



# Newsletter



Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence - FIU

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## Annual EU Centers Network Meeting in Miami



Directors and Associate Directors at the Annual EU Centers Network Meeting in Miami—March 21-22, 2014

This year, the Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence had the great honor and privilege to have the annual Directors' meeting take place in Miami. Hosted by our fellow European Union Center of Excellence at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the Directors' meeting took place on March 20-22 in downtown Coral Gables. Over these three days, directors and associate directors from the ten [EU Centers of Excellence](#) around the nation gathered together to discuss past successes, share advice, and to plan future collaborative events.

The series of events began on the evening of Thursday, March 20th with a reception and dinner at the home of the Consul General of France, the Honorable Philippe Létrillart. Members of the various European Union Centers of Excellence ate dinner and networked with local professionals, academics, business leaders, and members of Miami's diplomatic community. This informal setting allowed members to communicate and get to know each other in a

way that would contribute greatly to the sense of camaraderie and common mission of building greater ties between the United States and Europe.

The next day, Friday March 21st, EU directors met in Miami's historic Coral Gables' Miracle Mile at the innovative workspaces of [Right Space 2 Meet](#) for a full day of work and collaboration. The day began with remarks by [François Rivasseau](#), the Deputy Head of the EU Delegation to the United States, who remarked on how important these centers are in promoting EU-US ties through teaching, research and community outreach. Mr. Rivasseau's speech inspired the remainder of the morning's discussion on the EU's changes and efforts to promote transatlantic research initiatives. The changes associated with the Horizon 2020 program were a point of major discussion, a subject that would come up again on Saturday (see article on page 5-6). Following a delightful and recharging lunch at a local restaurant, members of the EU centers reconvened in the afternoon to discuss their methods and strategies for engaging in outreach. From newsletters such as this one, to



## Annual EU Center Networking Meeting in Miami this March



From left to right: Dr. Erica Edwards, Dr. John D. Stephens, François Rivasseau



From left to right: Eva Dunn, Dr. Phil Shekleton, Dr. Jeffrey Pennington, Dr. Beverley Crawford, Dr. Anna Westerståhl Stenport, Dr. Ronald Linden

YouTube channels and twitter handles, as well as more conventional methods, EU Centers shared and learned of new ways to spread the message to their local researchers and professionals about the opportunities available through collaboration. The day's fruitful meeting concluded following remarks from Jean Luc-Robert, First Counselor of the [European Parliament Liaison Office](#) with the US Congress, and an update from the European Delegation.

The morning of Saturday March 22nd saw the close of the network meeting for 2014. Associate directors met to discuss the best way to make sure that EU centers around the nation continue to work together. With the success of past endeavors such as the videoconference series hosted by the EU Center at the University of Pittsburgh, participants were well aware that working together has been and

will continue to offer the best and most efficient use of time. The day, and the weekend's meetings concluded with new information on Horizon 2020 (the subject of the article on page 5-6). While members of MEUCE will miss having our fellow EU Center directors and associate directors in our backyard, the level of collaboration among these institutions means that the conversation is not at an end.

The Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence would like to thank sincerely Hon. Philippe Létrilliart, Consul General of France in Miami, Mark Trowbridge, President and CEO of the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce, and Caroline Rendeiro, President and CEO of Right Space 2 Meet, Inc. for sponsoring this event, and making it a success.

*By Jason Chohonis*



From left to right: Dr. Jeffrey Pennington, Dr. Beverley Crawford, Dr. Anna Westerståhl Stenport, Dr. Ronald H. Linden; Dr. Elisabeth Covington, Dr. Myra Marx Ferree, Elina A. Day, Jean-Luc Robert





## Annual EU Center Networking Meeting

### Dinner Reception at the residence of the Consul General of France



From left to right:  
Hon. Philippe Létriliart, Dr. John D. Stephens, François Rivasseau



From left to right: Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Hon. Philippe Létriliart,  
Hon. Cristina Barrios, Dr. Joaquin Roy



From left to right:  
François Rivasseau, John Yearwood, Mark Trowbridge



From left to right: Mark Trowbridge, Dr. Erica Edwards,  
Carolina Rendeiro, Dr. John D. Stephens, Dr. Irma Beccera-Fernandez



From left to right:  
Helen Henderson, Hon. Adolfo Barattolo, Sophie Delporte



From left to right: Aude Jehan and Jean-Luc Robert



## Annual EU Center Networking Meeting Cocktail-Reception in Coral Gables sponsored by the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce



From left to right: Mark Trowbridge, CEO & President, Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce; Jim Cason, Mayor of the City of Coral Gables; Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director, MEUCE, FIU; Silvia Kofler, Head of the Press & Public Diplomacy Section, and Spokesperson, Delegation of the EU to the US; Carolina Rendeiro, CEO, Right Space Management, Inc.; Francois Rivasseau, Deputy Head, Delegation of the EU to the US.



From left to Right: Mark Trowbridge, CEO & President, Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce; Frances Reaves, President of Latin American Connection; Francois Rivasseau, Deputy Head, Delegation of the European Union to the United States.



Francois Rivasseau, Deputy Head, Delegation of the European Union to the United States, explaining the relationship between Europe and the United States.



