



# European and Eurasian Studies Program NEWSLETTER

Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence

Volume 3, Issue 1 — Fall 2020

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## FALL 2020 Highlights



**Markus Thiel**  
Director, MFJMCE



**Christine I. Caly-Sanchez**  
Associate Director, MFJMCE & EESP



**David J. Kramer**  
Director, EESP

Dear friends,

We're happy to share with you our Fall 2020 newsletter, which provides a good overview of the many events and activities we hosted virtually at our European & Eurasian Studies Program and the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence. Over the past four months, we hosted a total of 47 virtual events.

Highlights include our experts panels on populism and democracy in Europe, the challenges of the pandemic in Europe and Latin America, the German Presidency, the EU-Iran relations, the Conversations on Europe "Europe creating Europe" series with the University of Pittsburgh; the interview on the Fall of the Berlin Wall with Consul General of the Federal of Republic of Germany, Andreas Siegel, and the interview on the 5th Anniversary of the Paris Agreement with Consul General of France, Laurent Gallissot.

We also were active with our EU Jean Monnet in the USA network (more than 10 EU Centers), where we were able to connect with experts on Europe via virtual roundtables for more than fifteen discussions.

You can watch the recorded videos about these and many other events inside this newsletter.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you a safe, healthy, and prosperous New Year, and we are looking forward to seeing you virtually at one of our events this spring.

Sincerely,

Christine I. Caly-Sanchez  
Markus Thiel  
David J. Kramer

#UnitedAgainstCoronavirus #StrongerTogether

Follow us and for more information:





## MFJMC WEBINAR

# Populism and Democratic Backsliding in Europe

Oct. 06, 2020



On October 6, the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence hosted a virtual roundtable on the seductive power of populism in European states and its impact on democracy in the region. In the EU, including in Central and Eastern Europe, populist parties of various stripes succeeded in riding a wave of anger over corruption, resentment at the outcome of the democratic transition, and anxiety about migration and the EU's principle of shared governance. Their leaders all have charismatic personalities who master the anti-establishment rhetoric to perfection and are often supported by Russia.

Dr. **Markus Thiel**, Associate Professor of the Dept. of Politics & International Relations and Director of the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence at FIU, moderated this exciting panel, made up of three experts, including:

- Dr. **Marcel Lewandowsky**, DAAD Visiting Assistant Professor at the Center for European Studies University of Florida
- Dr. **Noemi Marin**, Professor of the School of Communication and Multimedia Studies at Florida Atlantic University
- Amb. **Martin Palouš**, former Czech Ambassador to the United States and former Czech Republic's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Senior Fellow of the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA), and Director of SIPA's Václav Havel Center for Human Rights and Diplomacy initiative at FIU

Dr. Markus Thiel welcomed the audience that joined online from several countries of the EU and different states in the US. He highlighted the importance of populism nowadays, especially given the rise of COVID-19. Populist parties of various drives, from the left as well as from the right, succeeded in writing a wave of anger

over corruption, over the mismanaged outcome of some Democratic transitions in Central and Eastern Europe, over the migration waves, the Brexit fragmentation, the lingering euro crisis, and the European union's liberal cosmopolitan shared model of governance. A panel of experts offered a discussion on the current status of populism, what can be done, and what the future will look like.

Dr. Marcel Lewandowsky dealt with a question: Why exactly are we talking about populism when we are observing a democratic backsliding? In his presentation, he argued that we do so because populism has a lot to do with democracy in that populism is a liberal normative orientation to democracy.

The second panelist, Dr. Noemi Marin, pointed out that popular discourse is not new. Its current forms are new or renewed, but all political discourse carries authoritarian dimensions with it if practice does such. This is a rhetorical plug for the need to expand more rhetorical and historical connections of political communication in order to explain the rise and fall of all authoritarian discourse in different times and different levels of persuasive success. She remarked that populism is fundamentally part of authoritarian political discourse.

Lastly, Amb. Martin Palouš said that to gain a deep understanding of the phenomena, we need to go back to the past and put our situation into a broader historical context. He concluded by inviting populist leaders not to give us their political statements but to open a dialogue about identity and the situation in the world we are in.

An engaging discussion between the panelists followed their presentations. The audience that actively participated in the online platform contributed thought-provoking comments and questions that made the conversation even more enjoyable.

This event was part of the #JMintheUS event series, an initiative of Jean Monnet Centers in the US.

The Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence wants to thank the institutions that co-sponsored this roundtable, including the European & Eurasian Studies Program-FIU, the Politics & International Relations Department at FIU, the Václav Havel Center for Human Rights and Diplomacy at FIU, the Center for European Studies at the University of Florida, Florida Atlantic University, and the American University Transatlantic Policy Center.



- ▶ To watch video, [click here](#)
- ▶ To view flyer, [click here](#)
- ▶ To view panelists' bios, [click here](#)





## Roundtable Discussion Germany, The United States, and the Challenges of the Pandemic

Oct. 15, 2020



Louise K. Davidson-Schmich



Hon. Andreas Siegel



Markus Thiel



David J. Kramer

The Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence and European and Eurasian Studies Program at FIU were pleased to participate in a roundtable discussion on Germany, the United States, and the Challenges of the Pandemic at the University of Miami on October 15. This roundtable was financed by a generous grant from the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Washington, DC's Campus Weeks Building Tomorrow program. @GermanyinUSA

The expert-led discussion revolved around how Germany, the EU, and the US have responded to COVID-19. How have these countries been impacted by the disease, medically, politically, and economically? What is the current state of Transatlantic relations, and what does the future hold?

A remarkable group of experts addressed diverse aspects of these questions. Speakers included:

- Dr. [Louise K. Davidson-Schmich](#), Professor of Political Science at the University of Miami
- Hon. [Andreas T. Siegel](#), Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Florida, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands
- Dr. [Zinzi Bailey](#), Assistant Scientist at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine's Jay Weiss Institute for Health Equity at the Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center
- Dr. [Markus Thiel](#), Associate Professor in the Dept. of Politics & International Relations and Director of the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence at FIU

- Mr. [David J. Kramer](#), Senior Fellow in the Václav Havel Program for Human Rights and Diplomacy at Florida International University
- Dr. [Brian Blankenship](#), Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Miami.

Dr. Davidson-Schmich welcomed the audience and introduced the roundtable about the new and challenging issues that Germany, the EU, and the US face in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Firstly, Hon. Andreas Siegel discussed how the German government has dealt with the challenges of the pandemic.

Secondly, Dr. Bailey talked about the challenges that the US has faced in combating the virus.

Thirdly, Dr. Thiel addressed the EU responses to the pandemic. Furthermore, Mr. Kramer focused on the impact of the pandemic on human rights and democracy more broadly. Lastly, Dr. Blankenship talked about the effects of the pandemic on alliance and transatlantic relationships.

Following each expert individual presentation, students from FIU and the University of Miami asked some questions. Thus, each speaker had the opportunity to respond to some of the concerns that young people on college campuses in South Florida have.

▶ To watch video, [click here](#) | ▶ To see pictures, [click here](#)

## Jean Monnet In the USA Webinar Series



This academic year 2020-2021, the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence at FIU is part of the Jean Monnet in the U.S.A. Series, #JMintheUS, an initiative of several EU-funded Universities across the United States, 11 in total. The world has shifted to virtual events, making new kinds of collaborations possible. Co-sponsors of the #JMintheUS initiative can better share programming related to the European Union and European Union studies, increasing access to more communities throughout the country. The Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence at FIU, along with other European Union Centers of Excellence from the U.S. participate and co-sponsor the events.

In Fall semester 2020, we were able to connect with distinguished experts on Europe via virtual roundtables for more than twenty discussions and open them to our students, faculty, and community at large. Below, you will find the links to some of the video recordings.

