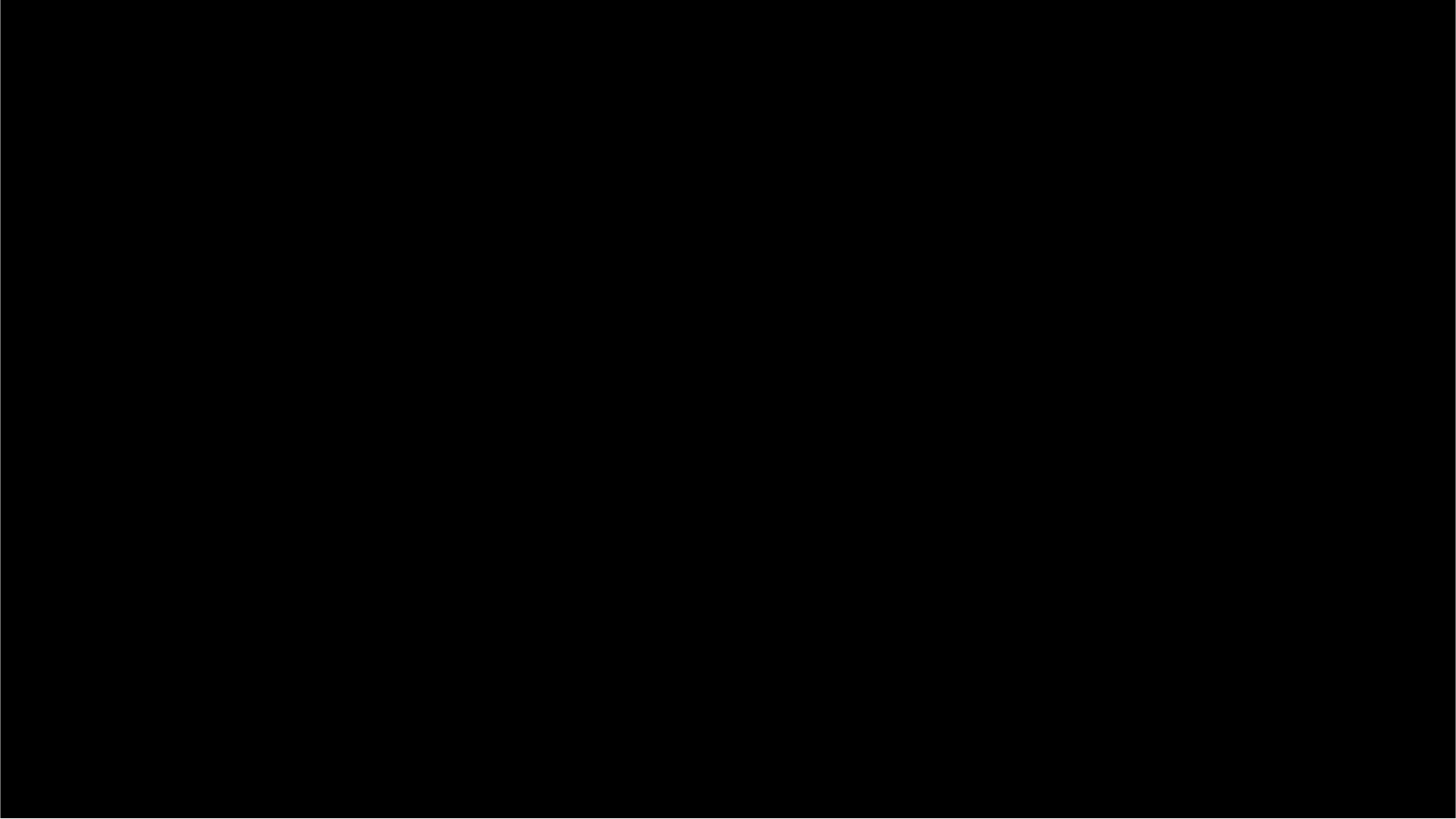
Dr. Nick Manganas
Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences


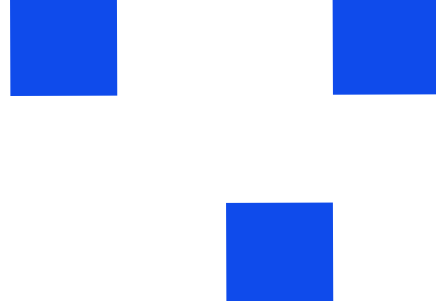


THE FUTURE OF SPAIN?