Viktoria Bodnarova  
Regional Representative of  
Euraxess Links North America

The Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence (MEUCE) has dedicated a significant amount of energy to ensuring that local researchers and professionals are aware of the [BILAT](#) and [Horizon 2020](#) Programs. These programs, that provide grant and research money to U.S. researchers and businesses that work with European partner organizations, were the subject of a recent workshop in Coral Gables' Miracle Mile on Saturday March 22, 2014. With many EU Center directors in Miami for the annual EU Center meetings, this workshop entitled "EU Research and Innovation Funding through Horizon 2020" provided the perfect opportunity to disseminate valuable information that could then be relayed around the nation by the respective EU Centers. This workshop was jointly sponsored by BILAT USA 2.0, MEUCE, and FIU and was co-sponsored by Euraxess Links, DLR, and the Right Space 2 Meet. This meeting was housed in the workspaces of the [Right Space 2 Meet](#) company, which offers confer-

ence rooms and virtual offices for researchers and entrepreneurs. An incredibly unique location that even contained a former bank vault that is still functional, this workspace was the ideal place to meet to discuss opportunities available for innovative researchers in the United States.

MEUCE had the opportunity to speak with the workshop presenter, Viktoria Bodnarova, a regional representative of Euraxess Links North America. Euraxess Links, Ms. Bodnarova informed us, main goal was to "inform scientists of all nationalities based in North America about the job vacancies and funding opportunities available in 40 European countries." Euraxess, as part of the Horizon 2020 funding program, operates as an "information center to spread the word of different funding opportunities" that are available through Horizon 2020. Unlike the EU delegation, Euraxess focuses less on collaborative projects and

more on "individuals, individual mobility, individual fellowships." Instead of trying to form consortium, which involves different rules and procedures, Bodnarova makes individuals aware through "a website, social media, a newsletter that is sent to our community every month where we look through opportunities available in each of these 40 countries."

Bodnarova and her peers at Euraxess Links are busy as getting the word out on "6-8000 job vacancies that are available every day" means they must inform "the research organizations who publish the vacancies on their website." As part of this effort to disseminate information about opportunities available for individual researchers, Bodnarova spoke to the assembled directors of the EU Centers who had gathered in Miami. These participants were made aware of the many opportunities available for researchers and how these opportunities could be found. Bodnarova informed



Workshop on Horizon 2020 at Right Space 2 Meet—March 22, 2014  
From left to right: Carolina Rendeiro, Christine I. Caly-Sanchez,  
Dr. Rebecca Friedman, Viktoria Bodnarova





BILAT USA 2.0—Workshop on Horizon 2020—March 22, 2014



Dr. Antonello Pileggi, Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Viktoria Bodnarova

MEUCE that these EU Directors and Associate Directors “could spread the word in their universities to their researchers. I think of them as multipliers of the message, I introduce the schemes and let them know what is possible.”

Ultimately, due to the efforts of MEUCE, Euraxess Links, BILAT, and our fellow

European Union Centers, Bodnarova and Horizon 2020's message will reach many more eager researchers throughout North America. As the members of the EU Centers departed Miami, they did so much more aware of ways to assist their colleagues back home.

*By Jason Chohonis*



For more information please contact  
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Associate Director of the MEUCE,  
by email at [calyc@fiu.edu](mailto:calyc@fiu.edu)  
or please visit

<http://miamieuc.fiu.edu/events/general/2014/meuce-bilat-usa-20-meeting-fiu/>



Participants of the Workshop Horizon 2020 - March 22, 2014

Directors and Associate Directors of the following EUCE Centers of Excellence: University of Colorado, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, University of Seattle, John Hopkins University, University of Pittsburgh, University of Wisconsin-Madison, University of Texas-Austin, Florida International University, University of California-Berkeley, University of Illinois



## Workshop on Gender and Generations in Europe



**Dr. Myra Marx Ferree, Director,  
European Union Center of Excellence,  
University of Wisconsin-Madison**

On March 28th and 29th the Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence (MEUCE) and its sister organization, the University of Wisconsin-Madison European Union Center of Excellence collaborated to bring Miami residents, FIU students, and leading scholars from around the country to participate in an incredibly engaging academic workshop. Friday March 28th featured a full day of panel discussions and lectures on a beautiful Miami day. Dr. Rebecca Friedman, the MEUCE co-director, and Dr. Myra Marx Ferree, the Wisconsin European Union Center director welcomed participants to the workshop and indicated that the a subject as diverse as “Gender and Generations” would necessitate a creative format in which collaborative discussion featuring scholars from multiple disciplines would be the style of the days conference. This somewhat informal approach allowed individuals of many different research interests to question each other’s arguments in a productive and engaging way.

The first panel of the day discussed the idea of gender and generation in a historical context. Dr. Geoff

Eley, a professor of history at the University of Michigan discussed the idea of generation and the way this concept entangles with the idea of gender. Dr. Eley discussed some of the conceptual problems that arise with discussing any specific ‘generation’, a term that can often appear arbitrary. Dr. Eley was able to demonstrate that the concept of generation is in many ways an expression of both analysis of social topography as well as an indication of agency, or self-identification. Dr. Eley discussed how these conceptual ideas related to the relationship between labor, capital, and government since the 1960s. Following Dr. Eley, Dr. Camille Robcis, an assistant professor of history at Cornell University discussed “Family Policy and the Origins of the Welfare State in France.” Dr. Robcis discussion began with an explanation of the issue of gay rights in France, an issue that lead to “massive street protests.” Dr. Robcis explored the way that gay marriage and reproductive rights were rhetorically expressed by protestors on either side of the political divide, and how the form protests took often utilized imagery and rhetoric related to ideas of traditional French Republicanism. Dr. Robcis argued that in French culture, the idea of ‘the social’ cannot exist without the idea of ‘the family’, a result of specific historical conditions such as the 1939

French family code, or the earlier 1804 French civil code. The discussion pivoted with the panel’s next presenter, Dr. Becky E. Conekin, a professor with the History and MacMillan Center, Yale, who discussed issues of morality amongst female laborers in Europe in the twentieth century and the relation to consumer culture. Dr. Conekin explained that her research and interviews with models has revealed the way that gender and generation, class and morality evolved throughout the twentieth century in public discourse. Dr. Conekin, a former AIDS activist, argued that the discourse surrounding AIDS has shifted in that today prostitutes are no longer labeled as predators in the HIV debate, but as potential victims, and that issues of HIV and prostitute rights figure into the contemporary transnational labor debates and labor movements of today.

