

Reimagining and Reforming European Foreign Policies

A conference of the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence

Florida International University | Modesto A. Maidique Campus
11200 SW 8th Street, Miami, FL 33186 – MARC Building - MARC Pavilion and Graham Center GC 243

March 11-12, 2024

Conference Participants: Biographical Notes

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Michael Curtis

EU Deputy Ambassador

*Delegation of the European Union to the United States of America
Washington D.C.*

Michael Curtis has been the EU Deputy Ambassador to the US since September 1st, 2019. Immediately before joining the Delegation, he served in the team of the EU's Foreign Policy Chief, Federica Mogherini, advising her on a number of important foreign policy issues for five years, including on transatlantic relations.

He has had a long career in the European Union institutions working mainly on foreign policy and external relations, trade, development and humanitarian issues. From 2004-2008, he worked as the EU Humanitarian Affairs Counsellor to the United Nations in New York. From 2000-2004, he worked on the team of the EU Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid, Poul Nielson, first as Press Spokesperson then as a member of his Staff.

Mr. Curtis has also had two stints working for the European Commission's Secretariat General focusing on relations with the EU Member States in the area of foreign policy and trade, then relations with the European External Action Service where he was closely involved with its setting up in 2010.

Mr. Curtis has a Bachelor's degree in French and Politics from Leicester University in the U.K and a post-graduate Master's degree in European Politics from the College of Europe in Bruges, Belgium. He is a dual Italian/British national.

PANEL I



Nora Fisher Onar, Ph.D.

*Associate Professor of International Studies
Academic Director of the Graduate Program in International Studies
Academic Coordinator, Middle East Studies
University of San Francisco*

Nora Fisher Onar is associate professor of international studies at the University of San Francisco and academic coordinator of Middle Eastern Studies. Her research interests include the theory and practice of international relations in conversation with historical, sociological, postcolonial, and gender studies. She takes a comparative approach attentive to the role of (multi-)regional actors like Turkey at the interstices of Europe, the Middle East, and Eurasia. Fisher Onar received her doctorate from Oxford and holds master's and undergraduate degrees from Johns Hopkins (SAIS) and Georgetown universities, respectively. She speaks five languages, has traveled to over 80 countries, and lived in eight.

Fisher-Onar is the author of *Contesting Pluralism(s): Islamism, Liberalism and Nationalism in Turkey* (Cambridge UP, in-press) and lead editor of the volume, *Istanbul: Living With Difference in a Global City* (Rutgers UP, 2018; co-edited with Susan C. Pearce and E. Fuat Keyman).

Fisher-Onar often speaks at policy fora like Brookings, Carnegie, and the German Marshall Fund (GMF) where she has served as a Ronald Asmus Fellow, Transatlantic Academy Fellow, and Non-Residential Fellow. She also contributes commentary to platforms like the *Washington Post*, *Foreign Affairs*, the *Guardian*, and *OpenDemocracy*.



Jean Muteba Rahier, Ph.D.

*Professor of Anthropology and African & African Diaspora Studies
Department of Global & Sociocultural Studies
Florida International University*

Jean Muteba Rahier is Professor of Anthropology and African & African Diaspora Studies at Florida International University (FIU). He is the author of three books, and the editor or co-editor of four. He has authored more than 80 articles and book chapters, and was, from January 2002 to the summer 2007, the Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology*. He is the Founding Director of the Observatory of Justice for Afrodescendants in Latin America (OJALA) at FIU. His most recent Visiting Scholar positions have been at the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador, Quito, Ecuador; the Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar in Quito, Ecuador; the University of Ghana, in Legon, Ghana; the University of Cape Coast, Ghana; and the Université Cheikh Anta Diop, Dakar, Senegal. He currently serves as PI on the NSF-funded research project, “A Multifaceted Examination of the Application of Ethno-Racial Law in Contemporary Multiculturalist Ecuador.” Since August 2021, he is Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Latin American and Caribbean Ethnic Studies* (LACES).



Victor M. Uribe-Uran, Ph.D.

