



European and Eurasian Studies Program

NEWSLETTER

Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence

Volume 3, Issue 2 — Spring-Summer 2021

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- **Presentation**..... 1
- **Virtual Conference, Roundtable, Panel Discussions**.....2 - 7
 - MFJMCE Roundtable Discussion: EU Human Rights Promotion: Going beyond Europe2-3
 - MFJMCE Conference European Union –Middle East Relations in a Changing World.....4-6
 - Conversation with Philippe Etienne, Ambassador of France to the United States 7
- **Jean Monnet In the USA Webinar Series**..... 8-11
- **Conversations on Europe**.....12-14
- **MEET EU Initiative**..... 15-22
 - International Careers in European Diplomacy..... 16-17
 - The Role of Lifelong Learning Languages in a Transatlantic Work Context..... 18
 - The Model EU..... 19-20
 - The Brussels-Lux Study Tour.....21
 - Emerging EU Filmmaker Virtual Residency 22
- **Spotlights** 23-28
 - Faculty Curriculum Grant and EU Research Grants 23
 - Interview with Dr. Lukas Danner.....24-26
 - Interview with Ernesto Ficocchetto.....27
 - Presentation by Dr. Heide Castañeda.....28
- **European & Eurasian Studies Program**..... 29
 - Interview with Maryem Viera Cardenas 30
- **Publications** 31-32
- **Interview with Consul General of France**..... 33-34
- **The Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the European Union**.....35
- **Contact info**.....36



SPRING-SUMMER 2021 Highlights



Markus Thiel
Director, MFJMCE



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



David J. Kramer
Director, EESP

Dear friends,

We are happy to share with you our Spring-Summer 2021 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 last six months, we have been able to host a total of 12 virtual events.

Highlights include our panel of experts on EU Human Rights Promotion: Going Beyond Europe; our annual conference on EU-Middle East Relations in a Changing World; our new initiative Getting to Know MEET EU Webinar Series with European Expert Career Panels, the Model EU Competitions; the Conversations on Europe "Europe creating Europe" series with the University of Pittsburgh; the Struggle for Democracy and Human Rights: The Role of Technology and Social Media, a conversation with French Ambassador to the US Philippe Etienne; and the interview on the Franco-American friendship with Consul General of France in Miami, Laurent Gallissot.

We were also active with our EU Jean Monnet in the USA network, where we were able to connect with experts on Europe via virtual roundtables for more than thirty-six discussions.

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

We would like to congratulate our 12 students who graduated this Spring semester and obtained their certificates in European & Eurasian Studies.

We would also like to take this opportunity to wish you a safe, and healthy summer, and we are looking forward to seeing you virtually or in person at one of our events this Fall.

Sincerely,

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

#UnitedAgainstCoronavirus
#StrongerTogether

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MFJMCE WEBINAR



EU Human Rights Promotion: Going Beyond Europe | March 4, 2021 | 1-2:30 pm



Dr. Steven D. Roper
Florida Atlantic University



Dr. Karen E. Smith
The London School of Economics and Political Science

On March 4, the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence hosted a virtual roundtable on how the EU's conception of human rights informs its rights promotion efforts with regions outside Europe. The panel highlighted political and diplomatic approaches towards a greater embrace of human rights and examined the major challenges of transferring EU provisions in different cultural and political contexts, including in the UN.

Dr. Markus Thiel, Director of our center, welcomed the audience that joined online from several countries of the EU and different states in the US. He moderated this exciting panel, made up of three experts, including:

- **Dr. Steven D. Roper**
Professor of Political Science
Florida Atlantic University.
- **Dr. Karen E. Smith**
Professor of International Relations,
Head of the Dept. of International Relations
The London School of Economics and Political Science, and Director of the European Foreign Policy Unit.
- **Dr. Markus Thiel**, Associate Professor, Dept. of Politics & International Relations, Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs, and Director of the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence at FIU.

Dr. Steven D. Roper gave an overview of the European Union institutional architecture and its policy related to human rights promotion. He argued that several institutions are involved in EU human rights activities, including the European Council, the Council of the European Union, the Human Rights Working Group, the Parliament, the Commission, the Court of Justice, the European Action Service, the Fundamental Rights Agency, and the Special Representative for Human Rights. Dr. Roper also illustrated with historical examples the advantages and disadvantages of the EU's tools for Human Rights Promotion: persuasion, sanctions, conditionality, and assistance programs. Finally, he highlighted the efforts of the council of Europe and the European Court of Human Rights, the Venice Commission, and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Dr. Karen E. Smith talked about the projection of the EU's external human rights policy. She made three points. First, the EU has tremendous potential to promote human rights internationally. Second, the EU has the potential to attract a larger group of countries to support its policies. Third, the EU is extremely active in human rights debates at the UN.



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



EU Human Rights Promotion: going beyond Europe?

Therefore, it is considered a serious player that is very active across the globe. However, she also discussed the limits of the EU's influence. The EU is not doing a very good job of promoting human rights internally. She illustrated this disjuncture between internal standards and external expectations with several examples. Furthermore, the fact that there are these double standards is noticed by other countries, such as Russia. Therefore, the international promotion of human rights is challenged due to the lack of internal coherence.



Dr. Markus Thiel addressed the issue of Civil Society-EU linkages in international LGBT+ rights promotion. He remarked that the European governments, together with EU institutions, emphasize human and LGBTI rights in their internal and

external policies. However, EU human rights promotion in external relations and among development partners is often contested on the grounds that it challenges sovereignty and goes against prevailing culture. Thus, he discussed the importance of rethinking international rights promotion. In this regard, he highlighted that Civil Society is a crucial rights promoter, but it cannot and should not be the main one. Furthermore, he argued that improvements are contingent on domestic factors interacting with international ones. In conclusion, he suggested that the EU ought to strengthen its internal and refugee rights regime. Similarly, external policies need to be country-targeted, with less conditional pressure and more incentives. Finally, he stressed the need for an intersectional and less narrow policy on rights defenders that takes into account other democracy-sustaining stakeholders.

An engaging discussion between the panelists followed their presentations. The audience that actively participated in the online platform contributed provocative comments and questions that made the roundtable even more interesting.

By Ernesto Fiochetto and Christine I. Caly-Sanchez



To view PPTs, click on the following links:

- ▶ Dr. Steven D. Roper PPT, [click here](#)
- ▶ Dr. Karen E. Smith PPT, [click here](#)
- ▶ Dr. Markus Thiel PPT, [click here](#)



Karen E. Smith, Ph.D.
*Professor of International Relations ; Head of the Dept. of International Relations
London School of Economics and Political Science*

[Karen E Smith](#) is a Professor of International Relations and Head of the Department of International Relations at the London School of Economics and Political Science, and Director of the [European Foreign Policy Unit](#) (within the International Relations Department). She teaches courses on the EU in the World, EU Enlargement, European institutions, and genocide, and supervises PhD students in those areas.

Her main area of research is the 'international relations of the European Union', and she has written extensively on the formulation and implementation of common EU foreign policies. She has examined the EU's pursuit of 'ethical' foreign policy goals such as promoting human rights and democracy, and policy-making within European states regarding genocide. For over a decade she has also analyzed EU-UN relations, and more recently has extended her research to consider the role of other political and regional groups in UN diplomacy. She is now working on a project on women in foreign policy-making.



Steven D. Roper, Ph.D.
*Professor of Political Science
Florida Atlantic University*

Dr. Steven D. Roper is Professor of Political Science at Florida Atlantic University. His research explores the design and the implementation of transitional justice with a focus on conflict resolution mechanisms.

His research examines transitional justice and human rights issues in diverse regions including East Europe and the former Soviet Union, Africa, the Middle East and Southeast Asia. He has held grants from the American Council of Learned Societies, the International Research & Exchanges Board, the Social Science Research Council and was a Fulbright Scholar and Fulbright Senior Specialist.

Dr. Roper has served as a consultant to the US Agency for International Development, US Department of State and the World Bank. In addition to his work in the area of human rights, Dr. Roper has an extensive experience in international education and has served as a consultant on the Bologna process and models of national accreditation. He is the author of four books and over fifty articles and book chapters.

MFJMCE CONFERENCE

European Union-Middle East Relations in a Changing World—March 24, 2021



Dr. Mohiaddin Mesbahi



Dr. Terrence Peterson



Dr. Cemil Aydin



Dr. Naisy Sarduy



Dr. Eugene Rogan



Dr. Juan R. I. Cole

The MFJMCE Conference is an annual event that aims to explore current issues concerning the European Union and its relations with other world regions. Opened to the general public, the 2021 Conference “European Union Middle East: Relations in a Changing World” was a virtual event that tackled diverse aspects of the relationships between the EU and the Middle East. On March 24, our Center brought together experts to examine the opportunities and constraints that exist for the EU to maintain and expand diplomatic and commercial relations with the Middle East while seeking to preserve the transatlantic partnership and promote global stability. The Conference explored how bilateral relations are vital to both regions’ geostrategic and economic interests and how security, human rights, refugee, and other issues produce a complex interrelationship. Three virtual panels with top scholars in this area shed light on the historical context, on joint issues of concern, and on the geopolitics in which EU-Middle East relations are embedded relations.

On the morning of March 24, Dr. Markus Thiel, associate professor in the Department of Politics and International Relations at FIU and Director of the Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, opened the Conference. He thanked our sponsors and co-sponsors, and welcomed the expert panelists.

Then, Dr. Mohiaddin Mesbahi, Founding Director of the Moshin & Fauzia Jaffer Center for Muslim World Studies and Associate Professor at the Department of Politics & International Relations at FIU, gave the opening remarks.

The **first panel** helped the audience make sense of the complex history and the geopolitical environment of the EU-Middle East relations. Dr. Naisy Sarduy, Instructor at the Department of Politics and International Relations at FIU, moderated the discussion between the experts on EU-Middle East history, including Dr. Juan R. I. Cole, Dr. Eugene Rogan, Dr. Cemil Aydin, and Dr. Terrence G. Peterson.

Firstly, Dr. Cole, who is Richard P. Mitchell Collegiate Professor of History at the University of Michigan, adverted some of the historical contexts of EU-Middle East relations by arguing that the history weighs heavily on the Middle Eastern partners in this relationship and not so heavily in the consciousness of the EU itself.

Secondly, Dr. Rogan, Director of the Middle East Centre at St Antony’s College at the University of Oxford, took the floor. He stressed the very different ways in which Europe’s influence in the East is remembered in the region as opposed to the way in which the colonial moment is remembered in the EU. Then, Dr. Aydin, Professor of International and Global History at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, highlighted the role of historians and intellectuals in re-writing the history to remind what happened to different publics.

Lastly, Dr. Peterson, Assistant Professor of the Department of History at FIU, addressed the versatile role of imperialism in the relationship between the two areas. The audience participated in the panel by asking questions and commenting on topics related to the presentations.



