



# European and Eurasian Studies Program

# NEWSLETTER

## Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence

Volume 4, Issue 3 — Fall 2022-Spring 2023

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## 2022-2023 Highlights



Dr. Markus Thiel, Director, MFJMCE; and Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director, MFJMCE & EESP

Dear friends,

We're happy to share with you our annual newsletter, which provides a good overview of the many events and activities we hosted at our European & Eurasian Studies Program and the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence in 2022-2023. What a great year! From September 2022 to June 2023, we organized 52 events, among them eleven virtual and forty-one in-person.

Highlights include our MEET-EU European Experts Career Panels, the visit of the MEET EU Emerging Filmmaker Vida Skerk, the MEET EU European Films Festival, the Model EU, our annual Jean Monnet EU Conference on Approaches to Migration, Asylum, and Race with keynote speaker Arancha González-Laya, Dean Sciences Po Paris School of International Affairs; the Celebration of Europe Day with our European consuls general and diplomats in Miami, the Euro Challenge Competition, the Conversations on Europe series with the University of Pittsburgh, the Distinguished Lecture Series with European diplomats, including the Conversation on France and the Russian Aggression Against Ukraine by Aurélie Bonal, Deputy Ambassador of France to the United States;

and the 60th Anniversary of the Elysée Treaty with the participation of Hon. Raphaël Trapp, Consul General of France, and Hon. Andreas Siegel, Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany.

We also were active with our EU Jean Monnet in the USA network, where we were able to connect with experts on Europe via virtual roundtables. In solidarity with Ukraine, we organized different discussions with faculty and diplomats on the war in Ukraine and co-sponsored an exhibition. You can watch the recorded videos about these and many other events inside this newsletter.

We would like to sincerely thank all of you, students, faculty, speakers, sponsors and friends, for your support and participation in our events and look forward to seeing you virtually or in person at one of our upcoming events this fall.

In the meantime, we wish you a safe, healthy, and relaxing summer.

*Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*

Follow us and for more information:



## MEET EU

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

## MEET EU

## VIRTUAL EUROPEAN EXPERT CAREER PANELS

October 5 and November 9, 2022



**“MEET EU: Making Encounters, Engaging Transatlanticists”** is an initiative bringing EU-focused content to Florida, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania via three university campuses. Since spring 2021 European Centers of Excellence at the UNC-Chapel Hill, Florida International University, and the University of Pittsburgh have launched a range of activities to facilitate a greater understanding of the EU—European Expert Career Panels, a short film competition, virtual filmmakers in residence, Model EU teams, K-12 virtual reality presentations, and more.

This project capitalizes on this rich foundation to create and support a broad network of young Americans poised to become future Transatlanticists. The project aims to engage with the EU’s relevance to daily life in our localities, understand how EU institutions work, and explore issues vital to current events in both the US and EU. This initiative is co-funded by the European Union through a Getting to Know Europe Grant from the EU Delegation to the US.

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](#)

During Fall 2022, our Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence hosted two **“MEET EU - European Expert Career Panels,”** entitled “Working in a European Non-Profit Organization” and “The Future of Work in a Transatlantic Context: Public Health, Science, Environment, Automation, Artificial Intelligence.”

In addition, during Spring 2023, we hosted Vida Skerk, the 2023 MEET EU Emerging EU Filmmaker in Residence from November 13 to 20 in Miami. We also organized a two-day MEET EU Film Festival on Jan. 27 and 31.

In the following pages, you will find information about the events, pictures, and links to videos, flyers, and the panelists’ bios. You can find more information about the MEET EU initiative [here](#).



Wednesday, October 5, 2022 | 2:00 p.m.—3:15 p.m. EDT | Virtual



Wednesday, November 9, 2022 | 2:00 PM EDT | Free GTKE Webinar



By Ernesto Fiocchetto and Christine I. Caly-Sanchez

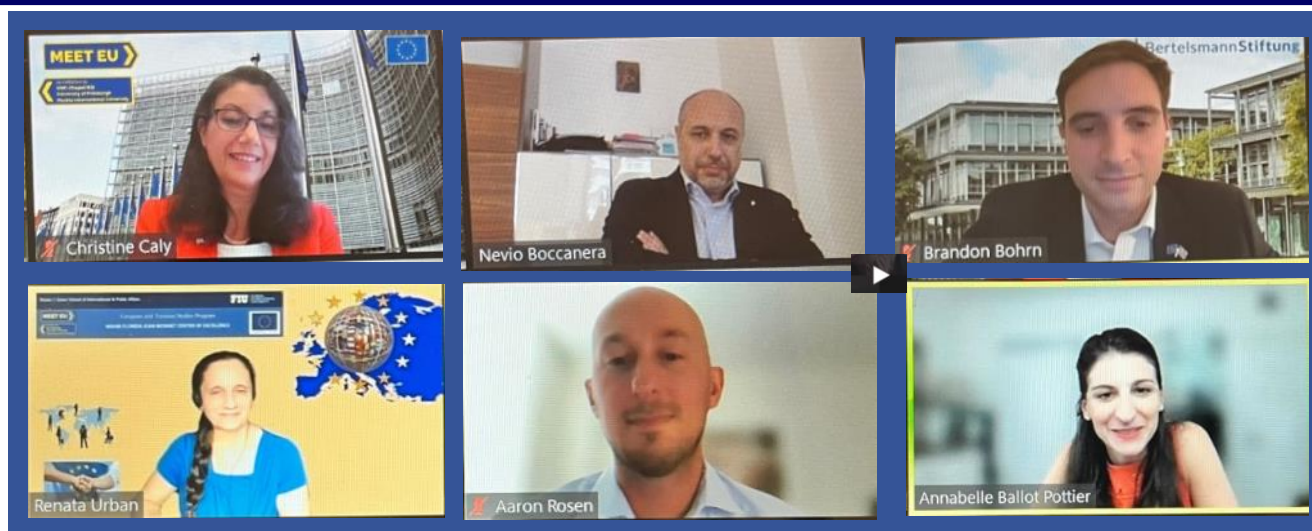


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## MEET EU EUROPEAN EXPERT CAREER PANELS

### Working in a European Non-Profit Organization

Wednesday, October 5, 2022 | Virtual



On Wednesday, October 5, the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence at FIU organized a virtual panel in the context of the MEET EU initiative. The event, titled “Working in a European Non-Profit Organization” was designed for students and alumni interested in working with/for European non-profit organizations such as business chambers, think tanks, and cultural institutes.

Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, the Associate Director of MFJMCE, delivered the opening remarks, welcomed the audience and thanked the moderator and panelists. Renata Urban was the moderator of the panel. She is a German national and a U.S. resident who has lived in South Florida for over a decade. Ms. Urban is an intercultural coach and language and communication skills trainer at Urban Training and Services, Inc. After welcoming the audience, she invited the panelists to introduce themselves and briefly explain their role in the organizations they represent. On this occasion, we were honored with the presence of the following experts:

- **Annabelle Ballot Pottier**, Executive Director of the [French-American Chamber of Commerce Florida](#)
- **Nevio Boccanera**, Executive Director of the [Italy-America Chamber of Commerce Southeast](#)
- **Brandon Bohrn**, Project Manager for Europe’s Future team at the [Bertelsmann Stiftung](#) in Berlin, Germany
- **Aaron Rosen**, President of the [World Affairs Council of Miami](#)

The discussion revolved around a series of questions that Ms. Urban posed to the panelists. First, they focused on the differences between working in a non-profit organization and the private sector. The panelists shared their experiences in both settings and highlighted the particularities of the former. They advised students and alumni what they should know if they want to work in a non-profit organization and highlighted the importance of financial sustainability in relation to the organization’s mission.

Secondly, they tackled the differences between working in the U.S. and Europe. They discussed the transition from working in non-profit organizations in the U.S. and Europe according to their experiences. They emphasized how meaningful cultural differences are regarding decision-making, leadership style, and intercultural communication. They gave valuable advice on language barriers, formal and informal approaches, and steps for successfully transitioning.

“What can students who would like to work in a non-profit organization in Europe do while they are still studying?” was the last question. The panelists and the moderator gave valuable insights about volunteering, internships, and multitasking. Our experts invited the audience to explore some current possibilities for volunteering and internships in the non-profit organizations they represent. The panel ended with a question-and-answer session that was very well received by the audience. The students who attended could ask exciting questions that helped deepen the conversation.

Christine Caly-Sanchez gave the final remarks and thanked our experts for sharing their experiences and offering very significant advice. She also thanked the co-sponsors of the event, including the Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs, the European & Eurasian Studies Program, Career and Talent Development, the Center for European Studies at UNC-Chapel Hill, the European Studies Center at the University of Pittsburgh, the Jean Monnet in the USA, the Delegation of the European Union to the United States, the French-American Chamber of Commerce Florida, the Italy-America Chamber of Commerce Southeast, the World Affairs Council of Miami and the Bertelsmann Stiftung in Berlin.

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



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## MEET EU EUROPEAN EXPERT CAREER PANELS

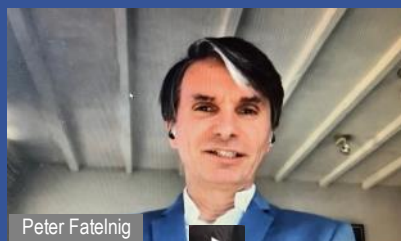
## The Future of Work in a Transatlantic Context

Public Health, Science, Environment, Automation, Artificial Intelligence

Wednesday, November 9, 2022 | Virtual



Christine Caly



Peter Fatelnig



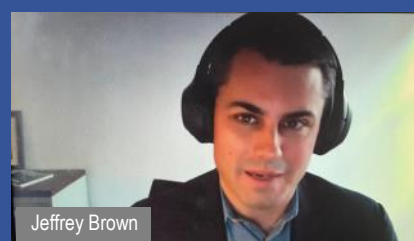
Paul Griebel



Fernando Nardi



Matthias Haury



Jeffrey Brown

On Wednesday, November 9, the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence hosted the second installment of the MEET EU-European Expert Career Panel of the Fall term: "The Future of Work in a Transatlantic Context"

This event was designed for students and alumni who want to work with/for European companies/organizations in emerging technologies. Experts in health, science, environment, automation, and artificial intelligence spoke about their experiences. They advised students about a successful career and what to expect in the future of work in a transatlantic context.

Christine Caly-Sanchez, associate director of our European Center, welcomed the audience and introduced the moderator of this panel, Paul Griebel, Director of Miami Venture for America.

**Dr. Peter Fatelnig**, Minister-Counsellor for Digital Economy Policy at the [Delegation of the European Union to the US in Washington DC](#), gave the opening remarks and was the first panelist. He shared with the audience valuable practical advice to develop a transatlantic career.

Then, **Jeffrey Brown**, Science and Technology Policy Executive at IBM in Washington DC, elaborated on his position at the company and how his studies in the US and abroad helped him to reach his goals.

The third panelist was **Dr. Matthias Haury**, Chief Operator Officer at [Max Planck Florida Institute for Neuroscience](#) in Jupiter, Florida. He talked about his career path from early medicine studies in Germany to

biology, and his experiences in science and technology in the US and several European countries, including France, Belgium, and Portugal, among others.

Lastly, **Dr. Fernando Nardi**, Associate Professor of Hydrology and Director of the [Water Resources Research and Document Center \(WARREDOC\)](#) at the [University of Foreigners of Perugia](#), Italy. He commented on his background, career path, and current work, which consists of researching and finding solutions, such as technology transfer, and studying opportunities for solving environmental challenges.

The panel finished with a Q&A session. 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 recording, [click here](#)
- ▶ To view flyer, [click here](#)
- ▶ To view bios' panelists, [click here](#)





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## MEET EU

Meet our MEET EU Emerging Filmmaker  
Vida Skerk, Croatian Filmmaker



## NIGHT RIDE



In partnership with the Center for European Studies at the University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill and the University of Pittsburgh’s European Studies Center, our Jean Monnet Center of Excellence at Florida International University continues a range of activities under the initiative “MEET EU: Making Encounters, Engaging Transatlanticists.” MEET EU Emerging Filmmaker is part of those activities. It is an initiative that includes hosting an emerging EU virtual filmmaker resident. Vida Skerk, a filmmaker from Croatia who applied with the film “*Night Ride*,” was awarded the 2022-2023 residency.

Vida Skerk is a graduate student of Film and TV Directing at the Academy of Dramatic Art in Zagreb, Croatia. She was born in Trieste, an Italian town near the border with Slovenia, in 1999. She is the author of a dozen short films, both documentaries and fiction, such as *Night Ride*, *Rosebud*, and *Hister*, which were screened at multiple festivals. She has spent her life questioning the various “borders”, both physical and cultural, which defined her existence and the identities of those around her. She considers herself Croatian, Italian, and Slovenian, and her background is just as multicultural as her birthplace. “I grew up constantly questioning my own identity, which I have always thought to be a multifaceted and anything-but-permanent construct. On the other hand, I have frequently encountered people whose views on identity were the opposite, and they struggled to understand why I so strongly oppose the idea of defining myself in black-and-white categories. I believe this struggle to clearly define who I am as a person often surfaces in my work as a filmmaker. My focus has lately been not only on the question of national identities but also on sexual identities and other categories we tend to put ourselves into.”

*Night Ride* (*Noćna vožnja*) is a 24-minute film that explores quarter-life identity crisis through the perspective of a twentysomething student in Croatia. Dunja, the main character, questions her decision to move to a bigger city and regrets leaving behind the safety of her hometown, where she could always count on the support of her close friend, Sara. Exploring the “borders” and boundaries of the film medium itself, the film is constructed as a series of dreams and nightmares which evade a linear narrative structure and retain the qualities of a more stream-of-consciousness type of approach, presenting to the viewer Dunja’s inner world in its most authentic, raw, and honest form.

During this year’s residency, Vida Skerk remotely engaged with the three universities’ artistic communities and academic life and traveled to spend a week at each institution. Her film was also screened and promoted in the three locations. Furthermore, her virtual residency extended during Spring 2023. In her feature-length project, which the filmmaker intends to develop during the MEET EU Residency, she kept exploring the possibilities of surrealist filmmaking but within a more traditional, narrative structure of genre filmmaking – specifically, horror.

You can watch the trailer of Vida Skerk  
*Night Ride* (*Noćna vožnja*) ► [here](#)

► For more info. on the Resident Filmmaker Vida Skerk, [click here](#)

► To view the pics of Vida’s visit to FIU, [click here](#)

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**MEET EU**

**MEET EU Emerging Filmmaker-in-residence**  
**and Screenings of her Movie *Night Ride* | Nov. 13-20, 2022**



**Vida Skerk presenting her film**



**Vida Skerk discussing her film with FIU students**

We were honored to receive Vida at FIU and organized her agenda from November 13 to 20. During her stay in Miami, she had several meetings with different organizations, centers, and institutions, including the FIU Center for Women's and Gender Studies, the CAPS Victim Empowerment Program, the Office of Civil Rights Compliance and Accessibility, the Office of Social Justice and Inclusion and the Pride

Center (in total, 19 meetings). She also interacted with several scholars and students and engaged in exciting discussions with the students who watched *Night Ride* on campus (in total 3 screenings), including those in Dr. Andrew Strycharski's film class, and Dr. Arraras' Political Science class. She also met Olivia Guthrie, FIU Honors College student and winner of this year MEET EU Short film Competition. Vida also attended the OUTshine LGBTIQ+ Film Festival in Fort Lauderdale and had meetings at the Miami Beach Urban Studies, the Wolfsonian Museum, and the Jewish Museum of Florida.