*Professor of History and Law
Florida International University*

Victor M. Uribe-Uran is a Professor of History and Law at Florida International University. He is the author, editor, or co-editor of five books including the award-winning *Fatal Love: Spousal Murders, Law and Punishment in the Late Colonial Spanish Atlantic* (Stanford University Press, 2016). *A Companion to Latin American History*, his most recent book, co-edited with Matthew Mirow, was just released by Brill (2024). Uribe-Uran has published over one hundred articles, book chapters and book reviews in refereed academic journals. He is a member (2023-2027) of the International Scientific Advisory Board (Fachbeirat), of the Max Planck Institute for Legal History and Legal Theory, based in Frankfurt/Main, Germany. His research has been supported by fellowships from the Fulbright Foundation, Andrew Mellon Foundation, Tinker Foundation, Banco de la República de Colombia's Fundación para la Promoción de la Investigación y la Tecnología, and the US's National Endowment for the Humanities

Dr. Uribe-Uran teaches a wide range of courses on Latin American Colonial and Modern History as well as global history including: Global History of Domestic Violence, History of Law and Human Rights in the West, Global History of Murder, and History of Women in Latin America. His expertise in comparative legal history is also reflected in graduate offerings such as Crime and Society in LA, Law and Society in LA and Comparative History of State and Society in LA. Other courses he has taught have included Latin American History through Film and LA History through Music alongside a general survey of Latin American Civilization. Apart from historical scholarship, Dr. Uribe-Uran also works on contemporary legal issues such as the judiciary, the inter-American legal system, and judicial reform, and from 2006 to 2009 even served as the national director (Chief of Party) in a multimillion justice reform initiative, the largest ever in Latin America, funded by USAID, to overhaul the criminal justice system of Colombia.



Markus Thiel, Ph.D.

*Director, Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence
Professor, Politics & International Relations
Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs
Florida International University*

Markus Thiel is a professor in the Department of Politics and International Relations at Florida International University, Miami and director of FIU's Jean Monnet Center of Excellence. Dr. Thiel's research interests are the political sociology of the EU and European (Union) Politics more generally, as well as Human Rights and Identity Politics. He graduated with a Ph.D. from the University of Miami in 2005 and has published several EU-related articles and book chapters in peer-reviewed journals including the *Journal of European Integration*, the *Journal of Common Market Studies* and others. In addition, his research on the political sociology of the EU produced the monographs 'The Limits of Transnationalism' (Palgrave, 2011) and 'EU Civil Society and Human Rights Advocacy' (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2017), as well as 5 co-edited volumes on: 'Diversity and the European Union' (with Lisa Pruegl, Palgrave, 2009), 'Identity Politics in the Age of Globalization' (with Roger Coate, Lynne Rienner/First Forum Press, 2010), 'European Identity & Culture: Narratives of Transnational Belonging' (with Rebecca Friedman, Ashgate, 2012), 'Sexualities in World Politics: How LGBTQ Claims Shape International Relations' (with Manuela Picq, Routledge, 2015) and 'EU Development Policies between Norms and Geopolitics' (with Sarah Beringer & Sylvia Maier, Palgrave, 2019). Most recently, he published 'The EU's international LGBTI rights promotion: promises & pitfalls' (Routledge, 2021), and co-authored 'The Politics of Social In/Exclusion in Europe' (Palgrave/Springer, 2023, with Ernesto Ficchetto & Jeffrey Maslanik).

He teaches CPO 3103 Comparative (Western) European Politics, CPO 3104 EU Politics, INR 3214 International Relations of Europe, INR 3502 International Organizations, as well as graduate courses on European/EU Politics, International Organization and Research Design in IR. He supervises doctoral students in the areas of EU Politics, International Organizations and Political Sociology.

PANEL II



Christofer Burger

*Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany
Miami, FL*

Christofer Burger has been Consul General of Germany in Miami since August 2023. He previously served as spokesperson to Foreign Ministers Annalena Baerbock and Heiko Maas. He has held diplomatic posts in Nicaragua, Iraq and was seconded to the U.S. Department of State's Office of the Special Presidential Envoy to the Coalition to Defeat ISIS during the Trump administration. He holds an M.A. in Islamic Studies and Economics from Freie Universität Berlin.



Louise K. Davidson-Schmich, Ph.D.

*Professor of Political Sciences
University of Miami*

Louise K. Davidson-Schmich is Professor of Political Science at the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Florida and Co-Editor of *German Politics*. Her research focuses on gender and sexuality in long-term democracies such as Germany. She is the author of numerous academic journal articles and books including *The 2021 German National Election*, co-edited with Ross Campbell (Palgrave, 2023) and *Gender Quotas and Democratic Participation: Recruiting Candidates for Elective Offices in Germany* (University of Michigan Press, 2016).