On Saturday March 29th, the enthusiastic participants, refreshed from a relaxing South Florida evening reconvened at FIU for another round of panel discussions. As participants ate breakfast, Dr. Mary Daly, a professor of sociology and social policy from the University of Oxford spoke about the concept of interventions around parenting as a way of looking at the intersection of gender and generations. Dr. Daly’s lecture focused on the specific policies put in



**Panel I: History Reverberations—March 28, 2014**

**Dr. Myra Marx Ferree, Dr. Rebecca Friedman, Dr. Geoff Eley, Dr. Becky Conekin, Dr. Camille Robcis**



## Workshop on Gender and Generations in Europe (cont')



**Panel II: Contemporary Changes - March 28, 2014**

Dr. Philip N.Cohen, Dr. Pearl Dykstra, Dr. Gerda Neyer, Dr. Kimberly Morgan, Dr. Chiara Saraceno

place in England under the New-Labour party that targeted parents for support and problem solving, and compared these interventions to those in place in France and Germany. Dr. Daly explained that cross national differences in parenting intervention could be explained by a number of factors including "the perspective on and organization for child welfare" and "the approach taken to family and the prevailing social philosophies around family." According to Dr. Daly all of these countries recent parenting policy approaches demonstrate the common features of focusing on parents and parenting behavior while also underplaying the agency of children, and signifies a move for policies inside of family dynamics. While many, such as this writer, were unfamiliar with the sociological methodology used by Dr. Daly, her lecture, expertly ex-

pressed, made all participants familiar with the role generation plays in these interventions, as well as the consequences of gender's absence from these interventions.

Saturday's second speaker was Dr. Diane-Gabrielle Tremblay, the Canada Research Chair on the Socio-organizational challenges of the Knowledge Economy and a Professor at the School of Administration at TELUQ| Université de Québec. Dr. Tremblay spoke about "the work-family relation and public policy: towards gender equality" and compared the way that France, Belgium, and Québec approached work life issues. Some countries, such as some of those in Southern Europe engage in a non-intervention model, in which there is no policy intervention in the work-life model. Others, such as France, engage in the alternation

model in which some policies are in place that see women as alternating between work and family obligations. The third model, Dr. Tremblay argued, is where Québec fits in, and should be termed a model of "work-life reconciliation or work-family articulation." Québec, more than France or Southern European countries, utilizes policies like paternity leave that more closely follow the "work-family reconciliation model."

The day's final speaker is a familiar face to MEUCE, having participated in a number of previous events with FIU's EU Center, the University of Miami's Dr. Louise K. Davidson-Schmich. Dr. Davidson-Schmich, a professor at UM's Department of Political Science, presented her lecture entitled "The Needs of Families and Political Responses in Germany", which explored the "one thing that all European countries have in common, that all of them have laws and policies that define legally who is related to whom. All of these countries confer legal privileges, rights, and responsibilities to individuals related to each other that they do not confer on individuals who don't share relations. We have seen that all of these policies are highly gendered and highly heteronormative." Dr. Davidson-Schmich explored relationships of care, that don't stem from sexual relationships, and as such fall outside the conventional heteronormative family poli-



**Panel III: Political Responses - March 29, 2014**

From left to right: Dr. Myra Marx Ferree, Dr. Mary Daly, Dr. Diane-Gabrielle Tremblay, Dr. Louise Davidson-Schmich





## Workshop on Gender and Generations in Europe (cont')



cies of different states. Specifically, Dr. Davidson-Schmich presented her research into 'Rainbow Families' in Germany, those that fall outside the heteronormative model. Dr. Davidson-Schmich indicated that her research revealed that 92% of those same sex households that have children are female-female, which reveals a clear gendered balance. These families, Dr. Davidson-Schmich explained, face many challenges in Germany, and feel that "their family is disadvantaged legally and financially" and want more rights for 'social parents', more financial security and welfare benefits, and are concerned with inheritance rights. Most importantly, some organizations have called for "elimination of all marriage

privileges in favor of alternative forms of living together that are appropriately supported." Yet these policy preferences have not been endorsed by either Womens Organizations or LGBT Organizations, who have focused their attention on strictly defined marriage rights, and the policy of German Life Partnerships for homosexual couples do not have all the family and property rights of traditional marriage. Clearly, more policy reforms are needed in Germany and elsewhere to fulfill the wishes of those seeking rights for Rainbow families.

This conference was without a doubt a great success. The multiplicity of perspectives and viewpoints allowed participants to challenge their own conceptions of gender and generation.

MEUCE eagerly looks forward to the next opportunity to work alongside our fellow European Union Centers to expand academic discussion on these crucial social categories.