We were delighted to meet such a creative and talented filmmaker and beautiful human being. We wish Vida all the success in her career.



**Vida Skerk presenting her film in Dr. Arraras' political science class**



**MEET EU**

# MEET EU

## MEET EU Emerging Filmmaker-in-residence

### Visit to FIU—Nov. 13-20, 2023



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Vida Skerk with Dr. Susanne Zwingel, Associate Professor, Politics & International Relations, FIU



Left: Vida Skerk with Olivia Guthrie, FIU Honors College Student and winner of this year MEET EU Short Film Competition



Vida Skerk with Drs. Victoria Burn and Alexandra Cornelius  
FIU Center for Women's and Gender Studies



Vida Skerk with Olivia Guthrie, FIU Honors College Student;  
and Dr. Astrid Arraras, Politics & International Relations, FIU



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# 2023 MEET EU FILM FESTIVAL

## Europe's Moving Images | January 27-31, 2023



European cinema is a fertile ground to explore the EU culture. It shows us the richness of European art, history, diversity, and the most relevant issues and challenges of the past and present. Through the lens of filmmakers, we can access multiple worldviews that coexist in the EU and are an essential part of its identity. They capture social truth, pursue certain aesthetics, advance new understandings of history, and explore different ideas and fusions influenced by other cultures.

With this vision, and thanks to our partner at the University of Pittsburgh, our Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence organized a two-day in-person MEET European Film Festival on January 27 and 31 at Florida International University. We screened 6 films from Italy, Spain, Poland, France, Croatia, and Hungary in their original languages and subtitled in English, including *Night Ride*, the film by our EU Emerging Filmmaker Vida Skerk. The theme of this year's films was strongly marked by family and love. The event occurred at the Graham Center Building at FIU's Modesto A. Maidique Campus.

This event was part of the MEET EU grant and was co-sponsored by the European Studies Program, University of Pittsburgh, MEET EU, the EU Delegation to the US, Le Cercle Français, and Pi Delta Phi.

The EU Film Festival not only brought award-winning European films to Florida, but also traveled to Pittsburgh, Ohio, Indiana, and North Carolina.

Below are listed the films that were projected during the two days. You can watch the trailers by clicking over the links.

### Friday, January 27, 2023



**10:00 am – 12:00 pm | An Uncertain Border (Un Confine Incerto)**

COUNTRY: Italy (2019)  
DIRECTOR: Isabella Sandri

A young police officer chases a child kidnapper through Europe – has she lost her way or is she really close to

finding the girl that was kidnapped 6 years ago?

► To watch trailer, [click here](#)

**12:30 pm – 2:00 pm | School Girls (Las Niñas)**

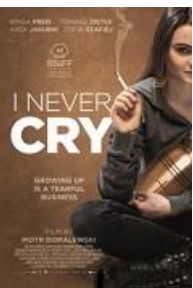


COUNTRY: Spain (2020)  
DIRECTOR: Pilar Palomero

A story of Celia, an 11-year-old girl who studies at a nuns' school in 1992. Celia is a good girl; she is a responsible student and a considerate daughter. The arrival of a new classmate will open a little window through which Celia will discover a whole new world. Together with her new friend and some older girls, Celia will enter a new stage of her life: adolescence, the stage of first-times. Her body needs to experiment, try new things, and stop being a little girl, even if that entails confronting her mother and everything that meant comfort and security.

► To watch trailer, [click here](#)

**2:30 pm – 4:30 pm | I never Cry, (Jak Najdalej Stad)**



COUNTRY: Poland (2020)  
DIRECTOR: Piotr Domalewski

Ola, a seventeen-year-old, sets off to a foreign country on her own. It turns out to be the trip of her lifetime, where she tries to reconnect with her estranged father, comes to know a different world and changes her approach to life.

► To watch trailer, [click here](#)



► To view detailed program, [click here](#)

► To view pictures, [click here](#)





## 2023 MEET EU FILM FESTIVAL

### Europe's Moving Images | January 27-31, 2023



#### Tuesday, January 31, 2023

##### **3:00 pm– 5:00 pm | Lola (Lola Vers la Mer)**

COUNTRY: France (2022)  
DIRECTOR: Laurent Micheli

Lola, 18 years old, bleach blonde hair, lives in a foster home with Samir, her only friend. Impulsive and lonely, she is trying to get her diploma as a veterinary assistant. When her mother passes away, her father Phillip makes sure that Lola will miss the ceremony. Two years before that, Philip was throwing her out of the family home: at the time, Lola was still Lionel – Philippe is determined to fulfill Catherine's last wish: to be dispersed to the North Sea, in the dunes of her childhood home. Lola on the other hand is furious against her father, but she will not leave her mother alone in this last journey. So they take off together, both unwilling to share a car but determined to take Catherine home.

► To watch trailer, [click here](#)

##### **5:00 pm – 5:30 pm | Night Ride (Noćna vožnja)**

COUNTRY: Croatia  
DIRECTOR: Vida Skerk

Night Ride (Noćna vožnja) explores quarter-life identity crisis through the perspective of a twentysomething student in Croatia. Dunja, the main character, questions her decision to move to a bigger city and regrets leaving behind the safety of her hometown where she could always count on the support of her

close friend, Sara. Exploring the “borders” and boundaries of the film medium itself, the film is constructed as a series of dreams and nightmares which evade a linear narrative structure, and retain the qualities of a more stream-of-consciousness type of approach, presenting to the viewer Dunja's inner world in its most authentic, raw and honest form.

► To watch trailer, [click here](#)

##### **5:30 pm – 7:30 pm | Eternal Winter (Örök Tél)**

COUNTRY: Hungary (2018)  
DIRECTOR: Attila Szász

Christmas 1944. Soviet soldiers invade Hungary and drag every young ethnic German woman away from a small village and transport them to a Soviet labour camp where they are forced to work in the coal mines under inhuman conditions. This is where Irén meets fellow prisoner Rajmund who decides to teach her how to survive. While she is determined to return home to her little daughter and family, history and fate have a different plan: Irén and Rajmund fall in love. Based on a true story. “Eternal Winter” is the very first feature film about the 700,000 Hungarian victims of the Soviet labour camps whose stories remained untold for over 70 years.

► To watch trailer, [click here](#)

► To view flyer, [click here](#)

**MEET EU**an initiative by  
UNC-Chapel Hill  
University of Pittsburgh  
Florida International University**MEET EU****Spring 2023 MODELS EUROPEAN UNION**

**University of Pittsburgh Model EU Feb. 10-11, 2023 - From left to right: Shalva Otarashvili, Salome Katsia, Jose de Castro, Vicki Gargano; Right picture: Ernesto Fiocchetto with FIU team**

The Model European Union (MEU) is a simulation of the EU decision-making process that takes place every year, bringing together undergraduate students from across the United States. Participants replicate the work of the European institutions in the European Parliament, discussing controversial, real-life issues. During the conference, students play the roles of representatives of EU Member State delegations and negotiate diverse issues of concern for their country in order to achieve consensus on significant resolutions for the Union.

Florida International University MEU team consisted of seven undergraduate students, including Lauren Cibrian Castro, Jose de Castro, Vicki Gargano, Sophia Gonzalez, Salome Katsia, Bitisho Muma, and Shalva Otarashvili. Ernesto Fiocchetto, Graduate Assistant at our center and advisor of the FIU MEU team, organized the training sessions and accompanied the team during the travels. During the spring of 2023, the group participated in three MEU, having an outstanding performance for which the members were awarded individually and as a delegation.

On February 10-11, the University of Pittsburgh's European Studies Center hosted an in-person MEU on the university campus in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to address issues on "Prioritizing European Resiliency: A Strategic Response to Inflationary Pressures and Foreign Policy Challenges." The delegates discussed resolutions about energy and food security and regional security, including the EU-NATO relationship. The FIU team was assigned two countries: Salome

Katsia and Shalva Otarashvili represented Portugal, and Jose de Castro and Vicki Gargano represented Sweden. After a remarkable performance, Salome Katsia and Shalva Otarashvili were awarded a distinction for Best Delegation and a mention for Position Paper. Vicki Gargano and Jose de Castro were awarded a distinction for Best Position Paper.

The West Coast Model EU was held on March 3-4 by the University of Washington in Seattle. The agenda of the Heads of Government included proposals to adopt the European Sky Shield initiative and to establish a new Energy Resilience Fund. As for the Interior Ministers, they addressed proposals to create a Refugee Enhanced Solidarity Platform and to expand Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid. Jose de Castro (Prime Minister) and Vicki Gargano (Interior Minister) represented Portugal, and Lauren Cibrian Castro (Prime Minister) and Sophia Gonzalez (Interior Minister) were assigned Romania. Sophia Gonzalez received the Outstanding Interior Minister Award.

Lastly, our MEU team traveled to Bloomington, Indiana, on March 23-25 to participate in the Midwest MEU. Hosted by Indiana University, the MEU competition is the second-oldest intercollegiate simulation of the European Union in North America. FIU's team represented Portugal, which was chosen through a lottery system, during the competition; the delegation was composed of two students from FIU, Jose de Castro and Bitisho Muma; two students from Florida Atlantic University, Leann Mervilus and Mariana Vallejo Velez; and Stephen F. Austin State





## MEET EU

### Spring 2023 MODELS EUROPEAN UNION



University of Pittsburgh—Feb. 10-11 & University of Seattle—March 3-4



At the University of Pittsburgh Model EU | Feb.10-11: Salome Katsia, Shalva Otarashvili, Jose de Castro and Vicki Gargano

University. Jose de Castro was the Prime Minister, and Bitisho Muma was the Minister of Justice and Home Affairs.

During the competition, students participated in five legislative simulations with the goal of negotiating and bargaining between member states to pass legislation for the EU. It also allowed the students to showcase their knowledge of assigned countries' policies and affairs.

A new addition to the competition this year was the European Parliament, the legislative body that represents the citizens of the European Union's member states and is directly elected by voters in the EU.

Participants were ranked based on their negotiation and bargaining skills and participation in the debates, among other criteria. A total of 15 universities and 20 teams participated.

Congratulations to Lauren Cibrian Castro, Jose de Castro, Vicki Gargano, Sophia Gonzalez, Salome Katsia, Bitisho Muma, and Shalva Otarashvili. We are so proud of you! Go Panthers!!!!

- To view pictures Pittsburgh, Feb. 10-11, [click here](#)
- To view pictures Seattle, March 3-4, [click here](#)
- To view pictures Indiana, March 23-25, [click here](#)



At the West Coast Model EU on March 3-4, Jose de Castro represented Portugal's Prime Minister



MEET EU



# MEET EU

## Spring 2023 MODELS EUROPEAN UNION

University of Pittsburgh—Feb. 10-11 & University of Seattle –March 3-4



Sophia Gonzalez received the Outstanding Minister Award at the West Cost Model EU at the University of Washington on March 4. Congratulations!

At the West Coast Model EU, Salome, Vicki, Sophia, Ernesto, Jose and Lauren (left); Sopha (right picture)



At the Midwest Model EU, Indiana University Bloomington | March 23-25: Bitisho, Jose, Leann, and Mariana



MEET EU &gt;

an initiative by  
University of North Carolina at  
Pittsburgh  
Florida International University

## MEET EU—Visit of EU Institutions

### Model EU in Mainz, Germany—July 12-15, 2023



## Congratulations!



From left to right: Shalva, Lauren, Salome, and Jose

Congratulations to our four FIU-SIPA students who have been selected to go to Europe and represent FIU for the Model EU in Mainz, Germany this summer. We are proud of you! In July, Jose de Castro, Lauren Cibrian, Salome Katsia, and Shalva Otarashvili, along with eight students and recent graduates from the University of North Carolina and the University of Pittsburgh, will visit EU Institutions in Brussels (European Parliament, European Council, European Commission) from July 9 to 11 and then participate in a Model EU in Mainz, Germany from July 12 to 15.



European Commission



European Council



European Parliament



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## MEET EU: MODEL EUROPEAN UNION

### 2023 Students' Testimonials



The members of the team shared with us their experiences during the events and the significance of their participation in the MEU for their personal and professional life.



#### Lauren Cibrian Castro

BA in International Relations and Political Science (Fall 2023)  
Certificate in European & Eurasian Studies (Fall 2023)

Participation in the West Coast Model EU— University of Washington, Seattle—March 3-4, 2023

I'm graduating in the fall of 2023; therefore, this is my final year of participation in the Model European Union. Being a part of this team has helped me identify the areas in my career that I want to focus on. It provided me with the chance to develop and learn among subject-matter specialists. I must admit that taking part in the MEU got challenging because one needed to use effective time management techniques in order to maintain balance. When I was a young child, public speaking was among my greatest struggles. I must continue to improve at this ability, but the MEU helped me get better and closer to where I am today.

While the various delegates brought forth excellent ideas for pressing global challenges, the themes we covered kept me inspired to keep looking forward to the next conferences. I can tell with certainty that the people I met at the West Coast MEU had a very high level of awareness of EU laws and policies, which pushed me to step outside of my comfort zone. I want to express my gratitude to my teammates for the wonderful memories I will always carry with me and to Ernesto, our program mentor, for all he did to get us ready for the conference. He went above and beyond at the conference and outside of it to not only impart the necessary knowledge to us but also to show us how to take what we learned and apply it to other areas of our lives. I will always be grateful that I took Dr. Thiel's class and was chosen to join this team because it has been my home for the past two years. It has provided me with knowledge and experiences I wouldn't have otherwise acquired, and it has enhanced my college experience by giving me something to look forward to besides my usual studies.

This is my advice to FIU undergraduate students: Make the most of your college experience, don't be afraid to attend events and network, become engaged, and take advantage of all the resources available, is my advice to prospective students. Since I became associated with the Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, my college experience has undoubtedly altered, and I couldn't be more pleased with the decision I made two years ago.



#### Jose de Castro

BA in Political Science and Philosophy (Summer 2023)  
Certificate in National Security Studies (Summer 2023)  
Certificate in European & Eurasian Studies (Summer 2023)

- Participation in the University of Pittsburgh Model EU Feb. 10-11, 2023
- Participation in the West Coast Model EU - University of Washington, Seattle March 3-4, 2023
- Participation in the Midwest Model EU - Indiana University, Bloomington - March 23-25, 2023

Coming into the semester, I did not expect to end up as an FIU Model EU team member, but I am glad I did. Having developed an interest in European affairs, participation in the team has only served to enhance my understanding of the EU and its complicated policy-making process. Additionally, participation in this team has afforded me the opportunity to travel the country representing FIU while introducing me to a network of like-minded students across the country and from a wide range of backgrounds.

Having never participated in this style of an event before, I was nervous. However, the nerves quickly subsided as I talked to my team and attended more events. By the end of the experience, I felt I had grown my knowledge of the EU's policy-making process and improved my negotiating, public speaking, and networking skills. On top of that, I made some great friends along the way. I am a senior, but had I known about this opportunity earlier in my academic career, I would have joined much earlier.

