

Press release

06-March-2010

[Immigration: a red rag to native working-class Britons?](#)

With a significant number of disenchanted native working-class voters lodging protest votes for fringe political parties, the issue of immigration is both more topical and yet kept off the political agenda by the mainstream political parties.

The *Manchester Salon* is holding a discussion on immigration policy, the attitude of political parties to allowing more – or less – migrants into the country, and how traditional Left and Right wing stances on the subject have, in many ways, become reversed or changed focus.

With a General Election imminent, the issue of immigration is one that shouldn't be off limits as previously, you could tell a lot about a person's attitude to politics and freedom by their views on immigration. With the emergence of 'muscular Liberals' (pro-Iraq war and advocating immigration quotas), many old certainties have disappeared.

Renowned journalist [Brendan O'Neill](#) will lead the *Manchester Salon* debate. Brendan is the editor of the independent online phenomenon,

[spiked online](#)

, and author of the green satire *Can I Recycle My Granny and 39 Other Eco-Dilemmas*.

O'Neill writes widely for publications on both sides of the Atlantic. His journalism has been widely published in the *New Statesman*, the *Spectator*, the *Guardian*, *The Sunday Times*, the *British Journalism Review*, the *Press Gazette* and the *Catholic Herald* in Britain, *Slate*, the *Chicago Sun-Times*, the *American Prospect*, the *American Conservative* and *Reason* magazine in the United States. He is also a feature-writer for the *Christian Science Monitor* in America and for the *BBC* in Britain.

With Britain in ideological flux over immigration and the issues it raises of multiculturalism, fear of the 'enemy', press hyperbole over immigration and terrorism, the *Manchester Salon* debate promises to be a key event in the political diary.

The debate takes place at the Shakespeare pub, 16 Fountain Street, Manchester, M2 2AA at 7.15pm on Tuesday 16 March. A charge of £5 is made to cover costs.

**Notes to editors:** The Manchester Salon meets every month to discuss a contemporary issue, sometimes sparked by the publication of a particular book. For further details visit [www.manchestersalon.org.uk](http://www.manchestersalon.org.uk), or contact Simon Belt by Email on [events@manchestersalon.org.uk](mailto:events@manchestersalon.org.uk).