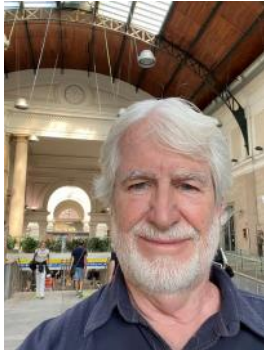




## MFJMCE FACULTY CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT GRANT Interview with grantee Dr. A. Douglas Kincaid



*Dr. A. Douglas Kincaid is an Associate Professor of Sociology in the Department of Global and Sociocultural Studies at Florida International University. He received the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence Curriculum Development*

*grant this year for developing a new course in Genoa, Italy. His proposal is titled: "Global challenges for Italy and the European Union: Questions of citizenship, identity, and the changing faces of immigration and refugees." He was kind enough to answer a few questions about his proposal.*

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

I am a sociologist who has always been interested in a comparative historical approach to questions of social and political change. Earlier in my career my work focused on development issues in Latin America, more specifically the conflicts over land and agriculture that tore apart Central America during the 1960s, 70s and 80s, and then democratization processes as the conflicts subsided. More recently, as a result of administrative work in international education, I developed a strong interest in European issues of nationalism and immigration that built on some of my graduate training in US migration studies, and that led to a series of collaborative relationships with scholars at US and European universities during 1995-2010.

**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 the current project is to study contemporary problems of immigration and refugee flows within the European Union and their impact on citizenship, identity and public policy, through the lens of an Italian case study. Italy is both a gateway for such flows into Europe and a host society within which political, economic and social conflicts are playing out, and as such should provide a strong comparative base for thinking about these issues at the wider European level.

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

The idea for this project has its roots in the collaborative work with US and European scholars that I alluded to previously. Over about 15 years we had two very productive consortia of university partners, the first called State Policy, International Migration, Foreigners and Xenophobia, and then a successor called Transnationalism, Immigration, Refugees, and the State. With grant support we carried out a number of conferences and student and faculty exchanges under those auspices. During that period much of the population movements were fueled primarily by labor market dynamics. During the last ten years or so, however, the refugee dimension of these flows has increased dramatically, with large influxes from Syria, Afghanistan, and North and West Africa. Now the war in Ukraine is contributing a new dimension. So this seems like a critical and propitious moment to reexamine these issues, again with Italy serving as a case study.



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## MFJMCE

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Genoa, Italy

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

The title of my course to be taught in Genoa is Globalization and Society. At the most general level, the objective is to provide students with critical capacities to understand the complexities of globalization and impact of globalization on our daily lives. More specifically, the study of citizenship, identity, and immigration and refugees offers a fascinating doorway to increased understanding of some of the defining global issues of our times.

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

I think there are two ways in which this course will appeal to FIU students. First, there is already a strong interest among SIPA students in Europe and the EU, an interest that has been cultivated for many years now by the European and Eurasian Studies program and the Miami European Union Center of Excellence. Second, a focus on immigration, refugee, and citizenship questions resonates strongly with problems of a similar nature here in the US, so we will emphasize the importance of a comparative global approach.

**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?**

We shall see. For the moment I am excited about the opportunity to revisit and extend the work and ideas we started on many years ago. Of course, now the challenge is to get students to share this sense of excitement and discovery.

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

I would only add that I have been working for some time now to develop high quality study abroad programming for FIU students, and I would like to see a much wider effort in SIPA to offer our students more and better opportunities for it.

*By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*



Genoa, Italy





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Dr. Kincaid with his students in Genoa, Italy - May 15 - June 18, 2022



Food, Society, and Economy Program in Genoa, Italy—Summer 2022  
Left picture: Students in Frantoio Fratelli Magnone (artisanal olive oil production) in Finale Ligure