► To watch video Panel 1, [click here](#)



MFJMCE CONFERENCE



Dr. Markus Thiel



Dr. Sarah Wolff



Dr. Jessie Abouarab



Dr. Jocelyne Cesari



Dr. Reza Sanati

The **second panel** addressed contemporary issues in EU-Middle East relations. Chaired by the Director of our MFJMCE, Dr. Markus Thiel, the panel was made up of four experts, including Drs. Jocelyne Cesari, Jessie Abouarab, Reza Sanati, and Sarah Wolff.

The experts concentrated on two central topics: (1) Islam and secular Europe and its impact, and (2) their thoughts on the most relevant issues that need to be tackled in bilateral relations today.

Dr. Abouarab, Visiting Assistant Professor of Women's and Gender Studies Center at FIU, was the first speaker. She tackled issues related to the global refugee regime from a feminist lens and how it impacts both the EU internally and the relationship between the EU and the Middle East.

Dr. Cesari holds the Chair of Religion and Politics and is Director of research at the Edward Cadbury Centre for the Public Understanding of Religion at the University of Birmingham. She explored Islam and Muslims in liberal secular democracies.

The next to take the floor was Dr. Reza, a research fellow in the Middle East Studies Center at FIU. His presentation revolved around the contemporary dynamics of EU-Middle East trade.

Lastly, the Director of the Center for European Research at the Queen Mary University of London, Dr. Wolff, spoke about the endeavor of decentering EU foreign policy, the tensions between the religious and the secular, and some gender challenges for the EU. After an exciting debate between the panelists, the public asked thought-provoking questions and made exciting comments.

During the afternoon, the **third panel** revolved around the geopolitics of EU-Middle Eastern relations. Dr. Eric Lob, associate professor in the Department of Politics and International Relations at FIU, chaired the panel.

The five distinguished panelists who gave their insights about this topic were Drs. Antonella Caruso, Mohammad Homayounvash, Robert E. Hunter, Costanza Musu, and Tugrul Keskin.

Dr. Eric Lob pointed out the two questions that the experts' would answer: (1) How are the Europeans balancing and pursuing their economic interests in the region, vis a vis other global powers, such as the US, Russia, and China?; and (2) Have we seen a shift from a value-based EU policy to a more pragmatic geopolitical one? The panelists answered these questions from different perspectives.

Firstly, Dr. Caruso, Founder and Executive Director of LAMEDINA, focused on the countries along the Mediterranean shores.

Then, Dr. Homayounvash, founding Director of the Institute for Interfaith Dialogue and Education at Miami-Dade College, lecturer at the School of International and Public Affairs at FIU, and the Religious Studies Department at the University of Miami, challenged the opposite views between the two regions: from the Middle East perspective, the EU comes across as the original trouble-maker; contrastingly, from the EU perspective, the Middle East is associated with being a region that is prompt to conflict formation dynamics.



▶ To watch video Panel 2, [click here](#)

▶ To watch video Panel 3, [click here](#)

MFJMCE CONFERENCE**European Union-Middle East Relations in a Changing World****Dr. Eric Lob****Dr. Robert E. Hunter****Dr. Mohammad Homayounvash****Dr. Costanza Musu****Dr. Tugrul Keskin**

The third expert that took the floor was the former US Ambassador to NATO, Dr. Robert E. Hunter. He critically addressed the European military interventions and the EU's role in security in the Middle-East region.

Then, Dr. Costanza Musu, associate professor at the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Ottawa, developed an analysis of the two questions posted for this panel from the perspective of liberal interventionism.

Finally, Dr. Tugrul Keskin, Professor and Director of the Center for Global Governance at Shanghai University, examined the role of external powers in the Middle East, including the EU, China, the US, and Russia, and highlighted the particularities of EU in the relationship under discussion. The audience engaged in the conversation by making very interesting questions and comments.

We are proud of this successful event that gathered a large audience of 130 people from the US and the EU.

The event was sponsored by the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence and The Mohsin & Fauzia Jaffer Center for Muslim World Studies at FIU. We also want to thank our co-sponsors, including the Ruth K. Shepard Broad Distinguished Lecture Series, the Steven J. Green School of International & Public

Affairs, the European & Eurasian Studies Program, the Politics & International Relations Department at FIU, and the Jaffer Institute for Interfaith Dialogue and Education at Miami-Dade College.

By Ernesto Fiochetto and Christine I. Caly-Sanchez



- ▶ To view flyer, [click here](#)
- ▶ To view agenda, [click here](#)
- ▶ To view Panelists Bios, [click here](#)
- ▶ To watch entire video, [click here](#)

The Struggle for Democracy and Human Rights

A Conversation with Philippe Etienne, Ambassador of France to the United States | March 25, 2021



David J. Kramer



His Excellency Philippe Etienne

On Thursday, March 25th, 2021, French Ambassador to the U.S., Philippe Etienne, and [David J. Kramer](#), Senior Fellow and Director of the European & Eurasian Studies Program at FIU's Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs, discussed [the Role of Technology and Social Media](#).

During this one-hour conversation, [His Excellency, Philippe Etienne](#), Ambassador of France to the United States, tried to answer several questions linked to this crucial and most pressing issue. Among others:

- To what extent do technology and social media play a role, either positively and/or negatively?
- What are the differences in approach between Europe and the United States?
- How can we work together to address the threats to democracy and human rights around the world?
- What are the best ways to combat extremism and terrorism?
- Where can multilateral efforts contribute to combatting these dangers most effectively?

More than 130 people attended the virtual discussion.

This event was part of the Dorothea Green Lecture Series and the European & Eurasian Studies Program at FIU and was organized in collaboration with the Embassy of France in Washington D.C., the Consulate General of France in Miami, the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, and the FIU's Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs.

By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez



Philippe Etienne Ambassador of France to the United States

Philippe Etienne is the Ambassador of France to the United States.

He previously held numerous posts within the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, notably including Ambassador of France to Romania (2002-2005), Director of the Cabinet of the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs (2007-2009), Permanent Representative of France to the European Union (2009-2014), Ambassador of France to Germany (2014-2017) and most recently, Diplomatic Adviser to the President (2017-2019).

Philippe Etienne is an expert on the European Union and continental Europe. He has held posts in Moscow, Belgrade, Bucharest, Bonn, Berlin and Brussels. He has also served as an adviser in the Cabinet of the Minister of Foreign Affairs on several occasions.

A graduate of the École Normale Supérieure and the Ecole Nationale d'Administration ("Voltaire" Class, 1980), Philippe Etienne also holds the Agrégation (teaching diploma) in Mathematics, has a degree in Economics and is a graduate of the National Institute for Oriental Languages and Civilizations (Serbo-Croatian).

He speaks English, German, Spanish, Russian and Romanian.

He is an Officer of the Legion of Honor and a Commander of the National Order of Merit.



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Jean Monnet In the USA Webinar Series—Spring 2021



January 28, 2021: Reinventing Leadership in the Transatlantic Relationship with Federica Mogherini

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 Spring semester 2021, we were able to connect with distinguished experts on Europe via virtual roundtables for more than thirty-six discussions and open them to our students, faculty, and community at large. Below, you will find the links to some of the video recordings and podcasts.

JANUARY

- **January 26, 2021**
The European Union and Youth Employment
Talk with **Birgit Daiber**, Member of the European Parliament | organized by Colorado European Union Center of Excellence, University of Colorado
▶ To watch video recording, [click here](#).
- **January 26, 2021**
The United Kingdom's Foreign Policy in Post-Brexit
with **Karen Pierce**, UK Ambassador to the United States | organized by the SIS, the Transatlantic Policy Center at American University.
▶ To watch video recording, [click here](#)



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

- **January 27, 2021**
Transatlantic relations After the trump Administration With Federica Mogherini, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs & Security Policy (2014-2019) and Rector College of Europe | Organized by the European Union Studies Center, Graduate Center, the City University of New York. ▶ To watch video recording, [click here](#)
- **January 28, 2021**
Reinventing Leadership in the Transatlantic Relationship With Federica Mogherini, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs & Security Policy (2014-2019) and Rector College of Europe | Organized by the Center for European and Transatlantic Studies/EU Jean Monnet Center of Excellence at Georgia Tech, and The Sam Nunn School of International Affairs, Georgia Institute of Technology ▶ To watch video, [click here](#)

FEBRUARY

- **February 1, 2021**
Race and Policing in the EU | Organized by Berkeley Institute of European Studies, UC Berkeley
▶ To watch video, [click here](#)
- **February 4, 2021**
Brexit Update with Anand Menon | Organized by European Studies Center, University of Pittsburgh
▶ To watch video, [click here](#)
- **February 23, 2021**
Refocusing EU Tourism Post Brexit and COVID-19 with Robert Evans | Organized by: Colorado European Union Center of Excellence
▶ To watch video, [click here](#)

Jean Monnet In the USA Webinar Series



Europe's Green Recovery
Tuesday, March 2, 2021
12-1:30 p.m. EST

Frans Timmermans
Executive Vice-President of the European Commission for the European Green Deal and Commissioner for Climate Action Policy—Netherlands



March 2, 2021: Frans Timmermans

FEBRUARY

- **February 24, 2021**
A conversation with Austrian Ambassador Martin Weiss | Organized by American University Transatlantic Policy Center,
▶ To watch video, [click here](#)
- **February 25, 2021**
A conversation with Swedish Hip Hop artist Jason “Timbuktu” Diakité | Organized by European Union Center, University of Illinois
▶ To watch video, [click here](#)
- **February 25, 2021**
Republican Realism and Ideology in EU Politics with Dr. Dorothee Bohle, European University Institute | Organized by Center for European Union, Transatlantic, and Trans-European Space Studies, Virginia Tech ▶ To watch video, [click here](#)
- **February 26, 2021**
Rights, Representation, and Resources: Gender Equality in Sweden and the EU | EU Day keynote address by **Swedish Ambassador to the US Karin Olofsdotter** | Organized by European Union Center, University of Illinois
▶ To watch video, [click here](#)

MARCH

- **March 1, 2021**
Political Ethnography with a Gender Lens in the Latvian Parliament with Dr. Laura Dean | Organized by Center for West European Studies, University of Washington ▶ To listen to podcast, [click here](#)
- **March 2, 2021**
Europe's Green Recovery with Frans Timmermans | Organized by European Studies Center, University of Pittsburgh
▶ To watch video, [click here](#)

