



# Newsletter

Miami-Florida Jean Monnet European Center of Excellence - FIU

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Welcome and Future Plans .....1-2
- Student Spotlight: Interview with Deyan Peykov.....2
- Study Abroad in Europe.....3
- Study Abroad Student Testimonials.....4-5
- Curriculum development and faculty research grants.....6
- Student research Grants .....7
- Visit from Sapienza University Delegation....8
- Cartographies of water A conversation with Dr. Aurora Morcillo .....9
- Conversations on Europe: Back to School at What Cost?.....10
- BILAT 2.0 Workshops .....11-14
- BILAT USA 2.0 Conference: New frontiers in Diplomacy.....15
- BILAT USA Consortium Meeting .....16
- Fall 2015 Activities .....17-18
- BILAT Announcements .....19
- Euro Challenge Competition 2016.....20
- Contact Information...20

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## 2015-2016 Welcome and Future Plans



Exciting things are happening this year, among them the fact FIU received a grant from the European Commission to establish a Jean Monnet Center of Excellence. The center is now named after Jean Monnet, French political economist and diplomat who initiated economic planning in Western Europe after WWII. He was an advisor to Robert Schuman, the French Foreign Minister, when they proposed to establish the European Common Market for Coal and Steel, signed in 1951.

The award of this grant, which will last from 2015 to 2018, means we are now part of the worldwide community of Jean Monnet Centers. With this comes a variety of events, which include academic roundtables, workshops, annual conferences on topics related to the Europe, and some outreach events to approach the European community, the European chambers of commerce, and civil society organizations in Miami.

In addition to this, Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director, MF-JMCE, mentioned that the center also received the Jean Monnet Project, a 50,000 euro grant over two years to implement six high-level and high-visibility community roundtables on issues ranging from innovation & research, health to sustainability and environmental policies. The Center will bring in European

policy-makers and experts to talk about where we can share best practices.

Newly appointed director, Dr. Markus Thiel, is excited about this new opportunity and about the potential of the Center. He talks about Miami's privileged position as part of a triangle that connects Europe, the US, and Latin America, and how this makes South Florida an important location for fostering these relationships as a gateway to the Americas.

"The beauty of it is that we're not just working with one theme, but we cover a lot in the next three years," Dr. Thiel says, "Everything from security to environment to social issues that affect Europe and that are also of interest to the US.

Dr. Thiel believes that the heart of why FIU got the grant is to have academic events that reflect on EU policies, but also to have a space that allows the critical reflection of EU politics. "I want to break

out of the academic and I really want to do more to involve more of Miami, and make the center more known," he says.

Students are also an important part of the Center's initiative, who not only tries to make the topics interesting and accessible to them to encourage participation, but also supports the European Students Association, offers undergraduate and graduate certificate programs in European Studies, and is developing an online knowledge portal that will work as a resource site.



Dr. Markus Thiel, Director & Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director, Miami-Florida Jean Monnet European Union Center of Excellence



## 2015-2016 Welcome and Futures Plans (Continued)



Parallel to all these initiatives, Thiel speaks about his initiative to rename the European Studies Program, the European and Eurasian Studies Program, in an attempt to be more inclusive of the entire area by shifting more attention to the East. "This initiative to expand the program came about because you cannot just understand Europe isolated, if you look at what the neighborhood is, it's really the open border with Eurasia," he says of the change. This attempt is one to try to build up a more active program with events that is also donor funded, which will include lectures and events that are relevant to today's hot topics.

The center also works with affiliated faculty of European studies in our partner universities across South Florida (FAU, UCF, and USF) and continues to cooperate with the University of Miami.

"I look forward to working with friends and colleagues inside of the university and outside of the university, in the community," says Dr. Thiel, encouraging people to contact him directly if they have any ideas of how to contribute or an comments.

► You can email Dr. Markus Thiel at [thielm@fiu.edu](mailto:thielm@fiu.edu)

*By Stephanie Sepulveda*


 Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

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## Student Spotlight: Interview with Deyan Peykov



As part of the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet European Center of Excellence's initiative to continue to encourage and foster relationships between the United States and Europe, the Center has made it a priority to establish connection with European students who have chosen FIU to pursue their education.

Deyan Peykov has just started to pursue his doctoral studies at FIU, and he graciously accepted to tell us a little bit more about himself, his research interests, and his first impression of the university.

**MFJMCE:** Tell us a little bit about yourself. Where are you from? What is your academic background?

**Peykov :** I am a Ph.D. student in the history department from Bulgaria. I have a BA in history from Ithaca College, NY and an MA from University of Pittsburgh, PA.

**MFJMCE:** Why did you choose to enroll at FIU?

**Peykov:** I chose FIU because of the broad character of the program, the presence of faculty I would like to work with, and the great location of the university

**MFJMCE:** What topics are you interested in, and what is your main area of research?

**Peykov:** I am interested in nationalism and communism, 19th and 20th century Eastern Europe with a minor focus on Western Europe.

**MFJMCE:** What do you hope to gain from the PhD program you are pursuing?

**Peykov:** In the Ph.D. program, I would like to gather teaching and research experience, hopefully publish, and come out with a Ph.D. dissertation that will earn me a job.

**MFJMCE:** What has been your reaction to the program and the University so far?

**Peykov:** So far, the program I am in has been great, and FIU in general, too! I receive a lot of useful information for my personal and professional development everyday.

**MFJMCE:** What advice, if any, would you give to other students that are considering to pursue higher education in the USA?

**Peykov:** I would encourage students with good command of English to pursue their higher education in the USA because of the great resources and the wonderful atmosphere there is in academia here.

*By Stephanie Sepulveda*





# Cultural Communication Patterns of Europe Study Abroad Program 2015



**Dr. Jose Rodriguez**  
Assistant Dean  
Honors College, FIU

Assistant Dean to the Honors College, Jose Rodriguez, is no stranger to study abroad.

Before he started his Cultural Communication Patterns of Europe program in 2013, he

was the faculty chaperone for Professor John Bailly's, France program. But then, an opportunity came with the department of Communication Arts, where he was given "carte blanche" to create his own study abroad.

In creating the program, he drew from his own background a psychologist, a professor of communication arts, and as a self-proclaimed history buff. This combination resulted in a program that has a focus on communication patterns and identity of Europe.

"I started thinking on the idea of the European Union, particularly the culture of the EU, not from a government perspective or a political perspective, but from like an everyday Joe perspective," he says. He drew from this idea of the notion of identity and how is it that identity gets developed to develop the course. "How do you achieve European unity when you're that diverse?" he asks, "It's a paradox and I wanted to explore that on a very day to day level. Not with the politicians, but by exploring what people experience day to day."