*By Jason Chohonis*

**For additional information on this conference (videos, PPT, Bios, please visit the following link:**

<http://miamieuc.fiu.edu/events/general/2014/meuce-march-28-29-two-day-eu-conference-on-gender-and-generations-fiu/>



Panelists, and organizers of the conference on "Gender and Generations"



## Gender Equality for Generation y in 2030: an EU Perspective



**Agnès Hubert, Adviser, Bureau of European Policy Advisors, European Commission**

As mentioned on the article on pages 7-9, the Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence (MEUCE) and the University of Wisconsin-Madison European Union Center of Excellence jointly hosted a conference on “Gender and Generations” on March 28th and 29th of 2014. On Friday, March 28th, invited participants gathered in FIU’s Frost Museum for a luncheon and a keynote address by [Agnès Hubert](#), an Adviser for the Bureau of European Policy Advisors (BEPA) European Commission. This lecture was titled “Gender equality for generation y in 2030: an EU perspective.” Ms. Hubert, who has an extensive resume with multiple EU policy making roles, including a stint as the Head of the Unit Equal Opportunities for Women, informed participants about how some of the specific academic issues raised, such as the gendering of the social contract and the welfare state, apply in the contemporary context for members of Generation Y (roughly those born between 1980 and 2000). Ms. Hubert explained that gender equality “is a value of the EU, that is to be promoted as a founding principle of the EU that conditions sanctions and the accession of new member states.” Even today absolute gender equality does not prevail across the EU, despite the gains that have been made for women over the twentieth century. As Ms. Hubert explained, measures of the [Gender Equality Index](#) indicate that women still lag behind men in greater or lesser degrees across all of Europe. Hubert indicated

that generational changes and expectations continue to influence the way that gender is constructed and realized.

Ms. Hubert discussed the future trajectory for trends in gender equality. Ultimately, she explained that equality is “progressing, but not very quickly”. Many challenges exist in the post-crisis EU. Ms. Hubert, aware of these challenges, discussed what research strategies may help Europe’s policy makers, and indicated that “the current materialistic culture is not sustainable”. Other measures, besides Gross Domestic Product (GDP), will be necessary to determine how successful policy reforms are. Ms. Hubert explained that for a variety of reasons not directly measurable by GDP, European investment in Gender Equality should make Europe more competitive, democratic, welcoming of change, and able to socially innovate to protect the positive aspects of the welfare state. Despite the fact that the achievement of gender equality in the European Union and the United States, not to mention elsewhere, is a long way away, the continued attention of professionals such as Ms. Hubert indicates that future generations, as well as generation Y, will continue to push towards a more just planet.

*By Jason Chohonis*



**At the Q & A—Captive Audience**

**For additional information on this event and to watch the video, please visit the following link:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vqI0kgLcrF0&list=HL1398262964&feature=mh\\_lolz](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vqI0kgLcrF0&list=HL1398262964&feature=mh_lolz)



## Dr. Erica Edwards speaks to FIU students about “Immigration and the Radical Right in Europe”



Dr. Erica Edwards, Executive Director of the European Union Center of Excellence at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

There has been significant interest on both sides of the Atlantic about the relationship between the growth of radical right populist parties and the increase in immigration in the EU. The Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence (MEUCE) was proud to have the opportunity to host a lecture by [Dr. Erica Edwards](#), a scholar of EU politics and the Executive Director of the European Union Center of Excellence at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to share her research on this subject. Her talk was entitled

“Immigration and the Radical Right in Europe.” This lecture took place on the morning of March 20th, 2014 at FIU’s Modeste Maidique Campus before a crowd of students and faculty members alike.

Dr. Edwards’ lecture was lively and enthusiastic, and featured frequent give and take between students, faculty, and Dr. Edwards herself. Dr. Edwards presented students with a plethora of statistical information about the immigrants themselves and indicated that push and pull factors must be considered when analyzing why immigrants move where they do. Following this statistical overview, Dr. Edwards informed students that there were three distinct waves of immigration to Europe. These three waves included post World War II immigration (1945-1970) for the purposes of labor, family reunification migration (1970s-2000), and the most recent wave of asylum seekers, refugees, and illegal immigration (1989 to the present).

Dr. Edwards, following her presentation of this historical context, explored the ideologies of European right wing parties that have reacted to these waves of immigration. Students were captivated by Dr. Edwards exploration of the nativist ideologies present in European political video and print advertisements that presented xenophobic images of immigrants. In addition to having nativist ideologies, many of these political parties have authoritarian impulses, and favor ‘law and order policies’ that often “favor punishing out group figures in the name of some authority,” Edwards explained. In addition to authoritarianism and nativism, these groups also make use of populist rhetoric in order to divide a society into create an “other” or outsider group in society. Dr. Edwards posited that these groups combination of nativism and populist ideological impulses means these parties are hostile to compromise and see minority



**Dr. Erica Edwards speaks to FIU students about  
"Immigration and the Radical Right in Europe" (cont')**



**Dr. Erica Edwards explaining the Immigration and the Radical Right in Europe**

rights as special interests, and therefore undemocratic.

One member of the radical right that has received a lot of attention is Netherlands politician and “Party for Freedom” founder and leader Geert Wilders. This party achieved its greatest popularity in 2010, and has recently seen its popularity on the decline, a trend Dr. Edwards indicated is consistent throughout Europe. Rather than a rise in radical right wing parties, Dr. Edwards argued that these parties lack any concrete plan to enact the changes they argue for in society, and as such decline in popularity following a brief surge. The concern however, Dr. Edwards argued, is that “these groups shift the rhetoric and framing of

these issues”, and that mainstream parties often co-opt the nativist and populist rhetoric of these radical parties.

Following a question from the audience, Dr. Edwards explained the relationship between Euroscepticism and anti-immigration. Dr. Edwards argued that what makes these groups popular is their anti-immigration stance more so than their Euroscepticism. Additionally, the Euroscepticism of these parties is more tied to opposition to elite power and globalization than to their separate nationalist policies.

