



Newsletter



Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence - FIU

THIS ISSUE

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Lech Walesa visits FIU

On February 11, the FIU community welcomed President Lech Walesa with record enthusiasm. All 480 seats of the new SIPA Ruth K. and Shepard Broad Auditorium were filled more than a half an hour before the start of the lecture entitled "Poland and the World in the Age of Globalization: Values and Challenges", which was part of both the Broad Lecture Series and the Polish Lecture Series. President Walesa attracted standing room only crowds, including a couple hundred more people in the overflow rooms watching Walesa on the screen. The Noble Peace Prize recipient gazed out into the crowd and said, with his famous good humor: "I am honestly surprised that so many of you came to see a



The Honorable Lech Walesa: Former President of Poland
Founder of the Lech Walesa Institute

politician." The crowd, made up of students, faculty, and community members from all walks of life, smiled and clapped.

To many in the audience, Walesa is a modern-day hero. Nine years before the fall of the Berlin Wall, Walesa led strikes in Poland, forcing the Socialist government into allowing free labor unions. When the Soviet Union increased its pressure on the Polish government, the leader of Solidarność (Solidarity Movement) was imprisoned in 1981 and awarded the Nobel Peace Prize two years later. In 1990, Walesa became the first democratically elected president of the Republic of Poland and supervised the country's political and economic transformation.

While the younger guests in the audience know his face from history books, many oth-

ers view him as the liberator of Poland, a fighter for democracy and greeted him enthusiastically with standing ovations. "Thank you. Now I have to work really hard to achieve the same appreciation," smiles the former president.

Walesa began his remarks with reflections on post-war Europe, displaying an authentic sense of Polish humor even when he talked about the gravest tragedies in Polish history. There is still a tangible sentiment of sorrow when he recalls how his country fell to the sphere of Soviet influence after World War II. It should not have happened, he says, "for we really are textbook democrats: If you have two Poles, you have three parties." His words continued to visibly move the audience.

The former labor leader devoted a significant portion of his speech to the transformation of his country into a Western democracy. He cited the papacy of John Paul II, which began in 1978, as a beacon of hope for all Poles and a great inspiration for those struggling to resist Communist oppression. At the same time, the former Solidarity leader had somewhat critical remarks for his contemporaries and architects of political change in the late 1980s, most notably Mikhail Gorbachev. Walesa argued that Gorbachev's efforts to implement a policy of incremental modernization were doomed from the start: "There is simply no way to reform Communism," ...you remove one element and the whole system comes apart. Gorbachev tried, and he failed brutally. He did not preserve Communism.



Lech Walesa visits FIU (cont'd)

He did not preserve the Soviet Union. He did not preserve the Warsaw Pact.” Walesa’s passion and charisma filled the auditorium.

However, his message is not that radical change is a universal remedy but that failure should never result in resignation: “It is natural: We will encounter failures when we change the world.” Walesa addressed the complex dynamics that have replaced the relatively simple balance of the two superpower camps and called for a period of global reconsideration. He suggested that the younger generations and the most brilliant minds should combine their efforts to determine where the world was headed. Directed at the many young Americans in the audience he says: “Do not forget this, you are the superpower!”

Walesa turned to the role of the EU in initiating change and taking up the mantle of global leadership. The EU, he explained, is currently in a challenging situation, having to reconcile its expansive ambitions with the implications of a substantial economic and monetary crisis. Walesa recommended that Europeans should make up their minds



Lech Walesa was the keynote speaker at the inauguration of FIU’s most modern lecture theater. The Ruth K. and Shepard Broad Auditorium has a capacity of about 480 seats and Features sophisticated technology.

about what kind of economy and democracy they desire in the long run. “People nowadays think less about democracy than they used to,” Walesa mused. “But China is coming up impressively fast. If we do not prepare ourselves for this kind of competition, who knows—maybe we will have to join China at some point,” Walesa joked. Much to the amusement of his audience, he also has a piece of logical advice for his fellow Europeans: “Get to work and make at least twenty children per household!”

