

## Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence



# Democratic Values & Civic Participation in Europe & Beyond

**A conference of the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence  
March 10-11, 2025**

*Florida International University - Modesto A. Maidique Campus - 11200 SW 8th Street - Miami, FL 33199*

**Monday, March 10 | 5:00 PM–6:30 PM | Keynote Address | FIU MMC | MARC Pavilion  
Tuesday, March 11 | 9:00 AM–4:00 PM | Conference | FIU MMC | SIPA II – Room 260**

## Conference Participants: Biographical Notes

### KEYNOTE SPEAKER



#### **Walter Goetz, Ph.D.**

*Head of the European Parliament Liaison Office, Washington D.C.*

Walter Goetz was appointed as the Head of the European Parliament Liaison Office in Washington DC on September 1, 2023.

He previously served as the Head of Cabinet of Transport Commissioner Adina Vălean. Goetz also worked as a civil servant in the Secretary General of the European Parliament in Brussels. From April to November 2019, he was Head of the Secretariat of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE), and from April 2012 to March 2019 he was the Head of the Secretariat of the Committee on Transport and Tourism (TRAN). From October 2009 to July 2011, he was the Head of the Secretariat of the Special Committee on the Financial, Economic and Social Crisis (CRIS). Walter Goetz joined the European Parliament's administration as an Administrator in the ITRE Secretariat in 2006 and later served in the Transatlantic Relations Unit of the European Parliament. From April 2003 to December 2005, he worked as an Administrator in the European Commission, where he was in charge of financial services in the Securities Market and Investment Services Provides Unit of DG MARKT. His career began in the German Federal Ministry of Finance in Bonn and Berlin in the years 1998 to 2003, where he held various positions as a desk officer in customs, fiscal policy and legal departments. He studied Law and Administrative Science in Konstanz and Speyer, Germany, and holds a PhD from the Faculty of Law of the University of Konstanz, Germany.

## PANEL I



### **Kathleen McInnis, Ph.D.**

*Director, Smart Women, Smart Power Initiative  
and Senior Fellow Defense & Security Department  
Center for Strategic & International Studies, Washington D.C.*

Kathleen J. McInnis is a director and senior fellow of the Smart Women, Smart Power Initiative at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). Her research areas include the intersection of gender and national security; global security strategy; defense policy; and transatlantic security. Before rejoining the Center, she served as a specialist in international security at the Congressional Research Service (CRS), where she served as a senior expert to Congress on strategic issues including defense policy, military operations, civilian-military relations, irregular warfare, and global strategy. Prior to CRS, she worked as a research consultant at Chatham House in London, writing on NATO and transatlantic security matters. From 2006 to 2009, Dr. McInnis served in the Office of the Secretary of Defense (Policy), working on NATO operations in Afghanistan. During her last time working at CSIS from 2004 to 2006, Dr. McInnis analyzed U.S. nuclear weapons strategy, European security, and transatlantic relations. She also worked as a researcher in the UK House of Commons, focusing on NATO, the European Union, and U.S.-UK political-military relations, from 2001 to 2003. Dr. McInnis is widely published; her articles have featured in major domestic and international outlets. She is the author of two books: *How and Why States Defect from Contemporary Military Coalition* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2019) and the novel *The Heart of War: Misadventures in the Pentagon* (Post Hill Press, 2018). Dr. McInnis was awarded her MSc in international relations from the London School of Economics and completed her PhD in war studies at King's College London.



### **Alicia Steinmetz, Ph.D.**

*Assistant Professor  
Department of Politics & International Relations  
Florida International University*

**Alicia Steinmetz** is a political theorist and historian of political thought, specializing in the early modern period, and with additional active research interests in ancient Greek rhetoric and sophistry and in contemporary liberalism and its limits.

Her research looks at how reason has been imagined in Western political thought, and how images of reason change over time. Her current book project, *Claiming the World: Bourgeois Freedom and the Problem of Imagination*, makes an argument about contemporary political thinking by telling a new story about its European early modern past. The argument is that the idea of reason as separate from, and often opposed to, the imagination is a fiction which has outlived its usefulness, and that imagination should be recovered as a central object of political-theoretical inquiry in the present. She builds this argument by telling a new story about the development of bourgeois freedom as a process of wrestling with the powerful but unpredictable force of imagination amidst the rise of commercial society, a process whose stakes were the very boundaries of the “self” and the self’s sphere of proper control. Across the book, she shows how a series of politically motivated visions of free selfhood produced successive transformations in how the relationship between imagination and reason has been understood.

works on contemporary legal issues such as the judiciary, the inter-American legal system, and judicial reform, and from 2006 to 2009 even served as the national director (Chief of Party) in a multimillion justice reform initiative, the largest ever in Latin America, funded by USAID, to overhaul the criminal justice system of Colombia.