### SEPTEMBER

- **September 11, 2020**  
**What's next? Europe & Recovery in the World**  
Talk with **Cecilia Malmström**, former EU Trade Commissioner organized by UNC-Chapel Hill's CES.  
▶ To watch video recording, [click here](#).
- **September 16, 2020**  
**Europe at a Crossroads: Dialogue with the EU, French, & German Ambassadors** (Amb. Stavros Lambrinidis, Amb. Philippe Etienne, and Amb. Emily Haber) | Organized by the Transatlantic Policy Center at American University  
▶ To watch video recording, [click here](#)

### OCTOBER

- **October 15, 2020**  
**What Brexit Might Mean for the Future of Scotland, the UK, and Europe** With John Edward, Director of Scottish Council of Independent Schools, and Don Smith, Associate Professor at University of Denver Sturm College of Law | Organized by Colorado European Union Center of Excellence - University of Colorado Boulder  
▶ To watch video recording, [click here](#)
- **October 27, 2020**  
**The European Green Deal: Europe's New Growth Strategy** With Said El Khadraoui, Founder of Impact Lab and former Member of the European Parliament  
Primary Organizer: Colorado European Union Center of Excellence, University of Colorado Boulder  
▶ To watch video, [click here](#)

### NOVEMBER

- **November 12, 2020**  
**Virtual Briefing on the Transatlantic Relationship after the US Elections** | Organized by University of Pittsburgh, European Studies Center (ESC)  
▶ To watch video, [click here](#)
- **November 12, 2020**  
**The New Speed of Politics: Technology and Sustainability in the EU** | Organized by the European Center, Illinois Global Studies  
▶ To watch video, [click here](#)
- **November 16, 2020**  
**Reconstructing and Rethinking Social and Racial Justice Post-COVID-19** | Organized by SIS, the Transatlantic Policy Center, the Antiracist Research and Policy Center, and the European Parliament Liaison Office in Washington, DC.  
▶ To watch video, [click here](#)
- **November 18, 2020**  
**The EU's Covid Recovery Plan: Solution for a Worldwide Just Clean Energy Transition** Organized by Colorado European Union Center of Excellence, University of Colorado Boulder  
▶ To watch video, [click here](#)

*By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*



For more information on the Jean Monnet In the USA and the list of all the events, [click here](#)



## Jean Monnet in the US Webinar The German Presidency at Mid-Point Oct. 22, 2020



Ulrike Guérot



Mark Copelovitch



Nils Ringe

As part of the Jean Monnet in the US Webinar Series, on October 22, the Jean Monnet Center of Excellence for Comparative Populism, the Center for German and European Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence organized a virtual presentation on the German Presidency of the EU at Mid-Point where Dr. [Ulrike Guérot](#), Founder and Director of the European Democracy Lab in Berlin, professor at the Danube University in Krems, Austria, and head of the Department for European Policy and the Study of Democracy, was the keynote speaker.

[Nils Ringe](#), Professor of Political Science, Jean Monnet Chair, and Director of the Center for European Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison; and [Mark Copelovitch](#), Professor of Political Science and Public Affairs at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, were the moderators.

Two questions were the starting point of the discussion: What has been accomplished and what will remain amid COVID-19?

During the six-month period - July 1st - December 31st, 2020, Germany led the work of the Council, building co-operation and agreement between Member States in a spirit of consensus and mutual respect.

The priorities of Germany's presidency are driven by its motto: **"Together for Europe's recovery"**.

**The German presidency program focuses on six main areas:**

- Overcoming the coronavirus crisis in the long term as well as economic recovery
- A stronger and more innovative Europe
- A fair Europe
- A just and sustainable Europe
- A Europe of security and common values
- A strong Europe in the world

German presidency of the Council of the EU focuses directly on overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic. Fighting the spread of the virus, supporting the European economy to recover and reinforcing social cohesion in Europe. In order to achieve this, Germany is committed to joint approved action, European solidarity and common values.

Prof. Dr. [Ulrike Guérot](#) contributed valuable answers to those questions and made emphasis on the future of Europe, the European Public Health, the European unemployment scheme, and social pillars.

She ended her presentation with the role of the European citizens in a European democracy, the "European Republic", and the [European Democracy Lab](#).

*By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*

► To view Germany's Presidency of the EU Council program , [click here](#)



► To view the presidency trios, [click here](#) | ► Flyer, [click here](#)



## MFJMCE WEBINAR

## Regional Integration and EU-Latin America Relations Under the Impact of COVID-19 | Oct. 27, 2020



Markus Thiel

Joaquín Roy

As part of our Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence grant, on October 27, Dr. **Joaquín Roy** made a presentation on Europe and Latin American Relations. Dr. Roy (Lic. Law, University of Barcelona, 1966; Ph.D., Georgetown University, 1973) is Jean Monnet Professor and Director of the University of Miami European Union Center of Excellence. He has published over 200 academic articles and reviews, and he is the author or editor of 39 books. He has also published over 1,400 columns and essays. He was awarded the Encomienda of the Order of Merit by King Juan Carlos of Spain.

Dr. **Markus Thiel**, Associate Professor in the Dept. of Politics & International Relations and Director of the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence at FIU, welcomed the audience and introduced the topic of this lecture on Regional Integration and European-Latin American Relations. After highlighting some characteristics of the process of regional integration in Latin America, Dr. Thiel posed a question: What does such a process mean for contemporary and future bilateral relations between the European Union and Latin America?

Dr. Roy elaborated on the answer through a comprehensive presentation on the issue. He argued that Latin American and the Caribbean is an ideal area to

receive the influence and inspiration for one of the most important messages of the EU, namely, regional integration. The problem has been that the expectations for the adoption of that so-called model or point of reference have not been that good until now. Dr. Roy posed several exciting questions about regional integration in Latin America and its relations with Europe. The answers ranged from historical explanations, including figures like Bolívar, Sarmiento, and Vargas Llosa, to the diversity of economic integration and cooperation bodies in Latin America, such as Mercosur and the Andean Community.

Dr. Roy's fascinating lecture finished with a set of questions and comments from the audience that actively participated online.

This event was part of the #JMintheUS event series, an initiative of Jean Monnet Centers in the US. Our MF JMCE sponsored it. We counted on our co-sponsors' consistent support, including the European & Eurasian Studies Program and the University of Miami European Union Center of Excellence.



- ▶ To watch video [click here](#)
- ▶ To view flyer, [click here](#)
- ▶ To view PPT, [click here](#)



## MFJMCE WEBINAR

## An update on EU-Iran Relations

Nov. 17, 2020



On November 17, our Center hosted a roundtable focusing on EU-Iran Relations. These relations have strengthened since the signing of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action in 2015, which was spearheaded by the EU as a prominent multilateral nonproliferation agreement with the auspices of the US. However, the Trump administration was determined to further undermine the agreement by pressing the UN to restore economic sanctions and extend the arms embargo against Iran. With the crossroad in which the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action is now, especially given the expectations raised by Biden's electoral victory in the US.

The panel was moderated by Dr. **Markus Thiel**, Associate Professor of the Dept. of Politics & International Relations and Director of the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence at FIU.

He highlighted the dynamics going on in the trilateral relations between the US, Iran, and Europe. The hope was that the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action would pave the way for dealing with other outstanding issues involving the EU, the US, and Iran. Instead, the EU's main focus has been to simply save the Plan of Action, particularly after the US withdrew in 2018.

In order to help us uncover some of the complexity of this geopolitical issue, a wonderful team of panelists contributed their perspectives. The panel included:

- Dr. **Shireen Hunter**, Honorary Fellow in the Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding at Georgetown University
- **Eldar Mamedov**, Political Advisor of the European Parliament
- Dr. **Mohammad Homayounvash**, Director of the Institute for Interfaith Dialogue and Education at Miami-Dade College; Lecturer in the Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs at FIU, and Religious Studies Department at the University of Miami
- Dr. **Eric Lob**, Associate Professor in the Dept. of Politics & International Relations, Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs at FIU