Drawing from the ideas of godfather of intercultural communication, Edward T. Hall, Rodriguez's

course emphasizes the idea that 'culture is communication, communication is culture.

The class meets a few times before going abroad at FIU, and uses readings, film, group project, and lectures to prepare students for the trip.

The program last four weeks, and students will travel through France, Germany, and Belgium. Why these countries? Well for Rodriguez it was their individual histories and cultural characteristics that fascinated him. Germany as the proverbial phoenix, and particularly Belgium because of it is a cultural amalgamation of two countries, two cultures, two languages, but it somehow works. France, particularly Paris, with its long history and influence, and as a place brimming with historical symbols. And Berlin because of its contrast of ideas, and its legacy as hallowed ground from WWII.

"To me the most important thing about a study abroad is that you're there seeing, touching, hearing, experiencing the places." By conducting lectures on site, and exploring the meaning of symbols and how their meanings have evolved over time, looking at monuments, language, and even food, Rodriguez hopes to encourage students to think about communication in a much more intricate way, beyond just language.

"When you go on a study abroad, you inevitably end up learning more about your own culture as you study this 'foreign culture,'" he says, "It is in that violation of rules or customs where the learning occurs. In that uncomfortable situation is where the real education happens, and that is what I want to amplify for the students when they're abroad." And although the course focuses on culture and communication, he is quick to reiterate that it is also a course about student's own personal development and growth, where students get to know other the other students and faculty in a way in which you've never gotten to know others before, because of the nature of spending four weeks with such a small close group of people, day in and day out. "So, sign up quickly," he jokes, saying that the 15 to 18 spots go by very quickly and it is first come first serve.

"It is equal parts fun as it is intellectually stimulating and academic," he says, "I try very hard to find a balance between these two things. I remind students that this is not a tour, they are students and there is an academic component, by the same token we do not sit in a classroom, we walk a lot, this is the most you'll ever walk in your life."

*By Stephanie Sepulveda*



 **Cultural Communication Pattern of Europe: France—Germany—Belgium**

- Summer C 2015 | On-Campus: May 6– May 30 | Abroad: July 1– July 31
- Course: COM 4731 Cultural Communication Patterns of Europe

For more information on the programs visit:  
<https://ugrad.fiu.edu/studyabroad/Pages/Communication-in-Europe.aspx>



# Study Abroad Programs Student Testimonials 2015



## Daniela Molina, Honors France Study Abroad 2015



Daniela Molina  
Honors France Study Abroad 2015



Daniela Molina is a Public Relations major who spent July 2015 in Paris as part of Professor John Bailly's France Study Abroad program titled: *Art, War, and Human Rights*.

**MFJMCE:** What did you expect from the program? How did it meet or exceed these expectations?

**Molina:** Before starting the program, I had this image in my head of what everything would be like – from what my dorm would look like, to how my classmates and I would interact. To be honest though, I never gave much thought to the actual class itself. We didn't have to memorize dates and names, or even sit in a classroom for hours. Instead, we spent hours in museums staring at masterpieces, stood in Marie Antoinette's bedroom at Versailles and then her prison cell in the Conciergerie. The experience we had as a class is not really something I can put into words. I could never have expected to not only learn so much but actually change my way of thinking on things I was once so set on. But what made it so special was that I was with a group of people who genuinely cared and were all equally as excited to keep learning and exploring.

**MFJMCE:** What did you learn which was most applicable to your field of study?

**Molina:** I don't think studying abroad is better for one major and not for another. Studying abroad is an experience you have as a human. It changes you – and no matter what your major, you become a more cultured, well-rounded person because of it. What impacted me the most

throughout my stay was learning about the French Resistance movement. I was invited into the home of a holocaust survivor and spoke to a French Resistance fighter. Through this, I became aware of the responsibility and privilege that comes with being a citizen of a country, any country, and how fortunate we are to live the lives we lead. I tried to fully understand the struggles people went through to fight injustice for the good of their country and the generations to come. One of the holocaust survivors told us to "Never accept the unacceptable" and I think that's what stuck with me the most. I will carry that with me for the rest of my life and apply it to my career. Always stand up for what you believe in and be ethical in your job no matter what it is.

**MFJMCE:** Why do you think it's important to study abroad?

**Molina:** I think that no matter how much you may have traveled with your family, or how many times you may have visited your family in whatever country it may be, there's nothing quite like studying abroad and being alone for a month. I flew to a different continent I had never been in - by myself, lived with 20 people who I barely knew, in a country where I didn't speak the language, and it was the best experience of my life. It's important to step out of your comfort zone, try things you've never tried before, push yourself, and get to know yourself when you're not around your friends and family. I learned things about myself I didn't know before, but also about fostering friendships – things I probably would-

n't have realized if I were to have taken the class in Miami. You don't know how truly significant studying abroad is until you actually do it. You'll probably never again get this opportunity – take it.

**MFJMCE:** What was one thing you experienced while traveling that really surprised you?

**Molina:** It's so safe! For months before I left on my trip, the only advice people gave me always had to do with 'pickpocketing'. Every single person reminded me of how careful I had to be. Then there were the ones who had seen 'Taken' and made sure I knew not to share cabs with people. I was so surprised at how safe all of Europe was. If you are aware of your surroundings, and keep your things with you at all time, you will be fine. And also, French people don't hate Americans! Make an effort to speak the language of whatever country you're in, be respectful, and someone will help you out when they realize you have no idea what you're doing.

**MFJMCE:** Would you study abroad again?

**Molina:** If I wasn't graduating next summer, I would already be signed up for another study abroad with FIU. That doesn't mean I'm not already looking at flights out of here though. I've started thinking about taking it up a level and moving to France to study French. One-way ticket this time, though.

*By Stephanie Sepulveda*

For more information on France Art, War, and Human Rights program, visit the following page:  
<https://globalaffairs.fiu.edu/study-abroad/programs/france/>

# Study Abroad Programs Student Testimonials 2015

## Claudia Navarro, Honors Italy Study Abroad 2015



**Claudia Navarro**  
Honors Italy Study Abroad 2015—Roma

**Venice**

**Cinque Terre**

The Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center for Excellence sat down with Claudia Navarro, a senior at Florida International University, who spent a month abroad in Italy as part of the Honors College study abroad program, Grand Tour Redux, taught by Professor John Bailly.

**MFJMCE: What did you initially expect from the program? How did the program meet or exceed these expectations?**

**Navarro:** I expected to learn a great deal about Italian history and culture while experiencing all the beauty the country has to offer, but because of the structure of the program and the connections that the Professor has made in all the years doing the program the experience absolutely exceeded my expectations. I walked away with an experience that is so much more than what a typical tourist experiences.