Walesa made sure to also emphasize how much has been achieved since the fall of the Iron Curtain. “We have so many countries and languages, and the number of borders has been decreasing so rapidly and constantly,” he marveled. “If my father raised from his grave to find that there are no soldiers at the border shared by Germany and Poland,” the former activist insists, “he would instantly suffer from a second heart attack.”

After his formal remarks, Walesa patiently answered questions about his personal life as well as about greater issues of world politics. The

date on which Poland’s former President visited FIU to talk about liberation could not have been more fitting: Only hours before he stepped up to the microphone on February 11, long-standing dictator Hosni Mubarak had been ousted by the people of Egypt who desired freedom—just like Eastern Europeans did some twenty odd years earlier.

(S. Kube)



Morris Broad represented the Broad family as sponsors of the new lecture hall



President Mark B. Rosenberg welcomed Walesa to FIU’s main campus

Modern Italian Art in the Frost Museum



The Frost Art Museum's director Dr. Carol Damian is delighted to host the Gran Torino Exhibition

It is a spectacular addition to the Miami art scene: FIU's Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum now exhibits a selection of art works from the Italian city of Torino.

The exhibition opened at the end January and will run through mid-April. It features works by two groups of artists from Torino: those who established themselves in the decades of the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s (like Alighiero Boetti and

Giorgio Griffa) as well as those who made their names in the past fifteen years (such as Luigi Stoisia and Paolo Grassino). There could hardly be more variety in the "Gran Torino" exhibition, which consists of thirty art works including paintings, sculptures, video art and installations. "This exhibit is unique to Miami. We felt that modern art from Italy was somewhat underrepresented in Miami. We are confident

that this wonderful selection of exciting and sometimes bold artworks will attract many visitors from near and far," commented the Museum's Director Dr. Carol Damian.

However, the Frost did not only upgrade its modern art department over the holidays. Visitors are also invited to take a long and close look at one truly magnificent work of Baroque painting: "Alexander's Lion Hunt" by Flemish old master Peter Paul Rubens. "It is the generous loan from a Miami art collector," explains Dr. Damian. "In fact, because of its enormous size it had to be taken down twenty-six stories with the aid of a crane before we were able to put it on display."

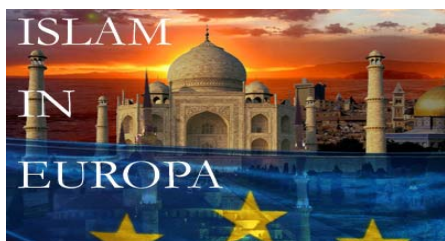
The effort was certainly worth it. "Alexander's Lion Hunt" is a lavish reference work of early seventeenth-century European art and the kind of artwork that one would encounter in the Louvre or Prado.

Rubens' masterpiece will help to foster the FIU-Frost's reputation as a hot spot for art in Miami. "We are on a good way," says Dr. Damian. "From 2009 to last year, the number of visitors swelled from 40,000 to 60,000." With this year's sensational additions, another surge in popularity would come as no surprise.

(S. Kube)



Islam in Europe



The question of how to fully integrate Muslims into mainstream European society is one of the hottest topics on the political agenda in many EU countries. Apparently, the issue is also of high interest to FIU students and faculty, as about 200 students from across the university attended Dr. Shireen T. Hunter's lecture on "Islam in Europe," an MEUCE collaboration with FIU's Middle East Studies Program.

The field of cultural and political relations among the faiths has been Dr. Hunter's academic home for decades. She wrote and edited a number of books on the subject, worked as the director of the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington DC, and is currently a Visiting Fellow at the Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding at Georgetown University. Hunter, who has lived in France, Britain, and Switzerland, provided her young audience a general introduction to the problem of Muslim minorities in the EU.

Hunter began her lecture outlining the multiple reasons for Muslim presence in the European heartland. Spain has had a Muslim past. France and Britain, for example,

experienced an influx of people of Islamic faith from former colonies in Africa and Asia, respectively. The story behind Germany's large Muslim minority is different again: In order to rebuild the country in the aftermath of World War Two, the state invited guest workers from Turkey. When Germany's "economic miracle" came to a halt in the 1960s, the Turks stayed—and they were the first to lose their jobs. Yet instead of returning to their homeland, Turkish males moved their families to Germany, thus creating a minority that presently amounts to some four million people.