MARCH

- **March 9, 2021**
Symposium: Race, Human Rights, and Populism in Poland: A Symposium
Organized by [European Union Center, University of Illinois](#) ▶ To watch video recording, [click here](#)
- **March 9, 2021**
Europe's Southern Neighborhood: Perception and Actions of Selected EU Mediterranean Member States with Dr. Yannis Stivachtis | Organized by University of Miami Jean Monnet Chair/EU Center and CEUTTSS at Virginia Tech
- **March 10, 2021**
The European Democracy Action Plan and Beyond: What Does the Future of EU Disinformation Policy Look Like? with Dr. James Pamment, Lund University in Sweden | Organized by European Union Center, University of Colorado, Boulder. ▶ To watch video recording, [click here](#)
- **March 12, 2021**
How to Research EU Cultural Policy | Organized by European Studies Center, University of Pittsburgh
- **March 16, 2021**
EU-Russia Relations with Dr. Dina Moulioukova | Organized by University of Miami Jean Monnet Chair/EU Center
- **March 25, 2021**
European Union Relations with its Southern Neighbors with **Dr. Francisco Acosta Soto** | Organized by University of Miami Jean Monnet Chair/EU Center
- **March 30, 2021**
EU-China relations with **Dr. Dina Moulioukova** | Organized by University of Miami Jean Monnet Chair/EU Center



Jean Monnet In the USA Webinar Series



April 6, 2021: Spotlight on the Eastern Mediterranean with Greek and Cypriot Ambassadors to the US



MARCH

- **March 30, 2021**
Capitalist Transformations in East Central Europe since the Great Recession: What Do We Know? What Have We Missed? with **Dr. Dorothee Bohle** | Organized by Center for European Union, Transatlantic, and Trans-European Space Studies, Virginia Tech ► [To watch video, click here](#)
- **March 30, 2021**
Crisis Decision-Making: How COVID-19 Has Changed the Working Methods of the EU Institutions with **Sophia Russack and Drew Fenner** | Organized by University of Florida, Center for European Studies (CES) ► [To watch video, click here](#)
- **March 30, 2021**
Politics as a Tool for Freedom and Education as a Commitment for Equality with **Liliana Rodrigues**, Former Portuguese Member of European Parliament | Organized by Colorado European Union Center of Excellence ► [To watch video, click here](#)

APRIL

- **April 1, 2021**
EU Relations with Africa with **Dr. Edmund Abaka** | Organized by University of Miami Jean Monnet Chair/ EU Center
- **April 6, 2021**
The Human Dimension of Heritage in the EU with **Karolina Nikielska-Sekula**, University of South-Eastern Norway; **Andreas Wiesand**, European Institute of Comparative Cultural Research; **Alexandra Xanthaki**, Brunel University, London | Organized by University of Florida, Center for European Studies (CES) ► [To watch video, click here](#)

APRIL

- **April 6, 2021**
Economic Inequality after the Pandemic
Organized by EU Studies Center, Graduate Center, CUNY ► [To watch video, click here](#)
- **April 6, 2021**
Spotlight on the Eastern Mediterranean with Greek and Cypriot Ambassadors to the US
Organized by American University
► [To watch video, click here](#)
- **April 15 2021**
New Parties in Europe: Formation and Institutionalization of New Parties in EU Member States with **Dr. Kristina Weissenbach** | Organized by Center for West European Studies, University of Washington
- **April 20, 2021**
Success and Challenge for the EU External Cultural Relations with **Guillaume Decot**, European External Action Service; **Damien Helly**, Culture Solutions; **Elke Selter**, SOAS, University of London
Organized by University of Florida, Center for European Studies (CES)
► [To watch video, click here](#)
- **April 22, 2021**
Memory of Holocaust in Poland
Organized by The Center of the Study of the Holocaust, Genocide, and Crimes Against Humanity at the Graduate Center, CUNY
► [To watch video, click here](#)
- **April 22, 2021**
Gender Party in France with **Dr. Amy Mazu**
Organized by UW Center for Global Studies, UW Center for European Studies & EU Center at the University of Washington
► [To listen to podcast, click here](#)



Jean Monnet In the USA Webinar Series



May 5, 2021: Re-inventing the Transatlantic Relationship for the 21st Century with David O'Sullivan

APRIL

- **April 27, 2021**
Anti-Gender Politics and Rightwing Populism in Poland with Dr. Elżbieta Korolczuk
Organized by Center for West European Studies, University of Washington
► To listen to podcast, [click here](#)

MAY

- **May 5, 2021**
Re-inventing the Transatlantic Relationship for the 21st Century with David O'Sullivan, Former EU Ambassador to the U.S.
Organized by Colorado European Union Center of Excellence, University of Colorado
► To watch video, [click here](#)
- **May 13, 2021**
Gender in the European Parliament with **Dr. Petra Ahrens**, Senior Researcher in the ERC-funded research project EUGenDem at the Faculty of Social Sciences at Tampere University, Finland | Organized by UW Center for Global Studies, UW Center for European Studies & EU Center, University of Washington
► To listen to podcast, [click here](#)
- **May 20, 2021**
Pride Amid Prejudice: The Impact of the First Pride in Sarajevo with Dr. Phillip Ayoub, Associate Professor of Diplomacy and World Affairs at Occidental College and Alexander von Humboldt Foundation Fellow in International Security at the Hertie School | Organized by Center for West European Studies, University of Washington
► To listen to podcast, [click here](#)

JUNE

TAKING STOCK OF THE TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONSHIP AHEAD OF KEY SUMMITS

This event is part of an ongoing Sam Nunn Bank of America Policy Forum Series on leadership in the transatlantic relationship

IN THE RUN-UP TO THE NATO SUMMIT, EU-US SUMMIT AND THE US-RUSSIA SUMMIT, THIS PANEL ASSESSES HOW THE TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONSHIP IS DEVELOPING UNDER THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION



Dr. Emma Ashford
Senior Fellow New American Engagement Initiative
Scowcroft Center for Strategy and Security
Atlantic Council



Gen. Philip Breedlove
Distinguished Professor of the Practice
Sam Nunn School of International Affairs



Dr. Alasdair Young
Professor and Neal Family Chair
Sam Nunn School of International Affairs



Dr. Katja Weber
Professor
Sam Nunn School of International Affairs

JUNE 10, 2021 | 12-1:30PM | VIRTUAL EVENT

Georgia Tech | Center for International Strategy, Technology, and Policy

Georgia Tech | Center for European and Transatlantic Studies



- **June 10, 2021**
Taking Stock of the Transatlantic Relationship ahead of Key Summits with :
 - **Dr. Emma Ashford**, the Atlantic Council;
 - **Gen. Phil Breedlove**, Distinguished Professor of the Practice and former Supreme Allied Commander Europe, Sam Nunn School of International Affairs;
 - **Dr. Alasdair Young**, Professor and Neal Family Chair, Sam Nunn School of International Affairs
- Moderated By:
Dr. Katja Weber, Professor, Sam Nunn School of International Affairs | Organized by the Center for European and Transatlantic Studies/EU Jean Monnet Center of Excellence at Georgia Tech, and The Sam Nunn School of International Affairs, Georgia Institute of Technology

By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez



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



Virtual Conversations on Europe Spring 2021



Jae-Jae Spoon



Catherine de Vries



Matthias Matthijs



Daniel Kelemen

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. Using personal and institutional videoconference technology, panelists take questions and interact with audiences from both sides of the Atlantic.

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 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.

In the Spring semester 2021, sessions delved into different attempts to “create Europe through” policy-making, considering cultural policy, development and cohesion funds, language policy, monetary and migration policies, and the Creative Europe framework programme.

The topics in the series included:

- 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”

January 28, 2021: Creating Europe through Crises

This first installment of the Conversations on Europe took place on January 28. Panelists explored how several crises—including financial, Brexit, migration, democratic backsliding, and public health—have shaped the European Union. Over the past decade, the EU and its member states have experienced several crises. Each of these crises impacted the EU and Europe and shaped what Europe is and is not. The panelist helped us understand these crises and the impact on European identity.

The Conversation was moderated by [Dr. Jae-Jae Spoon](#), Director of the European Studies Center at the University of Pittsburgh. Five experts joined in the discussion, including,

- [Dr. Catherine De Vries](#), Dean of Diversity & Inclusion and Professor of Political Science, Bocconi University, Milan;
- [Dr. Sara Wallace Goodman](#), Associate Professor, Political Science, University of California, Irvine;
- [Dr. Stephanie Hofmann](#), Professor and Head of the Department of International Relations & Political Science, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva;
- [Dr. R. Daniel Kelemen](#), Professor of Political Science & Law, Jean Monnet Chair in European Union Politics, Department of Political Science, Rutgers University;
- [Dr. Matthias Matthijs](#), Associate Professor of International Political Economy, Johns Hopkins University.

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

▶ To watch Jan. 28, 2021 “Creating Europe through Crises” video, [click here](#)



Virtual Conversations on Europe Spring 2021



Creating Europe through the Built Environment

February 18, 2021: Creating Europe through the Built Environment

On February 18, the second virtual roundtable of the “Europe Creating Europe” series focused on the built environment. When we consider what Europe is today, we are often drawn to examples based on the built environment from monuments, to bridges, to buildings themselves. The built environment has thus contributed to what it means to be European and raises several important questions regarding this relationship: How does the architecture of EU institutional buildings reflect or express European ideas or identity? Does EU funding for infrastructure projects throughout Europe promote a European identity among EU citizens? How does the EU work to integrate buildings into the circular economy and create a greener Europe?

An interdisciplinary panel from the field of history, policy, and architecture discussed these questions.

Moderated by the Director of Architectural Studies at the University of Pittsburgh, Dr. [Christopher Drew Armstrong](#), the experts that contributed to answering these questions were:

- Dr. [Carola Hein](#), Professor and Head, History of Architecture and Urban Planning, Department of Architecture, Delft Technical University, Netherlands.
- Dr. [Elma Durmisevic](#), Head of the 4D Architects Office in Amsterdam, and Research Associate at the Delft's University of Technology, Netherlands.
- Dr. [John Bachtler](#), Professor of European Policy Studies and a Director of the European Policies Research Centre, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow.



- To watch Feb. 18, 2021 *Creating Europe through the Built Environment* video, [click here](#)
- To see flyer, [click here](#)



Creating Europe through Multilingualism

March 18, 2021: Creating Europe through Multilingualism

In focus on multilingualism, the third Conversation on Europe of the semester was held on March 18. It cast a light on EU language policies and multilingualism within European institutions. In 1958, the first regulation passed by the European Economic Community was about language. It established that the four official languages of the Community of six countries were French, German, Italian, and Dutch. The number of official languages has now grown to 24. In a Union that now constitutes 27 member states, the issue of language is paramount. Language and multilingualism influence politics, policies, policymaking, and identity in diverse ways. Language is complicated: it can unify, but it can also divide; it can depoliticize, but it can also politicize.

To help better understand the complexity of these critical topics, a panel of interdisciplinary experts joined Dr. [Jae-Jae Spoon](#), who moderated the Conversation. The experts that convened the roundtable were:

- Dr. [Katerina Strani-Jefferson](#), Associate Professor and Head of the Cultural Studies Section at the Department of Languages and Intercultural Studies, Heriot-Watt University.
- Dr. [Nils Ringe](#), Professor of Political Science, Jean Monnet Chair and Director of the Center for European Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison.
- Dr. [Michele Gazzola](#), Lecturer in Public Policy and Administration, School of Applied Social and Policy Sc., Ulster University.
- Dr. [Karen McAuliffe](#), Professor in Law and Language, University of Birmingham.