Given my preference for working in European and Transatlantic affairs, I believe my time in Model EU has helped me build on my EU knowledge in a more hands-on way. I highly recommend the FIU Model EU team to any student interested in European affairs and wanting to gain hands-on experience in diplomacy, negotiation, and public speaking. The team offers a supportive and collaborative environment that fosters personal and professional growth and opportunities to connect with like-minded individuals from around the world. I am grateful for the experiences and friendships I have gained through this program, and I am confident that it will continue to have a positive impact on my academic and professional pursuits in the years to come.



**MEET EU**an initiative by  
UMC-Chapel Hill  
University of Pittsburgh  
Florida International University

## MEET EU: MODEL EUROPEAN UNION 2023 Students' Testimonials

**Vicki Gargano**

BA in Political Science (Summer 2023)  
Certificate in Latin American and  
Caribbean Studies (Summer 2023)  
Certificate in Middle East and Muslim  
World Studies (Summer 2023)

- Participation in the University of Pittsburgh Model EU - Feb. 10-11, 2023
- Participation in the West Coast Model EU University of Washington, Seattle - March 3-4, 2023

My name is Vicki Gargano, and I am a senior at FIU. During the Spring 2023 semester, I participated in the delegations of Sweden at the University of Pittsburgh and Portugal at the University of Seattle for Model European Union. I joined Model EU to learn more about European politics and practice effective policy writing.

I am honored to have had the opportunity to participate in Model EU because I was surrounded by like-minded students who wanted to form solutions to modern problems. Although Model EU is a simulation, it is a rigorous program that involves a thorough research and nearly airtight arguments. When preparing for conferences, it was challenging to find historical context to a current problem or gather sufficient resources to aid my policy positions. When I faced the overwhelming fear of finding my policy position, I found ways to simplify my research. To find my country's stance on a topic, I primarily focused on: speeches from my government leaders, programs my country has implemented to mitigate the problem, events my country has hosted or attended about the issue, any agreements my country signed involving the topic, and reports about what my country is doing about the problem or how the problem impacts my country. This method helped me maximize my time and made me secure in the knowledge of my country's position.

MEU aided my academic goals because it drove me to learn more about the history and politics of another region. It also allowed me to practice creating policies and forming resolutions with delegates that had opposing stances from my own country. MEU specifically aided my professional aspirations because I want a career as a research analyst or policy writer. This program helped me develop an efficient research method to learn about politics and history for a variety of topics. It also helped me develop the confidence to form a stance and defend it publicly.

**Sofia Gonzalez**

BA in Psychology and International  
Relations (2024)

Participation in the West Coast Model  
EU - University of Washington, Seattle  
March 3-4, 2023

As a first-time FIU member of the Model EU, my personal experience was very inspiring. I had the privilege of meeting exceptional people from all over the nation, with an incredible passion for politics and astonishing performances throughout the weekend. I got to experience first hand a disagreement between countries and how they were still able to work through their conflicts to work together towards the same goal. During that weekend in Seattle, Washington, I was also able to put myself in the shoes of these countries and understand why foreign governments are struggling to agree on policies. Thanks to the research and studies on the prompts, I got to understand in more depth the magnitude of importance it is for us to keep ourselves informed of the news across the world and know how they affect us.

I am very thankful that the European Union has given us this opportunity to experience what it would be like to be part of their organization. Because of this model, I could determine that I am more of a speaker than a notary or writer. Although I contributed to writing the policy agreements, I was a way better speaker and negotiator by stipulating the policies that countries agree to during negotiations.

I will preserve this experience for future references in my career by being able to tell what I like and dislike about negotiations. I would recommend this experience to everyone looking to expand their knowledge in European policies, practice their networking skills, and even get better at debate and negotiation. It will help everyone willing to learn and will definitely take them out of their comfort zone, leading everyone who participates in the MEU to enhance their knowledge about themselves and international politics.

**Congratulations to Lauren Cibrian Castro, Jose de Castro, Vicki Gargano, Sofia Gonzalez, Salome Katsia, Bitisho Muma, and Shalva Otarashvili. We are so proud of you! Go Panthers!!!!**

► Testimonials, [click here](#)

**MEET EU**an initiative by  
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University of Pittsburgh  
Florida International University

## MEET EU: MODEL EUROPEAN UNION

### 2023 Students' Testimonials

**Salome Katsia**

BA in International Relations (Spring 2024)  
Certificate in European & Eurasian Studies (Spring 2024)

Participation in the University of Pittsburgh Model EU - Feb. 10-11, 2023

My name is Salome Katsia, and I am a junior here at FIU. For the past two years, I have participated in Jean Monnet Center of Excellence events and was a part of the Model EU team. For me, the 2023 Pittsburgh Model EU was a great and different experience from the ones before for several reasons. This Model EU was held among only a few participants, making the whole process much more dynamic and less chaotic. I am sure that all four of my teammates will agree that participating in such activities not only gives one an opportunity for valuable informal education but also a great way to expand your social circle.

If somebody asked me what I have gained from this experience, I would say that I have gained a couple of new friends and endless knowledge. Being an introvert, I always doubted myself to participate in events and competitions such as the Model EU, but with each experience, I am getting better and better at overcoming that barrier that separates me from public speaking.

With the help of our amazing team, we have been acknowledged an honorable mention for our Position Papers as well as one of the best delegations for the entire project. We were very pleased with the outcome of our work as a delegation and all the bits and pieces that each of us has contributed to winning such awards.

Lastly, I would like to thank Ernesto and Christine for their dedication and hard work towards making all this possible, traveling with us, mentoring us, and being our role models. I would also like to thank my teammates: Shalva, Jose, Laure, Sophie, Vicki, and Bitisho, for being amazing!

**Bitisho Muma**

Exchange Student in Conflict Studies and Social Sciences of Health

Participation in the Midwest Model EU Indiana University, Bloomington March 23-25, 2023

My name is Bitisho Muma, and I am an exchange student through the National Student Exchange from the University of Ottawa. I am a 4th-year student in Conflict Studies and Human Rights (within the French Immersion Stream) with a Minor in the Social Sciences of Health.

I was privileged to attend the Midwest Model European Union conducted by the Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies. I was the Minister of Justice and Home Affairs for Portugal. This was my first experience partaking in stimulation that replicated an international organization, and it turned out to be an unforgettable one.

The majority of the political classes I have been enrolled in have touched on the European Union and its role on the international scale. Being part of the team compelled me to learn the intricacies of the many bodies within the European Union that resulted in it being an impactful union today.

It was phenomenal to meet and be surrounded by other youth interested in discussing pertinent issues plaguing the European Union and falling under the jurisdiction of the Justice and Home Affairs Ministers. In the last couple of years, migration has been a subject matter that I have taken an interest in, and this conference has furthered my interest as many of the proposals discussed were about migration. Humans have been moving since the start of time, and the unprecedented times we are living in are not indicating a halt in movement.

This conference has allowed for the refinement of my diplomatic skills, and the European Union continues to exemplify union in diversity.



► [More information on the Model EU, click here](#)





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Florida International University

## MEET EU: MODEL EUROPEAN UNION

### 2023 Students' Testimonials



**Shalva Otarashvili**

BA in International Relations  
(Spring 2024)  
Certificate in European & Eurasian  
Studies (Spring 2024)

Participation in the University of  
Pittsburgh Model EU - Feb. 10-11, 2023

My name is Shalva Otarashvili. I am a junior at Florida International University, majoring in international relations.

As an international student at FIU, I have always been interested in projects connected to the EU because of my home country Georgia. When I finally got the chance to represent FIU in MEU, it was a major accomplishment and honor for me.

The MEU at Pittsburgh University was outstanding because of the many young talents I had to communicate with and exchange my ideas with.

PITT MEU helped me more deeply understand the current issues in the EU and, at the same time, work on possible resolutions. That helped me understand the sensitivity and importance of the problems.

As an international student, being part of the MEU is a huge success because it prepares you for your future career path.



**Shalva Otarashvili and Salome Katsia represented Portugal at the University of Pittsburgh Model EU**

It is important to mention that our team from FIU was outstanding, and nothing would be possible without the dedication and hard work of each of us.

Fortunately, we got a very positive outcome being awarded in different categories, which was the happiest moment of the conference because we knew our hard work was appreciated. However, without our advisor Ernesto Fiocchetto competing in the MEU would be almost impossible. He was the one who gave us directions and an understanding of the complicated EU system.

I would like to thank each of my team members and advisors who made the event possible because it was one of the most memorable events of my life.

**Shalva Otarashvili and Salome Katsia were awarded a distinction for Best Delegation and a mention for Position Paper at the University of Pittsburgh Model EU**



**University of Pittsburgh Model EU—Feb. 10-11, 2023**



## EESP-SIPA Lecture

### France and the Russian Aggression Against Ukraine

**Aurélie Bonal, Deputy Ambassador**

**Embassy of France in the United States | Friday, October 14, 2022 | FIU**



**Aurélie Bonal, Deputy Ambassador  
Embassy of France in the United States**



**Aurélie Bonal, Deputy Ambassador, Embassy of France in the  
United States and Dr. Tatiana Kostadinova**

The Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 initiated an ongoing armed conflict that endangered peace in the region. The regrettable consequences of this event affect the whole world, particularly Europe. The European Union has had to respond not only to the war but also to the violation of international law, the humanitarian crisis—with more than 7.6 million refugees from Ukraine recorded across Europe as of September 2022, the energy crisis, and the challenge on food security among other aspects of the conflict. France, one of the great powers in the Union, is playing a crucial role in trying to find peaceful solutions to the situation.

On Friday, October 14, the Miami Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence at FIU hosted a lecture on “France and the Russian Aggression Against Ukraine.” We were honored with the presence of some representatives of the France diplomatic service in the United States. Ms. Aurélie Bonal, Deputy Ambassador at the Embassy of France in the United States, was

the keynote speaker, and discussed France’s reaction to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine in an interactive conversation with the audience.

Ms. Bonal was appointed Second-in-command at the Embassy of France in the United States of America in August 2020. Her previous roles in the Minsk Group Mediation team while at the OSCE (Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe) and as a Desk officer for Southern Caucasus granted her an extended knowledge of Eastern Europe and Russia’s diplomacy and politics. Ms. Bonal also spent four years as a Political Counsellor in Argentina and deputy Ambassador in Ireland. More recently, she was posted as the Head of the Western and Nordic Europe Department at the French Ministry of the European and Foreign Affairs and as Press Counsellor and Spokesperson of the French Embassy to the United Kingdom. She is an alumna of the National School for Administration and the Institute of Political Studies of Aix-en-Provence, France.



## Aurélie Bonal, Deputy Ambassador, Embassy of France in the United States



At the questions and answers session

Dr. Shlomi Dinar, Interim Dean of the Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs, welcomed the audience, composed of a large number of students and faculty, and our special guests, including Honorable Raphaël Trapp, the Consul General of France in Miami.

Dr. Dinar introduced Dr. Tatiana Kostadinova, Director of the European and Eurasian Studies Program at FIU, and Professor of Politics and International Relations who was the moderator of the conversation.

Ms. Bonal presented France's position on the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and answered to many relevant

questions from students. The audience engaged in a fascinating discussion with her. Students and faculty who attended the lecture asked exciting questions that enriched the debate.

We appreciate the collaboration of our sponsors for this event, including the French Embassy in the United States, the Consulate General of France in Miami, the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, the Department of Politics & International Relations, and the Ruth K. and Shepard Broad Distinguished Lecture Series.



Aurélie Bonal with FIU students



## Aurélie Bonal, Deputy Ambassador, Embassy of France in the United States



Aurélie Bonal with FIU students, Consul General of France, and FIU Faculty



From left to right: Tatiana Kostadinova, Hon. Raphaël Trapp, Aurélie Bonal, Christine Caly-Sanchez, Nathalie Cluzet-Bertot



- ▶ To view flyer, [click here](#)
- ▶ To view bio, [click here](#)
- ▶ To view pictures, [click here](#)







## Virtual Conversations on Europe Fall 2022—Spring 2023



September 20, 2022: The UK after Boris (& The Queen)

*Conversations on Europe* is a virtual roundtable series that connects experts from around the United States and Europe to discuss contemporary issues facing Europe and the Transatlantic relationship. The series is intended to present a broad range of views and opinions about topics relevant to Europe. Using personal and institutional videoconference technology, panelists take questions and interact with audiences from both sides of the Atlantic. This year, the theme was “Year of Challenging Europe.”

During Fall 2022 - Spring 2023, the European Studies Center at the University of Pittsburgh hosted 7 events, which were co-sponsored by the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence at Florida International University; the European Union Center at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign; the Center for European Studies at University of Texas at Austin; the Center for European and Transatlantic Studies at Georgia Tech; and the Center for European Studies at the University of Florida. These events were possible through generous support from the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union.

In Fall 2022, we connected with experts on Europe via videoconference for three conversations:

- The UK after Boris (& the Queen) (September 20)
- Business after the Fall: Challenges of East German Companies (October 11)
- State of Democracy in Europe (December 6)

You will find below a summary of the topics addressed in each Conversation, the links to the panelists' bios, flyers, and videos.

### September 20, 2022: “The UK after Boris (& The Queen)”

This first installment of the *Conversations on Europe* took place on September 20. The Prime Minister of the U.K., Boris Johnson, was forced to step down on September 6 after a mass resignation of his ministers. This panel of British experts discussed his successor and the likely effects on the Conservative Party.

The Conversation was moderated by [Dr. Jae-Jae Spoon](#) from the University of Pittsburgh.

Four experts joined in the discussion:

- Dr. [Tim Bale](#), Professor of Politics, Co-Director of the Mile End Institute, Queen Mary University of London
- Dr. [Robert Ford](#), Professor of Political Science, University of Manchester
- Dr. [Jane Green](#), Professorial Fellow, Professor of Political Science and British Politics, Nuffield College, University of Oxford
- Dr. [Robert Johns](#), Professor in Politics, University of Essex

## Conversations on Europe

- To watch Sept. 20, 2022 “The UK after Boris”, [click here](#)
- To view program Fall 2022, [click here](#)



## Virtual Conversations on Europe Fall 2022



Jan Musenkamp



Wendy Carlin



Josephine Olson



Florian Mezger

October 11, 2022: Business after the Fall: Challenges of East German Companies

### Oct. 11 2022: “Business after the Fall: Challenges of East German Companies”

On October 11, for the second Conversations on Europe of the semester, our experts’ discussion revolved around “Business after the Fall: Challenges of East German Companies.” When thinking of German businesses, we usually mean West German ones. To add nuance to this perspective, this Conversation focused on the East German economy and on a successful East German company that had to restart after 1989 when Communism fell, and the German government privatized thousands of companies. While some did not succeed, the numerous stories of those that thrived are often overlooked.

Our interdisciplinary panel was moderated by Dr. [Jan Musenkamp](#), DAAD Associate Professor at the Department of History at the University of Pittsburgh, and the experts that took part in the Conversation included:

- Dr. [Wendy Carlin](#), Professor of Economics at the University College of London, and
- Dr. [Florian Mezger](#), Head of Shared Services North America, Head of HR North America, President & Treasurer at Carl Zeiss AG.