Naturally, cultural frictions emerged in all those countries. "While the first generations of newcomers remained virtually invisible in the public sphere, the second generations had different ideas," Hunter explained, "they wanted to be recognized as citizens rather than immigrants. And the same is even truer for all later generations."

In the recent past, she explained, tensions are rising between increasingly radicalized fringe groups and mainstream society. Six years ago, Muslim youths attacked state institutions and civilians in French cities. Meanwhile, the European public is deeply divided over a referendum in which the majority of Swiss citizens voted against the erection of new minarets.

Dr. Shireen T. Hunter diagnosed a lack of commitment to the prob-



Dr. Shireen T. Hunter

Distinguished Scholar, Visiting Fellow at the Muslim-Christian Understanding, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.

lem of integration on both sides of the frontline. Arguing that "integration cannot mean assimilation," she lamented that many nations had put the burden of immigration on the shoulders of the Islamic communities. At the same time, she criticized that a faction of European Muslims adhered to an unduly rigorous interpretation of the Quran, thus helping to raise concerns on the part of secular and Christian Europeans.

Hunter concluded saying that because of the diversity of Europe's Muslim community there was no universal strategy to tackle the issue. However, she expressed cautious optimism that integration could be a more successful endeavor in the future. **(S. Kube)**



The Graham Center's West Ballroom could hardly accommodate those many students who wanted to attend the lecture on Muslim values and European societies.

The Euro Crisis and the German Model

On February 10, Dr. Adam Tooze, Yale University's specialist on 20th-Century German History, visited FIU to discuss the state of the EURO in today's uncertain global economy. Relying on his expertise in economic history, Dr. Tooze delivered a lecture entitled: "The Euro Crisis and the German Model." The MEUCE Newsletter talked to him about the Euro Crisis and about recent developments in Europe's largest economy.

MEUCE: What ignited your interest in Germany?

Tooze: I grew in Britain during the Cold War, immersed in war culture, playing with soldiers and all that. Then my family relocated to the city of Heidelberg and suddenly, I found myself in a completely different culture: Vergangenheitsbewältigung (coming to terms with the past) and a very critical attitude towards anything military. This problematic intrigued me.

MEUCE: You argue that the Euro crisis could impact the European Union substantially. Why is this such a profound crisis?

Tooze: Well most of us might wish that the

EU's prospects would not depend on the Euro but I am afraid it does. The EU has been greatly sustained by a forward momentum, a general feeling of progress. The current crisis has challenged this myth.

MEUCE: You researched the applicability of the German Model to the faltering European economy. What constitutes this model?

Tooze: Basically it is a highly productive and heavily export-oriented economic approach, and there are a few German stereotypes surrounding it: high-value craftsmanship and engineering, prestigious products, and fiscal thrift. It all ties in to the



Dr. Adam Tooze teaches in the Department of History at Yale University

story of the "Economic Miracle."

MEUCE: What is problematic about it?

Tooze: Germany's "Economic Miracle" seems to have exhausted itself for several reasons: Profits are solid but in the age of globalization, new investments are made outside the German economy. When compared to previous decades, domestic demand is almost flat-lining. Additionally, low incomes are stagnating, and social inequality is on the increase.

MEUCE: So it is not a recommended model for the EU zone?

Tooze: Germans thought they had found the magic formula for industrial growth and social solidarity. Yet re-investments are too low these days, which is part of the complex problem of globalization. The EU needs a growth-oriented approach in a time when European societies are aging. In the long run, Europeans might want to consider an US-style integration-based model and cooperate with Asian countries or some nations in North Africa. (S. Kube)

The Persistent Problem of Trafficking in Women

To Dr. Emek M. Uçarer, the trafficking of human beings has been a matter of the heart for more than fifteen years. Working for the European Commission in 1996, she helped to organize a conference on women trafficking, a topic that has gained more attention from both policy-makers and researchers over the years. At present day, Dr. Uçarer is the Chair of the Department of International Relations at Bucknell University. She has published extensively on human rights issues, immigration in the European Union, and the work of Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs). In early February, she visited FIU and gave a lecture entitled "Trafficking in Women: A Global Challenge in a Regional Context."