- To watch March 18, 2020 *Creating Europe through Multilingualism*, [click here](#)
- To view flyer, [click here](#)



Conversations on Europe Spring 2021



April 15, 2021: Creating Europe through Creating Europe

For the final session in the Spring series on Conversations on Europe “Creating Europe,” the interactive virtual roundtable discussion revolved around “Creative Europe,” the European Commission’s framework program to support the cultural and audiovisual sector. Of course, culture has long been central to the European project. In fact, Jean Monnet, one of the founders of the European Union, used to say: “If I were to do it again from scratch, I would start with culture.” “Creative Europe” is the embodiment of Monnet’s declaration. This and many other programs in the cultural sector have placed culture and cultural diplomacy as an essential stage in European policymaking.

Experts and practitioners discussed the EU cultural policy, initiative, and governance, the European cultural economy, and the implication of these for European identity. The panel was moderated by Dr. [Jae-Jae Spoon](#), and included:

- Mr. [Ivan Sarar](#), Head of the Department of Culture, City of Rijeka, 2020 European Capital of Culture.
- Dr. [Claske Vos](#), University of Amsterdam
- Dr. [Randall Halle](#), University of Pittsburgh
- Dr. [Philip Schlesinger](#), University of Glasgow.

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

By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez



► To watch April 15, 2021 *Creating Europe through Creating Europe* 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](#)”



MEET EU

an initiative by
UNC-Chapel Hill
University of Pittsburgh
Florida International University

MEET EU INITIATIVE

2021-2022



“MEET EU: Making Encounters, Engaging Transatlanticists” is an initiative bringing EU-focused content to Florida, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania via three university campuses: the Center for European Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the European Studies Center at the University of Pittsburgh, and the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence at Florida International University. The program aims to increase visibility, knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of the European Union amongst youth and K-16 educators nationwide. MEET EU is co-funded by the European Union through a generous Getting to Know Europe (GTKE) grant from the Delegation of the European Union to the United States.

From 2021 to 2022, EU Centers at the UNC-Chapel Hill, Florida International University, and the University of Pittsburgh are launching a range of activities to facilitate a greater understanding of the EU. Each Center is an EU-designated Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, has world-renowned faculty and staff researching and teaching about the EU, and brings decades of experience working with K-16 educators and youth. This project capitalizes on this rich foundation to create and support a broad network of young Americans poised to become future transatlanticists.

The specific objectives of MEET EU are to:

- **Engage** US youth in EU-focused activities outside of the classroom;
- **Reach** US youth with no prior experience with the EU;
- **Increase** EU-US understanding;
- **Create** a diverse network of future transatlanticists;
- **Provide** feedback to the EU Delegation to the US about attitudes toward and understanding of the EU amongst youth.

The MEET EU focuses on **four groups of activities**:

- ▶ **Meet the EU:** [Model EU](#) circuit in the US and EU; [European Expert Career Panels](#)
- ▶ **Teach the EU:** [Brussels-Lux Study Tour](#) for educators; [MEETEU360 Virtual Reality](#) presentations
- ▶ **Create the EU:** [Virtual residency for EU filmmakers](#), [EU Film Festival](#), and [short film competition](#)
- ▶ **Nice to Meet EU:** [Community Road Shows](#)



Among the different activities the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence at FIU is involved, it is in charge of organizing and hosting the 8 European Expert Careers Panels.

During Spring 2021, our Center hosted two MEET EU events, including “International Careers in European Diplomacy: European Perspectives,” and “The Role of Lifelong Learning Languages in a Transatlantic Work Context.”

In the following pages, you will find information about the events, panelists’ bios, and links to the videos.



- ▶ You can find more information about the MEET EU initiative [here](#).



an initiative by
UNC-Chapel Hill,
University of Pittsburgh,
Florida International University

MEET THE EU

International Careers in European Diplomacy



EUROPEAN UNION



On March 4, the MFJMCE organized and hosted a virtual panel as part of the MEET EU initiative. This panel was designed to highlight employment opportunities within European diplomacy, with representatives from the EU Delegation to the USA, the European Parliament Liaison Office in Washington DC, the Consul General of France in Miami, and a US State Department Diplomat in Residence.

Dr. Markus Thiel, the Director of our MFJMCE, welcomed the virtual audience, including over 100 students from across the US. As the moderator of the panel, he highlighted that each panelist was asked to talk about what their positions entail, what entry-position employment opportunities are available, and what kind of skills are needed for prospective applicants.

The opening remarks were made by Mr. Michael Curtis, Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the USA. He spoke about employment opportunities in EU diplomacy that can strengthen and solidify the links and connections between the EU and the US. He shared how he came to be an EU official when he joined the EU Commission in the 1990s. He concluded that now, we are living an exciting time to make a difference for the international order. Thus, he encouraged students and alumni to continue their effort to contribute to the EU-US relationship.

The first panelist was Ms. Maria Belovas, Spokesperson and Head of Press & Public Diplomacy

of the Delegation of the European Union to the USA. She explained that Press & Public Diplomacy aims to reach out to different audiences within the US to explain EU policies and change people's hearts and minds in the long run by showing the presence of the EU in the US. She detailed how she applied for her position, and she highlighted how she discovered that the public sector was interested in her after gaining her degree in public relations. Thus, she shared her labor trajectory from her first job in the Ministry of Economic Affairs in Estonia to her current position.

Mr. Joseph Dunne, the European Parliament Liaison Office Director in Washington DC (EPLO), was the second speaker. He explained that he is an EU official and a national civil servant and diplomat. Mr. Dunne said that his job is to deepen and increase the parliamentary context between the European Parliament and the US Congress. In addition to talking about how he landed in Washington DC, he highlighted the importance for university students of the internship program offered by the European Parliament office.



► To watch video , [click here](#)

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

► To view flyer, [click here](#)



MEET THE EU

International Careers in European Diplomacy



an initiative by
 UNC-Chapel Hill
 University of Pittsburgh
 Florida International University



Laurent Gallissot



Joseph Dunne



Markus Thiel



Michael Curtis



Maria Belovas



Rebecca Krimbell

The next panelist was Hon. Laurent Gallissot, Consul General of France in Miami. He detailed the role of diplomats through engaging slides. He tackled the different perspectives and expectations that different actors in society have regarding diplomats. His effort to show the difference between social and personal expectations and the actual role and responsibilities he has was very illustrative. He exemplified his points with personal experiences, which was very encouraging to the audience.

Lastly, Ms. Rebecca Kimbrell, Diplomat in Residence in South Florida, took the floor. She is a political-coned officer who most recently served as US consul to Lyon, France, from 2016 - 2018. Prior to this, she was deputy director in the Office of Caucasus Affairs and Regional Conflicts in the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs. Ms. Kimbrell explained that her

current job is to recruit talented prospects for jobs for specialist positions to work in Embassies and Consulates. In addition, she provided many valuable tips for the audience.

The interest of the students and alumni that attended the virtual panel was manifested in the number of questions they made during the Q&A session. They gain knowledge about many programs and other opportunities to start working on their diplomatic careers. Such interest fosters the MFJMCE's commitment to the education and training of future generations of diplomats.

- ▶ [Internships at the EU Delegation to the US, click here](#)
- ▶ [Internships at the EPLO, click here](#)
- ▶ [Internships at US Department of State, click here](#)

MEET EU

an initiative by
UNC-Chapel Hill
University of Pittsburgh
Florida International University

MEET THE EU: The Role of Lifelong Learning Languages in a Transatlantic Work Context



On April 8, the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence organized and hosted the second installment of the MEET EU initiative. This event revolved around the need for educational work components, such as life-long learning in rapidly changing fields, or European language learning, with participating European-focused language education professionals and faculty. Dr. Markus Thiel, Director of our Center and Associate Professor of the Politics & International Relations Department at FIU, moderated the panel, conformed by four distinguished experts.

Dr. Thiel opened the meeting by remarking that the speakers would focus on the importance of learning languages and keeping up with them. Given that the 27 member states of the EU recognize 24 official languages, he highlighted that language learning is essential for increasing job skills to work in a transatlantic context and in European diplomacy.

Ms. Lisa Arias Rodriguez was the first to take the floor. She is an Education Advisor of the Embassy of Spain stationed at the Consulate General of Spain in Miami since 2019. In her presentation, she pointed out that the value of learning languages, proficiency in second languages, and intercultural competency skills. Languages open employment possibilities in many sectors, such as international organizations, tourism, communication, economics, and diplomacy. She highlighted that speaking languages expands our worldview so that “you not only know more, but you know differently.” Finally, she presented the [NALCAP](#)—North American Language and Culture Assistants—Program of the Spanish Embassy, which gives students the opportunity to immerse themselves in learning about languages and culture.

The second panelist was **Katrin Gebhard**, Higher Education Attaché at the French Embassy in the United States. After pointing out that French is the second most learned foreign language in the US after Spanish, and the most requested language by US employers, she gave many tips and resources for American students to learn French, study and pursue a graduate degree in France through the [Portal CAMPUS FRANCE](#). She also presented the [TAPIF](#), Teaching Assistant Program in France, which allows

1500 new American assistants in France every year to share their English language skills and culture with French students.

Mr. Claudio Pastor, Executive Director of the Società Dante Alighieri in Miami, and Honorary Consul of Italy to Puerto Rico, stressed the importance of the Società Dante Alighieri in promoting Italian abroad. He noted that Miami has an exciting particularity: most people speak two languages for historical and social reasons related to immigration. Thus, he considered that many of the students from Miami who want to learn Italian or any other language have an advantage because romance languages are not new to them. He concluded that “learning a language, once you get into it, is really a lifelong commitment.”

The fourth panelist was **Dr. Maida Watson**, a full Spanish professor in the Department of Modern Languages at Florida International University, where she has been Chairperson twice. The relevance of learning languages for business is part of her mandate because she contributed to running the Center for International Business Research, a grant by the US Federal Government to the FIU College of Business. The Center aims to stimulate the learning of languages. Drawing from her personal and family experience in Panama and Miami, she discussed the multicultural variety of people and the diversity of languages in South Florida, and the consequent challenges and possibilities that this implies.

The panel finished with a Q&A session. Again, the audience participated actively by making questions and comments. The thought-provoking interventions of the audience resulted in an engaging discussion between the panelists that made the conversation even more enjoyable.