► To watch Oct. 11 conversation on *Business after the Fall: Challenges of East German Companies*, [click here](#)

### December 6, 2022: “State of Democracy in Europe”

The third Conversation on Europe of the semester was held on December 6. This panel considers several aspects of the current state of democracy in Europe, with special attention to the rise of right-wing populism, illiberal forms of democracy, declining party loyalty, and evidence of increasing disenchantment with the current state of democracy in Europe. The panel sought to discuss these issues with the help of a broad comparative and historical perspective.

Professors [Mohammed Bamyeh](#) and [John Markoff](#), Department of Sociology, Pitt, organized the panel and Professor Bamyeh moderated it.

The panelists that took part of the Conversation included:

- [Timm Beichelt](#)  
Professor of Social and Cultural Sciences, Viadrina University, Frankfurt (Oder), Germany
- [Donatella della Porta](#)  
Dean of the Faculty of Political and Social Science, Scuola Normale Superiore, Florence, Italy
- [Jae-Jae Spoon](#)  
Department Chair and Professor of Political Science, University of Pittsburgh

► To watch Dec. 6 conversation *State of Democracy in Europe*, [click here](#)





## Conversations on Europe Spring 2023



January 17, 2023: Legacies & Manifestations of Irish Nationalism and Irish-National Identity in the EU in the Context of Brexit

### January 17, 2023: “Legacies and Manifestations of Irish Nationalism and Irish-National Identity in the EU and in the UK in the Context of Brexit”

The first Conversation on Europe of Spring 2023 semester was held on January 6. This panel discussed what to expect in the Artistic Exploration and Negotiation of Irish Nationalism in the Context of EU Membership.

Ireland's relationships with Europe have safeguarded features of national identity from the early twentieth century to present as the region negotiated its long-standing and historically fraught relationship with the United Kingdom. In recent years, Ireland's role in the EU has further solidified these regional relationships as a counterpoint to its tangled politics with the UK, especially in complex concepts of national identity in Northern Ireland. In the midst of ongoing political tumult in the UK and the complexity of Britain's extraction from the EU through Brexit, what does Irish nationalism look like today north and south of the border?

The Conversation was moderated by [Jennifer Keating](#), Department of English, University of Pittsburgh, and the panelists that took part of the Conversation included:

- [Garrett Carr](#)  
Senior Lecturer, School of Arts, English and Languages, The Senator George J Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice, Queen's University Belfast, Northern Ireland
- [Jon Carson](#)  
Artist and Professor Emeritus, Carnegie Mellon School of Art

- [Mairead McClean](#)  
Artist and Filmmaker from Bath, England and Northern Ireland
- [Eve Patten](#)  
Professor; Director, Trinity Long Room Hub  
Co-director of the MPhil in Irish Writing in Trinity  
Vice Chair of the Royal Irish Academy Committee for Irish Literatures in English School of English  
Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland

### February 14, 2023: “Climate Change: Perspectives from France and Italy”

In the last few years, we have seen an increasing international awareness of the challenges facing the interaction between human populations and a changing environment. In France and Italy, these issues have in fact occupied a really important role in philosophical, social and political debates and initiatives for at least five decades. Our panelists offered a diverse and far reaching presentation of their own involvement with the research and initiatives presently occurring in Italy and France.

The conversation was moderated by [Giuseppina Mecchia](#), Associate Professor of French and Italian, Director of Undergraduate Research in French, University of Pittsburgh, and the panelists included:

- [Yves Citton](#), professor of Literature and Media, Université Paris 8 Vincennes-Saint Denis, France
- [Daniela Fargione](#), Associate Professor of Anglo-American Literatures, University of Turin, Italy  
Fulbright Distinguished Lecturer Chair at the University of Pittsburgh for the Spring Semester 2023
- [Giuseppina Mecchia](#), Associate Professor of French and Italian, Director of Undergraduate Research in French, University of Pittsburgh

- ▶ To watch Jan.17 conversation on Ireland, [click here](#)
- ▶ To watch Feb. 14. Climate Change: Perspectives from France & Italy, [click here](#)



## Conversations on Europe Spring 2023



### March 21, 2023: “Climate Change and Migration-What Can the US Learn from Europe?”

As North and Central America increasingly experience climate change and disasters (fires, hurricanes, drought, rising waters from the Great Lakes and Atlantic Ocean), the US has come to realize what our European colleagues have been experiencing as they have been at the forefront of the accelerating trend of global displacement related to climate change. The pre-covid years of 2015-2016 saw the highest peak of immigration into Europe. Last year President Biden signed an executive order 14013 “Rebuilding and Enhancing programs to resettle refugees and planning for the impact of climate change on migration”. With the release of the report, it was the first time the U.S. Government officially reported on the link between climate change and migration. While no nation offers asylum to climate migrants, the UN High Commission on Human Rights has published legal guidelines for offering protection to people displaced by the effects of global warming. Additionally, several of the 169 targets established by the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) lay out general goals that could be used to protect climate migrants. The panel was an informal discussion of how Europe’s experience with climate change and migrants can inform the United States.

The organizer and moderator of the Panel was [Mary Rauktis](#), Research Associate Professor, School of Social Work, University of Pittsburgh.

The panelists included:

- **Carla Malafaia**, Assistant Researcher, University of Porto, Portugal
- **Cosmin Nada**, Research Fellow at CIIE-FPCEUP, University of Porto, Portugal
- **Sheila Velez Martinez**, Jack and Lovell Olender Professor of Asylum Refugee and Immigration Law, School of Law, University of Pittsburgh

### April 11, 2022: “The Ongoing Struggle to Recover Nazi-Looted Art”

For this last Conversations on Europe of Spring semester, the interactive virtual roundtable discussion revolved around the Ongoing Struggle to Recover Nazi-Looted Art.

During and before World War II the Nazis stole art from Jewish families and then from occupied countries during the war. After the war and continuing until now, there have been many efforts to recover the stolen art and return it to their rightful owners.

In this panel, [Lynn Nicholas](#), author of *The Rape of Europa*, provided a history of the looting and efforts to recover and return the art.

[Vivian Curran](#), Distinguished Professor of Law Lynn H. Nicholas, the Pitt Law School, was the moderator of the panel and discussed current cases in the United States

This year’s virtual conversations were well attended by students and faculty from interdisciplinary programs. The MFJMCCE at FIU is looking forward to participating again this Fall 2023.

By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez



#### ► To view Spring 2023 Program, [click here](#)

- **January 17** – “Legacies and Manifestations of Irish Nationalism and Irish-National Identity in the EU and in the UK in the Context of Brexit”
- **February 14** – “Climate Change: Perspectives from France and Italy”
- **March 21** – “Climate Change and Migration-What can the US Learn from Europe?”
- **April 11** – “The Ongoing Struggle to Recover Nazi-Looted Art”



► To watch March 21 conversation on *Climate Change and Migration* [click here](#)





## MFJMCE Roundtable

### Migration and Race in South Florida: Theory, Policy, Practice, and a Transatlantic Perspective

Monday, October 17, 2023 | FIU



Ernesto Fiocchetto, Dr. Vrushali Patil, Jack Maguire, and Darya Zalyvadna

On October 17, the MFJMCE hosted a virtual roundtable on the intersections of human mobility and race and ethnicity in South Florida from diverse perspectives, including transatlantic dimensions. The MFJMCE invited three panelists to discuss the topic from theoretical, policy, and practical perspectives based on their expertise. Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, the Associate Director of our JMCE, delivered the opening remarks, welcomed the audience and thanked the moderator and panelists. Ernesto Fiocchetto, Graduate Assistant of the MFJMCE and Ph.D. Candidate in International Relations at FIU, was the panel moderator.

The origin, cause of migrating, possibilities, and experiences of each person who enters South Florida as an immigrant are, therefore, immeasurably diverse. Three experts tackled how human mobility and race and ethnicity play against each other in the different experiences migrants in South Florida have. The first speaker was Dr. Vrushali Patil, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Sociology and Chair of the Department of Global & Sociocultural Studies at the Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs at Florida International University. Dr. Patil discussed the theoretical tools to understand the intersection of human mobility, ethnicity, and race in South Florida. She elaborated on two concepts: webbed connectivities and intersectionality.

Jack Maguire tackled the impact of politics on immigrant communities in South Florida. Jack Maguire is a Ph.D. Candidate at the Department of Global and Sociocultural Studies at FIU and Coordinator of the Global Immigration and Migration Initiative (GIMI) of the Václav Havel Program for Human Rights and Diplomacy. He elaborated on the situation of the immigration system and how we ended up here. He also contributed some questions to another answer: How do we get out of here?

Lastly, Darya Zalyvadna, who works in the Operations and Communications area of the ["Florida for Ukraine"](#) (FL4UA) program, took the floor. She talked about the experiences and challenges of forced migrants and refugee service providers in South Florida. She grounded her fantastic presentation on her vast experiences running the program FL4UA.

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

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



## MFJMCE-EESP Lecture



### A Conversation on Diplomacy, Poland, and Ukraine

By Adrian Chrobot, Political Counsellor

Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Washington D.C. | October 28, 2022



Adrian Chrobot with FIU students

On Oct. 28, we had the honor to welcome Adrian Chrobot, Political Counsellor at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Washington DC to FIU. He met with Dr. Sholmi Dinar, Interim Dean of SIPA and FIU faculty members, and made a presentation on diplomacy, Poland, and Ukraine in Dr. Arraras' Politics & International Relations class. He shared his experience in diplomacy and previous appointments with our students. Mr. Chrobot has more than 10 years of experience on foreign missions with projects concerning human rights, European Affairs, migrations,

public and cultural diplomacy. He also shared his point of view on the relationship between Poland, the United States and support to Ukraine.

An engaging discussion between Mr. Chrobot and the students followed the presentation. He kindly advised students who were interested in choosing a career in diplomacy and international affairs.

*By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*

► To view pictures, [click here](#)



Adrian Chrobot with FIU Students





## MFJMCE Lecture



### Regional Integration & European-Latin American Relations: History and Current Trends | November 3, 2022



Dr. Joaquín Roy, Jean Monnet Professor and Director of the University of Miami European Union Center

As part of our Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence grant, on November 3, Dr. Joaquín Roy made a presentation on Europe and Latin American Relations at the University of Miami. Dr. Roy (Lic. Law, University of Barcelona, 1966; Ph.D., Georgetown University, 1973) is Jean Monnet Professor and Director of the University of Miami European Union Center. He has published over 200 academic articles and reviews and is the author or editor of 39 books. He has also published over 1,400 columns and essays. King Juan Carlos of Spain awarded him the Encomienda of the Order of Merit.

Dr. Roy addressed a question that guided his presentation: Why do the Latin American integration systems differ from the EU model? He answered through a comprehensive presentation on the issue. He argued that the main obstacle to mirroring the EU model is the unfinished task of consolidating national identity: the production of the uniquely Latin American species of the *pensadores*. However, in his view,

national integration takes precedence over continental cohesion. He also argued that Latin America and the Caribbean is an ideal area to receive the influence and inspiration for one of the most important messages of the EU, namely, regional integration. Dr. Roy's fascinating lecture also tackled how the Covid-19 pandemic and the Russian Invasion of Ukraine affected the Latin American region.

An engaging discussion between Dr. Roy and the attendees followed the presentation.

This event was part of the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence activities. We counted on our co-sponsors' consistent support, including the European & Eurasian Studies Program and the University of Miami.

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



At the University of Miami, Dr. Roy, Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, and the students



## MFJMCE Presentation

### The Elysée Treaty: 60 Years of Friendship and Collaboration

Tuesday, January 24, 2023 | FIU



Andreas Siegel, Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany, and Raphaël Trapp, Consul General of France

The Elysée Treaty was signed on January 22, 1963 by French President Charles De Gaulle and German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer to consolidate its friendship and cooperation. Sixty years later, the world has changed, as have the challenges for European countries, but the solution remains the same: it is the continuation of the European project. The Franco-German partnership has a decisive role to play. More than ever, Europe needs a strong and united partnership between the Germans and the French.

On Tuesday, January 24, to celebrate this 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, invited Hon. Raphaël Trapp, Consul General of France in Miami, and Hon. Andreas Siegel,

Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Miami, to discuss about the 60-year anniversary of the Elysée Treaty, the importance of the Franco-German relations, the European dimension, and transatlantic aspects with Florida International University students.

Dr. Astrid Arraras, Professor, Politics & International Relations, welcomed Consuls General Trapp and Siegel, to her Political class and audience. Christine Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director, Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, thanked Consuls General Trapp and Siegel for their attendance and introduced them to the audience.

After reminding the audience about the history of the Elysée Treaty, the consuls general of Germany and France highlighted the unique relationship bounding France and Germany in recent history. Thanks to their political will, successive leaders from both countries built a common future based on reconciliation, friendship, and the participation of civil societies. Many programs were created in 1963 and in the following decades to allow French and German citizens to better understand each other and to get closer. Both consuls general confirmed that this shared goal of convergence of views is still essential to address the current challenges, whether they are bilateral, European, or global.

We would like to sincerely thank Hon. Raphaël Trapp, Consul General of France; and Hon. Andreas Siegel, Consul General of Germany, for their fantastic presentation and for engaging with our FIU students.

*By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*



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



Consuls General of France and the Federal Republic of Germany with FIU students and faculty





## MFJMCE CONFERENCE



## Approaches to Migration, Asylum, and Race

February 20-21, 2023



From left to right: Christine Caly-Sanchez, Hon. Raphaël Trapp, Arancha González Laya, Shlomi Dinar, Pedro Botta, Markus Thiel

Our MFJMCE Conference is an annual event exploring current issues concerning the European Union. The 2023 Conference on “Approaches to Migration, Asylum, and Race in Europe and Beyond” took place in-person at FIU on Feb. 20-21. It addressed migration, asylum, and race in Europe from diverse perspectives, including theoretical and historical context, policy and legal development, and civil society responses from local and global perspectives.

Over the past two decades, there has been a growing debate about issues related to migrants and refugees across the borders of Europe. The so-called “refugee crisis” in 2015 and the massive number of Ukrainians who fled their country to Europe after the Russian invasion in 2022 have intensified the discussions and added layers of complexity to the situation. Diverse and contrasting forms of political and civil society mobilization arose partly because of the scale of migration and refugee movements across the “borders” of Europe but also because of political debates that

linked migration and asylum to cultural identity, national culture, cultural diversity, and the integration of minority communities. In both political mobilization and debates, “race” is a critical intersection that more or less explicitly underpins discourses and actions.

### **Keynote Address: Dr. Arancha González Laya** *Dean, Sciences Po Paris School of International Affairs*

On Monday, February 20, 2023, Dr. Markus Thiel, professor in the Department of Politics and International Relations at FIU and Director of our Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, opened the Conference. He thanked our sponsors and co-sponsors, welcomed the expert panelists, and gave the opening remarks. Dr. Shlomi Dinar, Interim Dean of the Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs (SIPA) at FIU, introduced our keynote speaker, Arancha González Laya. Ms. González Laya is the third Dean of Paris School of International Affairs at Sciences Po Paris and the first woman to lead the world’s third school for Politics and International Studies.