The researcher began her presentation with a figure that seemed to make an impression on many students in the audience: Viewed as a global business, human trafficking generates profits of an estimated \$9.5 billion annually. A majority of those approximately 800,000 trafficked individuals per year are young women. Speaking about the criminal structures and dynamics behind the trafficking business, Dr.

Uçarer also elaborated on the individual experiences of victims and identified the respective countries of origin, transit, and destination. Furthermore, she talked about the strategies that policy-makers applied in the past and introduced present-day organizations that target human trafficking.

Dr. Uçarer emphasized that implications of globalization such as the disappearance of borders and the ease of international money transactions have contributed to the problem. She said that national strategies alone would not solve the persistent problem. "Global and regional organizations have to cooperate," she explained, "We need a coalition of NGOs, businesses, and judicial authorities to tackle the trade of humans as goods in a more efficient manner." Pointing out that some EU member states are still transit and destination countries for trafficked individuals, she said she was hoping that the union would intensify its efforts to improve communication and cooperation between offices and organizations that combat this criminal endeavor. (S. Kube)



Dr. Emek Uçarer, Chair, Dept. of International Relations, Bucknell University

Women in post-Wall Eastern Europe and Global Prosperity



Dr. Pasquale Tridico, visiting Fulbright Scholar at New York University



Dr. Tridico, who teaches at the University of Rome III, presented his research to some eighty students and faculty in the Labor Center.

One of Italy's most distinguished scholars in the field of Transitional Economics visited FIU in late January. Dr. Pasquale Tridico presented his findings on the interplay of educational and health institutions on the one hand, and economic growth and living standards on the other.

Tridico, who teaches at Università Roma Tre and who is currently living in the US as a Visiting Fulbright Scholar at New York University, has worked in a number of European countries including Poland and Great Britain. At FIU, he lectured on the economic changes that have occurred in European countries since the fall of the Berlin Wall, and how they affected the lives of women.

Dr. Tridico's foundational thesis is that an individual's quality of life is not congruent with the size of their income. "Human development warrants more than high wages," says the researcher, "for instance access to education and a sufficiently high life expectancy." He found that several countries that stressed the importance of educational and health-related development in the period of socio-economic transition have achieved a lasting improvement of living standards. "We believe," said the Italian researcher, "that countries which established substantial socio-economic foundations have a brighter future particularly in times

of economic distress than those who merely relied on the principles of the free markets for the sake of generating high incomes."

Shifting his focus to gender issues, Dr. Tridico stressed that post-Wall developments in Eastern European countries and former states of the Soviet Union were unprecedented. The economic transformations were far more dramatic than the recent crisis, which left the US with a 4.4 percent decrease in its GDP: Some Eastern European countries experienced an economic dip of up to twenty percent.

Naturally, the collapse of national markets had grave implications for women in Eastern Europe: "In Socialist societies, women had traditionally worked in the heavily subsidized public sector," Tridico ex-

plained to his predominantly female audience, "therefore, they were the first to lose their jobs." Many young women in particular fell victim to the resulting lack of prospects. When mobility within Europe increased, prostitution skyrocketed. Dr. Tridico quoted from a study conducted by the United Nations that estimated the number of prostitutes from Bulgaria to be around 20,000—a shocking number for a nation with only four million women.

However, Eastern European nations have made much progress in certain arenas, including parliamentary representation and education attainment. Regarding gender equality and female empowerment, former Eastern bloc countries have a long way to go. **(S. Kube)**



Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Dr. Aurora Morcillo, Dr. Pasquale Tridico, Dr. Maya Boutaghou, and Dr. Dawn Addy

Gender Throughout the Ages



Dr. Peter Hanns Reill, Professor of History University of California, LA

Dr. Peter Hanns Reill, a distinguished professor in the Department of History at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA), devoted his entire academic career to teaching and researching the history of thought. At the end of January, he visited FIU and was welcomed by an impressive number of listeners. Dr. Reill presented on “Enlightenment Vitalism, Romantic Natural Philosophy and the Construction of Gender.”

