

# Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence

## European and Eurasian Studies Program



### **Panel Discussion: Global epidemic, regional responses: Violence against women in the European Union and the Caribbean**

Florida International University – Modesto A. Maidique Campus | 11200 SW 8<sup>th</sup> Street – Miami, FL 33199  
Green Library – GL 220

### **Participants: Biographical Notes**

*Tuesday, November 5, 2019*



#### **Melissa Boissiere**

*Graduate Student*

*Program in Latin American and Caribbean Studies (M.A.)  
& International Relations (Ph.D.)  
Florida International University*

Melissa joined FIU in the fall of 2016 and is pursuing a combined M.A./PhD program in Latin American and Caribbean Studies (M.A.) and International Relations (PhD). Before beginning this course of study, Melissa was an International Relations Officer (IRO) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, serving for the last seven years as a diplomat at the Permanent Mission of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations in New York. Melissa completed her B.A. in Spanish and Latin American Studies, as well as her M.A. in Spanish, at the University of the West Indies in St. Augustine, Trinidad. Her interests relate to sustainable development, foreign policies, regional integration, international law and human rights.



#### **Halimah A.F. DeShong, Ph.D.**

*Head of the Institute of Gender and Development Studies  
Nita Barrow Unit  
University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus*

Dr Halimah A.F. DeShong is a Commonwealth Scholar who received her Ph.D. in 2010 from the University of Manchester with a thesis entitled *Gendered Negotiations: Interrogating Discourses of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)*. At present, she is a lecturer at the Institute of Gender and Development Studies: Nita Barrow Unit, University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus. She has written extensively on intimate partner violence in several places in the Caribbean.



**Celeste Montoya, Ph.D.**

*Associate Professor; Faculty Director, Miramontes Arts & Sciences Program  
Department of Women and Gender Studies  
University of Colorado Boulder*

Celeste Montoya received her PhD in Political Science and a Graduate Certificate in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies from Washington University in St. Louis. She joined the Department of Women & Gender Studies at the University of Colorado Boulder in 2007. She also serves as the Faculty Director for the Miramontes Arts & Sciences Program (MASP).

Professor Montoya's research primarily focuses on the ways in which women and racial minorities mobilize to enact change. She is interested in how these groups work within and outside of political institutions, domestically and transnationally, and intersectionally. Her work is informed by studies of social movements, public policy, political institutions, political behavior, and gender and race politics. Her regional areas of specialization are Europe and the United States.

She is author of *From Global to Grassroots: The European Union, Transnational Advocacy, and Combating Violence against Women* (Oxford University Press 2013) and coeditor of *Gendered Mobilizations and Intersectional Challenges* (forthcoming ECPR Press). Her work has also been published in *European Journal of Politics & Gender*, *International Organization, Politics & Gender*, *Publius*, *Social Politics*, *the Social Science Journal*, and *Urban Affairs Review*.

For more information, see Professor Montoya's [CV](#).



**Suzanne Zwingel, Ph.D**

*Associate Professor, Politics & International Relations  
Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs  
Florida International University*

Dr. Zwingel received her Ph. D. in Political Science from Ruhr University Bochum, Germany, and an M.A. in Politics and Sociology from Hamburg University, Germany. Before joining the Department of Politics and International Relations at FIU in 2014, she worked as Associate Professor of Politics at the State University of New York in Potsdam, NY.

Dr. Zwingel's research interests include international women's rights norms and their translation; gender equality advocacy around the world; global governance and gender; feminist, constructivist and post-colonial IR theories; and gender and armed conflict. Publications in her fields of expertise include journal articles (e.g. "How Do Norms Travel? Theorizing International Women's Rights In Transnational Perspective", *International Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 56, 2012) and co-edited volumes (with Elisabeth Prügl and Gülay Caglar: *Feminist Strategies in International Governance*, Routledge, 2013). In 2016, she published a monograph titled "Translating International Women's Rights: The CEDAW Convention in Context" (with Palgrave Macmillan). The focus of this book is on the diverse connections between internationally codified women's rights and real-life contexts as well as on the agency that is necessary to integrate rights into women's lives. For a complete list of publications please see her CV.

A project Dr. Zwingel is currently working on is finding reasonable ways of assessing outcomes of gender equality policies beyond mere numerical measuring (see in this context her co-authored piece with Debra J. Liebowitz, "Gender Equality Oversimplified: Using CEDAW to Counter the Measurement Obsession", *International Studies Review*, Vol. 16, 2014). In the future, Dr. Zwingel plans to investigate the role of translators in international organizations.

At FIU, Dr. Zwingel teaches International Relations Theories, Men and Women in International Relations, Political Repression and Human Rights, among other courses. As a German national who is also fluent in English and Spanish, she is excited to contribute to FIU's multicultural and dynamic community.