## MFJMCE CONFERENCE



## Approaches to Migration, Asylum, and Race

### Keynote speaker Arancha González Laya—Feb. 20, 2023



Arancha González Laya, Dean, Sciences Po Paris School of International Affairs

In her speech, she addressed several dimensions of migration and asylum in the European Union by highlighting the strengths and weaknesses of the Union's migration approach and the international and regional refugee regime. In addition, she discussed the most relevant challenges that the EU has in the near future regarding this topic. After her presentation, the audience engaged in an exciting conversation with Ms. González Laya during the Q&A session. Our MFJMCE is honored to have hosted this prestigious scholar and politician.

It is also worth noting that, before the Keynote Address, the MFJMCE organized a coffee chat with Ms. González Laya and the students and faculty of SIPA. Moderated by Dr. Markus Thiel, the topic of the conversation revolved around "Europe's view of the world." A significant number of students and faculty attended this event. After the dialogue between Dr. Thiel and Ms. González Laya, the audience asked her several questions and discussed with her several interesting topics on the EU in international society, including the post-covid situation, the impact of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and climate change, among others.

### Arancha González Laya

*Dean*

*Sciences Po Paris School of International Affairs*

[Arancha González](#) is the third Dean of PSIA at Sciences Po and first woman to lead the world's third school for Politics and International Studies.

Prior to joining PSIA, Ms. González served as Spain's Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation (2020-2021). She previously was Assistant-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of the International Trade Centre (2013-2020). Between 2005 and 2013 she served as Chief of Staff to the Director-General of the World Trade Organization, Pascal Lamy. Before that she held senior positions at the European Commission in the areas of international trade and development. Ms. González started her career as lawyer in the private sector.

Ms. González has been a member of PSIA's Strategic Committee since 2017.

A Spanish national, Ms. González holds a degree in law from the University of Navarra and a Postgraduate Degree in European Law from the University Carlos III of Madrid.

► To watch video recording of keynote speaker, [click here](#)







## MFJMCE CONFERENCE



### Approaches to Migration, Asylum, and Race Keynote speaker Arancha González Laya—Feb. 20, 2023



Arancha González-Laya (center) with FIU students, faculty, Dr. Shlomi Dinar (left), Consul General of France Raphaël Trapp (right)



Arancha González-Laya and Dr. Thiel



Arancha González-Laya with FIU students and Dr. Anjana Mishra

To see Feb. 20  
Pictures

-Keynote:  
[click here](#)

Coffee Chat with  
Arancha  
González-Laya,  
[click here](#)



Arancha González-Laya (center) with FIU students and faculty





## MFJMCE CONFERENCE

## Approaches to Migration, Asylum, and Race

### February 20-21, 2023



Panel I—From left to right: Drs. Markus Thiel, Terrence Peterson, Andrea Peña-Vasquez, Cecilia Estrada Villaseñor

#### Panel I: Contexts

On Tuesday morning of February 21, 2023, students, faculty, and the general public met at FIU MARC Pavilion to attend the first panel on “Contexts.” The panel aimed to answer this question: What elements of historical, socio-political, and economic contexts are at work when analyzing migration, asylum, and race in Europe and beyond? The panel consisted of Dr. Terrence Peterson, Assistant Professor in the Department of History at FIU; Dr. Andrea Peña-Vasquez, Visiting Assistant Professor of the Government Hamilton College, Clinton, NY; and Dr. Cecilia Estrada Villaseñor, Ph.D. researcher at the University Institute of Migration Studies of the Comillas Pontifical University in Madrid, Spain. The Director of our MFJMCE, Dr. Markus Thiel, moderated the conversation between the three experts.

Dr. Peterson offered meaningful insights into the history of race and migration in Europe. He provided critical context that helped us understand how the past has led us to the current debates on migration and asylum and how it continues to shape anxieties, policies, and questions about these issues. Dr. Andrea Peña-Vasquez's presentation was titled “From Brussels to the Barrio: The Challenges in Local Implementation of EU Policy.” Based on her case study, she discussed some topics related to the regularization of migrants and concluded that irregular migration is a structural feature of Spain's migration regime. She showed how competing pressures create incentivized ambiguity that charges municipalities with

the implementation of regularization policy and highlighted the role of race in such processes, especially focusing on the Race Equality Directive. Lastly, Dr. Cecilia Estrada Villaseñor focused on the “Discursive Representation of Immigrants and Refugees in the Media in Europe (Spain).” She explored the narratives in media and social imaginaries about the intersections of race, ethnicity, migration, and asylum.



- Detailed program , [click here](#)
- To view bios panelists, [click here](#)
- To view flyer, [click here](#)
- To see pictures, [click here](#)
- To watch video, Panel 1, [click here](#)





## MFJMCE CONFERENCE

## Approaches to Migration, Asylum, and Race



Panel II—From left to right: Ernesto Fiocchetto, Juan Carlos Gomez, Joyce De Coninck, Ieva Giedraitytė

**Panel II: Politics and Legal Aspects**

In the second panel, three experts participated in the discussion about the most relevant political and legal aspects that have been decided or should be addressed in the EU and beyond on migration, asylum, and race. The experts in the panel were Esq. Juan Carlos Gómez, Clinical Professor of Law and Director of the Carlos A. Costa Immigration Human Rights Clinic at FIU College of Law; Dr. Joyce De Coninck, Post-Doctoral Researcher affiliated with Ghent University (BE) Scholar in Residence at the Center for Human Rights and Global Justice at New York University; and Dr. Ieva Giedraitytė, Lecturer at the Department of International Relations of the Center for European Studies at the Vilnius University Institute of International Relations and Political Science.

Ernesto Fiocchetto, doctoral candidate in International Relations at Florida International University and graduate assistant at the MFJMCE, introduced and moderated the panel.

Esq. Gómez elaborated on essential dimensions of Migration and Human Rights in the United States. Secondly, Dr. De Coninck addressed the rise of transnational cooperative governance in digitalized border management and discussed human rights responsibility related to the topic.

Lastly, Dr. Giedraitytė's presentation on "Creating different (regional) orders? The EU's and US engagement with their Southern Neighbors in the context of recurring migration crisis" focused on the Western vision of the Southern Regions and the differences between the regional Pax Americana and Pax Europea.

**Panel III: Civil Society Responses**

During the afternoon, the third panel took place. Dr. Astrid Arraras, Teaching Professor in the Politics and International Relations Department of the Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs at FIU, moderated the conversation. The panel was made up of Dr. Marcie Washington, Associate Teaching Professor and Associate Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Department of Politics and International Relations at FIU; Ms. Kristen Guskovict, Clinical Social Work/Therapist, LCSW Principal Consultant at KLG Consulting Services; and Mr. Ernesto Fiocchetto, Ph.D. Candidate in International Relations and Graduate Assistant of the MFJMCE at FIU. The speakers were invited to discuss the following question: How does Civil Society respond to the growing mobilization around migration, asylum, and race?

Dr. Washington addressed the nexus between migrants, civil society, and peace in her presentation titled "Civil Society Actors in Conflict and Cooperation: The Role of Refugees, Diaspora, and Internally Displaced Persons in Political and Social Environments to Promote Peace." Ms. Guskovict delves into the "Experiences on the Psychosocial Support of Aid Workers and Refugees" based on her professional experience at KLG Consulting Services in the United States. Finally, Mr. Fiocchetto discussed Christian responses to LGBTIQ+ Latin Americans seeking asylum in Spain at the Intersections of forced migration, race, religion, and sexual orientation and gender identities.

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

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



## MFJMCE CONFERENCE

### Approaches to Migration, Asylum, and Race



Panel III—From left to right: Astrid Arraras, Marcie Washington, Kristen Guskovitch, Ernesto Fiocchetto

The three panels finished with Q&A sessions where students, faculty, and the general public engaged in exciting conversations with our panelists. The MFJMCE feels honored to have organized such a fantastic event, welcomed these excellent experts, and hosted a vibrant audience that showed interest and enriched the discussions with comments and questions. We also want to thank the support of our co-sponsors: the Steven J. Green School of International & Public

Affairs, the Green School's Dorothea Green Lecture Series, the Ruth K. and Shepard Broad Distinguished Lecture Series, the European & Eurasian Studies Program, the Global Immigration and Migration Initiative (GIMI), the SIPA's Vaclav Havel Program for Human Rights and Diplomacy, the Department of Politics and International Relations, and Sciences Po Paris School of International Affairs.

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



EU Conference Panelists with Dr. Markus Thiel and Christine Caly-Sanchez



# **CHALLENGE 2023**

## Local Florida Euro Challenge Competition 2023

Tuesday, March 28, 2023 | 8:00 a.m.—5:30 p.m. | FIU



From left to right: Maria Lorca-Susino, Lukas Danner, Gloria Guzman, Christine Caly-Sanchez, Volker Anding

As part of our grant, on March 28, the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence was proud to hold in-person the local Florida Euro Challenge Competition after three years of virtual competition due to the pandemic. This is the 17th year in which the Preliminary Round-Competition has taken place at Florida International University and the 16th year that the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence partners with the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta-Miami Branch. Nine schools from Miami-Dade,

Broward, Palm Beach and Alachua Counties participated in this year's competition on site at Florida International University, and two schools from Palm Beach County presented via video conference at FIU on March 28 afternoon.

The competition draws 9th and 10th grades high school students who have a variety of academic interests, including law, international relations, economics, and the humanities. In addition to their normal course work, students must find time to form



Benjamin High School team: Vanessa Zito, Scott Noble, Tommy Sini, and Anthony Viverito

# €URO CHALLENGE 2023

**Local Florida Euro Challenge Competition 2023**  
**Tuesday, March 28, 2023 | 8:00 a.m.—5:30 p.m.**



**Benjamin High School: 1st Place**



**Florida Atlantic University High School: 2nd place**

teams (three to five students), research their respective economic problem topics at the country level (among the 20 EU member countries that have adopted the Euro so far), identify policies for responding to that problem, and practice their presentations. Students chose the following economic problem topics this year:

- What Role Does Fiscal Policy Play in Promoting Economic Growth?
- Managing Migration Flows
- Inequality, Social Mobility and the Gender Gap
- Innovating for Long-Term Growth and the Future of Work
- Reducing Energy Dependence on Russia

"We've been preparing for the competition for about a year, and are thrilled to compete in-person and present our project *Reducing Energy Dependence on Russia and Slovakia*," said one of the students.

In addition to students from local schools, the competition also draws leading figures in the community and diplomats to serve as judges, among them, Dr. Volker Anding, Ret. Ambassador of Germany; and Gloria Guzman, Senior Economic & Financial Education Specialist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta Miami Branch; Aside from the students' knowledge of the facts and figures pertaining to EU member states, the euro, economies and politics, the judges also take into account the team members' ability to clearly communicate with one another.

"Each year, the presentations get better and better. As judges, we're looking for their understanding and management of the concepts and economic indicators of their countries, as well as their presentations, the

flow of the overall presentation, and their ability to work as a team," said Volker Anding, a repeat competition-judge and Ret. German Ambassador.

Four schools were selected in Miami to advance to the national competition in New York this year. The 2023 winners of the preliminary round were Benjamin High School (team 1), followed by Florida Atlantic University High School (Team 1), PK Yonge High School (3rd place), and Benjamin High School (Team 2). Those four teams were proud to advance and represent Florida at the national final held in New York on April 24, 2023.

The Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence has been participating in this wonderful project since the beginning. Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director at the MFJMCCE, is the recruiter and organizer of the preliminary competition in Florida. She has very proudly stated: "Since 2008, the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence has selected one hundred sixteen Florida high schools from Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, St. Lucie, Lee, Alachua and Orange counties, and sent twenty-eight to New York to compete nationally. One Hundred and sixty-one students have gone to New York representing their Florida schools. This competition has become a showcase for our Florida schools, and it will continue to grow due to the tremendous response we have received from our local schools. We are extremely proud of our schools in Florida."

*By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*



► **More Information on the Euro Challenge, [click here](#)**



# EURO CHALLENGE 2023

## National Euro Challenge Competition in New York | April 24, 2023



Florida Atlantic University HS team and teacher Robin Barks on the left and PK Yonge HS team on the right

Following regional contests, 25 HS teams from across the country travelled to New York City to participate in the national Euro Challenge semi-finals hosted at PineBridge Investments and the final round on April 24. Among them, our four teams from Florida HS were thrilled and proud to have been selected at the local Florida Euro Challenge Competition on March 28 in Miami, and participate in the national competition in New York and represent Florida. In total 17 students and 4 teachers from Florida. For some of the students, it was their first experience in New York, and for them, it was an unforgettable trip and experience, "a one life opportunity."

Benjamin High School – Team 1 presented *What Role does Fiscal Policy Play in Promoting Economic Growth and Germany*; Team 2: *Reducing Energy Dependence in Slovakia*; Florida Atlantic University high school presented *Managing Migration Flows and Slovakia*; and PK Yonge HS presented: *France and Managing Migration Flows*.

Students were impressed by the level of the competition and the opportunity to present their economic challenge and European country before a panel of prestigious judges from the European community: ambassadors, consuls, EU Delegation officials, financial and economic experts. Among them, Ben Carliner, Senior Economist at the Delegation of the European Union to the U.S., Bruce Kasman, Chief Economist and Head of Global Economic Research at JP Morgan Chase & Co, and Jennifer Olmsted, Professor of Economics at Drew University, New Jersey. This year's Euro Challenge also benefitted from the presence of a special guest speaker: Moreno

Bertoldi, who founded the Euro Challenge and hosted its very first edition back in 2006.

After a long day of competition for the 25 teams, all the students were invited to the Recognition and Award Reception at PineBridge Investments where His Excellency Stavros Lambrinidis, Ambassador of the European Union to the United States, announced the finalists, and congratulated the five best teams and all Euro Challenge participants for their remarkable performances. "The Euro Challenge is a flagship priority for the EU Delegation in the United States," said Ambassador Stavros Lambrinidis. "It promotes deeper understanding in the next generation of young policymakers on how the world's two biggest open economies function and interact. And it is thus indispensable for fortifying transatlantic ties during especially turbulent times."

Students showed great enthusiasm and presented creative policy recommendations on complex challenges the European Union faces as it dramatically reduces its energy dependence on Russia, accelerates the transition to renewable energy sources, and strengthens transatlantic supply chains, to the benefit of the European, the transatlantic, and the global economy. "The intellectual commitment of the young students in today's competition makes me optimistic for the future of transatlantic relations," concluded Ambassador Lambrinidis.

In Florida, we are looking forward to participating in next year competition!

By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez

# EURO CHALLENGE 2023

## National Euro Challenge Competition in New York | April 24, 2023



His Excellency Ambassador Stavros Lambrinidis, Ambassador of the European Union to the United States

This year's 77 teams collectively represented high schools from 21 States (Arkansas, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, North Carolina, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin). The five winning teams received monetary awards generously provided by Moody's Foundation. The first and second placed teams will also enjoy a trip to Washington, DC, to present their recommendations to the embassy of the country they researched.

The Euro Challenge is a program launched and supported by the Delegation of the European Union to the United States, and is managed on the Delegation's behalf by W!se (Working in Support of Education). The monetary awards are funded through a grant from Moody's Foundation. Partners are BNP Paribas, Florida International University, the University of Pittsburgh, the University of Illinois, the University of Texas at Austin, the University of Washington, the World Affairs Council of Charlotte, the World Affairs Council of Seattle, and the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta (Miami Branch).