The Californian scholar identified the topic of modern gender construction as emblematic for the larger academic debate about the nature of scientific research: Can science generate objective knowledge, or is it inevitably driven by ideology and subjectivity? Reill discussed major works on gender construction from the periods of late Enlightenment and early Romanticism with the objective of highlighting change over time. Enlightenment philosophers developed an interest in gender issues during the late 18th century. Enlightenment vitalists (thinkers who believed that nature was infused with living powers) gravitated towards the assumption that each individual inherited masculine and feminine features. People in the age of Enlightenment also idealized androgyny in personalities and included astonishingly open homo- and heteroerotic references in their correspondence. The presence of feminine features in male characters—and vice versa—was viewed as an individual’s asset rather than a weakness.

These perceptions stood in stark contrast to the ideas held by people at the beginning of the following century, when Romanticism in sci-



Dr. Rebecca Friedman, Co-Director, MEUCE, introducing Dr. Reill

ence was a popular movement in Western Europe. In this “Age of Reflection,” people’s desire for clarity and certainties also reverberated in their construction of gender models. The sexually charged atmosphere of Enlightenment gave way to a more conservative climate in which traditional ideas about man- and womanhood predominated the public discourse.

Several Romanticist thinkers based their arguments on a model of polar duality, stressed the masculine pole as the origin of positive attributes, and viewed masculinity as the heart of all living matter. Femininity, by contrast, was commonly associated with passivity, weakness, and imperfection.

Comparing the theories of two German naturalists and representatives of the respective periods, Wilhelm von Humboldt (Enlightenment) and Lorenz Oken (Romanticism), Reill provided detailed insights into the mindsets of Europeans in the 18th and 19th centuries. His lecture illustrated how reliably the tides changed throughout the history of thought, and stimulated a lively discussion with his colleagues – and our students – at FIU. **(S. Kube)**



Dr. Reill’s guest lecture drew many students and faculty members to the conference room in the Green Library. Most of those in the audience were affiliates of FIU’s Department of History.

Celebrating 25 Years of Spain's EU Membership



Dr. Cristina Blanco Sío-López, Centre Virtuel de la Connaissance sur l'Europe—Luxembourg; and Dr. Sonia Piedrafita, Centro de Estudios Políticos y Constitucionales, Madrid



Dr. Charles Powell, Fundación Transición Española/Real Instituto Elcano (Madrid)



Dr. Carmen González Enríquez, UNED and Real Instituto Elcano; and Dr. Luis Moreno, Spanish National Research Council

On the last Friday of February, a number of distinguished experts from all over the world met at the University of Miami (UM) to commemorate a defining moment in the history of Spain: Twenty-five years ago, the country joined the European Economic Community (EEC, the predecessor of the European Union). Spain had applied in 1977, only two years after the death of the “caudillo,” General Francisco Franco, and became an official member state on January 1, 1986.

Over the course of this quarter-century, the economically and politically backward Spain of the Franco era developed into a leading nation of the EU. Dr. Joaquín Roy, the Jean Monnet Professor of Euro-

pean Integration at UM and Co-Director of the Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence (MEUCE), had assembled notable academics and EU officials to discuss this impressive evolution—and to identify Spain's challenges in the future.

After a warm welcome from Dr. Roy, it fell to his colleague at FIU, MEUCE Co-Director Dr. Rebecca Friedman, to moderate the first panel on the historical context of Spain's joining. Dr. Charles Powell from the Madrid-based Fundación Transición Española/Real Instituto Elcano, argued that the EEC's tough stance



towards the Franco regime had a lasting effect on the public opinion and led many Spaniards to regard the European Community as an advocate of democratic principles. Apparently, this attitude has prevailed over time: Dr. Sonia Piedrafita from the Spanish Centro de

Estudios Políticos y Constitucionales demonstrated that the levels of public approval of the country's membership and the EU's continued enlargement policy have remained significantly higher in Spain than in most other member states.