**MFJMCE: Why do you think it's important to study abroad and what would you tell other students who aren't sure if a study abroad program is for them?**

**Navarro:** I think studying abroad is vital to growing as a person. It puts you out of your comfort zone and into a position where the only option is to learn about a different culture and broaden your horizons. I think a lot of students who are on the fence about studying abroad are unsure because of finances or not finding the right type of program and while those are

valid concerns, they should definitely reach out to the appropriate outlets and seek help. Our university has a wonderful Office of Study Abroad with advisors ready to meet with students who need advice or help getting into any program that they desire, along with so many resources to get scholarships to make studying abroad a reality. At the end of the day, studying abroad is an experience that is worth so much more than what you're investing in it.

**MFJMCE: Did you have a favorite part of the program? If so, what was it?**

**Navarro:** Absolutely! I love art and I've studied art history purely for pleasure, so naturally my favorite part of the program was the entire time we spent in Florence; to the food that we were introduced to (gelato di limone), to the amazing pieces of artwork, or the amazing vistas that we were able to collectively share.

**MFJMCE: What was the place you visited, or an activity you did, that impacted you the most?**

**Navarro:** The place that impacted me the most was our stay in Le Cinque Terre. We did an amazing 20 mile hike through the mountains with breathtaking views of the ocean and all the picturesque towns that definitely put me in a reflective place where I was able to take a step back and truly appreciate not just the world around me, but the people that

were around me too. It was an arduous 9 hours for every person that participated in the hike, and every step of the way there was encouragement from the person in front of you and behind you; it really was a heartwarming experience.

**MFJMCE: Did this program change or impact your career goals?**

**Navarro:** This program didn't necessarily change my career goals, but it definitely changed my life goals. I want to be a part of something that is much bigger than myself, and studying the Romans from thousands of years ago, to the Renaissance masters of a few hundred years ago does that to a person. So I still want to be a humanitarian and help educate those who are impoverished, but now I want to bring my travel experiences to them.

**MFJMCE: Would you study abroad again?**

**Navarro:** Without a single doubt in my mind I would go through that experience again. I met so many people that I care about and I learned so many things that go far beyond the academic realm that I would be crazy to not want to relive all the moments that have allowed me to continue my personal growth.

*By Stephanie Sepulveda*

For more information on Italy, Grand Tour Redux program, visit the following page:

<https://ugrad.fiu.edu/studyabroad/Pages/HonorsItaly.aspx>



# MEUCE Curriculum Development and Faculty Research Grants

Each year, FIU-MEUCE hosts an annual competition that awards research and curriculum development grants to prospective faculty of FIU and its partner institutions: University of South Florida, University of Central Florida, University of North Florida, and Florida Atlantic University. Award recipients are provided with financial support for travel, research/archival work, implementation of new curriculum, and other associated costs. These grants are designed to stimulate new research on the European Union (EU) and the role it plays in global affairs.

This year's winners of the faculty research grant were:

- Dr. Hakan Ozoglu of the University of Central Florida
- Dr. Jacek Kolasinski, Chair, Associate Professor of Art, Department of Art and Art History at Florida International University.

► For more information on the grant: <https://miamieuc.fiu.edu/grants-opportunities/faculty-grants/>

## 2015 Faculty Curriculum Development Grant Awardee: Dr. Hakan Ozoglu, UCF



Dr. Hakan Ozoglu, Director of Middle Eastern Studies University of Central Florida

Dr. Hakan Ozoglu is the Director of Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Central Florida. He received this grant for his proposal titled: **“The history of Turkey/ European Union Relations .“**

He was kind enough to answer a few questions about his research.

**MFJMCE: : Can you tell us, in a few short sentences, what is the main focus of the research project for which you received this grant?**

**Ozoglu:** Other than several internet articles and some quite focused research, almost no publica-

tion is available that can be used for undergraduate level course. I wanted to produce a descriptive essay narrating the history of EU/Turkey relations.

**MFJMCE: How did the idea for the research question develop?**

**Ozoglu:** I regularly teach a course on modern middle east and have developed a course on modern Turkey. In both courses, I could not find a single essay to be used summarizing the history EU/Turkey relations. Therefore, I wanted to write one for my students

**MFJMCE: Your grant proposal says that you would eventually use this research for classroom teaching, What do you hope students will gain by attending the course you are developing?**

**Ozoglu:** The EU experience is unique in world history and the desire to join in by a country which has been presented as the antithesis of Europe for centuries is also significant. I am hoping to show students how political, cultural and economic alliances are negotiated.

**MFJMCE: Why do you think the focus of your course has specific interest for students in the U.S.?**

**Ozoglu:** The subject of former rivals trying to join forces could be a good case study for us students who can make comparisons for other areas of the world

**MFJMCE: Where will your research take you in the future? Do you plan to continue developing this project, or do you have others in mind?**

**Ozoglu:** It is too early to make any projections for me as of now.

*By Stephanie Sepulveda*





# MEUCE Student Research Grants

## 2015 Student Research Grant Awardee: Fiacre Bienvenu



Fiacre Bienvenu, FIU PhD Candidate, Dept. of Politics & International Relations, 2015 Student Research Grant Awardee

In 2015, The Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence was pleased to award research awards for advanced graduate students working on European Union issues. The two winners were Fiacre Bienvenu, PhD Candidate, Department of Politics and International Relations, FIU. With “EU-Africa relations via the medium of civil society.” And Jeffrey Maslanik, PhD Candidate, Department of Politics and International Relations, FIU. His proposal was titled: “Ethnic Entrepreneurship: Implementation and Sociopolitical Adaptation in Sweden - A Lens for EU Integration.”

Fiacre Bienvenu, was kind enough to tell us about his research and plans for the future.

His proposal requested funding to support his research in Rwanda for 10 weeks between June and July 2015. This fieldwork research was essential to his dissertation, which aims to explore patterns of state and civil society relations in Rwanda, particularly after the genocide.

“At the core of my study I am trying to answer the question of, ‘Why has supporting civil society in Africa not helped democratization?’” he says. Although the study really focuses on Rwanda, Bienvenu hopes that his research will have significance beyond just that country. He believes that the questions that he is trying to answer are applicable to most African countries. He hopes his research will clarify why civil society hasn’t been a democratizing factor, as normative expectations predicted.

So where does the EU come in? Bienvenu explains how Europe has traditionally been an ally of Africa, and has used civil society as a foreign

policy tool. The EU sees civil society as an ordering principal in domestic politics that can be used as a tool that brings different actors together to allow a participatory process toward policy making. For this reason, in the past 8 years, EU alone has given out close to 6 billion USD to Africa to foster civil society. “So my objective was really to look at how the EU continues to support civil society when there is really no significant change since it was instituted from the beginning?” he says.