To watch video , [click here](#)

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

▶ **To view flyer, [click here](#)**

▶ To view PPT from the **French Embassy**, [click here](#)

▶ To view PPT from the **Spanish Embassy**, [click here](#)

MEET EU

an initiative by
UNC-Chapel Hill
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Florida International University

MEET THE EU: Model EU 2021



West Coast Model European Union 2021

The Model European Union (MEU) is part of one of MEET EU activities organized by the EU Centers of the University of Pittsburgh, University of North Carolina, and Florida International University.

MEET EU is creating a new Model EU (MEU) circuit for selected teams of 6 participants (ages 18-32) — one team each from Florida, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania.

Each year 2021-22, teams will participate in the University of Pittsburgh's MEU, the West Coast MEU in Seattle, and the Midwest MEU in Bloomington, Indiana. We are also working with BETA Europe (Bringing Europeans Together Association) to bring 12 participants per year to the MEU in Mainz, Germany.

The Model European Union (MEU) is an immersive, inclusive, and engaging simulation of the European legislative process, bringing together undergraduate students from across the United States. Students play the roles of representatives of EU Member State delegations. During the conference, participants negotiate diverse issues of concern for their country in order to achieve consensus on significant resolutions for the Union.

Florida International University EU team consisted of four undergraduate students, including Ally Jackman, Danny Vazquez Tarrau, Jonathan Milian, and Abel Ramos Taype. The training sessions were organized by Dr. Markus Thiel, Director of the MFJMCCE, and Mr. Ernesto Fiocchetto, Graduate Assistant of our center. During Spring 2021, the team participated in three MEU conferences, which were online events given the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. The team had an outstanding performance and were awarded individually and as a delegation.

On February 26-27, the University of Pittsburgh's European Studies Center hosted the MEU to address two issues on European Stability: "Implementing a Strategic Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic and Foreign Policy and Migration Issues." Our team represented Finland and Malta. After a remarkable

performance, they received awards in the two possible categories: Best Position Paper and Best Delegation.

The West Coast Model EU was organized on March 5-6 by the University of Washington. The agenda for Heads of Government included the enhanced cooperation in light of the challenges of COVID-19 and the Post-Brexit institutional realignment. Meanwhile, foreign ministers addressed migration and the EU-Russia relationship. The team also represented Finland and Malta.

The judges recognized the performance of our students and awarded Jonathan Milian as the Best Foreign Minister (Malta). Furthermore, the judges gave honorable mentions to Abel Ramos Taype for his work as Head of Government of Malta and Danny Vazquez Tarrau for his performance as Foreign Minister of Finland.

Lastly, the team took part in the Midwest Model EU on April 1-3. The event was hosted by the Institute for European Studies at Indiana University Bloomington. On this occasion, FIU formed a joint team with Florida Atlantic University. The delegation represented Malta and was formed by Jaylene Kennedy (Prime Minister - FAU), Danny Vazquez Tarrau (European Commissioner - FIU), Michael Berg (Foreign Minister - FAU), Ally Jackman (Economics Minister - FIU), Lorenzo Gari (Environment Minister - FAU), Angelo Ybarra (Justice and Home Affairs Minister - FAU), and Jonathan Milian (Director-General - FIU). Dr. Aimee Arias was FAU's advisor and collaborated with Dr. Markus Thiel and Mr. Ernesto Fiocchetto during the joint training sessions. The undergraduate students who took part in the event voted to assess the delegates' performance. The FIU-FAU team was recognized with the Second-Best Delegation award. In addition to that, Danny Vazquez Tarrau was awarded as the best delegate at the European Commission.

By Ernesto Fiocchetto and Christine I. Caly-Sanchez



University of Pittsburgh Model EU 2021: Ally Jackman and Danny Tarrau

► More Info. on MEET EU Model EU , [click here](#)

MEET EU

MEET THE EU: Model EU 2021 TESTIMONIALS



an initiative by
UNC-Chapel Hill
University of Pittsburgh
Florida International University

The MFJMCCE interviewed the delegation, and they shared with us their experiences.



Ally Jackman

BA in International Relations
Florida International University

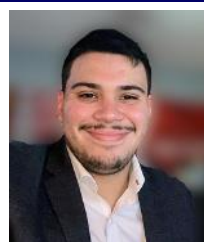
The Model EU program and its conferences are ordered in a structure that allows for much freedom. It truly allows for members of the team to express their own strengths: it tests how they fair as one edges into more creative modes and how their strengths withstand both the short, intense discussions, as well maintaining intensity over the days. I enjoyed this test extraordinarily. It allows you to flex yourself in a way that, I believe, is ample for the strengthening of a person's virtuosity. The beauty of this demand is that it allows one to become acutely aware of their weaknesses, but because of the myriad of contexts you are placed in over the days of conferences and weeks prior, you have so many opportunities in which they can be strengthened rapidly. I observed these within myself and with my team.



Danny Vazquez Tarrau

BA in International Relations
Certificate in European & Eurasian Studies, FIU

The reality that comes with sharing the international political space that is the European Union, and more so during the vast geopolitical shifts of our era, that are themselves are evolving in some instances at a rapid pace, is unlike any other, and this was personally felt the most during the Midwestern Model EU, where I had the singular privilege of being a Member of the European Commission. No matter how personally angered one's sense of honor, or pride, in one's own country's sense of personal beliefs, that's does not negate, in any way, the realities of help that certain states, given their geographical region, are in need of. How does one square idealism with reality? Especially those cold and often brutal political truths? Like some countries, even when they can, may not be lining up to spend more of their own wealth on other external, yet within the EU, concerns. This does not make them inherently evil or cruel, nor does it their diplomats and representatives, with whom one must respect and work with.



Jonathan Milian

BA in International Relations
Certificate in European & Eurasian Studies, FIU

As for representing FIU and the Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, I felt that being selected for this program meant that I had to try my best in making my school and my amazing advisors and faculty proud of their selections. It was a great honor, and I am happy that I was able to bring back awards from all the simulations, whether it was a personal award or just as an entire delegation. Working with FAU was also a great experience. Getting to know and meet people who had learned under other professors about the same issues was great in enabling me to expand my opinions and knowledge on the topics I already knew. Overall, being part of the Model EU representing FIU was a great experience that I feel is going to help me academically and professionally in the future. Being part of these types of programs really expands one's knowledge, and meeting new people and learning from their perspectives is truly amazing.



Abel Ramos Taype

Master in Business Administration
BA in International Relations and Political Science
BA in Sociology and Anthropology
Certificate in Latin American and Caribbean Studies
Certificate in National Security Studies, FIU

During the Pandemic, I was able to enhance my academic journey in unexpected ways. The possibility of advancing my knowledge in European Institutions but also mastering negotiation and public speaking abilities thru a political simulation like the MEU was significant. I knew that this challenge meant a rewarding feeling of personal fulfillment. Stepping out from my comfort (quarantine) zone and becoming competitive was thrilling. During the two simulations, I took my country's role very seriously and made numerous attempts to reach a consensus with clear communication strategies. My MEU experience was very gratifying at the end when receiving constructive feedback from my team and hearing other judge's arguments. One judge even said that I had an excellent political profile if I decided to run for office one day. However, none of this would have been possible without my teammates and advisors. The support and training were unavailable and made me better prepare to represent Malta.

Congratulations to Ally Jackman, Danny Vazquez Tarrau, Jonathan Milian, and Abel Ramos Taype. We are so proud of you! Go Panthers!!!!

► Testimonials, [click here](#)

MEET EUan initiative by
UNC-Chapel Hill
University of Pittsburgh
Florida International University

MEET EU: Teach The EU

The Brussels-Lux Study Tour



During Two years in 2021 and 2022, through MEET EU, the EU Centers of the University of Pittsburgh, the University of North Carolina, and Florida International University, will offer the Brussels-Lux Study Tour, a unique, one-week experience in Brussels and Luxembourg for K-12, community college, and MSI educators.

Participants are selected from diverse communities and disciplines through a nationwide search, with spots reserved for educators from Florida, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania.

The 6-day tour will include visits to all EU institutions in Brussels—the European Commission, the European Parliament, the European External Action Services, the European Council—and the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg, and a content workshop to help educators develop EU-focused lesson plan.

The Brussels-Lux Study Tour participants will discuss data privacy, security and defense, and climate change — among other critical issues — during their activities.

On and after the tour, educators will develop lesson plans and MEETEU 360 virtual reality presentation to teach the EU in their classrooms.

Five high school teachers from Miami-Dade, Broward, Alachua, Palm Beach counties have been selected by the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence this year to represent South Florida at the EU-sponsored education trip to Brussels and will join the group this Fall. Congratulations! We are proud of our Florida teachers and are looking forward to hear about their experience.

By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez



European Commission in Brussels



European Parliament in Brussels



► For more information on the Brussels Lux Study Tour, [click here](#)



European Court of Justice in Luxembourg



This initiative is co-funded by the European Union through a Getting to Know Europe Grant from the EU Delegation to the US.

MEET EU

Call for Submissions

Emerging EU Filmmaker Virtual Residency

Deadline for submission:
July 23, 2021

an initiative by
 UNC-Chapel Hill
 University of Pittsburgh
 Florida International University

EMERGING EU FILMMAKER VIRTUAL RESIDENCY

The MEET EU Institutions are currently seeking candidates for the MEET EU 1st annual Visiting Emerging EU Filmmaker Residency. The selected candidate will undertake a virtual residency for the Fall semester 2021 (maximum 6 months) at the three institutions, jointly.

The deadline to submit applications is July 23, 2021.

What?

Together the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the University of Pittsburgh, and Florida International University share the goal of supporting EU artists and the development of their work in order to bring a greater understanding of the diversity and depth of society, politics, and culture in the EU to U.S. citizens, especially the youth. By hosting a young, emerging filmmaker, we hope to inspire U.S. youth to learn more about the EU and to support the important work being done by the artist themselves.

Who is eligible?

Visiting filmmakers should be promising new short film or documentary filmmakers with recently completed first projects that explore topics related to contemporary European society, politics, or culture. Of particular interest are young/emerging filmmakers whose work explores what it means to be European, transnational identities, or the transatlantic relationship. Graduate thesis films are eligible for submission. Currently enrolled/graduating students at film school and recent graduates (within 3 years) are encouraged to apply, but applicants need not have received formal training. To be eligible, applicants need to be based in an EU member state and hold EU citizenship. European citizens living in the U.S. are not eligible.

Programme

During the virtual residency, the selected filmmaker will engage remotely in the academic life and artistic communities at the three universities through monthly virtual meetings in preparation for an in-person visit. Should travel be possible, a three-week speaking tour of all three institutions (one week at each) will be arranged. During the tour, the filmmaker's film will be screened and promoted at each location (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Chapel Hill, North Carolina; and Miami, Florida); the filmmaker will participate in seminars and events with students and relevant faculty, local artists/filmmakers, and community organizations. At least one additional virtual meeting will be held one month after the speaking tour for follow-up and assessment.

What to submit?