The morning's second panel dealt with the impact of European common policies on the Spanish society. Dr. Ramon Mullerat from the tax and advisory services firm KPMG Abogados in Barcelona pointed out that the EU was a legal structure of high complexity. To much amusement among the audience, he quoted the former American Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, who once remarked that in order to understand Europe, one



UM Vice President Dr. Thomas J. LeBlanc (left) welcomed the participants of the conference, which was organized and hosted by Dr. Joaquín Roy, Co-Director of MEUCE at UM.



Identified Spain as an extremely popular country among immigrants to the EU: Dr. Carmen González Enríquez

Celebrating 25 Years of Spain's EU Membership (cont'd)



Dr. Enrique Barón, the 16th President of the European Parliament, contributed to the conference with his keynote speech.

had to be simply “a genius, or French.” Dr. Carmen González Enríquez from the Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia presented on immigration policy and rendered Spain as an extremely popular destination for migrants: Those five million people who settled in Spain throughout the last decade accounted for one half of all immigrants to the EU.

After a brief address by UM's Executive Vice President, Dr. Thomas J. LeBlanc, the conference continued with a keynote presentation by Dr. Enrique Barón. The former President of the European Parliament is today a Jean Monnet Professor at the Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha. He praised the EU for its role as a global promoter of freedom and liberty in the age of globalization. With the latest developments in several countries of the Middle East in mind, he concluded: “Democracy has become attainable and a realistic goal in most parts of our world, it is not a privilege of few anymore.” He also praised Spain's contributions to the cultural identity of the EU and identified the recovery from the current economic crisis as the most pressing issue on the

union's agenda.

The subsequent panel on economic issues was chaired by Dr. Antonio de Lecea, the Deputy Head of the EU Delegation in Washington. The presentations confirmed the impression that Spain is in bad waters with about one fifth of its labor force out of work. Dr. Francesc Granell from the Universitat de Barcelona called for a new conservative approach to the Spanish welfare system, arguing that Spain had to synchronize its expenses for social security with its fiscal revenues.

The presenters on the fourth panel offered examinations of Spain's foreign policies in general and the country's relations with its Latin American allies in particular. Dr. José Ignacio Torreblanca, who teaches at the Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia, stressed the high importance of foreign policy in Spain's political arena. Discussing the respective institutions of foreign policy-making, he inserted a common tongue-in-cheek on the role of the minister of foreign affairs: “Some say it is an easy job: All you have to state is that your three priorities are Europe, the Middle East, and Latin America.” Under the auspices of Dr.

Roy, the academic part of the M E U C E conference concluded solemnly with a roundtable discussion of the current events in the Arab hemisphere.



After some seven hours of scholarly discourse, two high-ranking guests arrived to greet the researchers and officials. The Honorary Cristina Barrios, who is the current Consul General of Spain in Miami, characterized her country's entry into the EEC as the expression of the “undoubtedly Europeanist will of the Spanish people.” She described Spain's alliance with the other EU countries as a mutually beneficial enterprise and thanked the American EU Centers of Excellence for their work. UM President Dr. Donna Shalala made concluding remarks and recalled the following: “When I studied European history, we learned about the many differences that defined the continent. What has happened in Europe since then seemed unthinkable at the time—to many people, the EU is a dream that has come true.” **(S. Kube)**



Greeted the researchers and officials at the end of the conference: UM President Dr. Donna Shalala (left) and the Honorable Cristina Barrios, current Consul General of Spain in Miami, who thanked the European Union Center of Excellence for its work in the US.

Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence



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The Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence has moved to the 5th floor of the new School of International Public Affairs (SIPA) building. We are looking forward to welcoming you to our new offices!

SOME OF OUR UPCOMING EVENTS



- **March 10-11 Two-day EU Conference**
 “The European Union as a Global Actor in the Post-Lisbon Treaty period”
- **March 10 Luc Véron**
 Minister-Counselor Head, Political, Security and Development Section, Delegation of the European Union to the United States of America, Washington D.C - *Keynote address of the conference*
- **March 22 Local Florida Euro Challenge Competition 2011**



For more details, you may visit miamieuc.fiu.edu - [Events](#)