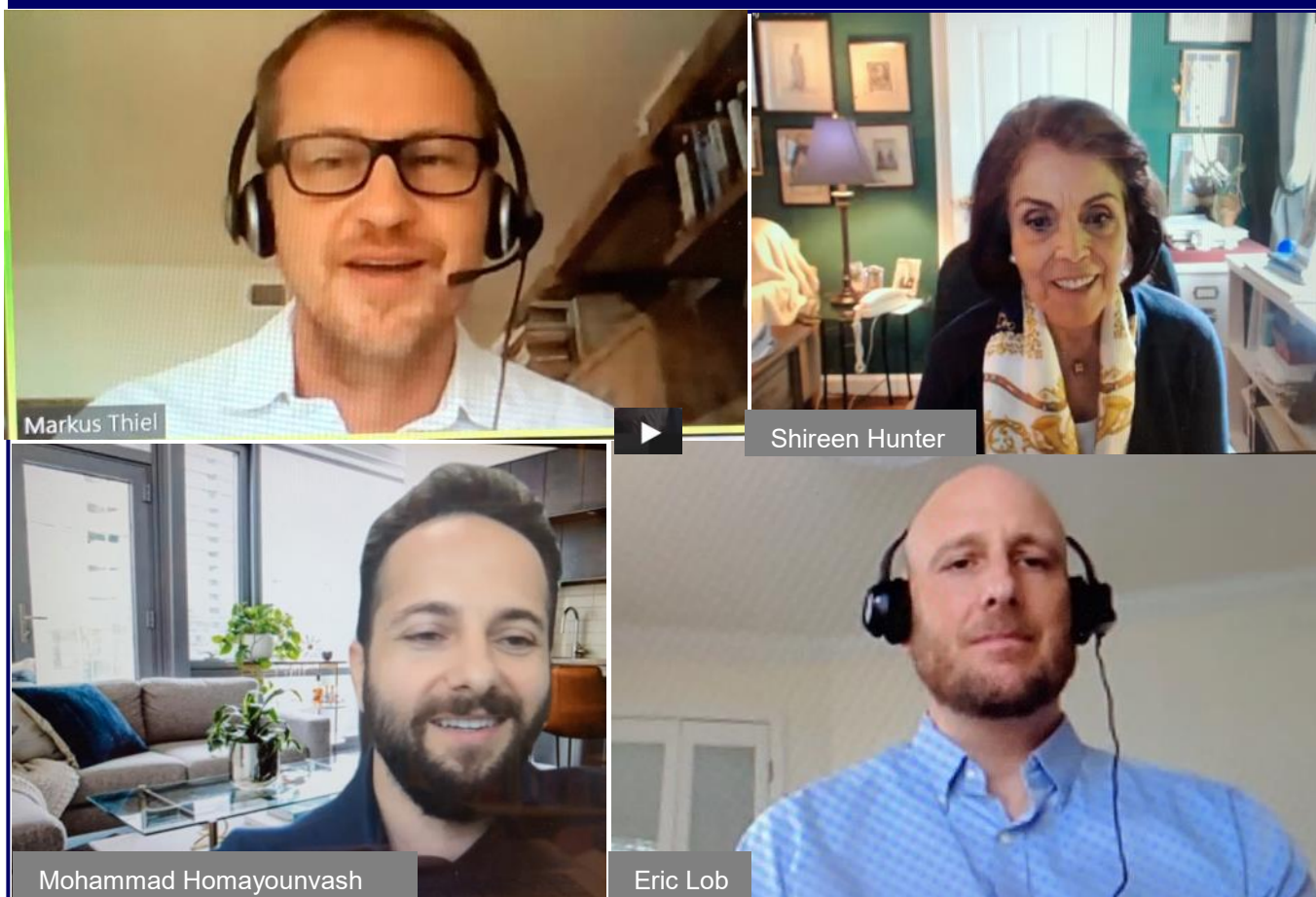
Dr. Shireen Hunter highlighted the continuity in the European policy and the congruence of objectives between Iran, Europe, and America. She argued that this explains the Iranian efforts in the last several years to involve the EU more by Economic Cooperation.

Dr. Eldar Mamedov agreed that there is a number of concerns that the EU indeed shares with the US. However, he pointed out one critical difference between both approaches, namely, that, unlike the US, the EU has not broken diplomatic relationships with Iran because the EU believes in engagement and critical dialogue to address those issues.



## MFJMCE WEBINAR

## An Update on EU-Iran Relations | Nov. 17, 2020



Dr. Mohammad Homayounvash then described the circumstances that converted the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action into an empty vessel. He analyzed that, therefore, we would see how the future Biden administration, in cooperation with the rest of the signatories, could pour into this empty vessel. Lastly,

Dr. Eric Lob concluded by falling somewhere in between optimism and pessimism in terms of what the future holds for the triangular relationship between Iran, the US, and the EU. The audience participated in this exciting discussion and posted comments and questions that enriched the dialogue.

The Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence organized this event, which is part of the #JMintheUS event series, an initiative of Jean Monnet Centers in the US.

We want to thank our co-sponsors, including the Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs, the Eurasian Studies Program, the Politics & International Relations Department at FIU, the European Union Center at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the Center for European Studies at the University of Florida.

*By Ernesto Fiocchetto & Christine I. Cally-Sanchez*



- ▶ To watch video [click here](#)
- ▶ To view flyer: [click here](#)
- ▶ To bio panelists, [click here](#)





*Conversations on Europe* is a virtual roundtable series that connects top experts from the US and the EU to discuss contemporary issues in the context of Europe and the transatlantic relationship. The conversations were held every Thursday of each month during Fall 2020. Video conference technology allowed for an interaction among the experts and the audiences. Furthermore, technology also enabled us to record some of the events which are available online for the general public. (Find the links in each Conversation.)

The European Studies Center—a Jean Monnet European Union Center of Excellence at the University of Pittsburgh—hosted the events, which were co-sponsored by UCIS, the European Union Center at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, the Georgia Tech Center for European and Transatlantic Studies, the Jean Monnet Center of Excellence at the University of Florida, and the Jean Monnet Center of Excellence at FIU. These events are possible through the generous support of the European Commission.

The four conversations held in Fall 2020 were part of the ongoing “Europe creating Europe” series and explored the EU’s motto “United in Diversity” from different perspectives (national, regional and supranational).

#### **Sept. 17, 2020: “70 Years of Creating Europe: United in Diversity”**

In this first installment of the ESC’s 2020-2021 series of virtual roundtables, our panel of experts used the 70th anniversary of the Schuman Declaration as a springboard to discuss diversity within the EU. The panelists traced the origin and current meaning of the EU’s motto, “United in

Diversity,” and what Europe is, what Europe was, and what it can be.

On May 9, 1950, French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman introduced the Schuman Declaration, which proposed the creation of the European Coal and Steel Commission made up of France, West Germany, Belgium, Italy, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands. This commission would ultimately become the European Union. At that moment, Schuman stated, “Europe will not be made all at once or according to a single plan. It will be built through concrete achievements which first create a *de facto* solidarity.” Nearly 50 years later, this solidarity would drive the development of the EU’s motto, “United in Diversity.” The 70th anniversary of the Schuman Declaration provides us with the opportunity to explore the political, social, cultural, and geographical forces that have given shape to contemporary Europe and have contributed creative answers to what it means to be European.

The conversation was moderated by Dr. [Jae-Jae Spoon](#), Director of the European Studies Center at the University of Pittsburgh. Four experts joined in the discussion, including [Androula Vassiliou](#), Former European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism, and Youth; [Johan Fornäs](#), Professor Emeritus of Media and Communication Studies, Södertörn University; [Susannah Eckersley](#), Senior Lecturer in Media, Culture, and Heritage, Newcastle University; and [Michal Friedman](#), Jack Buncher Endowed Chair in Jewish Studies, Carnegie Mellon University.

- To watch Sept. 17, 2020 “United in Diversity” video, [click here](#)
- To view Fall 2020 Program, [click here](#)



## Virtual Conversations on Europe Fall 2020



### Oct. 15, 2020: “Cultural Diversity and Inclusive Community Building in Germany”

The second virtual roundtable of the “Europe Creating Europe” series focused on cultural diversity in Germany and how the European nation has aimed to create inclusive community building. Three panelists discussed successes, failures, and the future of Germany’s diverse communities. Thirty years after reunification, Germany’s population and society have become increasingly more diverse. According to the German statistical office, in 2019, nearly 28% of Germany’s 83 million people and 8% of the German parliament members have a migrant background. The female employment rate in Germany is 70%, which is over 10% higher than the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) average. However, the gender pay gap is 17%, which is higher than the OECD average. Women make up 30.9% of members in parliament today. Same-sex marriage was legalized in Germany in 2017, and that year, a law was passed to give same-sex couples full adoption rights. The general act on equal treatment passed in 2006 bans discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in employment, education, health services, and the provision of goods and services.