Interested candidates should submit a planned work outline describing a completed project or one in the final stages of production and for which this virtual residency will be useful for promoting it and networking within the U.S. Ideas for new projects that would benefit from visits to the three host cities are also welcome.

Christine I. Caly-Sanchez



► For more information on the Emerging EU Filmmaker Virtual Residency, [click here](#)

► For flyer, [click here](#)

► For more information on conditions and how to apply, [click here](#)



This initiative is co-funded by the European Union through a Getting to Know Europe Grant from the EU Delegation to the US.

MFJMCE FACULTY CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT GRANT AND GRADUATE STUDENT EU RESEARCH GRANTS 2021

And the winners are...



Each year, the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence at FIU hosts an annual competition that awards research and curriculum development grants to prospective faculty members from FIU and its partner institutions: University of Central Florida, University of North Florida, University of South 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, among the many applications received from Florida International University, University of Florida, Florida Atlantic University, University of South Florida faculty and graduate students, the jury committee awarded two EU research grants: one Faculty Curriculum Development Grant to a faculty member from Florida International University (FIU), **Dr. Lukas K. Danner**; and one graduate student EU Research Award to an FIU doctoral student, **Ernesto Fiocchetto**. Congratulations to the two recipients for their great proposals.

► For more information on the Faculty Curriculum Development Grant, [click here](#)

► For more information on the EU Faculty & Graduate Students Research Grants., [click here](#)

FACULTY CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT AWARD 2021 GRANTEE



► **Dr. Lukas K. Danner**, Lecturer at the Department of Politics & International Relations at Florida International University, and Research Associate at the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence.

Dr. Danner received this grant for developing a course COIL-related inclusion of EU content in the course INR 4210-International Relations of Scandinavia and the Arctic with a Nordic Institution

GRADUATE RESEARCH AWARD 2021 GRANTEE



► **Ernesto Fiocchetto**, Ph.D. Candidate in International Relations, Department of Politics & International Relations, Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs, Florida International University

Ernesto Fiocchetto received this EU grant for his research: "LGBTIQ + Asylum Seekers in Europe and the Role of Faith Actors."



By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez



MFJMCE FACULTY CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT GRANT Interview with grantee Dr. Lukas Danner



Dr. Lukas Danner in front of Hallgrímskirkja (Lutheran church), Reykjavik's main landmark, and the statue of Leif Erikson



Fulbright Commission Iceland group tour of Reykjavik : Dr. Lukas Danner in front of Harpa, Concert Hall and Conference Centre in Reykjavik, Iceland

Dr. Lukas K. Danner is an instructor in the Department of Politics & International Relations at Florida International University, and Research Associate at the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence. He received the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence Faculty Curriculum Development grant for developing a new course COIL-related inclusion of EU content in the course INR 4210 -International Relations of Scandinavia and the Arctic with a Nordic Institution. Danner was hosted as Fulbright-NSF Arctic Research Scholar at the [Centre for Arctic Studies](#) of [the Institute of International Affairs](#) at the University of Iceland from January until June of this year.

He was kind enough to answer a few questions about his proposal and his experience as Fulbright-NSF Arctic Research Scholar at the [Centre for Arctic Studies](#) of [the Institute of International Affairs](#) at the University of Iceland.

MFJMCE: Can you tell us a little bit about yourself and the experience you had as a Fulbright-NSF Arctic Research Scholar during six months at the University of Iceland?

Absolutely! I was hosted by the Center for Arctic Studies at the Institute of International Affairs (IIA) at University of Iceland during which I researched the 2019-2021 Icelandic chairmanship of the Arctic Council, the main intergovernmental forum in the Arctic

region. In addition, I was privileged to teach a graduate course for the Faculty of Political Science at the University of Iceland. My host also made it possible for me to enroll in Icelandic language classes designed for international faculty which assisted tremendously in immersing myself in Icelandic culture and society during my stay there. The Fulbright Commission in Iceland which supports grantees before, during, and after their grant, offered grantees monthly enrichment activities such as a walking tour of downtown Reykjavik. During my time in Iceland, a swarm of over 50,000 earthquakes (of varying strength) occurred—some of which could be felt in Reykjavik, too—and resulted in a volcanic eruption in Iceland's southwest at Fagradalsfjall. Having made the hike to the volcano was certainly one of the highlights in those six months. I was also honored to collaborate with IIA researchers Pia Hansson and Guðbjörg Ríkey Th. Hauksdóttir in publishing "Iceland in the High North" with the North American Arctic Defense and Security Network (NAADSN) in June 2021. To anyone interested in Iceland or the Fulbright experience, I could only wholeheartedly recommend both!

MFJMCE: Can you tell us in a few words what the main focus of your EU research project is?

The focus of my project is, on the one hand, integrating European Union educational components into my course INR 4210 International Relations of Scandinavia and the Arctic, and, on the other hand, designing and operationalizing a COIL, which is short



MFJMCE FACULTY CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT GRANT Interview with grantee Dr. Lukas Danner



Fulbright Iceland US Scholar Cohort 2020-2021
in downtown Reykjavik



Dr. Lukas Danner with Dr. Baldur Thorhallsson

for "Collaborative Online International Learning" and sometimes called virtual exchange, component with a Nordic partner institution as part of the student experience in the same course.

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

That is correct, as INR 4210 is a fully-online course. First, regarding EU materials, students will gain a broader perspective of how certain topics in International Relations of Scandinavia and the Arctic relate to the EU, e.g., learning about the EU's Arctic policy, or the Green New Deal of the EU. Second, the COIL will have FIU students complete an assignment with students from a course taught at a Nordic partner institution. In this way, they get first-hand insight from a partnered student living and studying in Scandinavia and the Arctic—an intercultural experience that FIU students in my other COIL course (a cooperation with a Belgian university) have found unique and enriching, and that I hope the students of INR 4210 will, too, going forward. Not all of our students at FIU have the possibility to be able to take part in international student exchange or a study abroad trip—statistically it is less than two percent of our student population per year. But being exposed to international exchange virtually via COIL can provide a similar experience to FIU students, either instead of physically going abroad, or perhaps as an impetus to start exploring an

exchange year abroad, an international internship, or a faculty-led educational summer trip.

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

We can observe that interest in Scandinavian foreign affairs and Arctic affairs has sky-rocketed in recent years: Not only annually published state rankings on various topics from innovation and healthcare to population happiness regularly show Norway, Denmark, Iceland, Finland and Sweden on the very top, but these Nordic nations also increasingly take on leadership roles in international affairs, including in the European migration crisis, the fight against climate change and global warming—especially as it relates to the Arctic—and other important global issues. The importance of the Nordics and the Arctic, while often considered "model nations" and "remote (for the most part) maritime territory," respectively, to current global politics is outsizing their otherwise relatively small populations or remote location. Increasingly, foreign non-Arctic great powers such as China are also getting more and more interested in this part of the world—not only because of the opportunities that an ice-free Arctic seems to promise in terms of oil, gas, minerals, shipping sea lanes, or fisheries.

► For more information on the MFJMCE Faculty Curriculum



MFJMCE FACULTY CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT GRANT

Interview with grantee Dr. Lukas Danner



Lunch with Fulbright Iceland Colleagues



Dr. Lukas Danner in front of Fagradalsfjall volcano

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?

Regarding my Fulbright experience in Iceland, I definitely hope to return to attend the Arctic Circle Assembly which is held every October in Reykjavík, as well as continue to do research on the Arctic Council and expanding the project to future chairmanships of Nordic small states, e.g., Norway's upcoming chairmanship from 2023 to 2025. In regards to the EU and COIL components in INR 4210, continuing development comes almost natural with the fast-evolving Arctic affairs and with the evolution of a COIL partnership for which you especially learn from student feedback the first year that it is offered to (if necessary) implement changes the second year, and, basically, from thereon each year onward. I also have other projects in mind, either earmarked for the future, or for very soon: One that is coming up very soon is a paper presentation on recent extra-regional power interest in the West Nordic (Greenland, the Faroe Islands, and Iceland) at the 19th Nordic Political Science Association Congress in August 2021. Three examples for projects planned within the next year would be a co-authored piece with my Icelandic colleague Guðbjörg Ríkey Th. Hauksdóttir on the U.S.-American position on China in the Arctic through various presidential administrations; a paper with my Australian colleague Prof. Anna Hayes on the role of small and middle powers (such as Singapore, Fiji, Australia, or New

Zealand) in the contemporary Indo-Pacific great power play; and a paper on the COVID-19 pandemic in the Scandinavian Arctic with which I am honored to stay affiliated with the IIA and University of Iceland via the research project "The Nordic States and COVID-19" led by Prof. Ásthildur Elva Bernhardsdóttir and Prof. Baldur Þórhallsson.

By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez

- ▶ For more information on the MFJMCE Faculty Curriculum Development Grant, [click here](#)
- ▶ For more information on Fulbright Iceland, [click here](#)



Dr. Lukas Danner in Iceland



MFJMCE GRADUATE STUDENT EU RESEARCH GRANT

Interview with grantee Ernesto Fiocchetto



Ernesto Fiocchetto is a Ph.D. Candidate in International Relations at the Department of Politics & International Relations, Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs, Florida International University, and a Graduate Assistant at the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence. He received the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence Graduate Student EU Research grant for his research "LGBTIQ + Asylum Seekers in Europe and the Role of Faith Actors" this year. He sat down with Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director of the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, to answer a few questions about his research.

Ernesto Fiocchetto is a Ph.D. Candidate in International Relations at the Department of Politics & International Relations, Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs, Florida International University, and a Graduate Assistant at the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence. He received the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence Graduate Student EU Research grant for his research "LGBTIQ + Asylum Seekers in Europe and the Role of Faith Actors" this year. He sat down with Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director of the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, to answer a few questions about his research.

MFJMCE: Can you tell us a little bit about yourself and what studies you pursued at FIU?

I am Ernesto Fiocchetto. I am a sociologist from Argentina. I arrived at FIU in 2017 and earned two Masters: Religious Studies in 2019 and International Relations in 2021. Now, I am working on my dissertation project to get a Ph.D. in International Relations. My research interests and publications center on the intersection of migration, religion, and sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI).

MFJMCE: Can you tell us in a few words what the focus of your EU research project is?

Many refugees and migrants flee from their countries because they suffer severe human rights violations due to their sexual orientation and gender identity. The EU has set high standards for inclusive and sensitive asylum procedures for LGBTIQ+ asylum seekers. In the case of Spain, Germany, and the United Kingdom, they seem to be a safe space that become an attraction center for many LGBTIQ+ asylum seekers, given their progressive legal development. However, these individuals are disadvantaged in specific ways within the asylum process and also experience hostility and marginalization in those host countries. LGBTIQ+ refugees undergo several tensions that go from the acceptance/rejection of the claimants based on religious values to the integration challenges in the host societies. In this regard, Faith Actors (FAs) play a crucial role at several levels in the reception and integration stages of forcibly displaced people who claim asylum based on their SOGI in Europe. In my research work, I am focusing on such actors and their agency toward LGBTIQ+ refugees.

