



The Rising Importance of EU-Asia Relations

A Conference of the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence

Florida International University – Modesto A. Maidique Campus
11200 SW 8th Street – Miami, FL 33199 – MARC 290

Conference Participants: Biographical Notes

February 11-12, 2019

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Michał Safianik

*Counselor at the Political, Security and Development Section
Delegation of the European Union to the United States in Washington D.C.*

Michał Safianik is a counselor at the Political, Security and Development Section of the European Union Delegation to the United States (since 2016). Before joining the EU Delegation in Washington D.C., Michał was director of communications and deputy spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland. Before holding these posts he was the deputy executive director of the Permanent Secretariat of the Community of Democracies as well as a lecturer at the Vistula University in Warsaw. Michał also served as director for board and corporate relations at the Atlantic Council of the United States in Washington D.C. from 2005-2007 and at that time, in 2006, contributed his expertise as a visiting scholar at the Elliott School of International Affairs of the George Washington University. With a master of arts degree in European Advanced Interdisciplinary Studies from the College of Europe, a master of International Relations degree from Dalarna University in Sweden, and a degree in European Studies from the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Michał began his professional career in international relations as the head and analyst of the Europe Program at the Center For International Relations in Warsaw.

CONSUL GENERAL SPEAKER

Hon. Catalin Ghenea

Consul General of Romania in Miami

Catalin Ghenea assumed his duty as Consul General of Romania in Miami on December 5th, 2017. Prior to this appointment he was posted as Consul and Consul General in Los Angeles.

Between 1999–2002 he served as diplomatic counselor in the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, North America Division, after heading the Israeli Office in the Division for Middle East and Africa.

For two years, between 1997-1999, he was employed as program advisor – international officer – with the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France.

Before joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1995 he was, beginning 1990, Director for International Relations for Youth in the Ministry of Youth and Sport, being member of, or heading, Romanian delegations to numerous international conferences.

Mr. Ghenea holds a master's Degree in Architecture with the University of Bucharest, profession which he performed until 1990. He also holds a master's Degree in Public Administration with the University of Bucharest.

He is fluent in English, French, German and Portuguese.

ACADEMIC PANELISTS

Tamanna Ashraf

Ph.D. Student in International Relations

Florida International University

Tamanna Ashraf completed her undergraduate studies at Florida International University (FIU) majoring in economics and international relations. Currently, she is a Ph.D. candidate at the Department of Politics and International Relations at FIU. Her research interests include politics of South Asia, South Asian economic development and gender issues, hydro-politics, and water security. Her dissertation (tentatively titled) India-Bangladesh Water Relations will focus on transboundary river water conflict between these two states and China's impact in the region's politics, hydro-politics and water security. Currently, Ms. Ashraf is teaching Introduction to International Relations at FIU as a teaching assistant.

Siremorn Asvapromtada

Ph.D. Student in International Relations

Florida International University

Siremorn Asvapromtada is a Ph.D. student in International Relations at Florida International University. She is from Bangkok, Thailand, where she received her bachelor's degree in Political Science. She earned a master's degree in Latin American Studies from Georgetown University, Washington, DC. Her research interests include regional organizations and foreign policies, particularly in Latin America and Asia. She speaks, reads, and writes Thai, English, and Spanish.

Amy Bliss Marshall, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of History and Asian Studies

Florida International University

Dr. Amy Bliss Marshall received a BA in East Asian Studies from University of Wisconsin-Madison and a PhD in History from Brown University. She has lived in Japan several years over the past two decades and teaches courses covering East Asia more broadly. Her monograph *Magazines & the Making of Mass Culture in Japan* is forthcoming from University of Toronto Press.

Thomas A. Breslin, Ph.D.

*Professor of Politics & International Relations
Florida International University*

Areas of Expertise

U.S. Diplomatic History; History of China's Foreign Relations; U.S.—China Relations Ethnicity and Religion in Foreign Affairs

Having published a path-breaking exploration of the effect of presidential ethnicity on American foreign relations from George Washington to George W. Bush, *The Great Anglo-Celtic Divide in the History of American Foreign Relations*, (Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO/Praeger, 2011), I am extending my research on that topic as well as pursuing research into the history of claims to the South China Sea, the Chinese frontier during the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, and America's disobedient diplomats.

Bibek Chand, Ph.D.

*Visiting Instructor
Department of Politics & International Relations
Florida International University*

Dr. Bibek Chand is Visiting Instructor of International Relations in the Department of Politics and International Relations, Florida International University. Bibek's research focuses on foreign policy, international security and geopolitics. His specific interests include the international relations of small states, role of buffer states in international security, and Sino-Indian interactions in the Asia-Pacific.

Lukas K. Danner, Ph.D.

*Research Associate, Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, FIU &
Honorary Research Fellow, East-Asia Security Centre, Bond University, Australia*

Dr. Lukas K. Danner is Research Associate at the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, Florida International University (FIU), USA, and Honorary Research Fellow at the East Asia Security Centre, Bond University, Australia. Dr. Danner teaches a range of courses at the Department of Politics and International Relations, FIU, including Politics of Western Europe, International Relations of Europe, International Relations of East Asia, and Conflict, Security and Peace in IR, among others. He holds a Ph.D. in International Relations, an M.A. in International Studies with a Graduate Certificate in Asian Studies from FIU, as well as an M.A. in Sinology, American Cultural History and Law from the University of Munich, Germany. Dr. Danner is the author of *China's Grand Strategy: Contradictory Foreign Policy?* (2018) and his research broadly centers around Security Studies, Foreign Policy, and Geopolitics, specifically security dynamics in the Indo-Pacific and the Arctic, European foreign affairs, Small States, Chinese international relations, and Arctic affairs. His research can be found on <http://danner.is>.