The roundtable conversation put these statistics into context and further discussed their implications on cultural diversity and inclusive community building in Germany. Moderated by Dr. Jae-Jae Spoon, the experts that contributed to the topic were: [Rahsaan Maxwell](#), Professor, Department of Political Science, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; [Danny Choi](#), Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Pittsburgh; [Kai Unzicker](#), Senior Project Manager, Bertelsmann Stiftung; [Louise K. Davidson-Schmich](#), Professor of Political Science, University of Miami

► To watch Oct. 15, 2020 *Cultural Diversity and Inclusive Community Building in Germany* video, [click here](#)

### Nov. 19, 2020: “Cementing the Boundaries of Frenchness”

In focus on France, the third Conversation on Europe was held on November 19 and cast a light on the utopia of a color-blind French Republic.

The role of identity in France is complicated. Officially, France is color-blind, not recognizing differences based on race or ethnicity. The French government does not collect statistics on race or ethnicity, as all citizens are equal in the state’s eyes. However, in reality, race and ethnicity are seen, and not all groups are created equally. The term state racism has been used by some in France, although not without controversy. In addition, in its efforts at treating citizens equally before the law, these challenges have made it difficult for those of minority racial or ethnic groups, many of whom are immigrants, to find their place in France.

To help better understand the complicated issue of race and ethnicity in the French context and what it means to be French in the 21st century, the panel, moderated by Dr. Jae-Jae Spoon, addresses race/ethnic relations in France today from different perspectives.

The experts that convened the roundtable were:

- [Jean Beaman](#), Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of California Santa-Barbara;
- [Cécile Evers](#), Visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Pomona College;
- [Zsuzsanna Fagyal](#), Associate Professor of French and Italian, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign;
- [Christina Horvath](#), Senior Lecturer in French Literature and Politics, University of Bath.

► To watch Nov. 19, 2020 *Cementing the Boundaries of Frenchness*, [click here](#)





## Conversations on Europe Fall 2020



Christian Albrekt Larsen



Grete Brochmann



Frank Martela



Guy Peters

### Dec. 3, 2020: "The Scandinavian Model: Social Cohesion, Cultural Diversity, and Trust in Institutions in Northern Europe."

Our third and last Conversation of Fall 2020 took place on December 3. Four panelists tackled the issue of the Scandinavian Model.

The countries of northern Europe have long been identified by a set of policies and programs set up in the 1930s, often referred to as the Nordic or Scandinavian model.

The Scandinavian model emphasizes a mixed economy, comprehensive welfare state, and collective responsibility. All citizens enjoy high-quality social services, which typically include free education and healthcare, as well as generous pensions for retirees. The Nordic countries have comparatively low levels of income inequality. Furthermore, they rank highly on the United Nations Human Development Index on Gender Equality. According to Transparency International, they have very low levels of corruption. Citizens have high levels of trust in each other and institutions and are generally satisfied with their lives. However, this model is being challenged by the rise of far-right populist parties and increasing immigration. This situation raises the questions of whether and how the model can survive, what we can learn from the Nordic model, and if it can travel to other countries.

To help us to understand better the Nordic model, its implications, and challenges, four experts joined to discuss the topic, moderated by Dr. Jae-Jae Spoon. The panelists were: [Grete Brochmann](#), Professor of Sociology, Department of Sociology and Human Geography, University of Oslo, Norway; [Frank Martela](#), Aalto University, Finland; [Christian Albrekt Larsen](#), Professor, Department for Economics, Politics and Public Administration, Aalborg University, Denmark; [Guy Peters](#), Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Pittsburgh

The four virtual conversations were well attended by students and faculty from interdisciplinary programs. The MFJMC at FIU is looking forward to participating again this Spring 2021.

*By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*



► To watch Dec 3, 2020 *The Scandinavian Model* video, [click here](#)

► To view Spring 2021 Program, [click here](#)

January 28 – "Creating Europe Through Crisis"

February 18 – "Creating Europe Through the Built Environment"

March 18 – "Creating Europe Through Multilingualism"

April 15 – "Creating Europe Through Creative Europe"



## Lady Blanka Rosenstiel Lecture Series

### Webinar: History of Poland in Time Magazine Covers

Wednesday, Oct 28, 2020



Dr. Alvin Fountain II, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland



Polish Ambassador to the U.S. Piotr Wilczek



Dr. Alvin Fountain II, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland

In October, we celebrated the Polish American Heritage Month in the US. For this reason, on October 28, the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, along with the American Institute of Polish Culture, Inc, the Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Poland in Miami, the Ruth K. and Shepard Broad Distinguished Lecture Series, and the Václav Havel Program for Human Rights and Diplomacy, invited Dr. **Alvin (Mark) Fountain II**, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland in North Carolina, to lecture on the history of this country.

Mr. **David J. Kramer**, Director of the European and Eurasian Studies Program and Senior Fellow of the Václav Havel Program for Human Rights and Diplomacy, moderated this event. He pointed out that Poland has been at the center of many key historical events in the past century; among them, the German invasion of Poland that started World War II, the years of Communist tyranny, Lech Walesa and liberation through the Solidarity movement, and the birthplace of Pope John Paul II. His Excellency **Piotr Wilczek**, Poland's Ambassador to the United States, gave the opening remarks. He noted that pivotal events in world history are inspired both by great individuals as well as great social movements. These covers and this lecture are reflections on the Polish legacy.

Dr. Alvin (Mark) Fountain II elaborated on his study of the Time magazine covers. He has examined the occasions when Poland, in one way or another, has been featured on Time magazine's cover, and he has compiled a fascinating visual timeline that tells the story of many of Poland's different chapters. During the lecture, Dr. Fountain II presented his detailed work covering the most important events that have shaped Polish history, as well as its influence worldwide. Furthermore, based on the covers, he addressed some aspects of the relationship between Poland and the US.

This fascinating lecture was followed by engaging discussions, comments, questions, and answers from the audience.

This webinar kicked off the 2020-2021 season of the Blanka Rosenstiel Lecture Series on Poland.

*By Ernesto Fiocchetto & Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*



► To watch video, [click here](#)

► To view flyer, [click here](#)

► To view panelists' bios, [click here](#)





## Lady Blanka Rosenstiel Lecture Series

### Webinar: Shifting Political Landscapes in Europe: Poland's Role

Monday, Nov. 16, 2020



Lady Blanka Rosenstiel, Hon. Consul of the Republic of Poland in Miami

H.E. Piotr Wilczek, Polish Am.to the US

On November 16, the European & Eurasian Studies Program hosted a new edition of the Blanka Rosenstiel Lecture Series on Poland. This time, the event focused on the crucial role that Poland plays in the current shifting political landscape. Lady Blanka Rosenstiel, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland in Miami, welcomed the audience and thanked the guest speaker and the organizers of this event.

Mr. **David J. Kramer**, Director of the European and Eurasian Studies Program and Senior Fellow of the Václav Havel Program for Human Rights and Diplomacy, introduced the lecture. He described how the past decade has been a tumultuous period in Europe. From Brexit to Russia's invasion of Ukraine to the controversy over immigration and the COVID-19 pandemic, the political landscape in Europe has undergone major challenges. Poland's emergence as a significant player in Europe has coincided with concern about democratic backsliding on the Continent.

To address this important topic, his Excellency **Piotr Wilczek**, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to the United States, introduced our guest speaker, Dr. **Norman Davies**, Honorary Fellow at St Antony's College in Oxford. Dr. Davies is a renowned expert in European history and Professor Emeritus of the University of London. His Excellency Piotr Wilczek stressed that his best-selling books have been instrumental in shaping public opinion in the West

with regards to Polish history and culture.

Dr. Davies started his lecture with a personal experience that helped the audience realize the shifting landscape of Europe and the role of Poland in it. "In my lifetime, the political landscape of Europe has shifted beyond recognition. I was born in 1939, just before the Second World War. The British Empire was still the largest state in the world; the USA was still a giant waiting to be aroused. Franco ruled Spain; Mussolini, Italy; Adolf Hitler, the Third Reich; and Joseph Stalin, the Soviet Union. Poland had just been given a useless guarantee of its independence by Britain during the war." Our guest speaker masterfully covered the changes Europe suffered from that time on and highlighted the meaningful role of Poland then and now.