**As this issue is not likely to disappear anytime soon, make sure to visit the [MEUCE website](#) and [Facebook](#) page for more updates on future events concerning this issue!**

*By Jason Chohonis*



## Captive audience



**Dr. Erica Edwards with FIU students**





## Crisis in Ukraine: a Teach In



From left to right: Vera Beloshitzkaya, Dr. Markus Thiel, Dr. Tatiana Kostadinova, Dr. Rebecca Friedman

Florida International University (FIU) students are not alone in wondering what exactly to think about the recent events in Ukraine, including the annexation of Crimea. From Brussels to Washington D.C and elsewhere, the public is concerned and curious about how the potentially inflammatory Russian takeover of Ukrainian sovereign territory occurred and what the consequences will be going forward. On Tuesday March 25th, 2014, the Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence (MEUCE) sponsored a Teach-In Panel discussion of FIU experts to explore some of the more pressing issues related to just these type of events taking place in that part of the globe: Ukraine and Russia.

Dr. Friedman, the MEUCE Co-Director and a Russian historian, opened the Teach-In with an introduction about the wide variety of media coverage of Ukraine. She indicated that the large scope of interest and dizzying pace of developments has led to a variety of speculation about what is going on, who is at

fault, and what should be done going forward. Following Dr. Friedman's introduction, the floor was turned over to Dr. Tatiana Kostadinova, an expert on Eastern European politics, who spoke at length about the events that have unfolded since former President Yanukovich was ousted from the Ukrainian government. Dr. Kostadinova indicated that Eastern European countries, such as Romania and Bulgaria, "feel very threatened" because of "significant Russian groups that have bought homes along the Black Coast. What happens if these people feel they are not treated well by their government and seek protection from Russia? Nobody knows what will happen then, and there are fears that begin to magnify." Dr. Kostadinova emphasized that what has happened in the last three weeks "was not unexpected, and that there was a constant possibility" of Russian aggression in the region, citing the 2009 Russian invasion of Georgia and previous hostility towards Ukrainian accession into NATO.

Dr. Markus Thiel, an assistant professor of Political Science and International Relations, focused on the European reaction to the Russian annexation of Crimea. Dr. Thiel discussed some of the policies of Western Europe towards Eastern Europe that have created Russian animosity and contributed to the Russian move into sovereign Ukrainian territory. Dr. Thiel indicated that it is very "difficult, because the European Union consists of over 20 member states" that have a variety of relationships and feelings towards Russia, including some that could be considered 'strategic partners' of Russia such as Germany, others such as Greece that have become havens for Russian investment, and others that are very opposed to Russia such as Poland and Lithuania. Dr. Thiel discussed the limited sanctions and disciplinary initiatives that have been taken thus far, and what could occur going forward, indicating that larger sanctions could be forthcoming and that concerted military action is unlikely. Yet, Dr. Thiel indicated that domestic concerns such as coalition politics, concern about economic growth and recovery, and platform promises may prevent any hardline approach lead by important regional player Germany and Angela Merkel.

Following Dr. Thiel's contribution, the floor was turned over to Vera Beloshitzkaya, a PhD student in FIU's Department of Politics and International Rela-



## Crisis in Ukraine: a Teach In (con't)



Dr. Tatiana Kostadinova, Associate Professor,  
Politics & International Relations, FIU

tions. Ms. Beloshitzkaya offered a historical overview of Ukraine going back to the 17th century in order to explain how ethnicity and borders were formed as a result of specific historical periods. Ms. Beloshitzkaya indicated that the historical portioning of Ukraine throughout the last few centuries has created the amalgamation of ethnic groups and identities seen in Ukraine today.

Dr. Peter Craumer, a Geographer with expertise in the region, gave students a geographic perspective on the crisis. Dr. Craumer criticized some of the recent journalistic portrayals of the crisis and the demographics of Ukraine, indicating that the maps of Ukraine that have been shown by the media have been overly focused on ethnic differences that make Eastern and Western Ukraine appear starkly different. Instead, Dr. Craumer presented maps that emphasized the ethnic differences between 'Russians' and 'Ukrainians' in Ukraine is more subtle than assumed by observers in the United States. Dr. Craumer indicated that the blurring of ethnic and language identity boundaries has contributed to the current debate over the physical boundaries of sovereign nation states.

The day's final panel lecture was provided by Dr. Martin Palouš, the director of the Vaclav Havel Center for Human Rights and Diplomacy at FIU. Dr. Palouš, who previously had served as Czech Ambassador to the United Nations, provided an experienced diplomat's perspective. He explained concepts of



From left to right :  
Dr. Martin Palouš, Dr. Peter Craumer, Vera Beloshitzkaya,

international law related to the current transgression of international law by the Russian Federation. Dr. Palouš indicated that the actions of Russia regarding the Crimean peninsula are particularly frightening in that they reflect a violation of the Budapest Memorandum of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation treaty in which Russia promised to respect the territorial sovereignty of Ukraine. Dr. Palouš indicated that nothing has legitimized Russian aggression and that "this Ukrainian situation is a serious geopolitical situation.

After the formal contributions, an enlightening question and answer period ensued. Please look for more such events on the state of affairs in Ukraine as the conflict continues.