MFJMCE: What are your plans for the research you are conducting?

The project involves qualitative research at three levels. First, it aims at exploring the existing literature on the issue. Second, it entails analyzing legal cases of SOGI based asylum claimants in the three countries. Third, it envisions participating in workshops and summer university programs to socialize the preliminary findings, receive feedback, and get new perspectives on the explored issue.

MFJMCE: How do you hope your research will contribute to the field of International Relations?

It is my hope that my work will contribute to the International Relations literature on the role of FAs in the asylum process of LGBTIQ+ refugees in European countries by addressing the intersections of the social, legal, and religious dimensions that FAs inhabit. The agency of Non-State Actors, including FAs, is of tremendous significance in the context of forced migration. Therefore, the more we understand the complexity of these actors, the more we will be able to contribute to the reception and integration of refugees in host societies.

MFJMCE: Why do you think this research is essential to conduct at the present time? Once completed, this project "will help foster..."

The expected contribution of my work entails different levels, ranging from legal aspects to the FAs' strategies toward LGBTIQ+ refugees. In my research, I show that FAs are beneficial for integrating LGBTIQ+ in host societies, and they articulate their mission within the European legal system. However, they also reproduce the religious heteronormativity from the refugees' countries of origin and embody European heteronormativity or, conversely, an idealization of queer identities through institutional expectations around sex, gender, and sexuality. Thus, at social, legal, and religious levels, FAs both allows and constrains the processes of identity configuration and integration in the host societies. I hope my work will foster a better understanding of such complexity and, therefore, sheds light on the concrete action of FAs. Furthermore, it will provide policy advice to the European Union and the specific countries under study.

MFJMCE: Do you have any last thoughts to share?

I want to thank the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet European Center of Excellence for this grant. I also extend my particular thanks to Dr. Markus Thiel and Madame Christine Caly. The constraints of the Covid-19 pandemic have been really challenging for us researchers. In such a context, the financial help and the moral support of the center were essential to my research work.

By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez



MFJMCE FACULTY EU RESEARCH GRANT

Gender & Solidarity Networks among Transit Migrants to the European Union by Dr. Heide Castañeda



Dr. Heide Castañeda, Professor and Associate Chair, Dept. of Anthropology, University of South Florida

On August 24, the MFJMCE invited Dr. Heide Castañeda, Professor and Associate Chair, Department of Anthropology, University of South Florida, who was awarded with the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence Faculty Research grant 2020, to present the results of the fieldwork she conducted during Summer 2021. Dr. Markus Thiel held the online event. From MMC campus, numerous students could listen to our guest lecturer. The lecture was titled “Gender and Solidarity Networks among Transit Migrants to the European Union.”

In view of the rise of forced immobility in Morocco due to its geographical proximity to Europe and the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Castañeda asks about the implications of such a situation for EU migration policies. She highlighted that 700,000 Sub-Saharan Africans currently reside in Morocco while the EU has increasingly pressured the country to secure its borders and limit maritime passengers. The bilateral agreements between Morocco and Spain are critical in this regard. To address this issue, her qualitative research included participant observation and interviews with male and female sub-Saharan migrants in Morocco during summer 2021. Furthermore, Dr. Castañeda also interviewed migrant organizations and stakeholders from the Moroccan government,

social service agencies, and NGOs. In her work, she tackles various essential dimensions of this complex problem, including the role of migrant women in the area and the racial and religious dynamics underlying the issue.

Her migrant-centered approach to this space allows for a close understanding of how migrants create new forms of home, kinship, and social life. She concluded that the study provides insights into the formation of migrant networks of exchange and support in transit sites within a context shaped by postcolonialism, complex racial dynamics, and novel regional political demands. On the one hand, Dr. Castañeda's research contributes to the growing literature on transit spaces, immobility, and migrant agency. On the other hand, her work raises several questions about the implications of this situation for the European Union.

The students who attended the conference engaged in a fruitful dialogue with Dr. Castañeda at the end of the event. They asked very interesting questions and appreciated her presentation.

By Ernesto Fiocchetto

► To view Dr. Castañeda's bio, [click here](#)

► To view Dr. Castañeda's PPT, [click here](#)



Congratulations to the recipients of the 2021 European & Eurasian Studies Certificates



Recipients of the Spring 2021 European & Eurasian Studies Certificates:
Anais Menjivar, Maximo Ulloa, Maryem Viera Cardenas

Congratulation Grads! We are Proud of you!

While we can't gather physically, we can still celebrate the accomplishments of our newest Panther Alumni who graduated this Spring 2021, and Summer 2021, and obtained their European & Eurasian Studies Certificates.

CERTIFICATES IN EUROPEAN & EURASIAN STUDIES

Spring 2021 Undergraduate Awardees

- **Anna Aguilar**, BA in Political Science and English/Literature
- **Shannon Camilien**, BA in International Relations
- **Amaya Garcia**, BA in History - Minor in Sociology/Anthropology
- **Diana Garcia**, BA in International Relations and Philosophy
- **Teresa Garcia Cadenas**, BA in Economics and International Relations
- **Nathalie Matas**, BA in History and Minor in International Relations & Political Science; BA in Latin American and Caribbean Studies; BA in Women's and Gender Studies
- **Anais Menjivar**, BA in Political Science and International Relations; Minor in Public Administration
- **Jonathan Milian**, BA in International Relations
- **Claudia Navarro**, BA in Women's and Gender Studies; BA in Interdisciplinary Studies; BA in Economics
- **Hanniel Per**, BA in International Relations
- **Maximo Ulloa**, BA in International Relations and Political Science
- **Maryem Viera Cardenas**, BA in International Relations; Minor in Political Science

Summer 2021 Undergraduate Awardees

- **Jesus Miguelez**, BA in Political Science; Minor in Religion
- **Marco Pagano**, BA in International Relations; Minor in French & Culture; BA in Political Science
- **Alejandro Ramos**, BA in International Relations; Minor in History



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, 273 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/>

► For Fall 2021 EU Undergraduate Courses, [click here](#)

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/>



Spotlight: Maryem Viera Cardenas

Spring 2021 Graduate—Certificate in European & Eurasian Studies

"My Internship at the Consulate General of France."

The Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence and the European & Eurasian Studies Program have the pleasure of featuring one great student from FIU School of International and Public Affairs who recently graduated and obtained a Bachelor's in International Relations and a Certificate in European & Eurasian Studies.

We were pleased to interview Maryem Viera Cardenas and hear her amazing experience.



Maryem Viera Cardenas

Maryem Viera Cardenas, a student in International Relations, with a minor in Political Science at FIU, who graduated in Spring 2021 tells us a little bit about herself and the amazing experience she had at the Consulate General of France in Miami

MFJMCE: In a few words, could you tell us who you are and what studies you pursued at FIU?

My name is Maryem Viera, I am a 21-year first generation American/college graduate from Miami, FL. I recently graduated with my Bachelor's in International Relations, with a minor in Political Science and a European & Eurasian Studies Certificate. I plan to pursue my Masters degree in the Global Affairs program at FIU, focusing on globalization and security.


**CONSULAT
GÉNÉRAL
DE FRANCE
À MIAMI**

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*

MFJMCE: Could you tell us about your experience as an intern at the Consulate General of France in Miami?

During my time at the Consulate General of France, I worked in the press office. I conducted research on a variety of topics, created graphics & social media posts, edited videos, and helped organize events. One of the most memorable moments was when I developed an information packet & helped make arrangements for French Ambassador to the United States, Philippe Etienne's visit to Florida. My last assignment was to film a video for Bastille Day on what the Statue of Liberty means to me.

This internship meant so much to me since I had been trying to pursue it for a while. It was one of the best learning experiences I could ask for in the field of International Relations and gave me a change to apply my expertise on European politics/culture. Forever grateful for the opportunity and the amazing work environment that the members of the French Consulate provided.

MFJMCE: What advice would you give to future students?

My advice for future students is to be passionate in what you study, hardworking and persistent. Learning to manage time, prioritize and balance different aspects of your life to avoid stress and burnout. Be open to the opportunities out there for us and getting involved as much as possible at FIU will definitely benefit you in the end. Follow your dreams, believe in yourself and keep a positive mindset. Like the slogan *sy*, we are worlds ahead so always keep that in mind.

MFJMCE: Do you have any last thoughts to share?

Grateful for my time at FIU, the Consulate of France and my previous internships. Looking forward to continuing my education and hopefully contributing to making a difference in this world.

By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez

► To watch Maryem Viera Cardenas interview's on the meaning of the Statue of Liberty [click here](#)

PUBLICATIONS



RECENT PUBLICATIONS FROM OUR EXPERTS



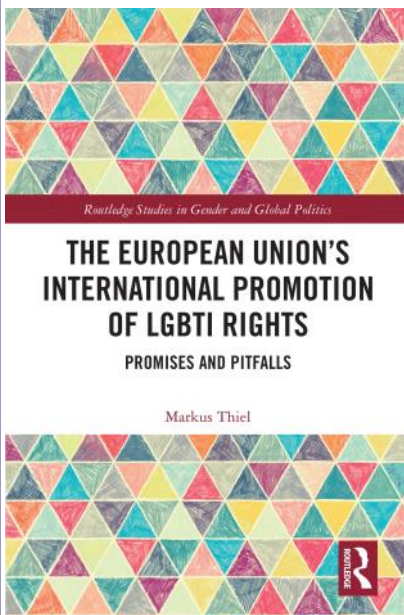
New Challenges and Opportunities in European-Asian Relations

Navigating an Assertive China and a Retrenching U.S.

In Palgrave Macmillan, 2021

Authors: Drs. Bibek Chand & Lukas K. Danner

This book highlights the emerging bidirectional interactions between Europe—primarily the EU—and Asia in the fields of political economy, development, environmental policy, security, diplomacy, and inter-institutional relations within the context of two recent global trends: the rise of China and the growing withdrawal of the U.S. from multilateral commitments. The volume incorporates nine different aspects and dimensions of Asian-European relations. In recent decades, Asia has (re-)gained rising importance on the world stage, which also entails closer interconnections with Europe. In an age of receding American global leadership and reduced commitments to its European allies, the EU and its member states have increasingly become more open to seeking and considering new partnerships. The rising economic prowess of Asia has made it of particular interest for European states. The book's focus lies on potential challenges and opportunities in the bidirectional interactions between European and Asian states and institutions.



The European Union's International Promotion of LGBTI Rights: Promises and Pitfalls

In Routledge Studies in Gender and Global Politics, Sept. 2021

Author: Dr. Markus Thiel

This book critically analyzes the European Union's promotion of LGBTI rights in the international arena. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex rights are heavily contested across the globe, with over 70 countries criminalizing same-sex relations and at least 10 imposing the death penalty.