Sofía Pérez Gil

*Visiting Scholar-in-residence
School of International Service
American University, Washington D.C.*

Sofía Pérez Gil is a Colombian scholar with a strong focus on feminist perspectives in international relations. When she started her role as a Visiting Scholar at American University's School of International Service in 2023, she was pursuing a Doctorate of Philosophy in International and Political Studies at Universidad del Rosario. Her research interests lie in feminist foreign policy, state gendering processes, and feminist theories of International Relations. As a Visiting Scholar at American University's School of International Service, she collaborated with Professor Emerita Dr. J. Ann Tickner. She also worked as a Commissioning Editor for E-International Relations, focusing on promoting gender, feminism, and women's human rights related content. With a background as an Assistant Professor at Universidad del Rosario, she taught research methods and gender and international security courses.

Overall, Pérez Gil's academic journey demonstrates her commitment to exploring and promoting feminist perspectives in international relations, contributing to the development of feminist foreign policy and understanding gender dynamics in global politics. Sofía holds a Doctorate of Philosophy in International and Political Studies from Universidad del Rosario.



Susanne Zwingel, Ph.D.

*Associate Professor, Politics & International Relations
Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs
Florida International University*

Dr. Zwingel received her Ph. D. in Political Science from Ruhr University Bochum, Germany, and an M.A. in Politics and Sociology from Hamburg University, Germany. Before joining the department of Politics and International Relations at FIU in 2014, she worked as Associate Professor of Politics at the State University of New York in Potsdam, NY.

Dr. Zwingel's research interests include international women's rights norms and their translation; public gender policies and gender equality advocacy around the world; global governance and gender; feminist, constructivist and post-colonial IR theories; gender and armed conflict; and interpretivist methodology. A short presentation of her research profile can be found [here](#).

Publications in her fields of expertise include journal articles (e.g., "How Do Norms Travel? Theorizing International Women's Rights in Transnational Perspective", *International Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 56, 2012), book chapters (e.g., "Gender equality norms in international governance – actors, contexts, meanings", in Engberg-Pedersen, Lars, Fejerskov, Adam M., and Cold-Ravnkilde, Signe Marie (eds.): *Rethinking gender equality in global governance. The delusion of norm diffusion*, London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2019) and co-edited volumes (with Elisabeth Prügl and Gülay Caglar: *Feminist Strategies in International Governance*, Routledge, 2013). In 2016, she published a monograph titled "Translating International Women's Rights: The CEDAW Convention in Context" (with Palgrave Macmillan). It analyzes the global discourse on women's rights norms as well as transnationally connected actors that use these norms to strengthen their claims for gender equality domestically. Following the book, Dr. Zwingel has been compiling an online bibliography that traces the impact of CEDAW around the world – check it out! For a complete list of publications, please see her CV.

Dr. Zwingel is currently working on two projects: the engagement of Caribbean states and civil society organizations with global gender equality norms; and the local application of international women's rights norms in Miami Dade County through the 2015 CEDAW ordinance. In the future, Dr. Zwingel plans to analyze in more detail the relevance of translation in international relations.

At FIU, Dr. Zwingel teaches International Relations Theories, Feminism and Gender Hierarchies in International Relations, Human Rights, Postcolonialism, and Qualitative Methods. As a German and US citizen who is also fluent in Spanish, she is proud to contribute to FIU's multicultural and dynamic community.

CONSULAR ROUNDTABLE



Christofer Burger

*Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany
Miami, FL*

Christofer Burger has been Consul General of Germany in Miami since August 2023.

He previously served as spokesperson to Foreign Ministers Annalena Baerbock and Heiko Maas. He has held diplomatic posts in Nicaragua, Iraq and was seconded to the U.S. Department of State's Office of the Special Presidential Envoy to the Coalition to Defeat ISIS during the Trump administration.

He holds an M.A. in Islamic Studies and Economics from Freie Universität Berlin.



Lisette den Breems

Consul General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Miami

Ms. Lisette den Breems assumed her duties as Consul General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Miami on August 14, 2023.

She began her diplomatic career with the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2000, holding various positions such as Second Secretary at the Embassy in Bogotá/Colombia, First Secretary at the Embassy in London/UK, Deputy Head of the Migration and Development Division, Stabilization and Humanitarian Aid Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Hague/Netherlands, and most recently, as Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy in Santiago de Chile/Chile.

Ms. den Breems studied Communicative Arabic at the school of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London and holds a Master of Arts in Cultural Anthropology and Sociology of Non-Western Societies from the University of Leiden and a Propaedeuse in Environmental Studies from the University of Wageningen.



Michele Mistò, Ph.D.