**Kirsten E. Wood, Ph.D.**  
*Associate Professor*  
*History Department*  
*Florida International University*

Professor Wood is a specialist in the history of the early American republic. Her research centers on the social, economic, and political aspects of everyday life in the early United States, with particular attention to issues of gender, power, and belonging. Her first book, *Masterful Women: Slaveholding Widows from the American Revolution through the Civil War* (2004) reinterpreted the southern white elite's socio-political ideology of patriarchal "mastery" in light of slaveholding widows' distinctive legal, economic, and social position within enslaving households and families. Her 2014 article in the *American Historical Review*, "'Join with Heart and Soul and Voice': Music, Harmony, and Politics in the Early American Republic," adapted insights from musicology and the history of emotions to illuminate grassroots partisan political culture at the dawn of the nineteenth century. Her second book, *Accommodating the Republic: Taverns in the Early United States* (2023), challenges the familiar temperance narrative that taverns were lesions on the body politic. Tavern goers and keepers played pivotal roles in the early republic's culture of improvement, the transportation revolution, the evolution of civic participation, and the vernacular construction of citizenship in the new nation. Her ongoing projects move in two distinct directions. Returning to questions emerging from her work on the emotions associated with patriotic music, she is exploring the (apparently unlikely) possibilities for joy and pleasure for enslaved and free people of color in the nation's civic spaces. She is also building a set of case studies, beginning with dentists, inventors, and genteel instructors, to examine mobility, entrepreneurship, and the politically contested meanings of innovation in the early republic. Beyond the early republic, her teaching and advising interests stretch chronologically from the colonial period to Reconstruction and thematically from political and economic questions to issues in the histories of slavery, gender, and women.



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

Markus Thiel is a 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 Human Rights and 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 including the *Journal of European Integration*, the *Journal of Common Market Studies* and others. In addition, his research on the political sociology of the EU produced the monographs 'The Limits of Transnationalism' (Palgrave, 2011) and 'EU Civil Society and Human Rights Advocacy' (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2017), as well as 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 'The EU's international LGBTI rights promotion promises & pitfalls' (Routledge, 2021), and co-authored 'The Politics of Social In/Exclusion in Europe' (Palgrave/Springer, 2023, with Ernesto Fiocchetto & Jeffrey Maslanik).

He teaches CPO 3103 Comparative (Western) European Politics, CPO 3104 EU Politics, INR 3214 International Relations of Europe, INR 3502 International Organizations, as well as graduate courses on European/EU Politics, International Organization and Research Design in IR. He supervises doctoral students in the areas of EU Politics, International Organizations and Political Sociology.

## **PANEL II**

**Moderator:** Tatiana Kostadinova, Professor, Politics & International Relations; Director, European & Eurasian Studies Program, Florida International University



**Mauro Barisione, Ph.D.**

*Professor*

*Department of Sociology and Political Science*

*University of Milano, Italy*

Mauro Barisione is a professor of Political sociology at the Department of sociology and political science at the University of Milan, Italy. He is head of POMLAB (Public Opinion and Media Lab), past president of ITANES (Italian National Election Studies) and has directed the PhD program in Sociology and methodology of social research. His research focuses on public opinion and voting, digital politics, political communication and leadership. His publications include the books *Polar Stars: Why the Political Ideologies of Modernity still Matter* (2021) and *Social Media and European Politics: Rethinking Power and Legitimacy in the Digital Era* (2017).



**Régis Dandoy, Ph.D.**

*Professor of Political Sciences*

*Center for European Studies*

*Universidad San Francisco de Quito*

Régis Dandoy holds a PhD in Political Science from the Université Libre de Bruxelles (Belgium). He is Professor of Comparative Politics at the College of Social Sciences and Humanities and Director of the Centre for European Studies at the Universidad San Francisco de Quito (Ecuador). He is also a research associate at the Université Libre de Bruxelles (Belgium), Waseda University (Japan) and the United Nations University (Japan). His main research interests focus on digital democracy, local and regional elections, electronic voting and election observation. He has published books and scientific articles on federalism and subnational elections. He holds a Jean Monnet Chair on the role and impact of European Union election observation missions in third countries.