It was these connections that Bienvenu wanted to explore when he used the grant funds to go to Rwanda. He engaged on over 100 personal interviews at the community, national, and international level to get a better picture of the situation regarding Rwandan civil society. Furthermore, he was able to conduct 8 focus groups at the community level.

In order to analyze the information, Bienvenu looked at four different elements: political culture, social trust, the power distribution among civil society, and the international dimension, or the way that the international community is implementing civil society.

“I challenge the normative way of implementing civil society, just as a mode of transplanting this model and applying it there,” he says, “We need a model where the international community becomes aware of the complexities and realities that are happening and then reshape their approach to working with civil society in Africa.”

The idea was that civil society would foster democracy by imposing itself as a significant voice against the hegemony and the dictatorial

state, but the model that has been used to implement civil society in the last 30 years hasn’t worked. Through his research, then, he wants to understand what factors are causing this failure, and to explore if civil society should be approached in a different way, hoping to create a long-term enduring peace and an effective civil society.

The issue is not simple, as there are multiple complex layers of civil society at work. Bienvenu hopes to contribute by demonstrating the complexities surrounding just the problem of dealing with civil society in Africa and in socio-political contexts as complicated as Rwanda who experienced a genocide just 21 years ago.

Bienvenu hopes that his contributions are going to be to explain these difficulties and these complexities, put them in writing to inform whoever is dealing with civil society, both on the theoretical part but also at the policy level.

When he graduates, he hopes to be able to teach classes on African politics and to help develop production of knowledge about African politics and its international relations with European Union and international aid communities. “I think there is lack of theoretical body of knowledge about the working of politics and interactions between the state and society in Africa. I hope to contribute significantly on that level,” he says. On the practical level, he hopes to inform different actors who are interested in doing business in Africa or interacting with African governments, to provide some advisory knowledge on how they should be interacting with Africa.

*By Stephanie Sepulveda*

# Delegation from Sapienza University Visits FIU



Sapienza University Students, Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Prof. Paolo Gaudenzi, Massimo Spiga, and Fabio de Furia

On Friday September 4, 2015, the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet European Center of Excellence, The European and Eurasian Studies Program, The School of Computing and Information Sciences, The Department of Earth and Environment Agroecology Program, The School of Environment, Art, and Society, the Southeast Environment Research Center, and the Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing Center hosted an Italian engineering delegation from Sapienza University of Rome at the request of the Italy-America Chamber of Commerce Southeast, the Miami Scien-

tific Italian Community, and the Consulate General of Italy.

The event included faculty and staff from different departments at FIU, along with inviting prominent members of the Italian community, including Fabio De Furia, Executive Vice President of the Miami Scientific Italian Community, Massimo Spiga, director of the education office of the Consulate General of Italy in Miami, and Professor Paolo Gaudenzi, from the University of La Sapienza in Rome.

The delegation participated in a day of activities that began with the presentation of their "CROPP"

project by three PhD students from La Sapienza, who specialize in aeronautical, space, and computer engineering. CROPP, a project for which these students won a prize from NASA, is a bottle-bot with sensors to gather data applied to optical and radar satellite imaging to provide real-time crop risk assessment. Their aim with this development is to reduce the percentage of crop losses related to issues such as diseases, fires, and pests. CROPP is available to provide a full health report and to track the development of any dangerous phenomenon that might affect the crops, making this information available to the farmer through a user application. Following the presentation on behalf of the PhD students, time was given for questions in a working roundtable on future possibilities of collaboration with FIU faculty, and the Sapienza University of Rome through the European Commission Horizon 2020 project. The possibility of increasing cooperation between the two institutions through academic exchanges and research cooperation was explored.

After this exchange, the entire delegation was taken on a tour of different labs including the Agroecology lab, the Discover Lab, and the Geographic Information Systems Center. Closer exchanges with FIU faculty allowed for the Italian delegation to get a closer look at some of the research that faculty is engaging in, and gave room for questions and explanations.

The events of the day made it possible to establish connections

with the community of Sapienza University, and hopefully will bring further collaboration in different areas in the future.

By Stephanie Sepulveda



Roundtable with FIU faculty, administration and Italian delegation



Delegation at the FIU Discovery Lab

► To view pictures, [click here](#)



## Cartographies of Water: A Conversation with Dr. Aurora Morcillo



Dr. Aurora Morcillo, Director , Spanish and Mediterranean Studies Program

This fall, the Spanish Mediterranean Studies Program is collaborating with the Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs FIU, and the Delegation of the Government of the Canary Islands in Miami to bring about *Rufina Santana's Cartographies of Water (Cartografías del Agua)*, an exhibition which will be exhibited at FIU's Frost Art Museum from September 12, 2015 to December 13, 2015

The artist, Rufina Santana is originally from the Canary Islands has been profoundly influenced by her homeland. Her paintings use cartography and the sea as metaphors of a personal journey and the narratives of a human experience.

It was this focus on water beyond its physical meaning that caught the attention of FIU's Spanish and Mediterranean Studies Program Director and History Professor, Dr. Aurora Morcillo, who was able to establish contact with Santana through the close relationship that exists between the Consulate of Spain and the representative for the government of the Canary Islands. "When they explained the concept behind the exhibit, I saw that it was very central to the idea that inspires the center, which is looking at the oceans and the seas as connectors, rather than focusing on national borders," says Dr. Morcillo on the inception of the collaboration, "the whole idea of bringing art to explain better what our mission and our vision of the center is was very appealing."

What initially began as an exhibition of the artist's work, eventually turned into an academic collaboration between Dr. Morcillo and Santana. The two teamed up to co-teach

a graduate-level course, aptly titled *Water Cartographies*. The class is an interdisciplinary course which combines history, cartography, geography and art. The class, which includes an interpretive art project and a history paper, explores the role of water is shaping and connecting cultures and regions.

For about 20 years, Dr. Morcillo has used art as a way for students to better understand complex concepts and ideas. "Art makes us get into a conversation of feelings and emotions, making it part of our research which tends to be so clinical and objective," she says. For her, art is a way of exploring the things that we cannot express verbally, and it gives an opportunity to the researchers to think about cultures that have more symbolic forms of expression. She has incorporated these ideas into her classes in some way or another since then, but never to the extent as she is doing now in collaboration with Santana. As a proponent of multidisciplinary approaches to learning, she says that she envisions going further than just using the plastic arts, but also incorporating theater, dance or music to her classes.