*By Jason Chohonis*



For more information, please visit  
<http://miami.fiu.edu/events/general/2014/roundtable-on-crisis-in-ukraine-teach-in-fiu/>





## The EU and Russia Competition and Conflict in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus



Dr. Hannes Adomeit



President Putin, President José Manuel Barroso, President Herman Van Rompuy

When the government of the Soviet Union collapsed in the early 1990s, the international community celebrated the end of the Cold War. This seemed a moment that promised future peace in the region. Unfortunately, the actions taken by Russia under Vladimir Putin towards neighboring nations have been less than peaceful over the past decade, particularly over the last year in the Crimean peninsula. The increased level of conflict and hostile negotiations in the Caucasus has led to a commensurate level of student interest in what exactly is going on in this region. The Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence (MEUCE), cognizant of this fervent interest recently hosted a lecture by an esteemed scholar, [Dr. Hannes Adomeit](#), who is currently a Fellow with the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). Dr. Adomeit, who earned his doctorate in Russian Studies from Colombia University, spoke to FIU students on April 8th 2014 in a lecture entitled "The EU and Russia: Conflict and Competition in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus."

Dr. Adomeit, who has published extensively on the relationship between the United States, Europe, and Russia, spoke before students gathered at FIU's School

of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) about the economic, diplomatic, and historical roots of this current conflict. Dr. Adomeit spoke about how the agreements made between the European Union and Russia to "respect the rule of law" in the region of Eastern Europe and the Caucasus have not been realized. Outlining ten propositions that he believed applied to the region, Dr. Adomeit informed students and guests that Russian foreign policy "has regarded the post-Soviet space as exclusively a Russian sphere of influence." The Russian government, according to Dr. Adomeit has acted as if "they have special rights and privileges" in the region that are being encroached upon by the European Union. This has led to a very problematic state of affairs as Eastern European governments have acted as sovereign nations and engaged economically and politically with the European Union. Putin, who still imagines the old Soviet space as part of the Russian sphere of influence, proclaims the legitimacy of efforts to invade sovereign territory under the cloak of the protection of Russian-speaking peoples.

Blame for this international crisis was not laid entirely at Russia's feet. The European government could have done a better job of trying to integrate post-Soviet Russia. As a former member of the Crisis Prevention Network on Russia-EU relations, Dr. Adomeit was well versed in speaking about the negotiations and supposed transgressions that lead to this blatant disrespect of national sovereignty by the Russian Federation. Students and faculty members were enthralled by Dr. Adomeit's analysis of the multifaceted concerns of the political players in the region. The conversation had broad reach-- from domestic concerns of the Eastern European nations, to questions about the role of the European Union, to Russia's desire to create a competing Eurasian consortium of nations. Audience members left this lecture aware that the blame for this event, while primarily due to Russian nationalistic aggression, can be laid at the feet of many different political actors. Ultimately, the depth of Dr. Adomeit's lecture cannot be sufficiently summarized within this article.

**For more information, watch the [video](#), follow our [facebook page](#) and [website](#) for more exciting events.**



## The Euro Challenge Competition 2014

Florida Students test their European Economic Acumen



Panel Judges I

From left to right: Luigi Bava, Dr. Rebecca Friedman, Dr. Volker Anding, Gloria Guzman

On March 13th 2014, the Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence was proud to host some of South Florida's finest young scholars as high schoolers from around the region gathered to compete in the first round of the annual Euro Challenge Competition. Sponsored by the European Delegation to the United States in partnership with Moody's foundation and the Federal Reserve Bank of the United States, this competition is supported by European Union Centers throughout the U.S and challenges students to learn more about the European Union and its currency, the Euro. This competition, in its 9th year, tasks students in teams of three to five to come up with presentations about the challenges

facing a single European member state. Students are asked to create 15 minute presentations detailing the economic condition of the country, an economic related challenge facing the country, and ultimately, to craft a policy that would address the economic exigencies of that nation. This competition allows students to engage with matters of international economics in a way that they wouldn't normally, and provides an incredibly engaging way to learn about Europe's political structure.

For example, students from Coral Reef were tasked with addressing the economic turmoil of Greece and the challenges faced by unemployment. One student, who was clearly well versed on the

topic, indicated that "it has an unemployment rate of around 28%" and "that the austerity cuts have been devastating." These 10th grade students indicated that the Eurochallenge positions are tough to come by as students would meet every day to practice during their lunch hour to get ready for the try-outs to represent their school. Clearly these students understand the importance of the European market, as one student remarked "the Euro is the single most important currency next to the U.S dollar."

On March 13th, 11 teams of these students gathered to compete. Inside the MARC building things were vibrant, as teams huddled and discussed last minute strategy. It was difficult to envy the panels of judges who were forced to decide between the teams of Florida's best and brightest. As the winners of this competition are sent to New York City to compete in the national competition, a much coveted prize, the decision was made even more difficult. Ultimately, the judges decided on two schools who stood out as particularly exceptional- [Trinity Preparatory School](#) and [Nova High School](#). These students, above all others, were able to craft meaningful policies to address the economic concerns of their assigned European Union member states. MEUCE is proud to congratulate these students, as well as their competitors, on another successful rendition of the local Euro Challenge competition. We wish them the best of luck in New York!