After the presentation, there was a time for the comments and questions of the attendants, who posted their insights on the virtual platform.

We want to thank the Co-Sponsors of this wonderful event, including the American Institute of Polish Culture, Inc., the Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Poland in Miami, the Václav Havel Program for Human Rights and Diplomacy, and the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence.



- ▶ To watch video [click here](#)
- ▶ To view flyer. [click here](#) |
- ▶ To view panelists' bios, [click here](#)



## THE FALL OF THE BERLIN WALL



### A Conversation with Honorable Andreas Siegel, Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Miami



**Hon. Andreas Siegel, Consul General  
of the Federal Republic of Germany in Miami**

Andreas Siegel, the Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Miami, sat down for an interview with the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence at FIU to discuss the 31<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall, which will be celebrated on Monday, Nov. 9, 2020. He also reflected on the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of German reunification and transatlantic ties.

**MFJMCE: You were born in Berlin and grew up about half mile from the Wall. In a few words, could you tell us what the Fall of the Berlin Wall means to you?**

It evokes a sentiment of immense joy and gratitude! The Fall of the Wall is one of the most significant events of the 20<sup>th</sup> century! It finally led to a unified Europe, which had been divided by an “iron curtain” since the end of WW II.

From a personal perspective, the wall has been a determining factor of my life: I grew up on a small, but rather diverse political “island”, which cut our family off from the surrounding areas. But it meant also being exposed not only to West German media but also to those of the East as well as to British, French and US media, such as the American Forces Network (AFN). That, in addition to a number of visits to East Berlin and East Germany (the GDR), allowed me to compare views and perspectives and to do a reality check.

The role of the US for stabilizing the situation in Berlin and preserving the well-being of the West-Berlin population in times of crisis can hardly be overstated: in 1948/49 the US-led airlift saved the population from starving, when the Soviet Union had cut off all land, rail and water connections to and from West Berlin. President John F. Kennedy assured Berliners of US solidarity after the Berlin Wall had been built. In 1987, President Ronald Reagan requested – once more - to tear it down. And after the fall of the Wall, President George H. W. Bush and Foreign Secretary James Baker made sure all the Western Allies endorsed the path towards unification. All this was key to where we are today.

**MFJMCE: What happened the day the Berlin Wall fell?**

It was one of the lucky days of History, where things did not work out as the East German regime had expected. In a nutshell: the Fall of the Wall was caused by bad communication and bad management on the Eastern side. On the one hand: a press conference concerning a Politbuero decision about removing travel restrictions for East Germans turned into a political satire and a catastrophe for the East German regime: the spokesperson of the Politbuero, Schabowski, had not participated in the meeting and just read out a press release given to him. Asked about the date of entry into force of the new regulations, he mumbled: “Right away, immediately...”. He had not read the reverse side of the paper, specifying that this needed further administrative preparation of at least 24 hours. As the news were quickly repeated in the daily news of the western television (watched by many East Germans), many East Berliners went to check the situation at the border control points, which, until then, had allowed for one-way crossing only. Another important factor for the rapid acceleration of events was the fact that the whole hierarchy of the Politbuero was apparently out of reach that evening (no mail, no social media communication being available at the time) and no instructions had been sent to the border guards. So the situation got more and more agitated until one border guard, after many failed attempts to get instructions, lifted the barrier. A few hours later, and the whole night of the 9<sup>th</sup> of November, 1989, tens of thousands of East Berliners and East Germans went on a “sneak visit” to West Berlin, which had been closed for them for 28 years.



# THE FALL OF THE BERLIN WALL

A Conversation with **Andreas Siegel**  
 Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Miami



**MFJMCE: We just celebrated the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the German reunification of East and West Germany on Oc. 3<sup>rd</sup>, almost one year after the fall of the Berlin Wall. What is the significance of unification in the collective memory?**

Many observers say that the past 30 years have been “the best 30 years Germany – and Europe - has had so far”. Others point to the fact, that the unification process was “not perfect” and too quick to take into account also some positive achievements of the East. The fact is that it had to happen very quickly after the opening of the border because of the free movement of persons and the immense economic imbalance, which would have caused a mass exodus of the East. And because sovereignty and security issues of a united Germany required the rapid agreement of all 4 victorious powers of WW II as well as the neighboring countries. As it happened, the small window of opportunity was used very well: within 11 months after the Fall of the Wall, German Unity was formally established, after very intense months of debates and negotiations.

**MFJMCE: How has unification changed politics and German political parties?**

As an immediate effect, the political spectrum moved to the left: a number of supporters and nostalgics of the former East German regime united in a successor party to the “Socialist Unity Party” (SED), later to be named “DIE LINKE” (“The Left”). Over time, it became apparent that the rise of populism in Europe and the world also favored the rise of right-wing, mostly anti-immigration parties, the biggest in Germany being the “Alternative for Germany” (AFD), a party which has its stronghold in the former East Germany. Unfortunately, these political currents have also entailed a number of anti-Semitic hate speeches and crimes. It needs to be noted that the East German regime had always refused to take responsibility for the Holocaust and the racism of the Nazi regime so that Holocaust remembrance and education had mainly been a West German phenomenon. Having said that, the left-wing and right-wing (ultra-conservative) parties have been represented at regional and federal Parliaments for many years now, to some extent reflecting political trends in surrounding countries in Europe. The traditional “mainstream” parties (CDU, SPD, FDP, Greens) however still represent 70% of the seats in the Federal Parliament (Bundestag).



More information on Celebrating the fall of the Berlin Wall from the German Embassy in Washington D.C. :  
<https://www.germany.info/us-en/welcome/berlinwall>

# THE FALL OF THE BERLIN WALL

## A Conversation with Andreas Siegel

### Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Miami



#### **MFJMCE: Are there still differences between the East and the West?**

Yes, but there are also many differences between cities and rural areas, between high tech and traditional industrial areas in the Western Länder.

In the first 5 years after unification, industrial productivity in the East grew by about 100%. Equally: income growth and massive infrastructure investments helped to transform many parts of East Germany into attractive hubs (Dresden, Leipzig). One East German social institution definitely has had a lasting impact: the kindergarten. The network of childcare facilities per capita had been double of the density in the West. With increasingly more women working in the west and more single parents, this trend has very much strengthened in the West. Some Eastern cities have also developed into cultural hubs (like Dresden, Weimar, Leipzig, East Berlin). Weimar was chosen as a European Capital of Culture in 1999, the Saxonian city of Chemnitz will shortly be declared European Capital of Culture for the year 2025.

#### **MFJMCE: How is unified Germany viewed by its neighbors?**

Immediately after unification, the high consumer demand and infrastructure needs in the former East German regions generated, over several years, an additional GDP growth of EU members of about 1%. In the meantime, the situation has largely “normalized”, and the unified Germany is widely accepted as a key

Member State. Germany has always made clear that its true identity is Europe, working very closely also with France, as a “tandem”, wherever possible. With the single market, Schengen and the Euro as well as the European Union, this has increased Germany’s role and economic strength and also its “soft power”: The Soccer World Cup in 2006, hosted by unified Germany, became known as the “summer fairy tale”, even though Germany did not make it to the finals. But many people revised their preconceptions of a “typical German”, often connotated with discipline and seriousness, and witnessed a relaxed, friendly and hospitable nation. The stable political leadership by Chancellor Merkel since 2004, the economic strength and the widely accepted social model (with strong trade unions, well-developed public transport, health insurance coverage etc.) have earned Germany a lot of respect.

#### **MFJMCE: What drastic changes have you seen in Berlin since the Fall of the Wall?**

Foreigners today do not recognize any more where exactly the Wall used to be. Considerable reconstruction (including the central Berlin castle, now: “Humboldt Forum”, an agora of international cultural dialogue) and restructuring of the Eastern downtown area have made this center a new economic, administrative and cultural hub, attracting millions of tourists and young professionals. A big challenge has been to reconnect and strengthen the public transport



# THE FALL OF THE BERLIN WALL

A Conversation with **Andreas Siegel**  
**Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Miami**



system, in particular the east-west links. A new central railway station has been open since 2006. Now, after some complications, a new airport was just opened a few days ago as well.

Overall, Berlin has become one of the most vibrant cities in Europe, a real magnet, in particular for young people from all over the world.