1. Is Spain at an impasse?
2. Radical changes in the past ten years
3. What does “Spain” mean today?
4. A resilient Spain?

Marta Sánchez – National Anthem “*Marcha real*”





*Vuelvo a casa, a mi amada tierra,
la que vio nacer un corazón aquí.
Hoy te canto, para decirte cuanto orgullo hay en mí,
por eso resistí.
Crece mi amor cada vez que me voy,
pero no olvides que sin ti no sé vivir.
Rojo, amarillo, colores que brillan en mi corazón
y no pido perdón.
Grande España, a Dios le doy las gracias por nacer aquí,
honrarte hasta el fin.
Como tu hija llevaré ese honor,
llenar cada rincón con tus rayos de sol.
**Y si algún día no puedo volver,
guárdame un sitio para descansar al fin***



**“And if one day I don’t return,
save me a place to finally rest”**

‘Un sitio para descansar al fin’

Sanchez’s version of the national anthem received a lot of criticism from large sections of Spanish society

CIVIL GUARD

*Nuestra felicitación a Marta Sánchez
[@Martisima_SoyYo](#) por una iniciativa que busca
unir y sumar, no restar ni dividir
[#OrgullososDeSerEspanoles](#)*

MARIANO RAJOY

*Como a muchos de vosotros, me llega este vídeo.
Muy buena iniciativa de @Martisima_SoyYo. La
inmensa mayoría de los españoles nos sentimos
representados. Gracias, Marta.*

CIVIL GUARD

*Congratulations to Marta Sánchez for an initiative
that seeks to unite and not divide*

MARIANO RAJOY

*The great majority of Spaniards feel represented.
Thank you, Marta.*

“A place to finally rest”

Spain as “timeless”

- ✓ How might we understand home or a homeland in an era of flows and mobilisations?
- ✓ How might we understand “home” in an era when economic and political crises have the capacity to upend lives, especially of young people?
- ✓ Has the idea of a sense of “place” and “home” become unstable and incoherent?