The book details how the EU, based on different member state positions, attempts to jointly formulate and implement guidelines for the external promotion of LGBTI rights. It also problematizes the various normative and policy-based Eurocentric prescriptions to further these rights. Drawing on an international political sociology framework infused with queer theoretical thought, the author investigates the apparent normative tensions emerging from Europe's promotion of LGBTI rights as liberal human rights and the ensuing pushback by culturally and politically conservative states. He examines the compatibility of EU institutional and member states' conceptions of LGBTI rights and the

more general question of the EU's normative agenda-setting power on the world stage. He then explores the external policy areas in which LGBTI rights promotion is formulated and diffused – namely in development and foreign aid, in enlargement and neighbourhood policies, and in other international organizations. In conclusion, the author suggests viewing the contention surrounding LGBTI rights within broader governance contexts, and thus reimagining rights promotion in a more holistic manner.



PUBLICATIONS

RECENT ARTICLES ON DEMOCRACY
FROM OUR EXPERT DAVID J. KRAMER

Discover the Spring and Summer 2021 articles written by David J. Kramer, Director, European & Eurasian Studies Program, and Senior Fellow in the Václav Havel Program for Human Rights and Diplomacy, FIU's Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs.

SUMMER 2021

- July 13, 2021: The Bulwark: [Right-Wing Violence Threatens Georgian Democracy](#)-Bloody anti-LGBTQ riots have claimed at least one life in the struggling Caucasian country by Besiki Kutateladze and David J. Kramer
- July 6, 2021: Foreign Policy: [The West Gets Serious With Lukashenko—but Not Serious Enough](#) by Vlad Kobets and David J. Kramer
- June 25, 2021: The Dispatch: [The Biden-Putin Summit Has Opened the Floodgates - A proposal from Germany and France for an EU-Russia meeting threatens to divide the EU](#) - by Eric Edelman and David J. Kramer
- June 22, 2021: American Purpose: [Table for Two](#) by David. J. Kramer
- June 14, 2021: The Bulwark: [Five Ways Biden Can Get the Most from His Meeting with Putin](#) by Daniel Baer and David J. Kramer
- June 4, 2021: American Purpose: [Putin's Climate Envoy Should Be Persona Non Grata](#)- He's no climate expert, but he's a champion when it comes to repression. - by Toomas Hendrik Ilves and David J. Kramer
- May 25, 2021: The Dispatch: [How the West Must Handle Lukashenko's Threat to the International Order](#) by David J. Kramer and Eric Edelman
- May 24, 2021: The Bulwark: [Is Biden Going Soft on Putin?](#) by David J. Kramer
- May 13, 2021: [The Power Vertical Podcast: Confronting the Axis of Autocrats](#) by David J. Kramer
- May 11, 2021: The Bulwark: [Keep One Eye on Xi and the Other on Putin](#) by Daniel Baer and David J. Kramer
- May 6, 2021: House Foreign Affairs Committee - Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission - [Hearing on Democracy and Human Rights in Belarus](#) - Statement by David J. Kramer

SPRING 2021

- April 28, 2021: CEPA: [Navalny's Brutal Treatment Is the Rule, Not the Exception](#) by David. J. Kramer
- April 26, 2021: The Bulwark: [National Security Relies on Global Democracy](#) by Nicole Bibbins Sedaca and David J. Kramer
- Feb. 26, 2021 : ["South Caucasus Struggles: Russia or West?"](#) Interview With David J.Kramer
- Feb. 18, 2021: The Bulwark (Foreign Policy)"[What America's Allies Want and Need to Hear from Biden](#)" by Robert S. Gelbard and David J. Kramer
- Jan. 4, 2021: ["American Purpose:"How Democracy Makes America Great](#)" by Arch Puddington & David J. Kramer

David J. Kramer joined Florida International University's Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs as a Senior Fellow in the Václav Havel Program for Human Rights and Diplomacy in May 2017. In July 2019, he also became Director for European and Eurasian Studies.

Before moving to Miami, Kramer worked in Washington, DC for 24 years, most recently with The McCain Institute for International Leadership as Senior Director for Human Rights and Democracy. Before that, he served for four years as President of Freedom House. Prior to that, he was a Senior Transatlantic Fellow at the German Marshall Fund of the United States.

Kramer served eight years in the U.S. Department of State, including as Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor; Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs (responsible for Russia, Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus affairs as well as regional non-proliferation issues); Professional Staff Member in the Secretary's Office of Policy Planning; and Senior Advisor to the Undersecretary for Global Affairs. He also was Executive Director of the U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy in Washington.

Before joining the U.S. Government, Kramer worked at various think tanks in Washington including the Project for the New American Century, the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, and the Center for Strategic and International Studies. Kramer was an Adjunct Professor at the Elliott School for International Affairs at The George Washington University. He also is Chair of the Board for the Free Russia Foundation, a Member of the Board of the International Republican Institute, and a Member of the Advisory Council for the George W. Bush Presidential Center's Human Freedom Project, a Member of the Advisory Council for the Alliance for Securing Democracy at the German Marshall Fund, and a Contributing Editor for The American Interest.

A native of Massachusetts, Kramer received his M.A. in Soviet studies from Harvard University and his B.A. in Soviet Studies and Political Science from Tufts University.

► You can read David J. Kramer's latest articles, [here](#)



FRANCO-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP



A Conversation with Honorable Laurent Gallissot Consul General of France in Miami



Hon. Laurent Gallissot, Consul General of France in Miami next to the Statue of Liberty in NY, Washington DC, and Miami

The celebration of the 14th of July, Bastille Day, was definitely the focus of the Franco-American friendship in the United States for the French people this year. France has sent a gift to the USA, a little sister of “Lady Liberty”, to celebrate the longstanding friendship between the two countries. Exhibited for more than 10 years on the forecourt of the [CNAM](#) (Conservatory National of Arts and Crafts) in Paris, she ultimately arrived in Washington, D.C., where she will remain for ten years.

In addition, in celebration of Bastille Day in Miami on July 14th, 2021 and to echo the visit of the bronze Statue to Washington D.C., an original and unique copy of the head of the Statue of Liberty made of fiberglass has been installed at the residence of the Consul General of France in Miami thanks to the support of the CMA-CGM group and the generosity of Olivier and Caroline Haligon, [Haligon Fine Art workshop](#).

Due to these important events, Laurent Gallissot, Consul General of France in Miami sat down for an interview with Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director, Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence at FIU and reflected on this gift and its meaning, and the relationship between France and the United States.

MFJMCE: What do the Statue of Liberty and this gift represent to you?

The Statue of Liberty represents a symbol of Franco-American friendship, allegory of hope, freedom and democracy. Miami can be proud of harboring its material heritage.

On July 14th, the French and Miami community at large gathered around this unique copy of the head of the Statue of Liberty sculpture at the residence of the Consul General of France. It was a unifying experience to gather around this sculpture, which is quite monumental (H 7ft x W 7ft x D 4ft)!

It motivated a lot of people first to come and see the object since it is quite extraordinary, and then to reflect on its message. I think it's an icon. It is an inspirational message that conveys hope.

What is also very important is that it is a gift from one people to another: it's people to people! The message was to thank the United States for the 100 years of the Independence of the United States and the abolition of slavery. In fact, very finely at the feet of the statue, there are broken chains in reference to the end of enslavement.

On the one hand, the fact that “she” was placed in New York as a welcoming of beacon, also conveys a message of liberation. It is a figure of recourse that became the “Patron Saint” of the USA, country of immigration. In Pulitzer's words, she is already “**the door of hope for all immigrants,**” for Lazarus, “**soon newcomers will be greeted in the New World by a lady as caring as she is powerful.**” It later became a symbol of freedom from oppression, especially from Fascism and Nazism in the middle of the 20th century in Europe. “The Statue of Liberty Enlightening the World” is therefore recognized as a universal symbol of freedom and democracy over generations.



FRANCO-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP

A Conversation with Hon. Laurent Gallissot Consul General of France in Miami



MFJMCE: Why was Miami chosen to receive this gift: the copy of the head of the Statue of Liberty?

To echo the visit of the bronze Statue to Washington D.C., we received this gift thanks to the generosity of Olivier and Caroline Haligon, a French artist family living in Miami. [Haligon Fine Art workshop](#).

It's family history. We wanted to make a variation on the gesture made to Washington D.C. by having one of the models of the statue molded by the Haligon family which has resided in Miami for 23 years. From generation to generation, **the Haligons** has preserved the know-how of their ancestor, Louis Haligon, who contributed to the enlargement of the original sculpture by Auguste Bartholdi. This French family settled in Miami and for 5 generations has been in the profession of molding. They practiced it with Bartholdi for a molding and an enlargement of the statue when it was first designed. The showing of both these beautiful copies and the expertise of a French artist installed in Miami is of tremendous importance. Nobody really knows that this family has this history, except connoisseurs. They most certainly deserved to be better known for their talent and their generosity!

► For more information on "The Legacy and the message of Lady Liberty", [click here](#)

► For more information on Haligon Fine Art Workshop, [click here](#)

MFJMCE: How has the French community in Miami responded to this gift?

There is great interest in seeing this monumental sculpture. And, it is well-deserved attention. Not only the French community but all the communities in Miami are paying a visit to her: it is such an icon to which everybody can connect to! Everybody has responded because it is an inspirational message for all of us.

MFJMCE: How long will this sculpture remain at your residence and where will it go next?

The sculpture will remain at the residence for 15 days and then will be used in exhibitions and other events.

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

We are looking forward to working with you on the upcoming **French Presidency of the Council of the European Union**, and many other events such as democracy, climate change in view of the COP 26, cybersecurity, and the 9th of May to celebrate the European Union.

MFJMCE: "MERCI" Mr. Consul!

By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez



The Council of the European Union is composed of the governments of 27 EU member states. Every six months a different member state holds the presidency of the Council, in accordance with the principle of rotation. Slovenia is in the trio with Germany and Portugal for the second time and is holding the presidency in the second half of 2021, as the last in [the trio](#).

On July 1st, 2021, Slovenia took over the presidency of this important European legislative institution for the second time and celebrates the 30th anniversary of independence.

Its motto is **"Together. Resilient. Europe."**

July 1st - December 31st, 2021: Slovenia's six-month program of the Presidency of the Council of the European Union is based on four priorities:

- **facilitate the EU's recovery and reinforce its resilience,**
- **reflect on the future of Europe,**
- **strengthen the rule of law and European values,**
- **increase security and stability in the European neighborhood.**

► For more information on the Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, its program and priorities, [click here](#)





European & Eurasian Studies Program

Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence



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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 this year.



The activities of the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence will continue in fall 2021.

In the meantime, all of the MFJMCE and European & Eurasian Studies Program team members wish you a safe and healthy summer and look forward to seeing all of you next fall!



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For details please visit: miamieuc.fiu.edu - Events
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