**MFJMCE: What has been the relationship between the West and the East Berliner since then?**

By now, the city has become very much one big city and is very diverse, with constant movement of popular quarters from one district to another. There are many foreigners and West Germans in Berlin too, contributing, among others, to a steep increase of real estate prices, but also to an ever-expanding cultural life, with 3 opera houses, the philharmonic building, numerous theatres, cinemas and museums,... and around 10.000 pubs, bars and restaurants.

**MFJMCE: We have a large German population here in Miami and Florida. The partnership between the United States and the European Union is essential. Could you tell us a few words on strengthening our partnership? What are Germany's main connections to Miami?**

The Fall of the Wall and German Unification are indeed always an opportunity to remember, with

gratitude, the strong transatlantic ties we have had over the past 75 years. Pieces of the Wall in Miami, like the one in front of the central campus of the Miami Dade College, are a reminder of this friendship. Altogether, there are approximately 200.000 Germans in Florida, with about 450.000 additional tourists coming every year. Germany has become the 3<sup>rd</sup> biggest job creator in the US and in Florida. In particular in times of pandemic and economic uncertainty it is appropriate to rethink and enhance economic, academic and cultural cooperation. One way forward could be to consider new ways to use the good experience of German dual vocational training for workforce development in Florida. A key asset to increase mutual understanding and cooperation is to strengthen German as a foreign language in the curricula of schools and colleges. It is a big door opener for various opportunities.

**MFJMCE: Do you have any last thoughts you would like to share with us?**

I will never forget the wonderful story of German-American friendship after WW II, the Marshall Plan, the unprecedented Berlin Air Lift and the continuing support and friendship up to unification and beyond. Today, we can do even more to build the future and face new challenges together: Florida and Germany: **Wunderbar together!**

*By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*



## THE FALL OF THE BERLIN WALL

### A Conversation with Andreas Siegel Consul General of the Federal Republic



**Andreas Siegel, Consul General of Germany in Miami**  
In front of a piece of the Berlin Wall that is preserved at the Wolfson Campus in Miami Dade College—Miami



**Andreas Siegel**  
**Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Miami**

**Andreas Siegel** is a career diplomat with a broad range of international experience in strategic, political, economic and cultural affairs. He holds both a (postgraduate) diploma of the College of Europe, Bruges/Belgium and a Master degree of French, English and American literature/linguistics of the University of Freiburg/Germany.

Andreas has had a long-time connection and affinity with the United States: he was an AFS exchange student in Michigan during the Bi-Centennial year 1975/1976. In the early 1990ies he served as a Vice-Consul at the German Consulate General in Boston, Mass.

Before coming to Florida in July 2019, Andreas headed the German Consulate General in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Prior to that he was Head of the Strategic Planning Division for External Cultural Policy in the Directorate General for Culture and Communication at the Federal Foreign Office in Berlin.

From 2010 to 2013 he was posted in Brussels/Belgium as First Counsellor at the Permanent Representation to NATO, coordinating in particular arms control and counter-terrorism matters. Prior to this, he worked for 6 years in Strasbourg/France, first as Deputy Chief of Mission at the Permanent Representation to the Council of Europe (CoE), then – on leave from the Foreign Service – as Director of Strategic Planning, reporting directly to the Secretary General of the CoE. From 2001 to 2004, Andreas led a working unit in the European Directorate General in Berlin, serving as the German spokesperson for European cultural policy and coordinating German cross-border cooperation with neighboring countries.

During the first years of his career, Andreas occupied two posts in (the then capital) Bonn and three abroad: after two years of diplomatic training, he started off as a desk officer for Poland at the Foreign Office to move on to Boston/USA as Vice-Consul. He then spent three years in Lilongwe/Malawi (South-Eastern Africa) as Deputy Head of Mission and Chargé d'affaires. Back to Bonn, he worked at the Federal Chancellery, dealing with international strategic issues. Another assignment led him to Rabat and Casablanca/Morocco, where he served as Head of the economic section of the Embassy and Consul General, respectively.





## THE FALL OF THE BERLIN WALL

A lucky moment in history, paving the way  
towards German & European Unification

A conversation with witnesses



Andreas Siegel



Gunnar Aguila-Röhr



Susanne Zwingel



Stephan Schürer

On the eve of the commemoration of the Fall of the Berlin Wall, on Nov. 9, Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Miami, **Andreas Siegel**, joined German witnesses **Mr. Gunnar Aguila-Röhr**, **Dr. Susanne Zwingel**, Associate Professor, Department of Politics & International Relations, Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs, FIU; and **Dr. Stephan Schürer**, Professor, Department of Molecular and Cellular Pharmacology, Miller School of Medicine, University of Miami, for a virtual discussion on the Fall of the Berlin Wall.

David Kramer, Director, European and Eurasian Studies Program; and Senior Fellow, Václav Havel Program for Human Rights and Diplomacy, Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs, FIU., moderated the panel discussion.

During the conversation, the panelists shared their experiences during that crucial time in history, which opened the door towards German unification.

This event was possible thanks to the Ruth K. Shepard Broad Distinguished Lecture Series at the Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs, the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Miami, the European & Eurasian Studies Program, and the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence.

We would like to sincerely thank all of the panelists for sharing their experiences and their expertise on this important event.

*By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*



David Kramer



**To watch video:** The Fall of the Berlin Wall: A conversation with witnesses, [click here](#)



## The 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Paris Agreement Conversation with Honorable Laurent Gallissot Consul General of France in Miami



Hon. Laurent Gallissot  
Consul General of France in Miami



Laurent Gallissot, the Consul General of France in Miami, sat down for an interview with the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence at FIU to discuss the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Paris Agreement, which will be celebrated on Saturday, Dec. 12, 2020. He also reflected on what can be done in Miami to combat sea-level rise and climate change, and to protect the environment.

**MFJMCE: The Paris Agreement formally entered into force on November 4, 2016. In a few words, can you tell us what the Paris Agreement is, and what the countries involved are?**

The Paris Climate Agreement aims to fight global warming. It is a universal roadmap for a possible better future encouraging States to **cut greenhouse emissions by half by 2030** and to **end carbon neutral by 2050**.

In a nutshell, its main objectives are:

- 1/ to engage its 194 countries to agree on legally binding climate targets;
- 2/ to set a limit to global warming to 1.5-2 degrees Celsius compared to the current further global warming of 3 degrees and to reach a zero-carbon world, which means that our global economies would have zero net emissions by 2050.

The Agreement has been regarded as one of the most successful and the most rapidly ratified agreement in history: for the first time, countries joined forces to get a universal agreement. **188** (now that the U.S is temporarily out) **have** already **ratified it** into their national law, making it for them **legally binding**. For more information about the Parties to the Convention and the Status of Ratification, you can consult the UNFCCC website here: <https://unfccc.int/process/the-paris-agreement/status-of-ratification>.

Each and every single country's role in this agreement is crucial: from big polluters, whose engagement is essential in order to get a quick impact on current emissions, to islands countries and emergent countries that are particularly exposed to the consequences of centuries of uncontrolled industrialized growth.

There is an "esprit de Paris": Policymakers, the civil society, and business leaders do all agree that teamwork is key to achieve results.

**MFJMCE: What is the role of France in the Paris Agreement?**

France has constantly worked to raise the "mitigation" bar and to increase EU's climate ambition as well as all parties involved.

*By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*





## The 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Paris Agreement Conversation with Honorable Laurent Gallissot Consul General of France in Miami



Within the European Union, France advocates for **at least 55% net reduction of emissions in 2030** compared to 1990 levels. On December 10 and 11, 2020, the European Council, will review climate change engagements and will hopefully agree on new ambitious targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. **It will confirm EU leading-by-example role.**

On December 12<sup>th</sup>, which marks the **5th anniversary of the adoption of the Paris Agreement**, France will convene a **UN Climate Ambition Summit** to strengthen its international cooperation.

Because **France believes also in a bottom up approach putting the young generation at the forefront**, we are also engaged with the civil society by supporting local initiatives and organizations that are – for instance – part of the **Citizen's Climate Convention**.

The 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary serves as a springboard to raise awareness and transform words into actions.