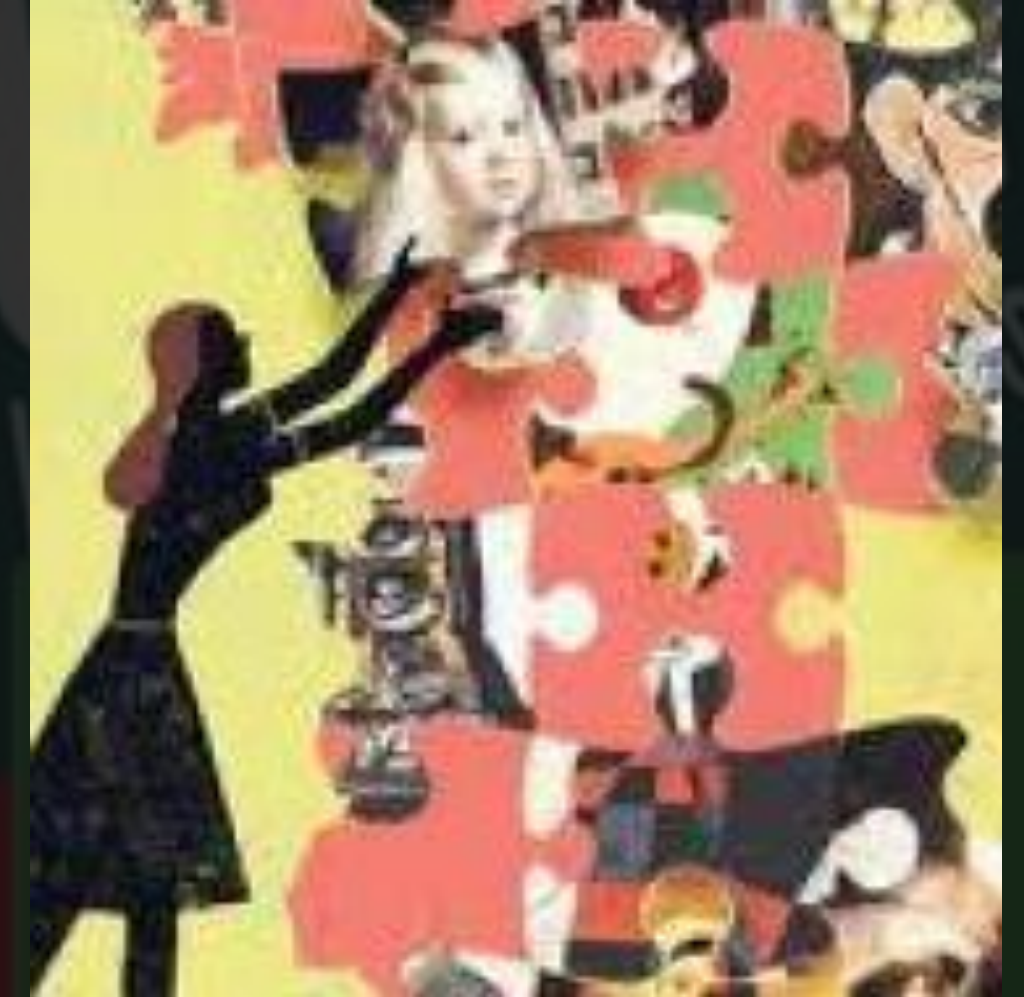
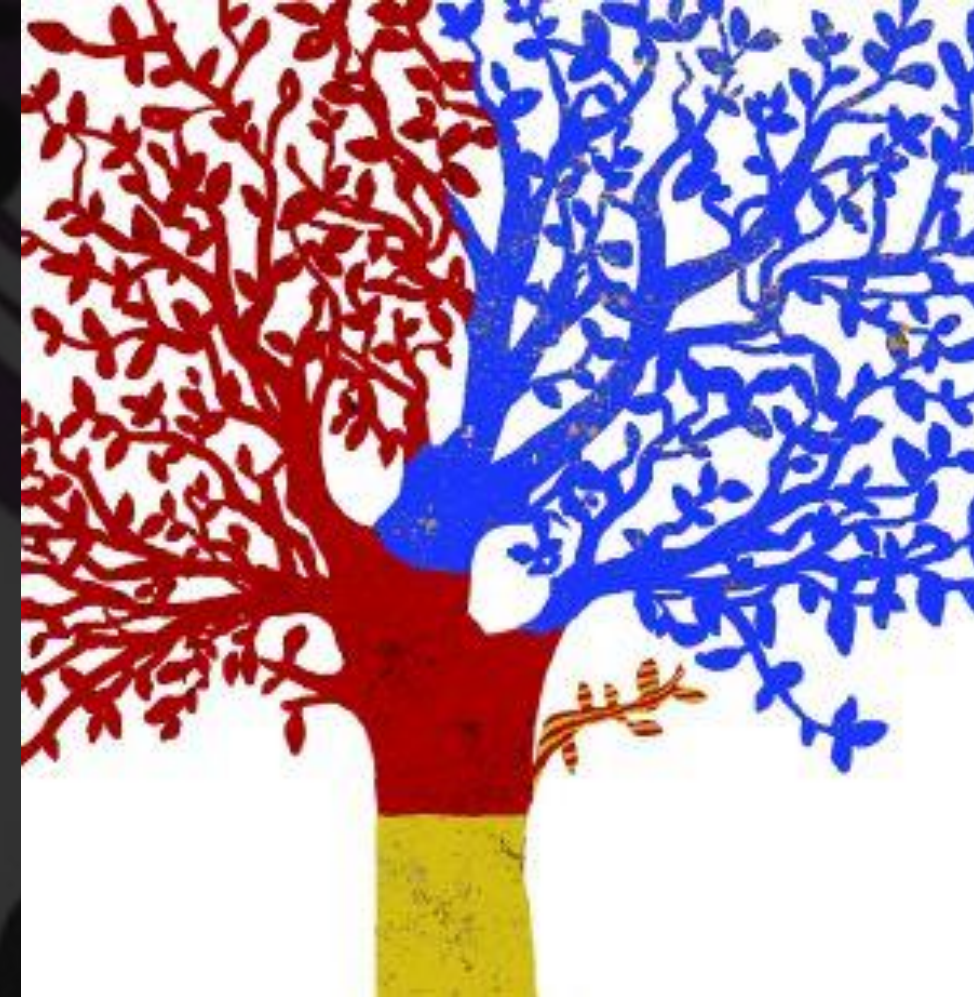


GLOBAL FLOWS AND MOBILISATIONS

- ✓ Up to six million immigrants living in Spain at the beginning of the economic crisis
- ✓ A significant percentage of that number came from Spain's former colonies in Latin America.
- ✓ With the onset of the economic crisis, many of those economic migrants were forced to emigrate again once the work dried up.
- ✓ With them, thousands of young Spaniards also fled in search of work.