When asked why she thinks it is important to promote the linkages with Spanish and Mediterranean culture, she immediately remarks on FIU's privileged location as a hub for Hispanic culture. Not only because of the Latin American population, but also because of the undeniable Spanish and Mediterranean influence present in Florida. From St. Augustine, to the Mediterranean overtones in places like Coral Gables, Spanish identity is present in

this society. This connection even extends beyond Florida, as Dr. Morcillo is quick to remind us that the Spanish influence preceded the establishment of the 13 British Colonies, and extended as far as California.

This is just one of several initiatives taken by the Spanish and Mediterranean Studies Center, which is also engaging in a distinguished lecture series sponsored by Total Bank, the first which will be on October 5<sup>th</sup>, and will deal with film and literature as the means to understand the transition to democracy in Cuba and Spain. In addition to that, we are building a curriculum that is a graduate certificate in Iberian Studies. It is a multidisciplinary program, with 18 credits related to history, religious studies, Spanish literature and linguistics, and art history. It is humanities centered and this class in the cartographies of water is part of it.

The center is also in the process of exploring connections with science. "I envision, for example, a biologist working with an artists and a geographer designing maps that are art pieces," she says of her plans for the future. "Interdisciplinary engagement is very important, I think using the water as the connector we can do many things, we can explore religion, environmental studies, economics and trade, tourism, etc."

An event will be held on November 4<sup>th</sup>, at the Frost Art Museum where Rufina Santana and Dr. Morcillo will present on the exhibit.

By Stephanie Sepulveda

For more information visit:

<http://spain.fiu.edu/>



## Conversations on Europe: Back to School at What Cost?



On September 17, 2015, the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, in cooperation with European & Eurasian Studies, and the European Student Association, participated in a virtual roundtable that is the first of several in the Conversations on Europe video-conference series that will explore European issues and their implications for the US.

Titled *Back to School at What Cost? Comparing Higher Education Model in the US and Europe*, the initiative gathered experts from various universities and institutions in order to reflect on the differences between US and European models of higher education. The talk was moderated by Dr. Ron Linden, Director, European Studies Center at the University of Pittsburgh, who enlisted the help of different panelists to have an in-depth conversation about the university system in both regions, and in particular, the costs related to engaging in higher education. The panelists included Professor John Weidman, from the School of Education, University of Pittsburgh, Professor Liudvika Leisyte from the Center for Higher Education at TU Dortmund, Germany, Dr. John Douglass, Senior research fellow in Public Policy and Higher Education at the University of California at Berkeley, and Goldie Blumenstyk, Senior writer at *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

The hour-and-a-half long conversation dealt with some of the most pressing issues that are affecting education systems both in the



Video Conference with the University of Pittsburgh: "Back to School"

United States and in Europe. The talk began with a conversation regarding the disparity between costs of public and private universities in Europe, a cost that some argue could reinforce class and social divisions in the US. The issue of mounting debt for students who pursue higher education is a hot topic that is debated by politicians and academics, alike. The question that Dr. Linden asked, then, was 'what are the implications of these accomplishments?' Should we be as worried?

Professor Weidman expressed his skepticism of the doom and gloom ideas, saying that the US educational system reflects what the people want because the policy is created by elected individuals. Demand for higher education is still thriving, what has changed is the pattern of funding, which has shifted to a predominantly privately funded model. Blumenstyk, on the other hand, argued that this current situation is a crisis and that is as a function of how state budgets are funded.

which is overwhelmingly publicly funded, and mostly cost free to its population, with the exception of Great Britain. In Western Europe, it is not uncommon for students to riot when there are increases in costs or fees, which is a reflection of the idea of education as a public good. In the United States, this is not necessarily the case, the responsibility of higher education is on the individuals, rather than on the state.

The conversation allows the participants to express their opinion of the most significant differences between the two systems, and to expose some of the problems with both systems. The world is changing, and particularly after the Great Recession of 2008, there has been an increasing effort to ensure economic success, both in European institutions and in American ones. As a result there has been more emphasis on garnering the interest of international students and universities are reinventing themselves as global institutions as they compete for talent in a global level.

By Stephanie Sepulveda



Christine I. Caly-Sanchez and FIU students ambassadors

This is all drastically different from the European system,

► To watch video, click here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ch7SWcWFWeY&feature=youtu.be>



# BILAT 2.0 EU Research and Innovation Funding Workshop on Horizon 2020 at FIU

Horizon 2020



Moderators: Vera Kammann and Dr. Olaf Heilmayer

On Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, a group of about 40 faculty and staff got together to engage in a roundtable information session related to EU research and funding for the Horizon 2020 initiative. The event was jointly sponsored by BILAT 2.0 and the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, and co-sponsored by DLR, FIU European & Eurasian Studies Program, Biomolecular Sciences Institute, and Global Health Consortium.

Dr. Olaf Heilmayer, head of unit German Aerospace Center, Multilateral Cooperation, Monitoring, European and International Cooperation and Vera Kammann, DLR Project Management Agency, European and International Cooperation, International Bureau, Bonn, Germany gave a presentation on Horizon 2020 and funding possibilities for US researchers.

The workshop was given as part of the BILAT USA 2.0 initiative, which is a project that seeks to aid in bilateral coordination for the enhancement and development of S&T partnerships between the European Union and the United States.

The idea was to stress the importance of cooperation between scientists on both sides of the Atlantic and to provide researchers at FIU with information on the different funding opportunities and processes that are available through Horizon 2020, an €80 billion research and innovation funding program that began in 2014 and will continue to run until 2020. Horizon 2020, itself, attempts to couple research to innovation, with a particular focus on societal challenges facing the EU, such as health, clean energy, and transport.

The three priority areas for Horizon 2020 are Excellent Science, Industrial Leadership, and Societal Challenges, the latter having the greatest portion of budget allocation with 38.53% of the budget. After applying for funding, project will be evaluated based on excellence, impact, and implementation.

By showing the success of US participants in previous EU funding initiatives, such as FP7, the representatives of BILAT 2.0 wanted to show researchers that funding from the EU was accessible and possi-

ble, particularly in areas of health, ICT, food, agriculture, fisheries, biotechnology, and energy. So far, the US has a 15.2% success rate when it comes to applicants in granted proposals for H2020, with a total of 17.6 million euros in EU contributions.

In regard to their goal in visiting FIU, Vera Kammann said, “We wanted to inform US faculty and staff about Horizon 2020, and to make them understand that there are really some great opportunities and that they can receive funding through this European and international collaborative project.” On the importance of transatlantic cooperation she said, “If we collaborate, then it’s more likely that we are able to tackle these challenges and that we don’t duplicate the efforts”. Kammann went on to express her satisfaction with the event saying that the enthusiasm and openness of FIU faculty and staff was very exciting. “I think they were quite interested,” she said, adding she hopes to see FIU increase its participation in H2020 initiatives.

