Britain goes to the polls on 7th May, 2015 in what may be an election which fundamentally changes the nature of politics in the UK. The result seems too close to call; even the bookmakers are uncertain and most observers are predicting a hung-parliament. A number of factors contribute to this uncertainty. First, growing cynicism about mainstream political parties has led to the development of what looks like a multi-party system in a country with a first-past the post electoral system designed to prevent this happening. Second, in that context, the rise of the United Kingdom Independence Party, which recently won two seats from the Conservatives in by-elections, is threatening the Tories position in the south and Labour’s position in the North. Third, the Liberal Democrats are likely to lose seats as they have lost support as a result of entering coalition with the Conservatives. Fourth, a resurgence of the Green Party provides a challenge to Labour among more left-leaning voters. Finally, despite the Referendum result, the Scottish Nationalist Party seems set to take many seats from Labour in Scotland. So, all is up for grabs in what could prove a watershed election, leading not only to a hung Parliament and a coalition government, but also possibly, if the Conservative form a Government, a Referendum on British European Membership which would mark a step towards the break-up of the EU. This roundtable will address these issues featuring a number of experts on British politics and British Elections.

To register for this event please your email UCIGPA@canberra.edu.au