What is “Spain”?



To what extent can we answer the question
What is Spain?

The nation is an “imagined political
community” (Anderson 1983)

But what about it’s “extraordinary emotive
capacities”? (2005, 92)

National identity is [...] about the experience of belonging to such a community, being steeped in its traditions, its rituals and its characteristic modes of discourse. This sense of national identity is not of course dependent on actually living within the geo-political space of the nation, as the émigré experience confirms. Thus some diasporic communities uprooted from the specific geo-political space of the nation or the homeland, still share a common sense of belonging, despite – or even because of – their transnational dispersal. On the one hand community, on the other, diaspora. ... **[All nations] are thus forged in the tension between unity and disunity, between home and homelessness.**

(Andrew Higson 2006, 16)



Las dos Españas

A national division that splits Spain in two

Nationalist “conservative” Spain

Vs.

A “republican” liberal Spain

A narrative that defined the civil war and dictatorship period

A division that was seemingly taken care of through negotiated pacts of “silence” and “forgetting”



FRAGMENTED BIPOLARISM: End of the two-party system

Where does this leave *las dos Españas* today?

Perhaps the division is no longer between the left and the right but between two different conceptualisations of what Spain is, an “old Spain” and a “new Spain”.

A division about where Spain finds itself now and where it should be headed into the future.