***"The Euro Challenge is a flagship priority for the EU Delegation in the United States," said Ambassador Stavros Lambrinidis. "It promotes deeper understanding in the next generation of young policymakers on how the world's two biggest open economies function and intersect. And it is thus indispensable for fortifying transatlantic ties during especially turbulent times."***

### Students from Mount Saint Mary Academy (NJ) Won 2023 Euro Challenge

#### Five High School Teams Received Awards for Their Euro Knowledge

**1st place: Students from Mount Saint Mary Academy in New Jersey, won the final round of this year's Euro Challenge competition**

**2nd place: Mt. Hebron High School in Maryland**

**3rd place: School of Business and Management in Texas**

**4th place: Wethersfield High School in Connecticut**

**5th place York Community High School in Illinois**



► More Information on the Euro Challenge, [click here](#)



# €URO CHALLENGE 2023

**Our Florida students arrived in New York one day before the Euro Challenge competition and enjoyed visiting New York**



**Grant Station in New York**



**In front of The Freedom Tower in New York**



**Little Italy in New York**



**At Central Park in New York**

*Pictures shared by Florida Atlantic University HS Team*



# EURO CHALLENGE 2023

## 2023 Students' Testimonials



PK Yonge Development Research HS: Maria Gerber, Esther Cruz, Linda Belletti, Valerie Andrade, Moo Nam Wometcha

**High School students shared their experiences with us during the Euro Challenge Competition.**

### P.K.Yonge Development Research High School



**Valerie Andrade**

P.K. Yonge Developmental Research High School  
10th grade

Being part of the Euro Challenge competition was a very eye opening opportunity, and exposed me to topics I was previously not aware of. To start off the learning process requires you to choose a country and problem that you and your team wants to research. Throughout the span of a couple of months you and your teammates research and educate yourselves on the economic situation in the Euro Area as well as basic economic factors that you may not have known, such as inflation, GDP, and unemployment. Further on, you also research the reasons that are causing the problem you choose (in our case migration flows) and how it affects your country. You look for efficient and innovative solutions to solve this problem that will both benefit your economy and your citizens. As you are doing all this research you need to work together with your team, as those are the people who you depend on to help you research and present your findings. You slowly start to accumulate all this information into a presentation that will educate the listener of the situation at hand as well as grab their attention and has a good flow. The Euro Challenge organization provides many helpful resources such as an orientation zoom meeting to cover the basic topics of economics and other zoom meetings that has us brainstorming diplomatic solutions to common problems in countries such as low birth rates. They also had many slides on their website that describe the economic situa-

tion in the Euro area more in depth, which in my case were very helpful in grasping economic concepts such as brain drain and what to do in the case of high/low inflation.

Being part of the Euro challenge had many benefits but one of the major ones for me was the opportunity to learn about economics. In my school there are no economic courses available for underclassmen and through middle and high school we don't go very in depth into the topic. By being part of the Euro challenge, I was able to learn a great deal about economics and it is something that I'm extremely interested in. I plan to take further courses in economics while I dual enroll which will allow me to take my education to the next level. The Euro challenge also allowed me to learn about countries other than my own, and showed me insight on their economic and governmental problems. I learned about their past, present, and what they plan to do in the future regarding their citizen and economics policies. I learned by putting myself in government official shoes that there is much you need to take into consideration when making a policy/decision. You have to think about how it will benefit people, why people will be motivated to follow it, and how it will affect the country's economy. I'm proud to say that the Euro challenge has inspired me to continue to have a part in the decision and policy making for countries, more specifically the United States.

Overall Euro Challenge has taught me many lessons, as well as opened my eyes to a whole different chapter of education (economics in Europe). I was given the opportunity to learn about economics and the experience of brainstorming what to do in real life economic scenarios. It's eye opening to be able to educate yourself on a place that you are not familiar with and in turn it teaches you many valuable lessons. It also taught me to work in a group setting and how to support each other, forming many strong connections with the members of my team.



# EURO CHALLENGE 2023

## 2023 HS Students' Testimonials



**Linda Belletti**

P.K. Yonge Developmental Research School

"When I grow up, I'm going to New York." This is what seven-year-old me kept repeating to my grandma. I was constantly letting dreams and fantasies about my future fill the long wait, hoping they would one day all come true. But, as we know, dreams don't always pay the ticket to our destination. Until they do.

Participating in the Euro Challenge has not only given me the opportunity to learn so much about the economy and politics of Europe, but has also helped me to better understand the future of our world. It has provided me with insight to think and reflect on the social, economic, and political problems our generation has to soon face. However, through the Euro challenge, being able to see the passion and fascination coming from a young group of people has allowed me to realize that my generation is made up of dreamers and doers.

In addition to the many travel opportunities I received, Euro Challenge has also allowed me to grow as a person. It has changed the way I perceive the world and the future I see for myself both personally and career-wise. Being able to portray an important political figure and having the confidence and courage to present our ideas to high-class, educated adults was such a life-changing moment for me. This opportunity has allowed me to understand why I am so attracted to the way a society functions economically, politically, and environmentally. Having the chance to understand and learn the way adults solve problems today has made me want to strive to work just as hard to make a better tomorrow for myself, my generation, and the future to come. And for this, I am grateful.

Remembering my walk through those New York streets, I can only encourage others to participate in this amazing, once in a lifetime opportunity. And although there will never be enough words to describe how much I have appreciated this experience, I will forever be grateful for the person it has made me grow into today.



**Esther Cruz**

P.K. Yonge Developmental Research School  
11th grade

When my teacher talked to me about being part of the Euro Challenge, I can say with all certainty that I had no idea of everything that would be involved and, overall, how unique the experience would be. This opportunity is something I will definitely remember as one of the highlights of my 11th-grade year.

One word I can use to describe preparing for the Euro Challenge is enriching. Thanks to the competition, I learned about the situation and reality of many European countries, specifically those members of the European Union. Before entering the competition, I was unaware of how important and beneficial the European Union is for its continent and the world. What has amazed me the most is the single market policy the EU makes use of, as it allows not only goods and services but also people to move freely around 27 European countries. Through research, I immersed myself in current political and social situations that some European countries were and are currently going through and how their governments act to create efficient solutions. For example, I became aware of how France's citizens are participating in protests against the retirement age increase, why they are doing it, and how its government is acting toward them. I mention this as evidence of how the Euro Challenge opens the door to being conscious of outside struggles that can eventually affect our countries. We can learn from others' difficulties to help prevent them from happening to ourselves.

Furthermore, as my team's topic involved understanding migration flows, I learned how population movement significantly impacts the economy, education, industry, and many other sectors of a country. A big part of the Euro Challenge was getting in the shoes of those whose everyday job is to address and effectively tackle the problems regarding these sectors. So for our presentation, we decided that each team member would impersonate an important political figure for France and the EU. I chose to be France's Prime Minister, Elizabeth Borne, and over time learned about her role and planned for it. Doing this opened my understanding of how politicians and their decisions are crucial for the development of a country. Moreover, using terms such as inflation and GDP, which were unfamiliar to me before, eventually became easy to comprehend and analyze. With this came learning how to interpret graphs and identify rates of increases and decreases. To conclude, the Euro Challenge brought many benefits to my academic and personal life. Learning new concepts, working with a team, bringing ideas to the table, and thoroughly studying a script are things that help me grow my character during the competition process. Undoubtedly, it was an experience I could recommend to everyone who wants to expand their knowledge and use their problem-solving skills in practice.



Launched in 2006, Euro Challenge is an exciting educational opportunity for 9th and 10th grade high school students to learn about the European Union (EU) and the euro.

► [More Information on the Euro Challenge, click here](#)



# EURO CHALLENGE 2023

## 2023 HS Students' Testimonials



**Moo Nam Wometcha**

P.K. Yonge Developmental Research School  
10th grade

My name is Moo Nam Wometcha, a 10th grader who attended the Euro Challenge under the supervision of Mr. Hasan, Mrs. Santiago, and Mrs. Monzon. The Euro Challenge was proposed to us on March 15th and the date to qualify for state was on March 26th. The topic we were given pertained to the Migration Flows in France and what solutions we discovered to solve the issue.

As we look into France's migration flows, we found lots of issues regarding overpopulation, unemployment rates, and working-class citizens. Our first issue was to tackle unemployment rates since it would seem that with the amount of immigration into France (over the last 20 years since 2022, immigration has equated to around 2.3 million) there would be a significantly smaller percentage however unemployment rates equaled to a record low of 6.1% (around 4 million people in France). A solution to this issue is to have the immigrants work in jobs with high unemployment rates like the medical industry. We would fund their stay but would direct them to live in cities with the least population, teach them the language to interact with everyone and educate them in their respective fields. In return, they will work for 7 years but would be given a work visa. Once the visa expires, we would send them back to their homeland where they could help build their economy as well. This would tie in the unemployment and migration issues however regarding overpopulation, this would only increase the amount of people living in France so to tackle this predicament, we will integrate quotas towards the top 5 countries that make up the most migration to France (Algeria, Morocco, Spain, Tunisia, and Italy). Instead of just leaving the immigrants to stay in their countries, we would redirect them to countries in the EU that have the least migration rate like Luxembourg and Malta, we would also send them to countries with a higher percentage of old people like Italy. This is to help build their economy and also strengthen the EU economy as they are currently facing high inflation.

Lots of information was gathered throughout the group, it took research and studying about countries outside of America and their current situation. I will greatly recommend the Euro Challenge as it shows a different perspective to how life is and problems those countries are facing. I've already started spreading awareness of the Euro Challenge in the hopes of getting more people to join as it's extremely informative about countries in the European Union. Trying to find solutions to problems these countries were facing was extremely exciting yet challenging. Figuring out a way to tie in all of the problems to find a solution both long term and short term was difficult but, in the end, if these solutions were implemented it would, it will most likely work. This was the first Euro Challenge I have ever attended but I still learned so much about the world and I'm grateful that I was able to be a part of this journey.

### Florida Atlantic University High School



**Fernanda Salomon Del Blanco**

Florida Atlantic University High School  
9th grade

From learning more about the European economy to the team-building process to the great opportunity to travel to New York to do it all Euro Challenge was a fantastic experience. My team and I greatly enjoyed the process of creating and researching a presentation on the migration flows of Slovakia, the Euro Challenge allowed us to explore new ideas and careers as we learned about influences to the economy, it also helped build new relationships with officials in the country's government as well as fostering relationships with people within our school and other participants. I am looking forward to possibly participating again next year and am incredibly thankful for being afforded the opportunity of taking part in this wonderful event.



**Gracie Plonisch**

Florida Atlantic University High School  
9th grade

I am so grateful that I had the opportunity to participate in Euro Challenge. It was really an enlightening experience, and I loved getting to research and present on the Euro Area economy. I enjoyed using our knowledge from our research on the Euro Area economy and the economy of our country, Slovakia, to create solutions to improve their migration flows, since our topic was Managing Migration Flows. This experience has opened up my world view and allowed me to learn more about the Euro Area economy as well as the sort of jobs that could eventually be available for me to pursue. Thank you.



**Nathanael Lecky**

Florida Atlantic University High School  
10th grade

My name is Nathanael Lecky and over the past couple of months, I have had the pleasure of being able to participate in the Euro Challenge. Through this fantastic opportunity, I was able to further my knowledge of the Euro Area and Slovakia in general. This challenge allowed me to improve my public speaking skills, trained me to think under pressure, and most importantly taught me how to manage working with a team. As a sophomore, this was my last year to participate in the Euro Challenge, but the experience gained through it will follow me throughout the remainder of high school and will undoubtedly translate into my professional career. I would highly encourage everyone to take up this challenge and become better versed in the world of economics and international relations.





## MFJMCE Presentation

### Minority Groups and Territoriality in the EU and Beyond

Tuesday, April 4, 2023 | FIU



**Dr. Renat Shaykhutdinov, Associate Professor in Political Science, Florida Atlantic University**

On April 4, our MFJMCE hosted a presentation exploring social inclusion and minority rights in the European Union, the United States, and Latin America. To that end, the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence invited Dr. Renat Shaykhutdinov, Professor in Political Science from Florida Atlantic University, to discuss ethnonational diversity and its accommodation in Europe and beyond. The moderator for this presentation was Dr. Astrid Arraras, Professor at the Department of Politics & International Relations at FIU.

Dr. Shaykhutdinov received his Ph.D. at Texas A&M University after he earned his BA degrees in Political Science & International Relations and Sociology from the University of Bosphorus in Istanbul, Turkey. His teaching and research interests include comparative and international politics, ethnic conflict, research methods, power-sharing arrangements, decentralization, and the politics of the former Soviet Union and Central and Eastern Europe.

For this presentation, he presented *ethnonational diversity and its accommodation in Europe and beyond*. He argued that territorial autonomy is perhaps the most

*significant indicator of states taking the institutionalization of ethnonational diversity seriously, both in Europe and elsewhere. Although some scholars and members of the public point to the risks stemming from territorial autonomy, others see immense benefits. Still, implementing territorial autonomy may be both costly and risky for states. Based on that, he posed the questions he addressed in his presentation: Why do some states choose to allow territorial autonomy to form? What are the consequences of those arrangements? In surveying the instances of territorial autonomy across Europe (and beyond), he asked whether there is a systematic difference in its implementation across the continent. Thus, he explored key features that may help us understand that difference.*

Dr. Shaykhutdinov's fantastic presentation was followed by a Q&A session. The public engaged in an exciting discussion with our expert, and their thought-provoking interventions resulted in an enjoyable conversation.

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## EESP Roundtable

**Europe New Challenge: Accommodating three waves of Refugees**  
**Thursday, March 30, 2023 | FIU**



**From left to right: Drs. Jussi Laine, Russell Lucas, Steven Roper, Tatiana Kostadinova**

On the morning of March 30, the European & Eurasian Studies Program organized a roundtable on “Europe’s New Challenge: Accommodating Three Waves of Refugees” at FIU’s Graham Center. To discuss this complex and multidimensional issue, we invited three European experts that focused on the challenges Europe faces with accommodating refugees from Ukraine, the Middle East and North Africa, and Russia. Since the beginning of Russia’s War in Ukraine, new waves of migrants have fled their homes in the East to flee to the West. Europe has been flooded by Ukrainian women and children seeking shelter from bombing and death, by Russian citizens trying to avoid mobilization in the army, and by Middle Easterners and North Africans running away from destruction and hunger. This panel discussion with scholars addressed these dynamic developments on the old continent. The roundtable focused on the different sociological profiles of the refugees, their acceptance by national governments and civil society, and the challenge faced by the EU to accommodate and protect the migrants’ human rights in the midst of an unprecedented energy crisis.

Dr. Tatiana Kostadinova, Professor of the Department of Politics & International Relations and Director of the European & Eurasian Studies Program at FIU, moderated this roundtable of three exceptional panelists: Dr. Jussi P. Laine, Dr. Russell R. Lucas, and Dr. Steven D. Roper. The first speaker was Dr. Russell R. Lucas, Professor of International Relations & Global Studies at Michigan State University’s James Madison College and the College of Arts & Letters. He addressed the challenges of migration from the Middle East and North Africa to Europe. He highlighted the impacts of this migratory flow, including the securitization of migration, the right-wing resurgence and migration fears, the lack of efforts to address the causes of migration, and the incomplete and incoherent plans for addressing migrant arrival and settlement.