US researchers are eligible for this funding, so long as they are able to partner up with at least three different legal entities from three different European countries. Condition and rules do apply and the eligibility for funding depends on the country. US partners are eligible for automatic funding under all topics in calls of the Societal Challenge: Health, demographic change, and wellbeing pillar.

The next work program for 2016-2017 will be published on October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

*By Stephanie Sepulveda*

► For more information go to:

<http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/>  
Or  
<http://www.euussscienceandtechnology.eu/>



# BILAT 2.0 EU Research and Innovation Funding Workshop on Horizon 2020 at FIU

Horizon 2020



Dr. Olaf Heilmayer, Dr. Kalai Mathee, Vera Kammann, Dr. Yuk-Ching Tse-Dinh, Christine I. Caly-Sanchez



Dr. Olaf Heilmayer  
Head of Unit, German Aerospace Center, DLR



At the Horizon 2020 workshop discussion



Dr. Kalai Mathee and Dr. Olaf Heilmayer



Vera Kammann and FIU Biomedical Faculty



Dr. Olaf Heilmayer, Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Vera Kammann, Dr. Newman

Horizon  
2020

# BILAT 2.0 EU Research and Innovation Funding Workshop On Horizon 2020 at UM

BILAT  USA 2.0



Moderators: Dr. Olaf Heilmayer and Vera Kammann



Dr. Olaf Heilmayer, DLR, presenting Horizon 2020 to UM audience



University of Miami Audience



Moderators: Dr. Olaf Heilmayer and Vera Kammann

On Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup> afternoon, Dr. Olaf Heilmayer, head of unit German Aerospace Center, Multilateral Cooperation, Monitoring, European and International Cooperation; and Vera Kammann, DLR Project Management Agency, European and International Cooperation, International Bureau, Bonn, Germany gave a presentation on Horizon 2020 and EU research and innovation funding to a group of 30 faculty and scientists at the University of Miami. The event was jointly sponsored by BILAT 2.0, the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, and the University of Miami.



From left to right: Massimo Spiga, Dean, Dr. Jean-Pierre Bardet, Fabio di Furia, Vera Kammann, Dr. Olaf Heilmayer, Dr. Karin Scarpinato, Christine i. Caly-Sanchez

► To view pictures, [click here](#)

Horizon  
2020

# BILAT 2.0 EU Research and Innovation Funding Workshop On Horizon 2020

BILAT USA 2.0



On Friday, September 25, along with Consul General of France Hon. Philippe Létriliart, and Consul General of Germany, Hon. Jürgen Borsch, the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, and colleagues from DLR, visited Max Planck Florida Institute for Neurosciences and were welcomed by its COO Matthias Haury; Dr. Olaf Heilmayer and Vera Kammann, gave a presentation on Horizon 2020 and EU research and innovation funding to a group of 40 scientists from the neuroscience institute, SCRIPPS, and FAU faculty and PhD Students. ▶ To view pictures:, [click here](#)



From left to right: Matthias Haury, Hon. Philippe Letriliart, Vera Kammann, Dr. Olaf Heilmayer, Christine I. Caly-Sanchez

Dr. Olaf Heilmayer and Vera Kammann, DLR, German Aerospace Center



At the BILAT USA 2.0 and Horizon 2020 presentation to the Max Planck Florida Institute for Neurosciences board

Vera Kammann, Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Dr. Olaf Heilmayer, Matthias Haury, and Max Planck Florida Institute for Neurosciences scientists and PhD students

# BILAT 2.0 New Frontiers in Science Diplomacy Opportunities for EU-US Cooperation



David O'Sullivan, Ambassador of the European Union to the United States of America

Nobel Laureate Peter Agre, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School and former President of AAAS

Dan Hamilton, Executive Director of the SAIS Center for Transatlantic Relations, and Olaf Heilmayer (left)

**Washington, 28 September 2015 – On the initiative of the EU-funded BILAT USA 2.0 project, high-level policy-makers, reputable scientists as well as high level experts and political advisors came together to discuss on the importance of science diplomacy and areas of potential cooperation for both sides of the Atlantic.**

**Dan Hamilton**, Executive Director of the SAIS Center for Transatlantic Relations, as well as **Olaf Heilmayer**, coordinator of the BILAT USA 2.0 project opened the conference and introduced the two key note speakers of the conference on Science Diplomacy – a topic that politically ranks high both in the USA and in Europe. The Nobel Laureate **Peter Agre**, now at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School and former President of the AAAS conveyed what science diplomacy implies in practical terms and what tremendous success can be achieved by science cooperation illustrating this with lively examples from his own career. His visits to – among others North Korea (DPRK),

Cuba or the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) – illustrated the efforts, difficulties and challenges science diplomacy faces, like e.g. the lack of infrastructure and transportation or different political systems, backgrounds and standards.

**David O'Sullivan**, Ambassador of the European Union to the United States of America, stated that science diplomacy was a powerful tool that could guide political leaders to complex political decisions as it combines evidence-based science with foreign diplomacy. There have been many examples of when scientists cooperated although there has been little or even no political dialogue, therefore science diplomacy could offer one channel of keeping the communication between nations ongoing – as Peter Agre has proved with his work.

The three following roundtable discussions elaborated on energy and Health Science diplomacy, and common approaches and differences in science diplomacy. Key aspects mentioned

were among others that cultural differences between regions or nations have to continuously be kept in mind and acknowledged, which is true not only for the collaborating scientists but in particular also of the society the research may affect. Further, very practical questions and challenges arose such as that science was generally international but that the mechanisms to fund this science are to the greatest part national instruments. Competitiveness and its regulation complexities were mentioned as potentially hindering issues for cooperation. However, certain grand societal challenges can only be solved if nations collaborate, as was shown among other examples by the impressive example of European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP). Science Diplomacy needs differentiation which means that cooperation needs to acknowledge and be responsive to capabilities of different countries, researchers and scientific fields.

With an average of 100 participants and an active participation of the audience, the conference was well received and proved the need for an exchange on this topic.



From left to right: Viktoria Bodnarova, Lynn van Fleit, Peter Agre, and Christine I. Caly-Sanchez



David O'Sullivan and Christine I. Caly-Sanchez

- ▶ A report of the conference has been published on the project's [website](#).
- ▶ View the conference and related materials are here: [agenda](#); [Part 1](#); [Part 2](#); [Part 3](#); [Part 4](#); and [Part 5](#)
- ▶ Here is the album on Flickr: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/diplomacymatters/>

## BILAT USA 2.0 Coordination and General Project Information

**BILAT USA 2.0 Consortium Meeting  
Washington D.C. -Sept. 29, 2015**



BILAT USA 2.0 Consortium Meeting with 9 European partners (DLR, FFG, Inno TSD, Biocat, AKA, Intrasoft International, RCN, IPPT PAN, TUBITAK) and 4 US-American partners (DMI, FIU, NCURA, CTR) - Washington DC—Sept. 29, 2015

On September 28 and 29, 2015, the Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence had the great honor and privilege to participate in the BILAT 2.0 New Frontiers in Science Diplomacy Opportunities for EU-US Cooperation, and the BILAT USA 2.0 Consortium Meeting in Washington DC.