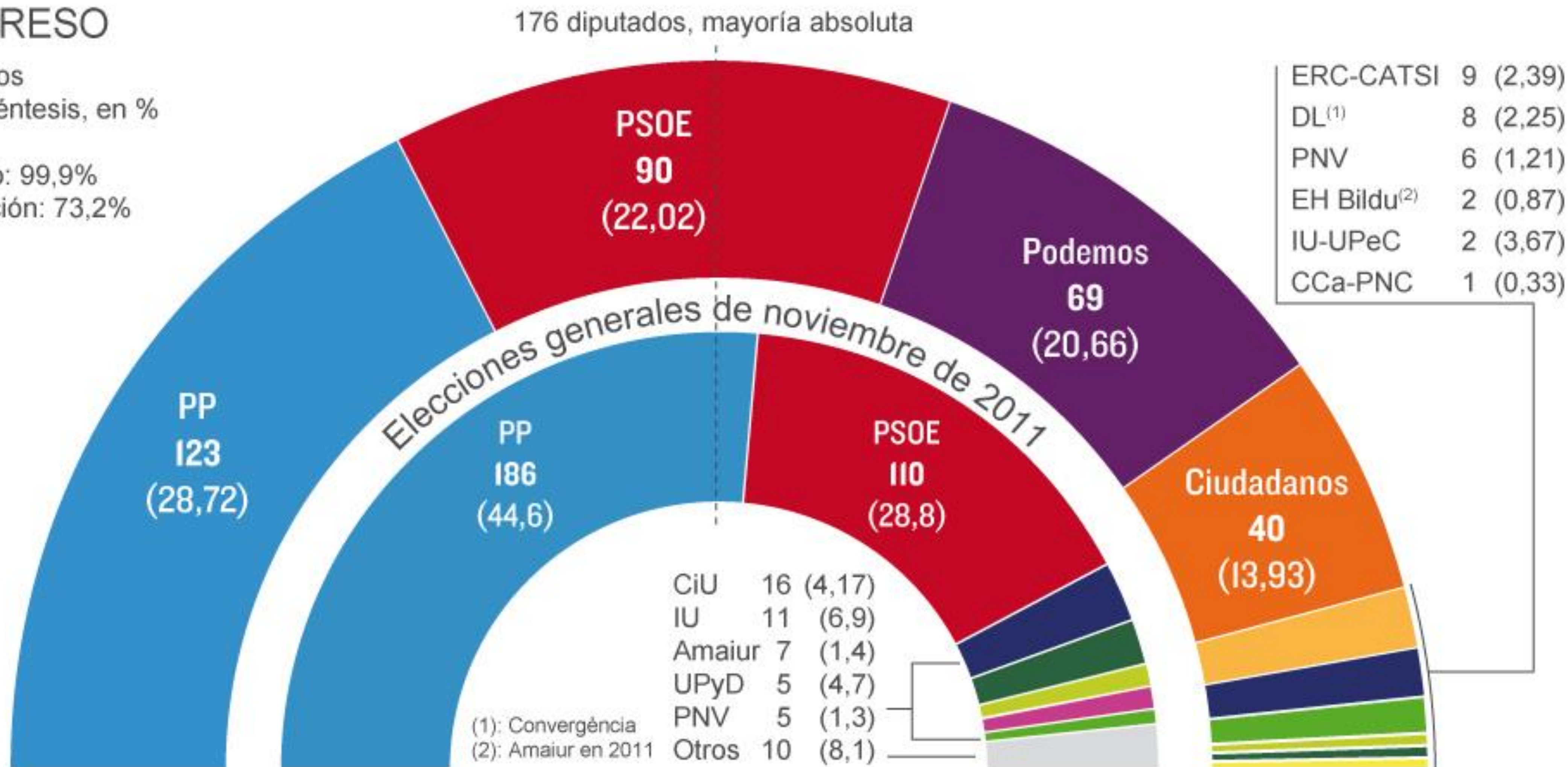
2015 General Elections

ELECTIONS 20 DECEMBER 2015

CONGRESO

En escaños
Entre paréntesis, en %

Escrutado: 99,9%
Participación: 73,2%



General Elections 26 June 2016



GURTEL CASE & CORRUPTION

- Money laundering
- Bribery
- Tax evasion
- Party funding
- Awarding of contracts

Estimated at 120,000,000 euros

- ✓ On 24 May 2018, several Spanish politicians and business-people, were convicted.
- ✓ PP had taken part in the kickback scheme since 1989.
- ✓ 29 individuals were convicted and 8 were acquitted.





La Casta Vs The People

No Confidence Vote – 1 June, 2018

- Launched by Socialist leader Pedro Sánchez
- Mariano Rajoy was ousted
- 180 votes in favor vs. 169 against (one abstention)
- Motion supported by Podemos and Basque and Catalan nationalists



PP Elects a New Leader

- Pablo Casado – 37 Years Old
- Has been described as a
- Neo-conservative
- Monarchist
- Catholic,
- Pro-life
- Atlanticist
- Anti “gender ideology”
- In favour of neutralising historical memory movements
- In favour of outlawing political parties that support independence from Spain



PSOE & PODEMOS AGREEMENT

11 Oct. 2018

- Increases the minimum salary from 735,90 euros to 900 euros a month in 2019
- Guarantees pension increases in line with inflation
- Provisions for equality in Maternity and Paternity leave
- Free education between 0-3 years
- Remove co-payment for medicines starting with pensioners
- Control rent increases – increase contracts from 3 years to 5 years
- 40% increase to people with disabilities / dependencies

Tax increases to people who earn more than 130,000 euros a year and to estate taxes of more than 10 million euros to pay for these policies.