Secondly, Dr. Steven D. Roper, a Professor at the Florida Atlantic University’s Department of Political Science, centered on the challenges of Russian refugees in Europe. He showed that a significant Russian exodus happened following Russia’s invasion of parts of Ukraine. In Europe, Russian refugees have produced mixed feelings, reasonable reservations, but also Russophobia and moral concerns. Thus, he highlighted the double standards regarding European sentiments toward Ukrainian and Russian refugees by drawing from the concept of selective dehumanization. Lastly, Dr. Jussi P. Laine focused on the situation of Ukrainian refugees in Europe. Dr. Laine is a Professor at the Karelian Institute, University of Eastern Finland, Project Coordinator of MATILDE, and President of the World Social Science Association. He concluded that the Ukrainian refugee crisis has exposed several problems in international and European refugee architecture. Dr. Laine also argued that the crisis has forced organizations, agencies, and governments to rethink their policies and procedures. He also analyzed that the crisis has entered a new phase in which the focus is on creating modes of transition for refugees and protecting them and borders from criminal activity.

The audience manifested its interest in the roundtable by asking numerous questions to the panelists during the Q&A session. Such participation allowed the panelists to delve into the details of their research, which made the conversation even more interesting.

The event was co-sponsored by the Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs, the Dorothea Green Lecture Series, the Václav Havel Program for Human Rights and Democracy, the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, and the Department of Politics and International Relations.

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- ▶ To view pictures, [click here](#)
- ▶ To listen to/watch contents.



## PIR Conference Defending Humanity Transnational Feminist Responses to Violence and Devaluation March 9-10, 2023



From left to right: Drs. Susanne Zwingel (FIU), Alexandra Cornelius, (FIU), Louisa Turbino Torres (FAU), Louise K. Davidson-Schmich (UM), and Juliana Restrepo Sanin (UF)

To celebrate Women's History Month, Dr. Susanne Zwingel, Associate Professor, Politics & International Relations at the Department of Politics and International Relations, organized a two-day conference "Defending Humanity: Transnational Feminist Responses to Violence and Devaluation" on March 9-10 which was held on the FIU's MMC campus and virtually. The Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence was co-sponsored of the event. 17 international speakers

The conference showcased feminist movements across the globe that have developed gender-sensitive visions of justice, inclusion and care, and tirelessly worked to put such visions into practice. Experts discussed how this activism can provide guidance and inspiration, especially in the current circumstances that are shaped by existential threats to humanity such as environmental degradation, warfare, economic and political divides, and dehumanizing ideologies of exclusion. Speakers shared successes and challenges of feminist mobilization that is both border-crossing and situated within countries, including Argentina, Brazil, Israel, Trinidad and Tobago, Türkiye, and the United States.

17 speakers, among them Dr. Elizabeth Prügl, Professor of International Relations and Political Science at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, Switzerland, shared their expertise with a large FIU students and faculty audience during two days.

*By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*



Drs. Mihaela Pinte, Witney Bauman, Elisabeth Prügl

▶ To view detailed program and bios, [click here](#)

▶ To view pictures, [click here](#)



## MFJMCE Roundtable

### May 9th: Let's Celebrate Europe Day EU recognition Award Ceremony for FIU students



Catalin Ghenea, Consul General of Romania; Eva Alvino, Deputy Consul General of Italy; Andreas Siegel, Consul General of Germany; Dara Mac Gabhann, Vice Consul General of Ireland; Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Tatiana Kostadinova; Gijs Van Doorn, Junior Economic Policy Officer, Consulate General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands; Raphaël Trapp, Consul General of France

To celebrate Europe Day, the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence invited Consul General of France, Raphaël Trapp; Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany, Andreas Siegel; Deputy Consul General of Italy, Eva Alvino; Consul General of Romania, Catalin Ghenea; Dara Mac Gabhann, Vice Consul General of Ireland; Gijs Van Doorn, Junior Economic Policy Officer, Consulate General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, to discuss with FIU students about the importance of a strong and united European Union and the fundamental values that underpin the European Union's success. All together in a panel moderated by Dr. Tatiana Kostadinova, Director, European & Eurasian Studies Program, and Professor, Politics & Relations International at FIU, they promoted democracy, freedom, equality, and human rights, without forgetting that all the EU members states are standing together with Ukraine. After listening to the European

anthem, *Ode to Joy*, Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director, Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence and European & Eurasian Studies Program at FIU, welcomed the audience and thanked the panelists. Among the students who attended the event, the ones who graduated this Spring 2023 and had fulfilled all the requirements for the Certificate in European & Eurasian Studies, were proud and honored to receive their certificates from the European consuls general at the recognition award ceremony. The four students who participated in the four models EU this year were also honored and received a certificate of appreciation. After the ceremony, students, faculty and consuls general networked at a reception hosted by the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence.

We would like to sincerely thank all the consuls and deputy consuls general for participating in this event.

*By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*





## MFJMCE Roundtable

### May 9<sup>th</sup>: Let's Celebrate Europe Day & EU recognition Award Ceremony



From left to right: Gijs Van Doorn, Dara Mac Gabhann, Eva Alvino, Hon. Catalin Ghenea; Hon. Raphaël Trapp, Hon. Andreas Siegel, and Dr. Tatiana Kostadinova



Hon. Catalin Ghenea handing out the EESP certificate to Viviana



Hon. Andreas Siegel handing out the EESP certificate to Andrew



Hon. Raphaël Trapp handing out the EESP certificate to Franco



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## EU Jean Monnet Centers of Excellence in the US Networking Meeting *University of Pittsburgh | May 3rd, 2023*



Directors and associate directors with Jose-Lorenzo Valles at the JM European Centers of Excellence Networking Meeting

On May 3rd, Christine Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director of our Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence participated in the JMintheUS Coordination Networking meeting in Pittsburgh. The meeting included brief updates from all the JM centers, the planning of some joint events in 2023 and 2024, and other topics concerning the organization and the experiences of the network.

Each EU Center of Excellence Directors and Associate Directors had the opportunity to share an overview of their activities with Jose-Lorenzo Valles, Head of Unit, EACEA.A1 for European Higher Education, and responsible for Jean Monnet Activities, European Commission, and discussed future projects.

*By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*



Drs. Kathleen Shanahan Lindner, Executive Director, Center for European Studies, UNC Global Education Center, and Randall Halle, Director, European Studies Center, University of Pittsburgh



## MFJMCE FACULTY CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT GRANT

### And the winners are...



Each year, FIU-MFJMCE 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, the jury committee awarded two EU Faculty Curriculum Development Grants, one to a faculty member from Florida International University (FIU), **Dr. Michaela Moura-Koçoğlu**; and another one to a faculty member from the University of South Florida, **Dr. George Philippidis**. Congratulations to the two recipients for their great proposals.

#### FACULTY CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT AWARD 2023 GRANTEE



► **Dr. Michaela Moura-Koçoğlu**  
Associate Teaching Professor and Undergraduate Program Director at the Center for Women's and Gender Studies Florida International University.

Dr. Moura-Koçoğlu received this grant for developing a new course focused on: "Women, Representation, and Violence in Europe: Barriers to Gender Equity in the Public Sphere."

#### FACULTY CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT AWARD 2023 GRANTEE



► **Dr. George Philippidis**,  
Associate Dean for Research & Associate Professor,  
Patel College of Global Sustainability,  
University of South Florida

Dr. Philippidis received this grant for developing "Pedagogical Material about European Union Policies and Research on Sustainable Transportation Fuels."

The focus of this research grant is identifying policies and research implemented by the European Union (EU) with regards to sustainable transportation fuels that can help reduce carbon emissions, thus combating climate change.

Dr. Philippidis will travel in Greece this summer for his research.

- For more information on the Faculty Curriculum Development Grant, [click here](#)
- For more information on the EU Faculty & Graduate Students Research Grants, [click here](#)





## MFJMCE

## FACULTY CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT GRANT

## Interview with grantee Michaela Moura-Koçoğlu



***Dr. Michaela Moura-Koçoğlu is the Associate Teaching Professor and Undergraduate Program Director at the Center for Women's and Gender Studies at Florida International University (FIU).***

***She received the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence Curriculum Development grant this year for developing a new course focused on "Women, Representation, and Violence in Europe: Barriers to Gender Equity in the Public Sphere". She sat down with Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director of the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, to answer a few questions about her research and development of her new course.***

#### **MFJMCE: Can you tell us a little bit about yourself?**

As an Associate Teaching Professor and Undergraduate Program Director at the Center for Women's and Gender Studies at FIU, I teach courses on Gender Violence, Global Women's Writing, Women and Genocide, and Feminist Theory. My teaching initiatives have a global focus: I have been designing and implementing collaborative online international learning (COIL) projects in my curriculum since 2018. Students in my courses work together on short-term projects with international students at universities in Brazil, Mexico, Canada, and soon Türkiye. My research interests include Studies in Gender Violence and Trauma, Women and Genocide, Online Violence Against Women and Minorities, Indigenous Feminism, and Postcolonial Literary Studies.

**MFJMCE: In a few words, can you tell us what the focus of the research project for which you received this grant is?**

Violence against women and female identifying politicians, journalists, and human rights activists is a significant and growing problem worldwide. This project examines the prevalence and impact of gendered violence against women in the public sphere, recognizing this phenomenon as a violation of human rights that poses significant barriers to gender equity, women's participation in and contribution to societies across diverse cultural and geographical contexts.

#### **MFJMCE: How did the idea for this research come up?**

Given my research interest in gender violence, for years I have observed the escalation of violence against women in the public sphere globally, such as the murder of Indigenous environmental rights activist Berta Cáceres from Honduras, of politician Marielle Franco in Brazil or Jo Cox in Britain, or of journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia in Malta. Increasingly, we observe that gender violence – the offline discrimination and oppression of women and LGBTQ individuals – is replicated in diverse online spaces. Online violence is an attempt at intimidating, silencing or otherwise extending power and control over targeted individuals. Whether online or offline, all forms of violence have the chilling effect of curtailing the ability and willingness of women and minorities from participating in society as equals.

When I tasked students for a COIL project to create a research-based awareness campaign on online violence against women and minorities, an overwhelming majority reported that they refrained from voicing their opinions online and to some extent offline themselves, for fear of retribution. That sparked the idea to create a course that would illuminate the pervasiveness of the phenomenon of online violence against women and minorities voicing their opinions online, particularly public facing women, and to encourage students to ponder the strategies employed to silence women's voices, as well as the legal efforts to address this insidious form of violence.





## MFJMCE

## FACULTY CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT GRANT

## Interview with grantee Michaela Moura-Koçoğlu



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

The first step is to understand the nature of violence against public-facing women in Europe in comparative perspective with the U.S. where we have ample evidence, such as the attacks on female politicians, including the kidnapping plot against Governor Gretchen Whitmer or the assassination attempt of Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords.

While this course requires students to critically analyze the causes and consequences of gender-based violence against women journalists, politicians, and human rights activists, more importantly, they will actively examine and develop strategies for preventing violence against public-facing women.

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

In general, the content of this course is highly relevant in a rapidly changing world not least due

to technological advancements; and if women, who constitute half of the population, are prevented from participating in or contributing to public life, the range of perspectives and voices in decision-making processes will be limited, ultimately resulting in the undermining of democratic processes. Students in the U.S. will undeniably benefit from a global perspective to navigate the complexities of gendered violence, particularly in the digital era. Examining the commonalities and differences in the experiences of women in public life across different regions and cultures empowers students to critically interrogate the efficacy of and gaps in contemporary strategies and legislation.

**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?**

I am hoping to develop a COIL project for this course together with a Turkish partner institution to collaborate in producing real-world solutions. I am currently developing a project with Yasar University in Izmir to research and find solutions for the gender gap in education in Türkiye, and we are working closely with a local NGO whose mission is to encourage the participation of women and girls in public life.

**MFJMCE: Do you have any last thoughts to share?**

Only that I am excited about the opportunity to design and hopefully teach this course, and connect with colleagues across Europe in the process.

*By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*

► For Dr. Michaela Moura-Koçoğlu Bio, [click here](#)





## Miami Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence 2023 EU FACULTY CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT GRANT Interview with grantee Dr. George Philippidis



*Dr. George Philippidis is the Associate Dean for Research and Director of the Sustainable Energy concentration at the Patel College of Global Sustainability (PCGS) at the University of South Florida (USF).*

*He received the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence Curriculum Development grant this year for developing "Pedagogical Material about European Union Policies and Research on Sustainable Transportation Fuels."*

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

**MFJMCE: Can you tell us a little bit about yourself?**

I grew up in Europe (Greece) before moving to the United States to pursue a Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering, but with an angle towards biotechnology. Being concerned about the environment, I have been pursuing a career in sustainability in both the public and the private sector. I started at the National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL) in Denver before moving to Thermo Fisher Scientific in Boston. I then joined FIU's Applied Research Center in Miami to create a renewable energy program and later became a faculty member at the University of South Florida (USF) in Tampa, where I have been pursuing applied research and development of low-carbon biofuels and bioproducts from bioresources, such as algae, biomass, and oilseed crops.



**MFJMCE: In a few words, can you tell us what the focus of the research project for which you received this grant is?**

The focus of this research grant is identifying policies and research implemented by the European Union (EU) with regards to sustainable transportation fuels that can help reduce carbon emissions, thus combating climate change. Given EU's leadership in green initiatives, it is essential that we strengthen the US-EU partnership for reducing carbon emissions in the transportation sector and other sectors of the economy. A key focus area of the grant pertains to the development of Sustainable Aviation Fuels using algae and other bioresources, where EU policy leads the way worldwide.

**MFJMCE: How did the idea for this research come up?**

I have been developing and teaching graduate sustainability courses at USF since 2014. One of these courses, 'Renewable Transportation Fuels' (IDS 6207), focuses on the development and commercialization of low-carbon renewable fuels as replacement for carbon-intensive gasoline, diesel, and aviation fuel. Reducing carbon emissions has to be an international effort, so incorporating knowledge from EU policies and practices into IDS 6207 is essential to providing students with a holistic view of global efforts and tools they can use to lead sustainable development.





## MFJMCE EU FACULTY CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT GRANT

### Interview with grantee Dr. George Philippidis



Dr. George Philippidis

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

I hope that students will gain an in-depth understanding of policy and research initiatives underway in the EU, so as future sustainability leaders they can collaborate with their European and other international counterparts to reduce the global threat of climate change.

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

Reducing greenhouse emissions, while maintaining high living standards, is an international challenge. Carbon emissions and air pollution are global threats to society. As a result, students in the US are keen on understanding how EU countries have responded to this challenge, learning about the successes and challenges the EU has experienced so far in its efforts, and identifying opportunities for joint efforts.

► For Dr. George Philippidis' Bio, [click here](#)

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



Algae cultivation system

**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?

I am very interested in partnering with EU institutions and researchers to jointly develop and implement measures that can help all of us reduce carbon emissions through renewable fuels and products.