**MFJMCE: Can you tell us what the status of the Paris Agreement is now?**

2020 is an important milestone. The Paris Agreement asks its States parties to set every 5 years a more ambitious target in order to reach the global goal.

It is a time to review the existing rules and identify successes and failures: on finance capacity, technological innovation, and emission reductions.

States parties have to communicate their new Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) by December 31st, 2020. On that basis, a platform dedicated to countries' commitments and summary reports will be launched in 2021.

**MFJMCE: What obligations do countries have under the agreement to reduce their emissions?**

Countries that have ratified the agreement are legally bound to take action for:

- 1 – Making sure to push back the temperature rise to below 2° Celsius (above pre-industrial levels) by 2030 and reach carbon neutrality by 2050;
- 2 – Improving their reduction of greenhouse emissions.

**MFJMCE: How did the Paris conference engage stakeholders such as states, cities, and business?**

What is amazing with the Paris Agreement, is that it has spread what has been called « the spirit of Paris », namely bringing together not only the international community and individual states but also as you named them cities, businesses, and communities.

**« Think global, act local » takes on its full meaning.** In the United States for example, public leaders, private organizations, and private industries committed themselves to reduce their own negative footprints on climate. Emissions were reduced by 15%! Still more than 10% points below the 2015 U.S. goals of reduction levels by 2025, but it marks a real improvement.



## The 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Paris Agreement Conversation with Honorable Laurent Gallissot Consul General of France in Miami



**MFJMCE: President-elect Biden has promised to rejoin the Paris Agreement once he takes office. What happens next?**

The United States of America have formally withdrawn from the Paris climate agreement on November 4, 2020. Being the second-largest emitter of greenhouse gases in the world, after China, the U.S. is a key player for the success of global climate policies. President-elect Joe Biden has declared that the U.S. will be reentering into the Paris Climate Agreement. The process would take only 30 days after the notification has been sent to the United Nations.

France has already welcomed the nomination of John Kerry as the Special envoy for the Climate; in 2015, he was a key negotiator during the Paris Agreement talks and he speaks perfect French!

This nomination is a great sign of the U.S. comeback on the scene to fight the dire consequences of climate change.

**MFJMCE: What can we do in Miami to combat sea-level rise and climate change, and protect the environment?**

There are numerous projects that are developed locally to mitigate sea-level rise, to protect the coast, fight water pollution, and preserve the beautiful and rich Florida's environment.

Just to name a few:

[Friends of the Everglades](#), who work tirelessly to restore this unique ecosystem,

[Miami Waterkeeper](#), whose mission is to defend, protect, and preserve South Florida's watershed through citizen engagement and community action rooted in sound science and research,

or, the [Sea-Level Solutions Center](#) (which is now part of the FIU Institute of Environment), an interdisciplinary hub of Florida International University, that conducts international research involving experts from all over the world to develop sea level and other climate change-related responses.

Thanks to Mayor Suarez, Miami became also the first city in Florida and 96th in the world to join C40 cities, an international climate organization that helps cities lower their carbon footprint. The Mayor recently lead a climate forum with the local community and this clearly is a proof that Miami is committed to addressing the climate crisis and that projects are moving forward.

**MFJMCE: What else can we do to protect the environment in Miami?**

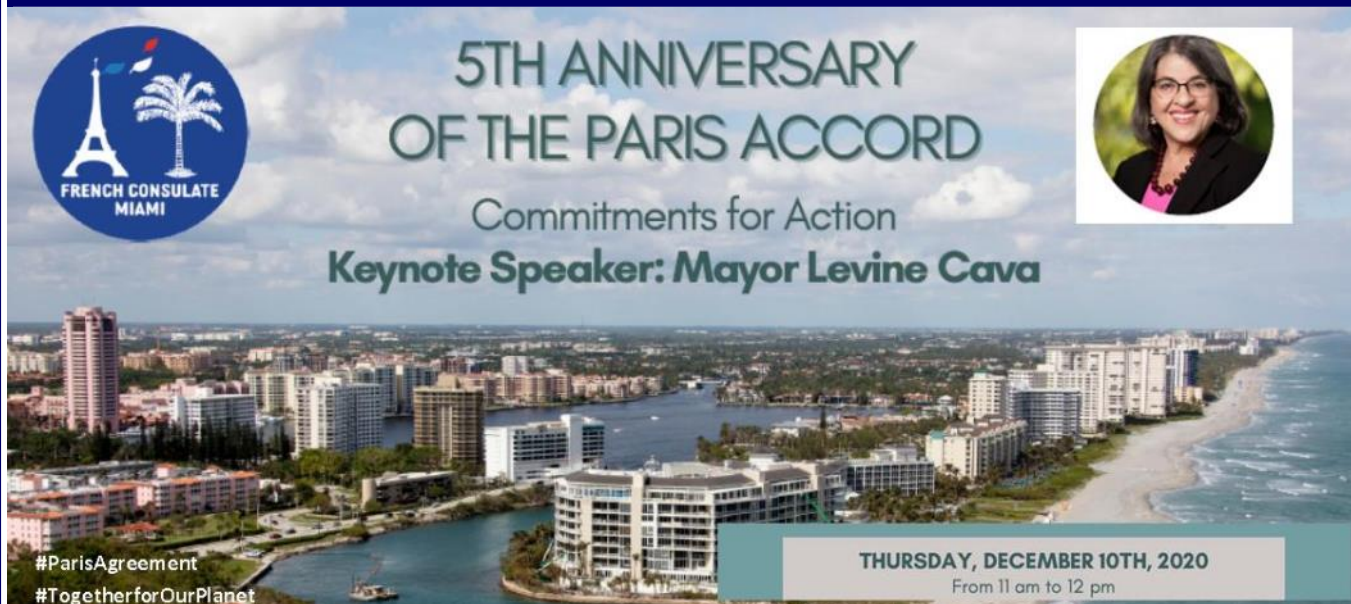
Miami aims to reach carbon-neutrality by 2050 with a mid-term strategy for 2030. Like the other large and populous cities involved in the C40, as Paris is, Miami takes on a pro-active and leading role to show how to transition to a carbon neutral economy that is resilient, innovative and inclusive. Besides the essential issues that are resilience and carbon neutrality, the fight against climate change encompasses also the preservation of biodiversity, another issue of importance in Florida.

The preservation of the biodiversity is directly linked to the wellness of our communities. In Miami and Florida, those are highly dependent on agriculture, fisheries, and tourism.





## The 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Paris Agreement A Conversation with Honorable Laurent Gallissot Consul General of France in Miami



The protection of the environment can no longer wait: invest in green businesses, support local initiatives, and get people involved! Protecting the environment is an everyday business and everyone can and has to participate: from households to businesses.

**MEUCE: We have a large French population here in Miami and Florida. The partnership between the United States and the European Union is essential. Do you think that the Biden administration will bring a change in the relationship between France and the United States in terms of environmental policies?**

By 2021 both our countries will have common ambitions in terms of environmental policies. We want to strengthen our cooperation with the U.S. to promote ambitious environmental policies at the global level.

I cannot finish this interview, without talking about the current health crisis. The Covid-19 pandemic has pushed France to associate its plans for the climate to the post-Covid-19 economic recovery (« France relance ») with two main pillars that are social justice and environmental justice.

**MFJMCE: Do you have any last thoughts you would like to share with us?**

I invite you to participate in our Climate Action webinar and to get in touch with us if you are the initiator of a local initiative for climate here in Florida or in the Caribbean!

\*To mark the 5th Anniversary of the Paris Agreement, the Consulate General of France is organizing a webinar addressing Florida's environmental challenges with local solutions on December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 from 11 am to 12 pm with Miami Dade Mayor Daniella Levine Cava as a keynote speaker. ► To register, [click here](#)

And of course, follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [LinkedIn](#) @FranceinMiami.

*By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*



More information on the Consulate General of France in Miami:  
<https://miami.consulfrance.org/-english-> @FranceinMiami





## WEBINAR: The 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Paris Agreement Commitments for Action | Dec. 10, 2020



To mark the 5th Anniversary of the Paris Agreement, the Consulate General of France in Miami organized a webinar addressing Florida's environmental challenges with local solutions on December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 from 11 am to 12 pm with Miami-Dade County's Mayor Daniella Levine Cava as a keynote speaker.