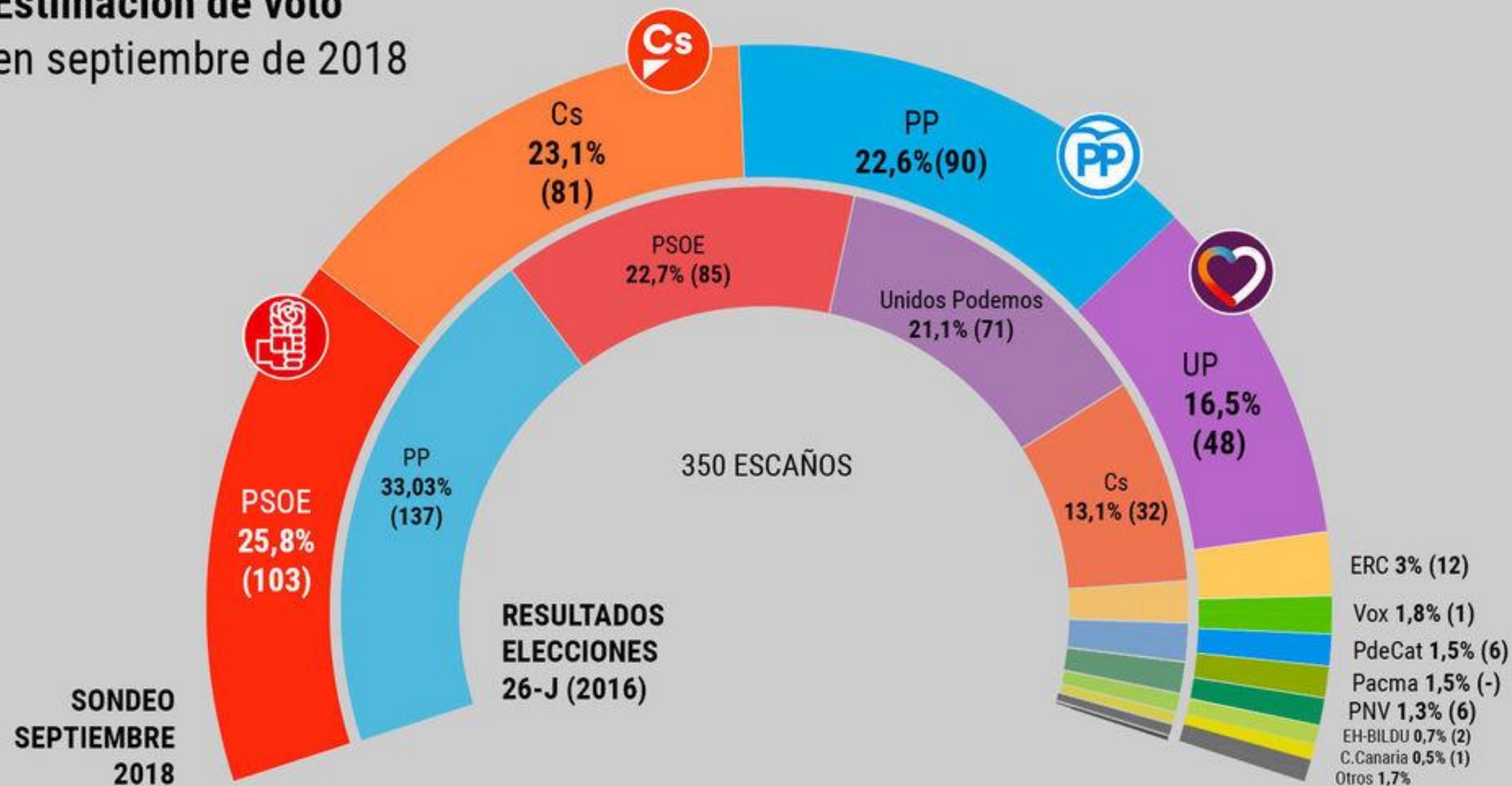
Will Catalan nationalists support the agreement?

- ✓ Agreement will lead to another economic crisis.
- ✓ Spain will become another Venezuela
- ✓ Independists will make demands in support of agreement
- ✓ More unemployment
- ✓ More inflation
- ✓ Will impact on economic growth

Reactions to the PSOE / PODEMOS
Agreement

Recent Election Polls

**Estimación de voto
en septiembre de 2018**



Fuente: SocioMétrica / EL ESPAÑOL · Gráfico: Arturo Briones

EL ESPAÑOL

Catalonia – What does a “homeland” mean?

- ✓ Remains the most pressing issue in Contemporary Spain
- ✓ Unlikely to be resolved in the near future
- ✓ Basque Country taking a “wait and see” approach



Historical memory cases still in the news

- Franco's exhumation
- Lost children of Francoism
- Mass graves
- Valle de los Caídos
- Evidence of *las dos Españas* discourse still circulating in the mass media and the public sphere

'Seven baby' doctor guilty
punished



Responsible for abducting Ines Madrigal in 1969. (Supplied)

Refugee Crisis

Spain continues to be the only country offering safe harbor to migrants who are rescued in the Mediterranean

BUT the government is tightening the protocols since accepting the Aquarius in June 2018

The number of migrants arriving in the country this year has exceeded both Italy and Greece



Migrants arriving by sea

Year	Spain	Italy
2018*	23,048	18,645
2017	22,108	119,310
2016	8,162	181,436

*to date

Nationality of migrant arriving in Spain (by language)