Giovanni Finizio, Ph.D.

*Professor of EU Foreign Policy and History, and Politics of the United Nations
University of Turin, Italy*

Giovanni Finizio is professor of EU Foreign Policy and History and Politics of the United Nations at the University of Turin, Italy. He teaches also Models of global governance and Comparative regionalism at the Universidad Nacional de Tres de Febrero, Buenos Aires.

His books focus on UN reform (2013), the democratization of international institutions (2014), the EU in world politics (2015), the role of parliaments and civil society in regional integration in Africa (2018), the history of African regionalism (2018), the interaction between international organizations at the regional and global level (2019), the role of the European Parliament in the construction of the EU's domestic and foreign policies (forthcoming, 2019).

His research interests focus on the history and politics of the United Nations, democracy and international organizations, pacifism and world order, comparative regionalism and interregional relations, EU foreign policy with particular reference to the promotion of regionalism.

Rebecca Friedman, Ph.D.

*Associate Professor of History
Faculty Fellow, Office of the Provost
Florida International University*

Rebecca Friedman is Faculty Fellow, Office of the Provost (2015-2017) and is an Associate Professor of History. During her tenure as Faculty Fellow, Friedman works closely with the Office for Faculty and Global Affairs. Her research is focused on modern Russian cultural and gender history. During her 15 years at FIU, Friedman has participated in multiple interdisciplinary programs and served in numerous administrative capacities, including GSIPA, the Humanities Program at BBC and Women's Studies.

Wei Liang, Ph.D.

*Professor & Program Co-Chair, International Trade and Economic Diplomacy
Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey, CA*

Professor Liang specializes in international trade and development policy, global economic and environmental governance and international negotiation, international political economy of East Asia and Chinese foreign economic policy. Her research and teaching have concentrated on the governance of the national and world economy—how foreign economic policy is made domestically and why governments and international organizations do what do in international economic relations. She has conducted field research in Asia, Europe, Latin America and the United States, in order to learn directly from the policy practitioners. Many institutions have invited her to lecture—in the UK, Switzerland, Brazil, China, Japan, Korea, Singapore as well as the United States. She is a member of International Studies Association, American Political Science Association and former president of Association of Chinese Political Studies (ACPS).

Before joining the Institute faculty, she had teaching and research appointments at Florida International University, San Francisco State University and Berkeley Roundtable on the International Economy (BRIE), UC Berkeley, where she did her postdoctoral research. Liang has been a research fellow and visiting professor at Meiji University, Japan and East Asian Institute, National University of Singapore and School of International Studies (SIS), Peking University in China.

Markus Thiel, Ph.D.

*Associate Professor, Politics & International Relations
Director Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, and European & Eurasian Studies
Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs
Florida International University*

Dr. Thiel's research interests are the political sociology of the EU and European (Union) Politics more generally, Nationalism & Identity (Politics) and Mixed Methods Research Methodology. He has published several EU-related articles and book chapters at the EU Center of Excellence as well as in *Transatlantic Monthly*, *International Studies Compendium*, *Journal of Human Rights*, *Perspectives on European Politics & Society* and the *Journal of European Integration*. He published *The Limits of Transnationalism: Collective Identities and EU Integration* (Palgrave, 2011) and also co-edited four volumes: one with Lisa Prügl on *Diversity and the European Union* (Palgrave, 2009), one with Roger Coate on *Identity politics in the Age of Globalization* (Lynne Rienner/First Forum Press, 2010), one with Rebecca Friedman on *European Identity and Culture: Narratives of Transnational Belonging* (Ashgate, 2012), and the latest one on *Sexual Politics in IR: how LGBTQ claims shape IR* (Routledge, 2015). His current project focuses on focuses on the promotion of rights policies through civil society based on the EU's Fundamental Rights Charter/Agency (forthcoming 2016).

He regularly teaches CPO 3103 Comparative (Western) European Politics, CPO 3104 EU Politics, INR 3214 International Relations of Europe, INR 3502 International Organizations and the European Studies Colloquium, as well as graduate courses on European/EU Politics, International Organization and Research Design in IR. In addition, Dr. Thiel is a director of the Miami Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence and of GSIPA's European & Eurasian Studies Initiative.

Katja Weber, Ph.D.

*Professor and Director of Graduate Studies
Sam Nunn School of International Affairs
Director Southeast Asia Study Abroad Program
Georgia Tech*

Katja Weber (PhD, University of California, Los Angeles) is Professor in the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs at Georgia Tech. Her research interests center around institution-building in Europe and Asia Pacific, sovereignty-related and human rights norms, non-traditional security challenges, and German foreign policy. She is the author of *Hierarchy Amidst Anarchy: Transaction Costs and Institutional Choice* (SUNY Press, 2000), co-author (with Paul Kowert) of *Cultures of Order: Leadership, Language, and Social Reconstruction in Germany and Japan*, (SUNY Press, 2007), and co-editor (with Michael Baun and Michael Smith) of *Governing Europe's Neighborhood: Partners or Periphery?* (Manchester University Press, 2007). She has also published a number of articles in the *Journal of European Integration*, *Journal of European Public Policy*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *Journal of Politics, Issues and Studies*, to name but a few, and has received research support from the SSRC Berlin Program for Advanced German and European Studies, the Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation/Ford Foundation, the American Political Science Foundation, and the European Commission, among others. During the fall of 2008 she was a Visiting Research Scholar at the Graduate School of Law & Politics at the University of Tokyo, and in fall 2010 she was a Visiting Fellow at the EU Center at the National University of Singapore/Nanyang Technological University. She also directs the Southeast Asia Summer Study Abroad Program.