



Florida International University | MFJMCE Webinar

Participants: Biographical Notes

Thursday, March 4, 2021 | 1:00pm – 2:30pm EST

This roundtable analyzes how the EU's conception of human rights informs its rights promotion efforts with regions outside of Europe. It highlights political and diplomatic approaches towards a greater embrace of human rights, and examines the major challenges of transferring EU provisions in different political and/or cultural contexts, including in the UN.



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

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

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

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



Karen E. Smith, Ph.D.

*Professor of International Relations
Head of the Department of International Relations
London School of Economics and Political Science
Director of the European Foreign Policy Unit*

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

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



Markus Thiel, Ph.D.

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

Markus Thiel is associate professor in the Department of Politics and International Relations at Florida International University, Miami and director of FIU’s Jean Monnet Center of Excellence. Dr. Thiel’s research interests are the political sociology of the EU and European (Union) Politics more generally, as well as Nationalism & Identity Politics. He graduated with a Ph.D. from the University of Miami in 2005 and has published several EU-related articles and book chapters in peer-reviewed journals. In addition, his research on the political sociology of the EU produced the monograph, ‘The Limits of Transnationalism’ (Palgrave, 2011), and 5 co-edited volumes on: ‘Diversity and the European Union’ (with Lisa Pruegl, Palgrave, 2009), ‘Identity Politics in the Age of Globalization’ (with Roger Coate, Lynne Rienner/First Forum Press, 2010), ‘European Identity & Culture: Narratives of Transnational Belonging’ (with Rebecca Friedman, Ashgate, 2012), ‘Sexualities in World Politics: How LGBTQ Claims Shape International Relations’ (with Manuela Picq, Routledge, 2015) and ‘EU Development Policies between Norms and Geopolitics’ (with Sarah Beringer & Sylvia Maier, Palgrave, 2019). Most recently, he published a book on the linkage of European transnational civil society groups with the EU Fundamental Rights Agency: ‘EU Civil Society and Human Rights Advocacy’ (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2017). He supervises doctoral students in the areas of EU Politics and International Organizations.