Guinea	
Morocco	
Mali	
Ivory Coast	1,215
Syria	1,008
Gambia	796

Sources: International Organisation for Migration

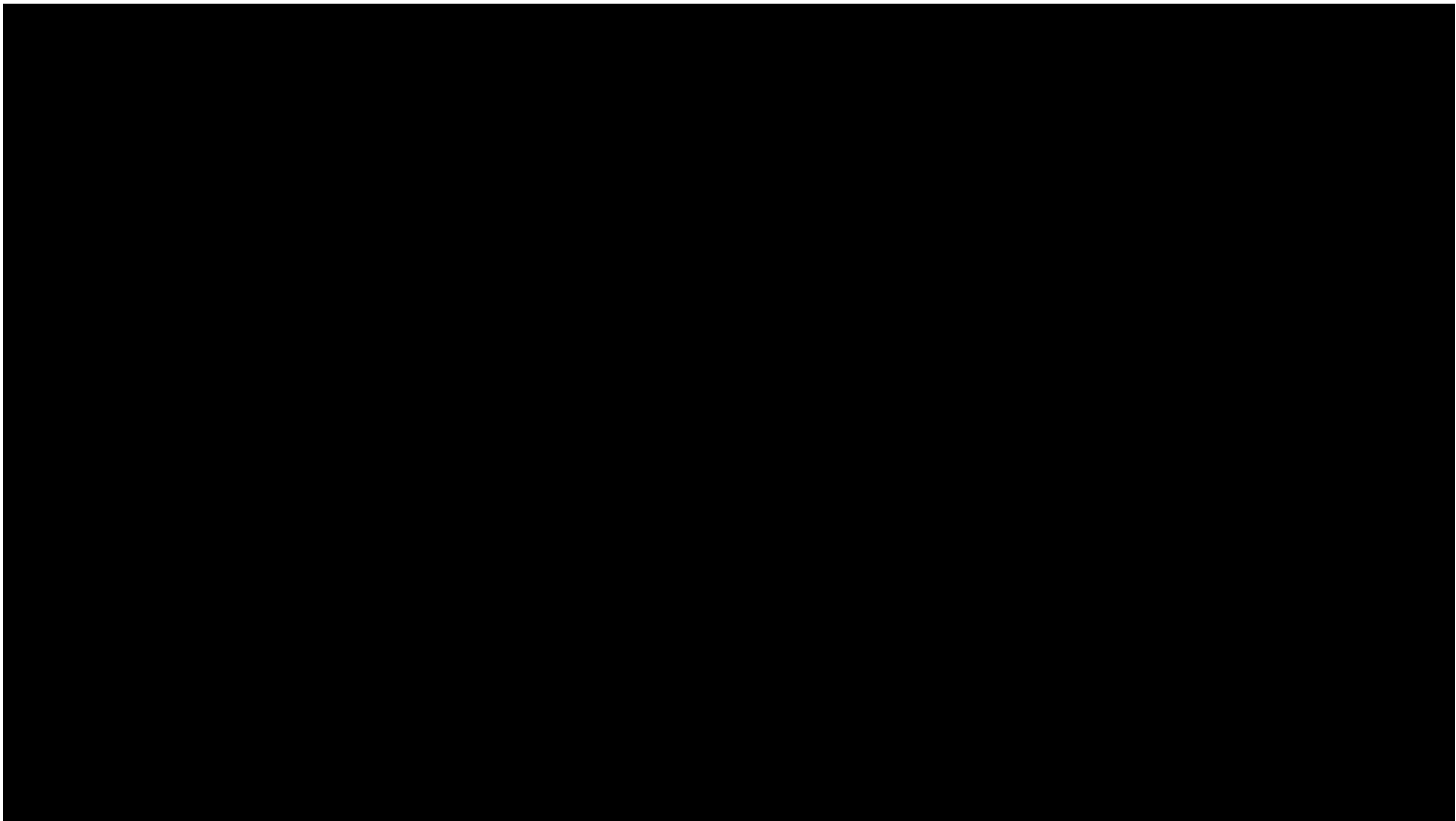


VOX – The Rise of the Far Right?