► For more information on this year's Euro Challenge Competition in Florida please visit: <http://miamieuc.fiu.edu/events/general/2014/meuce-competition-local-florida-euro-challenge-competition-2014-fiu/>

► For more information on the Euro Challenge Competition, please visit: <http://miamieuc.fiu.edu/outreach/euro-challenge/>



At the competition: Trinity Preparatory School

By: Jason Chohonis





# 1<sup>st</sup> round: FLORIDA EURO CHALLENGE COMPETITION WINNERS

Florida International University - March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014



**Judges 2014:**

Luigi Bava, Sophie Delporte, Mihaela Pintea, Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Gloria Guzman, Rebecca Friedman, Volker Anding, Markus Thiel, Luis Alvarez Ruiz



**TRINITY PREPARATORY SCHOOL**

Amber Yang, Justin Graham, Nathaniel Saffran,  
Oliver Trapp, Varun Bathia



**NOVA HIGH SCHOOL**

Swathi Chittlur, Gamer Mohammed, Preethi Atluri,  
Juan Bedoya, Dang Le





## World War II Veterans honored by French Consulate



Hon. Philippe Létriliart, Consul General of France in Miami, awarding Mr. Ifshin the insignias of "Chevalier dans l'Ordre National de la Légion d'Honneur" (Knight in the National Order of the Legion of Honor)

While the Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence (MEUCE) does many things to promote ties and friendship between the United States and the European Union, our efforts pale in comparison to those of the brave men and women who fought during World War II to prevent the spread of fascism. The valiant efforts of those Americans and Europeans that fought against Nazi Germany or Imperialist Japan have created strong bonds that cross the Atlantic to this day. On April 4th, the Consulate General of France and [the Honors College](#) of Florida International University (FIU) were pleased to have the opportunity to honor eight of the surviving veterans of the second World War. This incredibly moving event was held at the Frost Museum at FIU and saw the Consul General of France, Hon. Philippe Létriliart award the insignias of "Chevalier dans l'Ordre National de [la Légion d'Honneur](#)" (Knight in the National Order of the Legion of Honor) to U.S. veterans who fought alongside France during World War II.

This honor, the highest distinction France has to offer to any civilian French or foreigner, was created in 1802



World War II Veterans Award Ceremony at FIU on April 4th, 2014

by Napoleon Bonaparte, and has been bestowed upon such famous figures as Victor Hugo, Alexander Dumas, and Douglas MacArthur. Before receiving this honor, Veteran soldiers met with students of FIU's honor's college for a private question and answer session in which FIU students were able to engage with these veterans personally.

More than two dozen students who took part in Professor John Bailly's [study abroad](#) to France were part of the ceremony. The students have all visited the historic sites of World War II's battles in France. "[This is] the greatest generation speaking to FIU's generation," said Bailly, known for bringing the realities of World War II to his students. "Every student in here will remember this event for the rest of their lives."

The Formal Ceremony began promptly at 3 pm, as participants and Veterans were regaled by the singing of the National Anthem of the United States by FIU honor college's a cappella group. In addition to the U.S. anthem, the group, lead by honors college student Kamila Manzueta sang the national anthem of France. Following this melodic introduction, the Honorable Philippe Létriliart presented these Veterans, who fought in one of America and Europe's bloodiest wars, with the insignias that they and others had sacrificed so much for in order to earn. Following the ceremony, a reception was held, and students and Veterans chatted amiably. The Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence was proud to have been part of this incredible event and more dedicated than ever to preserving the bonds that these soldiers fought for.

For more information, the article Ray Boyle wrote, and to view all the pictures of the event, click on the following link:

<http://news.fiu.edu/2014/04/honors-college-hosts-french-legion-of-honor-ceremony/76585>



Veteran soldiers met with FIU's Honor's College — Photography by Ray Boyle

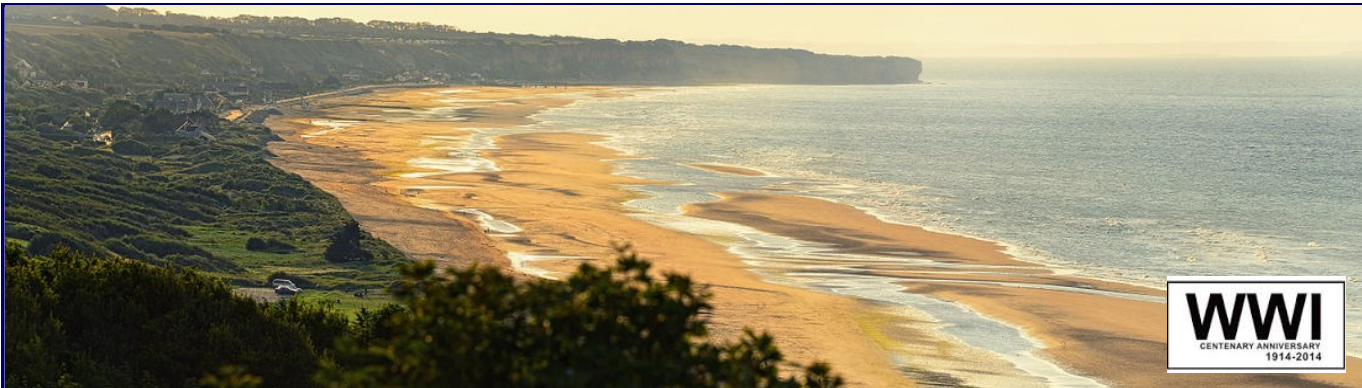


Honors  
College





## "Storm the Beach" by Corey Ryan



***The Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence would like to share with you the wonderful essay Corey Ryan wrote on the Omaha Beach in Normandy.***

***FIU alumnus Corey Ryan '12 wrote this essay after making two study abroad trips to Normandy Beach, France, with [Professor John Bailly](#) as part of the course, [Art, War and Human Rights](#). On the first trip in 2012, Ryan, an [English major](#), was a student. Last year, he went as [Bailly's assistant](#). During the study abroad, students meet with a Holocaust survivor and then visit Omaha Beach in Normandy where Allied Troops invaded German-occupied France during World War II.***

I had never heard this kind of silence before, the kind you'd usually reserve for death. I was standing at the bottom of an impact crater and listened for something, anything, really.