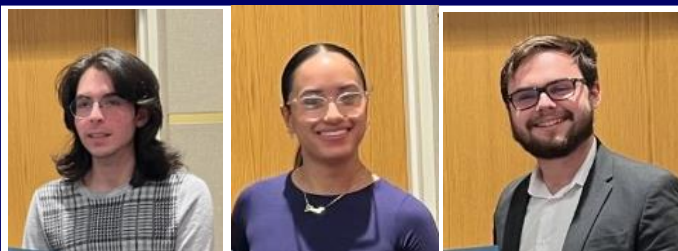
**MFJMCE:** Do you have any last thoughts to share?

I appreciate the Center's continuing efforts to enhance pedagogy through curriculum development and its appreciation of the need to promote understanding and collaboration between EU and US students and professionals for a more sustainable future.

*By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*



## Congratulations to the recipients of Spring 2023 European & Eurasian Studies Certificates



Recipients of the Spring 2023 European & Eurasian Studies  
Certificates: Franco Batista Garcia, Viviana Meija Castillo, Andrew Vasquez

### Congratulation Grads!

We would like to celebrate the accomplishments of our newest Panther Alumni who graduated this Spring and Summer 2023, and obtained their European & Eurasian Studies Certificates.

**The European & Eurasian Studies Program and the MFJMCE would like to congratulate this Spring and Summer 2023's program Graduates:**

#### CERTIFICATES IN EUROPEAN & EURASIAN STUDIES

#### Spring 2023 Undergraduate Awardees

- **Franco Batista Garcia**  
BA in History—Minor in Political Science
- **Viviana Meija Castillo**  
BA in Interdisciplinary Studies
- **Andrew Vasquez**  
BA in History

#### Summer 2023 Undergraduate Awardee

- **Michelle Butler**  
BA in History  
Certificate in Pre-Law Skills and Professional Values  
Certificate in German Language and Culture
- **Jose de Castro**  
BA in Political Science and Philosophy
- **Delaney Dockstader**  
BA in Psychology and International Relations
- **Camilla Osorio**  
BA in Political Science and International Relations



#### 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 Fall 2021, the certificate is also open to the students who are enrolled in an online degree-seeking.
- Since Spring 2001, 302 Students obtained their Certificates in European & Eurasian Studies.

#### Requirements

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

##### ► Language Requirements (3 credits)

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

##### ► Breadth Requirement (12 credits)

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

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

#### GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN EUROPEAN & EURASIAN STUDIES

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





**STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Bianca Roman****Fall 2023 Graduate – Certificate in European & Eurasian Studies****"My internship at the French American Chamber of Commerce South Florida"**

Bianca Roman at the French Gala on May 16, 2023

*The Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence and the European & Eurasian Studies Program had the pleasure of featuring one great student from FIU School of International and Public Affairs who will graduate this Fall 2023 and will obtain a Bachelor's in International Relations and a Certificate in European & Eurasian Studies.*

*We were pleased to interview Bianca Roman and hear her amazing experience.*

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

I'm an upcoming Fall '23 graduate combining a B.A. in International Relations with four certificates: Human Rights & Political Transitions; National Security Studies; German Language & Culture; European & Eurasian Studies. Raised by Puerto Rican parents in Spain, I decided to move to Miami to take advantage of all the opportunities FIU offers!

**MFJMCE: Could you tell us about your experience as an intern at the French American Chamber of Commerce South Florida (FACC)?**

I came to the FACC at a time when they were reopening services after COVID, so there was a lot of work that needed to be done. From January to to May 2023, I worked with the Executive Director to facilitate the FACC Board of Directors elections, assisted in a massive CRM cloud migration, helped organize the French Tech Capital Days and the annual French Gala fundraiser (among other events), and ran point on the employment services offered by FACC. My colleagues were welcoming, helpful, personable, and provided

great constructive feedback. There was a lot of on-the-job learning, but I enjoyed the challenge and found complete immersion in the FACC's essence to be a valuable experience.

**MFJMCE: What advice would you give to future students who would like to pursue an internship at the FACC?**

My top tip is to get involved and to apply! Sometimes internships are posted through Handshake or on a Chamber's website, but if you cannot find one, I recommend contacting the Chamber and directly asking them if they have any openings for interns. Attend panels or events where you could network with the organization you'd like to work with.

I was connected to the FACC through an event hosted by the Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, and the FACC representative said they were looking for interns. I reached out to the FACC right afterwards!

**MFJMCE: Do you have any last thoughts to share?**

Don't let impostor syndrome stop you from applying -- I speak four languages, but none were French! While it is valuable to know the language of the Chamber you'd like to work with, sometimes it's not necessary. During my interview, I emphasized that I'd be committed to working through the language barrier. By the end of the internship, I gained a basic understanding of French. I also did not have a background in either international business or trade, but I highlighted that wanted to learn how the FACC supports the US-Latin America-France market and community. Recognize your limitations and go for it anyways; we have a saying in Spain: "you already have the 'no!'"

*By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*



Bianca Roman at the French Tech Capital Days on April 19-20, 2023

► More Information on the FACC, [click here](#)

FRENCH-AMERICAN  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
FLORIDA



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## Exhibition: War and Hope in Ukraine The Power of Art



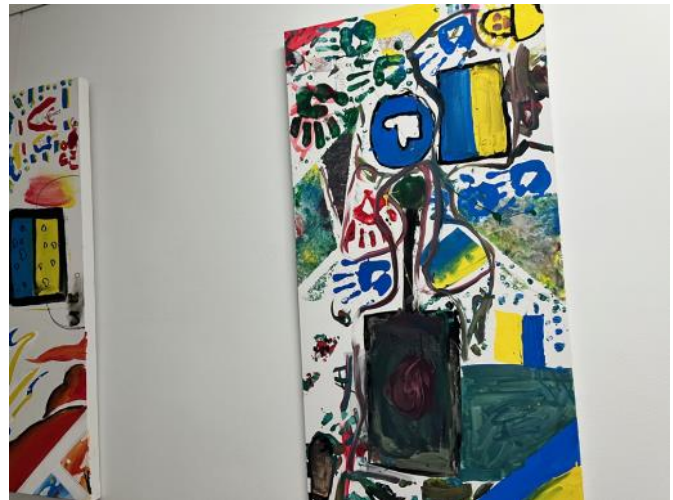
Now until August 25, 2023 | FIU Miami Beach Urban Studios



On April 21, FIU Global Learning and Barry University with the support of the City of Miami Beach Department of Tourism and Cultural Development, Office of Cultural Affairs, and the Miami Beach Mayor and City Commissioners hosted the opening reception of an exhibition on **War and Hope in Ukraine**.

Dr. Jill Farrell, Dean of Barry's Adrian Dominican School of Education, Leadership and Human Development, and Dr. Hilary Landford, Assistant Vice President, FIU Global Learning Initiative, welcomed the audience.

The European & Eurasian Studies Program at FIU co-sponsored the event. Dr. Tatiana Kostadinova, Director, European & Eurasian Studies Program, and Christine Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director, Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence attended the event.



This exhibition includes photographs taken by college students in Ukraine and drawings by Ukrainian children who have sought refuge in South Florida. It will be held at FIU Miami Beach Urban Studios until August 25, 2023.

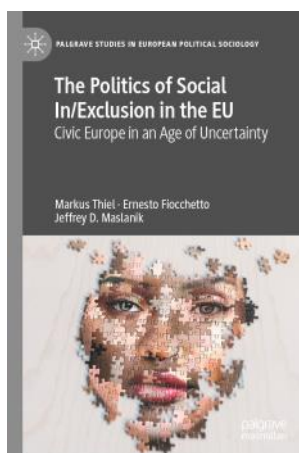
*By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*



► To view flyer, [click here](#)



## PUBLICATIONS

RECENT PUBLICATIONS FROM  
OUR EXPERTS

### The Politics of Social In/Exclusion: Civic Europe in an Age of Uncertainty

*In Palgrave Studies in European Political Sociology, 2023*

**Authors:** Dr. Markus Thiel, Ernesto Ficchetto, Dr. Jeffrey D. Maslanik

This volume provides an updated analysis of the most significant constitutive aspects for the political sociology of the EU. It examines in detail how civic and political activism regarding the inclusion and integration of gender and sexual minorities, as well as migrants and refugees, have become substantial forces in Europe today. It exhibits a political sociology perspective that moves away from the predominant state-centrism and institutional focus in mainstream analyses of European politics. It brings to the fore the role of citizens, civil society and identity politics as well as transnational societal phenomena impacting on the ambivalent civic in/exclusion tendencies prevalent in the EU.

The book highlights the linkage of EU institutions and policies to established and new societal actors in response to recent challenges of the EU.



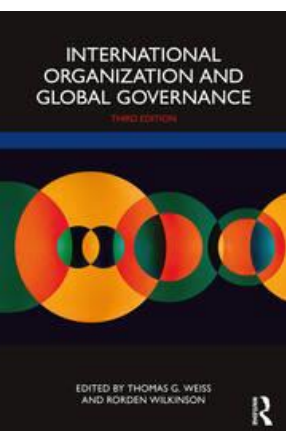
### East European Politics: Do Populist Governments Reduce Corruption?

*Taylor & Francis Online, 2023*

**Author:** Dr. Tatiana Kostadinova

If alleged corruption helps populists get elected, as extant research suggests, do they later address the problem effectively? This study seeks systematic cross-national evidence for the link between populist parties in government and malfeasance by analysing evidence from Eastern Europe. The central argument is that once in power, populist parties fail to eliminate corruption because (i) they also resort to clientelistic practices to secure re-election, and (ii) they weaken the mechanisms of accountability. The results from regression analysis of

panel data and qualitative case studies confirm that ruling populist parties have not been successful in fighting corruption mostly because of their deliberate encroaching on state institutions.



### International Organization and Global Governance

*Routledge, 2023*

**Authors:** Dr. Susanne Zwingel, Elisabeth Prügl, Gulay Çağlar

Dr. Susanne Zwingel is a co-author of a chapter on feminism in International Organization and Global Governance

In their engagement with international organizations, feminists seek to change gendered power relations. Due to long-term transnational advocacy, feminist agenda-setting has been successful in several global issue areas, but these efforts have also encountered resistances that challenge what we call "agenda keeping." Therefore, global-level gender equality agendas are sometimes being (partially) implemented, translated into multiple contexts, and made productive in form of expert knowledge, but also co-opted for various purposes and increasingly attacked as "gender ideology". In addition, feminist concerns with global gender justice have not been static but developed beyond a binary understanding of male-female hierarchies to address exclusions based on intersectional forms of discrimination and heteronormativity.





## Miami Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence

### FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: Dr. Markus Thiel

Interview with our director, MFJMCE, and Professor Politics & International Relations



Dr Markus Thiel at the entrance of the University of Turin, Italy  
In front of the symbol of the University: the bull "Taurus"

Some readers of our newsletter may have wondered why Prof. Thiel has been absent over the past months from events? I was on sabbatical research leave. And as a good 'Europeanist', i.e. someone whose research is focused on Europe/the European Union, I spent most of my time there. This was not difficult, given that I grew up in Germany and still feel more European than anything else. In the fall, I spent some time with family in Bavaria and finished there a co-authored book about 'The politics of social in/exclusion in the EU: civic Europe in an age of uncertainty' (to be published in fall 2023). Afterwards, I traveled to the majestic city of Turin, Italy, which in fact used to be the first capital of reunified Italy in the 1860s and long before the seat of the Savoy monarchy. Turin's symbol is the bull ('Taurus'), which is also the symbol of the university (see picture). My hosts at the department of Politics, Culture & Society of the [University of Torino](#), one of the oldest and most prestigious Italian universities, graciously arranged for me to guest-teach a mini-module on 'the politics of transatlantic relations'.

This was not only of interest to the international MA students there, but I also found it enriching to get out of my Miami-bubble and learn from those graduate students.

After enjoying my winter break in Nice at the beautiful Cote d'Azur I returned shortly back to Miami to host our annual Jean Monnet conference. Thereafter, I left again to Europe, this time to Bilbao, Spain (well, the Basque Country) to teach a similar mini-module at the [University de Deusto](#), the oldest private Jesuit University in Spain. Bilbao may be primarily known for Gehry's fabulous, ship-shaped Guggenheim Museum – the same Gehry that built Miami Beach's New World Symphony Center- but it has much more to offer, including a historic old town, great food & wine, and a lot of historic sights nearby including Guernica (immortalized in Picasso's anti-war piece of the same name), and the water-fortress chapel San Juan de Gaztelugatxe (no worries, I can't pronounce it either but it became famous as filming location for Game of Thrones). During this time, I also received a short-term fellowship to travel to Brussels to present my previous book as well as ongoing research at the fellow Jean Monnet Center at the University of St. Louis Brussels. It was nice to connect with colleagues and EU bureaucrats in Brussels as we share a common interest in all things 'EU'. Besides this, I continued work as co-editor of a journal special issue, and developed a book proposal for a new handbook.

I am grateful for this recharging and stimulating experience, and also to have a wonderful, experienced associate director, Christine, who so perfectly managed all Jean Monnet Center affairs in my absence. This being said, I hope to see many of you soon again at our future events!

*By Markus Thiel*



Dr. Markus Thiel with colleagues and friends  
from the University of Deusto in Bilbao, Spain





# U=23

PRESIDENCIA ESPAÑOLA  
CONSEJO DE LA UNIÓN EUROPEA



July 1– December 31, 2023



Pedro Sánchez and EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen

**On July 1, 2023, Spain took over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. It will do so for a six-month period, until December 31, 2023. It is the fifth time since being a member of the EU (1986). Its motto is "Europe, closer."**

Spain assumes the Presidency in the second half of 2023, **from July 1 to December 31**, in a period of great challenges for the Member States and the European Union as a whole. The Spanish Presidency has established four priorities for its semester.

### The four priorities of the Spanish Presidency

- Reindustrialize the EU and ensure its open strategic autonomy.
- Advance in the green transition and the environmental adaptation
- Promoting greater social and economic justice
- Strengthening European unity

### Program

The main lines of action during the six months of the Spanish Presidency are based on four priorities: reindustrializing the EU and guaranteeing its open strategic autonomy, advancing in the green transition, promoting greater social and economic justice, and strengthening European unity.



Pedro Sánchez, President of the Government of Spain

During its Presidency, Spain will promote institutional deepening and improved decision-making processes, as well as the enlargement of the European Union.

- Support for Ukraine
- Human and solidarity-based migration management
- For a European Union that promotes health, culture and sport
- Food security

► **For more information on the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, [click here](#)**

### Trio Programm

During the second half of 2023, Spain holds the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. **Belgium and Hungary will hold the presidency in 2024.** These three consecutive presidencies constitute the current "trio". Spain, Belgium, and Hungary have adopted a joint programme outlining the common priorities of the trio.

The trio of Presidencies - Spain, Belgium and Hungary - will work together to find common solutions to the challenges and tasks ahead. The Russian war of aggression against Ukraine combined with increasing global uncertainty require the European Union to enhance its resilience and strategic autonomy.

► **For more information on the trio program, [click here](#)**

Source from Official Website of the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union



Steven J. Green  
School of International  
& Public Affairs

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



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Graduate Assistant, MFJMCE



*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 their support and participation in our virtual and in-person events.*



*The activities of the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence will continue in fall 2023.*

*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!*



Co-funded by  
the European Union

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

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