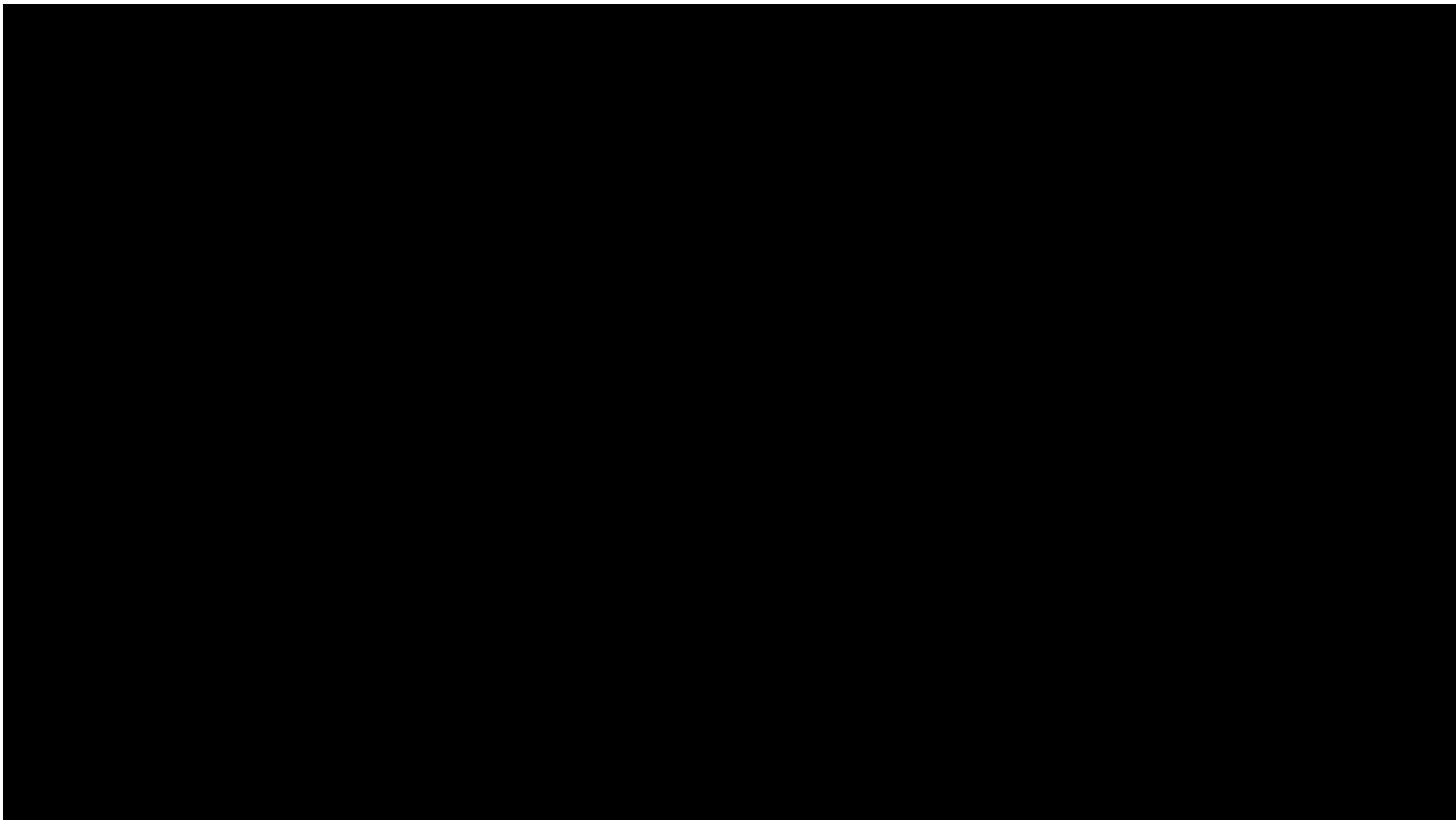
- Set up in 2013
- “Spaniards first”
- Stronger nationalist message to regional dissidents
- Strong anti-immigration rhetoric
- Mobilising around anti-Islamic sentiment

POLLS: VOX would obtain 1,8% of the votes and one seat in parliament.

Campofrio Advertisement 2016



Campofrio Advertisement 2017



THE END

■ Fernandez negotiates her pluralistic cultural identity in context to contemporary issues of global displacement and migration as well as Spanish Diaspora in the 20th century.

Spanish history and art are blended and embedded in her contemporary works which echo narratives and images from a bygone era which resonate in present times.

- ✓ How might we understand home or a homeland in an era of flows and mobilisations?
- ✓ What is Spain?