Consul General of Italy in Miami

Counsellor of the Italian Embassy

Michele Mistò, Ph.D., Counsellor of the Italian Embassy, is the new Consul General of Italy in Miami. He was appointed Consul General of the Consulate General of Italy in Miami, on August 4, 2023.

He attended the University of Trieste, where he obtained a degree in International and Diplomatic Sciences, November 8, 1999. He also graduated from the University of Geneva and University of Lausanne where he obtained his Magister Legum (LL.M.) in International Economic Law and European Union law. He obtained a post-doctorate degree (Ph.D.) in Comparative Public Law, from the University of Siena in 2007.

Following a competitive examination, he was appointed **Secretary of legation** in the diplomatic career on probationary period, on December 29, 2003. At the Diplomatic Institute, he attended professional training course «Costantino Nigra», from December 29, 2003 - September 28, 2004. (In application of the Director General for European Countries, Office III and the D-G for Cultural Promotion and Cooperation, Office V).

Consul General Mistò was confirmed in office on September 29, 2004, and appointed **Secretary of Legation** as the Director General for Cultural Promotion and Cooperation, Office V, on September 29, 2004. He also served in the following capacities: Second Secretary of Trade in Copenhagen, April 24, 2006; Confirmed in the same post as First Secretary of Trade, December 29, 2007; Confirmed in **Copenhagen as First Secretary, April 29, 2010**; First Secretary of Trade in **Podgorica, May 21, 2010**; Head of the Secretariat of the General Inspectorate of the Ministry and of the Offices abroad, May 14, 2014. He served as the **Counsellor of Legation, from July 2, 2014**, until 2015.

From November 2015 to May 2016, he attended the professional refresher courses for Counsellors of Legation provided in Article 51, paragraph 1, letter A) of Law n. 96, June 4, 2010, organized by the Director General for Resources and Innovation: Head of the Secretariat of the D-G for Resources and Innovation, January 15, 2019; **Counsellor of Embassy, July 2, 2020**; First Counsellor in **Moscow, Russia, February 12, 2021**; Head of the Secretariat of the D-G for Resources and Innovation, August 23, 2022.

Consul General Mistò is recipient of the following national accolades and commendations:

- Commander of the Royal Order of the Dannebrog (Denmark), 2011.
- Medal of Merit of the Presidency of Montenegro for the contribution to the development of bilateral relations, 2015.
- Knight of the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic, 2020.



Raphaël Trapp

Consul General of France in Miami

Raphaël Trapp took over as Consul general of France in Miami on September 2nd, 2022.

An alumnus of the Faculty of Law at the University of Paris XII and the Institute of Administration, Mr. Trapp joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2003.

In 2004, he was assigned to the Budgetary Office at the General Administration Department before joining the Human Rights office of the Ministry (2006-2009).

Starting from 2009, Mr. Trapp was appointed as Legal Advisor at the Human Rights unit of the Permanent mission of France to the United Nations in Geneva (Switzerland).

In 2012, he took over the unit as Head of the Human Rights department of the Mission. He participated in the establishment of the Commission of inquiry on Human Rights violations in Syria, worked more broadly on the universal protection of freedom of speech, and the fight against arbitrary detentions and death penalty.

In 2013, Mr. Trapp joined the French Embassy in Rabat (Morocco) as First secretary at the Political Affairs unit, a period during which he worked in close relationship with the Moroccan civil society.

Back in Paris, at the Secretary General department of the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, he served as a Policy officer to follow up management and general Consular affairs; the last year of his posting, he managed the policy officers' team of the Secretary General.

In 2019, he was appointed Deputy permanent Representative of France to the United Nations and the International Organizations in Vienna (Austria) and worked on the nuclear Iranian file, on space affairs and on combatting cybercrime.

PANEL III



Ernesto Fiocchetto, M.A.
Ph.D. Candidate in International Relations
Department of Politics & International Relations
Florida International University

Ernesto Fiocchetto is an Argentinean Sociologist from Universidad Nacional de Cuyo, Mendoza. In 2017, he started his journey at Florida International University, where he earned a master's in religious studies (2019), a master's in international studies (2021), and a Graduate Certificate in Latin American Studies (2023). Currently, he is a Ph.D. candidate (ABD) in International Relations. He has served at the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet European Center of Excellence as a graduate assistant for four years.