Nothing.

Not the wind, nor the faint murmuring of tourists walking about, and certainly not the sound of English Channel waves crashing against the cliffs.

I felt trapped. My legs couldn't move. I wanted to yell for somebody to come and drag me out of this thing, but I couldn't, knowing that sixty-nine years ago a mortar shell hit this earth and left

it's mark right where I was standing. Was somebody standing here, sixty-nine years ago, when it hit?

Climbing out of that crater was like climbing out of Hell, a stark contrast to what I saw when I finally reached the top: the English Channel extending for miles ahead of me, bleeding into the clouds so that it almost seemed like the water rose all the way to Heaven. On the cliff-top where I was standing, dozens and dozens of impact craters similar to the one I just crawled out of dotted the landscape, with a few, destroyed German bunkers scattered throughout. This was Pointe du Hoc, one of the many sites of the Normandy landings.

It was surreal being in Normandy, a place of such beauty and of such destruction. I had read the stories, seen the movies, and still, I had a hard time accepting what once occurred here. We live in the present attempting to understand the past, but we can never relive it. Leaving the United States for a summer, traveling to France, and visiting Normandy, I was doing my best to understand the world, to understand a time where men and women sacrificed their lives and their futures so selflessly, so that you and I may live in a world without hate.

Earlier that day I visited the

ever-personal, and sadly, less-frequently visited, British Cemetery in Bayeux. As I strolled between the rounded rows of marble crosses, I read the inscriptions the fallen's family had written at the base of each headstone. Some were from the Bible, reminding us that their loved ones are in a better place. Others were more personal: "you were taken but baby Francis came to take your place, your loving wife Marie." Some even displayed the camaraderie shared between these soldiers: "the fittest place where man can die, where he dies for man."

I was confused. I couldn't understand the selflessness. I appreciated it and recognized each soldier's sacrifice, but I couldn't fully grasp the idea of giving up my own life so that others may live freely. Maybe it's my fault for that. Maybe it's because of the world we live in today, where people are so detached from everything around them that they take for granted how lucky they are to be living.

Later that day I went to the Normandy American Cemetery at Omaha Beach. Rounding the corner, I stood in front of the Memorial and looked out upon all 9,387 marble crosses, each standing at attention, completely uniform. Each cross has a story to tell, a story of life and of death.



## "Storm the Beach" by Corey Ryan



Who were all these men and women? They were all from different parts of the same country, united in a cause. Most were not much older than myself, some even in their teenage years. They had their lives ahead of them: college, marriage, kids, growing old, and a proper death. There was more to their lives that they could've chosen to live, but instead, they chose to fight.

As I stood in front of some of these crosses I asked myself, "If the time comes, can I do what these soldiers did?" I mean, I've got a family, a life, love, everything these soldiers had. I had time to think about this as I walked down a path to Omaha Beach itself. After the day's experience, I felt closer to understanding something significant. I couldn't quite put my finger on it yet, but I knew it would be something that would change me forever.

When I finally stepped onto the sand, I tried to imagine what it must've looked like on July 6th: the early morning fog, the ebb and flow of the waves during low tide, the Belgian gates and hedgehogs sitting, waiting. Then I pictured it all. The armada of ships headed towards the shore, the German bunkers outfitted with machine guns, the soldiers storming the beach, the bullets, the explosions,

the death. I was standing on the beach where all that happened, where history was made, where the fight to establish what we've come to know today was held. I've never felt closer to understanding life than in these moments of visualization.

I started walking towards the water, but the closer I got, the further I sunk down into the sand. I took off my shoes, rolled up my pants, and kept walking. With each step, I sunk almost a foot deep down into the sand. When I finally reached the water, the frigid temperature gave me a shock like I had been electrocuted. As I turned and looked up the hill towards the cemetery, I finally discovered what I knew was on its way.

I didn't understand the selflessness, and I still don't, but maybe that's because I've yet to find myself in a situation where I could sacrifice my life for another. Maybe I'll understand it better when I become a father. But what I can do, to fulfill my responsibility as a citizen of a country and an idea that these soldiers fought and died for, is live my life to the fullest. Life is too short not to experience what the world has to offer. It would be irresponsible not to.

Facing the hill, I again imagined myself on the beach the day of the landings. I pictured the men storm-

ing the beach, storming for freedom, storming for life. I did the same. I began to run. With each stride I sank deeper into the sand, appreciating those who did this already, only with eighty pounds of gear on their back and bullets spilling onto them from every direction. But I wasn't running to escape death. I ran for my own war that was about to begin, that had already begun; only I hadn't realized I was fighting in it until now. I ran towards life, towards the life that I want to live, towards what lay ahead, and even though I may not know what lies over the hill, I will face it head-on.

*By Corey Ryan*



Corey Ryan at Omaha Beach in Normandy



**Thank you America.  
The French Will Never Forget!**

70th Anniversary of D-Day

Visit [www.thefrenchwillneverforget.com](http://www.thefrenchwillneverforget.com)  
to see how we will say "Thank you" on June 6, 2014





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## SOME OF OUR UPCOMING 2014 EVENTS



- May 5-9 Let's Celebrate Europe Day—May 9th**
- May 5-9 European Film Series**
- May 5-6 European Short Film Festival**
- May 9 Recognition Award Ceremony  
European Studies Certificates**
- May 9 Book Presentation on the TTIP**
- May 28 Webinar BILAT USA 2.0—Horizon 2020**
- June 19 Workshop on the TTIP**

For details please visit: [miamieuc.fiu.edu](http://miamieuc.fiu.edu) - Events  
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