Hosted by our fellow European Union Center of Excellence at the SAIS Center for Transatlantic Relations, John Hopkins University, the BILAT USA 2.0 Consortium meeting took

place on September 29, 2015. Over two days, directors and associate directors from the thirteen European (DLR, FFG, Inno TSD, Biocat, AKA, Intrasoft International, RCN, IPPT PAN, TUBITAK) and American (DMI, FIU, NCURA, CTR) consortium partners gathered together to discuss past successes, share advice, and plan future collaborative events.

Dr. Olaf Heilmayer, Head of Unit, German Aerospace Center, Multilateral Cooperation, Monitoring, Euro-

pean and International Cooperation, Bonn, Germany thanked each partner of the consortium for their outstanding job, and looked forward to continuing working with them to develop and enhance the S&T partnerships between the European Union and the United States.

*By Christine Caly-Sanchez*

► For more information on BILAT USA 2.0 and Horizon 2020, go to :  
 • <http://www.euussciencetechnology.eu/>  
 • <http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/>



From left to write: Nina Schüle, Dr. Olaf Heilmayer, and Vera Kammann



BILAT USA 2.0 Consortium Meeting - Washington DC—Sept. 29, 2015



## Fall Semester 2015 Activities September—October



### September 2015

- **August 18—Nov. 13, 2015**  
Miami Beach Urban Studios  
Exhibition: *"Photo 51: Is Corruption in Russia's DNA?"*
- **Sept. 10—Nov. 28, 2015**  
Coral Gables Museum  
Exhibition: *"Anne Morgan's War: American Women Rebuilding France, 1917-1924"*
- **Monday, Sept. 14 | 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm**  
FIU, MMC - Graham Center—GC 150  
European Film Series (FR film) *L'Auberge Espagnole*
- **Thursday, Sept. 17 | 12:00 pm - 1:30pm**  
FIU, MMC - Graham Center—GL 156  
Conversations on Europe—Video Conference :  
*"Back to School at What Cost: Comparing Higher Education Models in the US & Europe"*
- **Thursday, Sept. 24 | 11:00 pm - 2:00 pm**  
FIU, MMC—AHC4-402  
BILAT USA 2.0 Research Workshop for FIU Faculty:  
EU Research and Innovation Funding-Horizon 2020  
- Dr. Olaf Heilmayer, Head of Unit, German Aerospace Center,  
- Vera Kammann, DLR Project Management Agency,  
European and International Cooperation | International  
Bureau, Germany (*This workshop is by invitation only*)
- **Thursday, Sept. 24 | 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm**  
University of Miami—Coral Gables  
BILAT USA 2.0 Research Workshop for FIU Faculty:  
EU Research and Innovation Funding-Horizon 2020  
- Dr. Olaf Heilmayer, Head of Unit, German Aerospace Center,  
- Vera Kammann, DLR Project Management Agency,  
European and International Cooperation | International  
Bureau, Germany (*This workshop is by invitation only*)
- **Friday, Sept. 25 | 11:00 am - 5:00 pm**  
Max Planck Florida Institute for Neurosciences — Jupiter, FL  
BILAT USA 2.0 Research Workshop for FIU Faculty:  
EU Research and Innovation Funding-Horizon 2020  
- Dr. Olaf Heilmayer, Head of Unit, German Aerospace Center,  
- Vera Kammann, DLR Project Management Agency,  
European and International Cooperation | International  
Bureau, Germany (*This workshop is by invitation only*)
- **Monday, Sept. 28 | 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm**  
FIU, MMC—Green Library-GL 156  
Conversations on Europe—Video Conference:  
*"Language and Identity in France, Belgium and the  
Maghreb"* (Conversation In French)

### October 2015

- **Thursday, Oct. 8 | 7:00pm - 9:30 pm**  
FIU, MMC— College of Law—Courtroom 1000  
Panel Discussion on *"The Death Penalty: European  
Union and International Perspectives"*  
By European Consuls General in Miami, and FIU  
School of Law Experts
- **Tuesday, Oct. 13 | 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm**  
FIU, MMC - Graham Center—GC 140  
European Film Series—(Russian Film) - *"Leviathan"*
- **Friday, Oct. 16 | 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm**  
FIU, MMC—Graham Center—GC 140  
Panel Discussion on *"The Relationship between  
Cuba/EU/US"*  
Pavel Telicka, Diplomat, European Parliament
- **Tuesday, Oct. 20 | 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm**  
FIU, MMC—Green Library-GL 156  
Conversations on Europe –Video Conference:  
*"Europe Jews: Past, Present, Future?"*
- **Wednesday, Oct. 21 | 10:00 am - 11:00 am**  
FIU, MMC - PG5- 134  
Lecture on *"The Swedish Domestic & International  
Politics"* by Christer Persson, Former Swedish Ambassador
- **Thursday, Oct. 22 | 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm**  
FIU, MMC—Graham Center—GC 140  
Italian Day  
Guest of Honor: Hon. Gloria Bellelli  
Consul General of Italy in Miami
- **Thursday, Oct 29 | 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm**  
FIU-MMC-Green Library GL 220  
Panel Discussion: *"FIU Students' Experience in France:  
What They Learned"*  
Guest of Honor: Hon. Philippe Létrilliart  
Consul General of France in Miami
- **Thursday, Oct 29 | 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm**  
Miami Beach Urban Studios  
Lecture: *"The Death of Parmesan: Material Culture,  
Media, and the Past in Russian Everyday Life"*  
Joy Neumeyer, PhD candidate in History, University of  
California, Berkeley, and Berkeley Fellow
- **Friday, Oct. 30 | 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm**  
FIU, MMC - Graham Center—GC 140  
European Film Series: *"Midnight in Paris"*