The panelists:

- **Laurent Gallissot**, Consul General of France in Miami;
- **Daniella Levine Cava**, Mayor of Miami-Dade County;
- **Caroline Lewis**, Founder of the CLEO Institute;
- **Todd Crowl**, Director of the Institute of Environment, Florida International University;
- **Diego Lirman**, Associate Professor Marine Biology & Ecology, Rosenstiel School, University of Miami;
- **Véronique Sallin**, Founder of IMG Enterprises Inc. (2020 Woman of the Year in Agriculture in Florida),

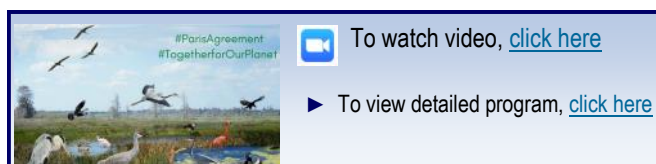
discussed **local solutions to fight climate change and preserve biodiversity.**

Among some of the local initiatives, were mentioned:

- [Miami Waterkeeper](#), whose mission is to defend, protect, and preserve South Florida's watershed through citizen engagement and community action rooted in sound science and research;
- [Friends of the Everglades](#), who work tirelessly to restore this unique ecosystem;
- [Sea-Level Solutions Center](#), at FIU, an international research hub that studies and advocates concrete solutions to fight sea-level rise.

The webinar was moderated by Miami Herald Climate change reporter Alex Harris and organized and hosted by the Consulate General of France in Miami.

*Source from the Consulate General of France in Miami*





## Webinar: On Human Dignity and Identity Observing International Human Rights Day December 10, 2020 | Webinar



The European and Eurasian Studies Program, together with the Václav Havel Program for Human Rights & Diplomacy, the Dorothea Green Lecture Series, the Jewish Museum of Florida – FIU, the African and African Diaspora Studies Program, and the Wolfsonian Public Humanities Lab, co-sponsored a webinar Thursday, Dec. 10 at 2pm on “On Human Dignity and Identity: Observing International Human Rights Day.” This event, hosted by the Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs was to honor International Human Rights Day.

The event, to be introduced by Green School Founding Dean John F. Stack, Jr., and moderated by Martin Palous, Director of the Václav Havel Program for Human Rights and Diplomacy, and David J. Kramer, Director of the European and Eurasian Studies Program and Senior Fellow with the Václav Havel Program for Human Rights and Diplomacy, featured three panelists:

- [Francis Fukuyama](#), Olivier Nomellini Senior Fellow, Stanford University’s Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies (FSI); Mosbacher Director, FSI’s Center on Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law
- [Jacques Rupnik](#), Research Professor, CERI, Sciences Po Paris
- [Nicole Bibbins-Sedaca](#), Professor of Practice and Chair, Global Politics and Security Concentration, Georgetown University

Recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world.” So begins the preamble of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted in 1948 by the UN General Assembly. The concept of human rights as laid out in the Declaration forms the cornerstone of

liberal democracy. But it has been challenged by some who argue that unique historical experience and cultural, religious and civilizational traditions provide better ways to ensure human rights.

And what of identity? How does identity in both its individual and collective dimensions inform an understanding of human rights? Recognition by others is a key driving force of today’s “identity politics” and underscores the basic human need for validation. Are “inherent dignity” and “identity” compatible concepts in a human rights paradigm for the 21st century?

With democracy and human rights under attack from both internal and external challenges, this event was very timely. Both the United States and the European continent are not immune from these threats, as we see from interference in our elections and undermining of our institutions to disinformation and the scapegoating of minority groups. Attacks on our democracy are usually accompanied by efforts to impinge upon fundamental human rights. Protecting these rights and respecting individuals’ dignity help to blunt the rise of populism and demagoguery and preserve the foundations of democracy. In the latest challenge due to the coronavirus, efforts to win the battle with the pandemic must not come at the expense of fundamental human rights. Those living in free societies have an obligation to support those fighting for the exercise of human rights elsewhere.

*By David J. Kramer*



To watch video, [click here](#)

▶ To view flyer, [click here](#)



You can read the latest articles on Democracy written by David J. Kramer, Senior Fellow with the Václav Havel Program for Human Rights and Diplomacy, SIPA; and Director, European & Eurasian Studies Program: [here](#).



## Congratulations to the recipients of the 2020 European & Eurasian Studies Certificates



Recipients of the Spring 2020 European & Eurasian Studies Certificate:  
Juan Miguel Debesa, Christian Sanchez Leon, and Aaron Uranga

### Congratulation Grads!

While we can't gather physically, we can still celebrate the accomplishments of our newest Panther Alumni who graduated this Spring 2020, Summer, and Fall 2020, and obtained their European & Eurasian Studies Certificate.

**The European & Eurasian Studies Program and the MFJMCE would like to congratulate this year's program Graduates:**

### CERTIFICATES IN EUROPEAN & EURASIAN STUDIES

#### Spring 2020 Undergraduate Awardees

- **Juan Miguel Debesa** (BA in History, Minor in International Relations and Certificate in Pre-Modern Cultures)
- **Christian Sanchez Leon** (BA in Criminal Justice, Minor in International Relations & Political Science)
- **Aaron Uranga** (BA in International Relations & Political Science)

#### Summer 2020 Undergraduate Awardees

- **Brian Nascimento** (BA in International Relations)
- **Michael Mare** (BA in Political Science & International Relations; Minor in Philosophy)
- **Sarah Wolken** (BA in International Relations; Minors in Political Science and in Asian Studies)

#### Fall 2020 Graduate Awardee

- **Victor Lopez**  
(Master in International Relations)



Graduate Awardee Fall 2020: Victor Lopez



### UNDERGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN EUROPEAN & EURASIAN STUDIES

- The undergraduate European & Eurasian Studies Certificate program is open to all who have an interest in any aspect of European civilization, past or present.
- It is an interdisciplinary program that draws on a broad range of courses from throughout FIU to complement a student's own interests.
- Approved study-abroad courses, including those offered by the Honors College, may be accepted for certificate credit.
- The certificate program is only open to all degree-seeking students enrolled at FIU.
- Since Spring 2001, 244 Students obtained their Certificates in European & Eurasian Studies.

#### Requirements

**The program requires 15 credits hours (5 courses) from at least 3 departments, distributed as follows:**

#### ► Language Requirements (3 credits)

One course in a European language at the intermediate (2000) level or above.

#### ► Breadth Requirement (12 credits)

- **Three courses at 3000-level or above**, not all of which can be in either Social Science or in Humanities.
- Courses must be from an approved list published in the class schedule each term, or else contain substantial European content and approved by the Director. Such courses are offered by the Departments of:
  - Art and Art History,
  - Economics,
  - English, Environmental Studies,
  - History,
  - Humanities,
  - International Relations,
  - Modern Languages,
  - Philosophy,
  - Political Science,
  - and Religion, among others.

► For more information on the program, visit the following page:  
<http://europe.fiu.edu/certificate-programs/undergraduate-advising/>

### GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN EUROPEAN & EURASIAN STUDIES

► For more information on the requirements, visit the following page:  
<https://europe.fiu.edu/certificate-programs/graduate-certificate-program/requirements/>







## European & Eurasian Studies Program Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence



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

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*All of us at the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence and the European & Eurasian Studies Program would like to thank all of our students, faculty, and friends for participating in our virtual events, and we look forward to seeing you virtually next semester.*

### Announcements: Spring 2021



- Jan. 25-29 Holocaust and Genocide Awareness Week
- Jan. 28 Conversation on Europe: Creating Europe Through Crisis
- Fe. 1-5 State of the World 2021—Virtual Conference
- Feb. 18 Conversation on Europe: Creating Europe Through the Built Environment
- March 18 Conversation on Europe: Creating Europe Through Multilingualism
- March 24 MFJMCE Conference: European Union-Middle East Relations in a Changing World
- April 1-3 Virtual Midwest Model EU Competition
- April 15 Conversation on Europe: Creating Europe Through Europe



For details please visit: [miamieuc.fiu.edu](https://miamieuc.fiu.edu) - Events  
or contact Christine I. Caly-Sanchez at [calyc@fiu.edu](mailto:calyc@fiu.edu)

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