His research interests center on the intersections of migration and asylum, international politics, religion, and sexual orientation and gender identity. In different periods, he has focused on religious identities and sexualities, women and politics in Latin America, and South American migrants and refugees in the European Union and North America. His current research revolves around the multiple intersections of gender and sexuality, religion, and international politics in forced migration contexts. For his dissertation project, he studies the agency of faith-based actors in the reception and integration of LGBTIQ+ Latin Americans claiming asylum in Spain and the US. He has published his work in Spanish and English and presented his research at some of the most prestigious academic conferences in the US and Europe.



Johanne Døhlie Saltnes, Ph.D.
Collaborating Researcher and Lecturer
University de Brasilia, Brazil
Affiliated Researcher at ARENA – Center for European Studies
University of Oslo, Norway

Johanne Døhlie Saltnes is lecturer and collaborating researcher at the University of Brasilia, Brazil and an affiliated researcher at ARENA - Centre for European Studies, University of Oslo, Norway.

Her research looks at the contestation of international norms, with a particular focus on the EU's external human rights and environmental policies, global justice, and sanctions.

Her work has appeared in *International Affairs*, *JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies*, *Journal of European Integration, Cooperation and Conflict*, *Third World Quarterly*, *Global Affairs and Politics and Governance*.



Ioannis A. Stivachtis, Ph.D.

Professor of Political Science & Jean Monnet Chair

Director, Center for European & Transatlantic Studies (CEUTS)

Virginia Tech

Ioannis A. Stivachtis is Professor of Political Science and holder of the Jean Monnet Chair at Virginia Tech. He is also the Director of the Center for European & Transatlantic Studies (CEUTS) – *A Jean Monnet Center of Excellence*. His research and teaching interests include international relations theory (with particular emphasis on the English School of International Relations including the evolution of the historical European international society and the study of regional international system/society in Europe, Eurasia, and the Middle East); international organizations in Europe (EU, NATO, CoE, OSCE); European security; EU strategy; CFSP/CSDP; and EU's Neighborhood Policy. He has authored and edited several books and has published numerous journal articles and book chapters.

He serves as editor of the *Critical European Studies* book series (Routledge); co-editor of the *Athens Journal for Mediterranean Studies*, and Editorial Board Member of the *Journal for European and Transatlantic Intelligence Studies*. His current service also includes Acting Director of the Center for European and Mediterranean Affairs (CEMA) of the Athens Institute for Education and Research (ATINER); External Expert for the European Commission's Research Executive Agency (REA); Advisory Board member of the Center for Intelligence and Security Studies, Bellevue University; and Senior Advisor of the Research Institute for European and American Studies (RIEAS).

Stivachtis' previous appointments include: Professor of International Relations at the Geneva School of Diplomacy and International Relations (Switzerland); Professor of International & European Studies at *The American College of Switzerland*; Research Fellow at the Austrian Institute for Strategic & International Studies; Research Fellow at the Austrian Institute for European and Security Policy (AIES); Research Fellow at the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR); and Research Fellow at the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). He has also taught in various diplomatic and military academies.



Tatiana Kostadinova, Ph.D.

*Professor, Department of Politics and International Relations
Director, European & Eurasian Studies Program
Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs
Florida International University*

Tatiana Kostadinova is a professor in the Department of Politics and International Relations and the director of the European & Eurasian Studies Program at FIU. She received her Ph.D. in Political Science from the Florida State University. Her research and teaching interests include elections, institutions, democratization, political corruption, and populism. She has been the recipient of several grants, among which the American Political Science Small Research Grant (2002) and a Fellowship Program Award from the German Marshall Fund of the United States (2003-2004). Kostadinova is the author of two books. In *Bulgaria 1879-1946: The Challenge of Choice* (East European Monographs/Columbia University Press, 1995) she explored institutional arrangements, party competition, and voting patterns in Bulgarian parliamentary elections. The second book, *Political Corruption in Eastern Europe: Politics After Communism* (Lynne Rienner, 2012) analyzed the emergence of corruption as a major obstacle to successful democratic transition. Her findings turn the attention to the eroding impact of malfeasance on citizen trust in institutions and the role of the European Union for promoting integrity in public life. Other publications include journal articles in *American Journal of Political Science*, *Electoral Studies*, *Journal of Peace Research*, *European Journal of Political Research*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Party Politics*, and *Europe-Asia Studies*.

Professor Kostadinova's primary teaching area is comparative politics. At the undergraduate level, she teaches courses on Russian and Eastern European politics, electoral behavior, and research methods. Her graduate level courses include seminars on democratic transitions, political parties, political corruption, and advanced research.