## Fall Semester 2015 Activities

### October—November—December



#### November 2015

- **Monday, Nov. 2, 2015 | 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm**  
**FIU, MMC - Graham Center—GC 150**  
**European Film Series** (French Documentary)  
*“Apocalypse: 1st and 2nd episodes”*
- **Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2015 | 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm**  
**FIU, MMC—CBC 232**  
**Lecture on “Ukrainian Perspectives in an Uncertain World”**  
 - Amb. Yuriy A. Sergeev, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations
- **Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2015 | 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm**  
**Lecture on “Liquid Continents: Historicizing the Seas as Spaces of Collective Experience”**  
 - **Aurora Morcillo**, Professor of History, and Director of the Spanish and Mediterranean Studies Program  
 - **Rufina Santana**, Internationally renown visual artist
- **Thursday, Nov. 5, 2015 | 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm**  
**Coral Gables Museum**  
**Lecture on “The Role of American Women during the WWI”**  
 - **Dr. Marilyn Hoder-Salmon** (retired)  
 Associate Professor, Dept. of English, FIU; Faculty Fellow  
 Former Director, Women’s Studies Center
- **Friday, Nov. 6, 2015 | 10:00 am - 12:00 pm**  
**FIU, MMC—Graham Center—GC 150**  
**Lady Blanka Rosenstiel Lecture Series on Poland**  
**Film Screening: “Kosciuszko: A Man Before His Time”**  
 & Discussion with Alex Storozynski
- **Monday, Nov. 9, 2015 | 10:00 am - 11:00 am**  
**FIU, MMC - PG5- 134**  
**Lecture on “The 26th Anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall, and the 25 Years Germany Unity”**  
 - Hon Jürgen Borsch, Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany

#### November 2015

- **Tuesday, Nov. 10 | 10:00 am - 12:00 pm**  
**FIU, MMC - Green Library—GL 220**  
**Panel Discussion**  
**“The European Refugee and Migration Crisis”**  
 - **Dr. Ariane Chebel d'Appollonia**  
 Professor of Public Affairs & Administration  
 Rutgers University  
 - **Cristian Ivanec**, Romanian Fulbright Scholar  
 Western Illinois University  
 - **Dr. Claire Oueslati-Porter**, Visiting Instructor  
 Sociology & Anthropology, Global & Sociocultural Studies, Florida International University  
 - **Dr. Markus Thiel**, Associate Professor,  
 Politics & International Relations, FIU  
 Director, Jean Monnet Center of Excellence and European & Eurasian Studies
- **Tuesday, Nov. 17 | 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm**  
**FIU, MMC—Green Library—GL 156**  
**Conversations on Europe—Video Conference:**  
**“Rescue and Prevent: Responses to Europe’s Migration Crisis”**
- **Thursday, Nov. 19 | 1:00pm-3:00 pm**  
**FIU, MMC– Graham Center—GC 150**  
**European Film Series - Polish Film**  
**“The Pianist”**

#### December 2015

- **Friday, Dec. 4 | 8:30 am – 2:30 pm**  
**FIU, MMC - Graham Center—GC 243**  
**Euro Challenge Competition Student Orientation**  
**(For high school students)**
- **Tuesday, Dec. 11 | 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm**  
**FIU, MMC - Green Library– GL 835**  
**Conversations on Europe: Video Conference**  
**“The Climate for Climate Change Negotiations”**



## BILAT Announcement

### EURAXESS Science Slam

#### Slam your way to a free trip to Europe



**EURAXESS Science Slam**

In 2015, EURAXESS Links North America is once again looking for North America’s best science slammers.

Five finalists will battle it out for the title of “EURAXESS Science Slammer North America 2015” in the LIVE slam to be held in Chicago, IL, between October 17 and 21 2015.

**The first prize is a free trip to Europe!**

**Online submission of slam candidacies is open between May 29 and September 21, 2015.**



**What this is about:**

EURAXESS Science Slam North America 2015 is the third edition of a contest giving researchers based in North America the chance to showcase their research projects to their peers and the wider public in a relaxed and joyful atmosphere. It is open to researchers of all nationalities and from all fields of research. Every participant at the final slam to be held in Chicago between October 17 and 21 October 2015 will present a topic related to their research to an audience of non-experts. The slam will be given in English in a max of 10 minutes and can be supported by video and audio material, ppt. slides

and any other kind of media available, as well as by scientific equipment. The performances of the participants will be judged by the audience and the jury based on conceptualization, style and originality. The winner will be awarded a free trip to Europe where he or she will attend a science communication workshop along with the winners of the other EURAXESS Science Slams organized in ASEAN, Brazil, China, India and Japan. He/she will also have the opportunity to go to a European research institution of his/her choice

► For more information:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/index.cfm/links/events/north\\_america/science\\_slam](http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/index.cfm/links/events/north_america/science_slam)



## BILAT Announcement

### Workshop: Destination Europe: Your Research & Innovation Opportunities

#### Atlanta, GA—October 17, 2014



You're invited to join us at valuable (and FREE) workshop:

**“Destination Europe: Your Research & Innovation Opportunities ”**



**Sept. 28, 2015 | 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

**Venue:**

Johns Hopkins University  
 Washington D.C.  
 The Kenney Auditorium, Paul H. Nitze Building, School for Advanced International Studies.

**Benefits and goals of the workshop include:**

- Discover the vibrant and exciting research and innovation culture in Europe and the opportunities available to researchers, from anywhere in the world, interested in working there or cooperating with European researchers
- Meet Experts from European research organizations, universities, funding agencies and European Commission services who will present programs, initiatives and opportunities to cooperate or to pursue a career in Research and Innovation in Europe

- Information about the help available for the practicalities of moving to Europe (scientific visa, mobility centres etc.)

- To view detailed program, [click here](#)
- To register, [click here](#)
- There is no charge for participation, but prior registration is Required

**Destination Europe is a joint initiative of the European Union and its Member States**



Miami-Florida Jean Monnet EU Center of Excellence

## Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence

European and Eurasian Studies Program



### Contact the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence



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### Euro Challenge Competition 2016

High school teachers and students are invited to participate in the ninth annual Euro Challenge competition. The Miami-Florida Jean Monnet European Union Center of Excellence (MFJMCE) has once again invited teachers and students from fifteen different high-schools to participate and learn about European history, currency, and economy for a chance to win not only cash prizes, but also a trip to New York City and Washington, DC. This years student orientation will be held on December 4, 2015. Will be covered: "Competition Overview", "From Europe to the Euro", "The Euro Crisis: An Update", and "Key economic concepts." **The selected students will then compete for the Local Florida Competition in Miami on March 17, 2016, and for the national competition in New-York on April 19, 2016.**



**Winner 2015: Trinity Preparatory School**  
 NY, April 30, 2015

For details please visit: [www.euro-challenge.org/wordpress/](http://www.euro-challenge.org/wordpress/)  
 or contact Associate Director Christine I. Caly-Sanchez at MFJMCE, FIU — [calyc@fiu.edu](mailto:calyc@fiu.edu)