**Ekaterina R. Rashkova**

*Associate Professor of Comparative Politics*

*Public Governance and Management Unit*

*Director PPE Utrecht*

*Utrecht University school of Governance, The Netherlands*

Ekaterina R. Rashkova is Associate Professor of Comparative Politics at the Public Governance and Management unit at Utrecht University School of Governance and Co-Director of the PPE College Utrecht. She earned her PhD in Political Science at the University of Pittsburgh, USA, in 2010 for a dissertation entitled '*Political Learning and the Number of Parties: Why Age Matters*', which won the UniCredit and Universities Foundation Best CEE PhD Thesis Award in May 2011. She received a Bachelor in Economics and a Master in Political Economy and Public Policy from Washington University in St. Louis. Prior to taking her post at Utrecht, Ekaterina worked at the Sussex University, University of Innsbruck and Leiden University. During the 2015-2016 academic year, she was won the prestigious EURIAS Junior Fellowship Grant, with which she spent a year at the Netherlands Institute of Advanced Study (NIAS) conducting research on the effect of electoral regulation on party competition.

Her research interests lie in the study electoral and party systems, the strategic behavior of political actors, and representation. She is interested in how institutions shape decisions and therefore outcomes. She studies party system development, electoral and party regulation and representation, with a focus on gender and immigrants. Her current research interests include the political integration of non-citizen residents in host countries, as well as the connection of national political parties to their diaspora abroad. Her work compares new and established democracies and has appeared among others in *Comparative European Politics*, *West European Politics*, *European Political Science Review*, *International Political Science Review*, *Party Politics*, *Political Studies*, *Representation* as well as in several edited book volumes. At the moment she is working on a project broadly termed 'the party abroad', which investigates how national political parties interact (or not) with their diaspora abroad and how immigrants are included (or not) in electoral processes in their host country. Together with colleagues, she is also examining the effects of Covid-19 on party system development, in particular on the success of new political parties and electoral accountability and the measurement of substantive representation of marginalized groups. Between 2015-2022 she served as editor of the *European Political Science* journal.

Ekaterina is the Governance Board Member of the interdisciplinary Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) bachelor - PPE College Utrecht - which was launched in September 2018. Since Spring 2024, she serves as the LEG Faculty co-director of the programme. Together with the other 3 board members, Ekaterina manages PPE College Utrecht, which involves, among other things, day-to-day steering of the program, development of the curriculum, and vision and creativity on positioning PPE College Utrecht within the wider span of the University, as well as among similar programs internationally. In the past, she has been responsible for the Extra-Curricular Program and has chaired the Admissions Committee and served as a member on the admissions committee.



**Tatiana Kostadinova, Ph.D.**

*Professor, Politics & International Relations*

*Director, European & Eurasian Studies Program*

*Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs*

*Florida International University*

Tatiana Kostadinova is a professor in the Department of Politics and International Relations and the director of the European & Eurasian Studies Program at FIU. She received her Ph.D. in Political Science from the Florida State University. Her research and teaching interests include elections, institutions, democratization, political corruption, and populism. She has been the recipient of several grants, among which the American Political Science Small Research Grant (2002) and a Fellowship Program Award from the German Marshall Fund of the United States (2003-2004). Kostadinova is the author of two books. In *Bulgaria 1879-1946: The Challenge of Choice* (East European Monographs/Columbia University Press, 1995) she explored institutional arrangements, party competition, and voting patterns in Bulgarian parliamentary elections. The second book, *Political Corruption in Eastern Europe: Politics After Communism* (Lynne Rienner, 2012) analyzed the emergence of corruption as a major obstacle to successful democratic transition. Her findings turn the attention to the eroding impact of malfeasance on citizen trust in institutions and the role of the European Union for promoting integrity in public life. Other publications include journal articles in *American Journal of Political Science*, *Electoral Studies*, *Journal of Peace Research*, *European Journal of Political Research*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Party Politics*, and *Europe-Asia Studies*.

Professor Kostadinova's primary teaching area is comparative politics. At the undergraduate level, she teaches courses on Russian and Eastern European politics, electoral behavior, and research methods. Her graduate level courses include seminars on democratic transitions, political parties, political corruption, and advanced research.

## CONSULAR ROUNDTABLE



### **Sylvia Cesaratto**

*Consul General of Canada in Miami*

Ms. Sylvia Cesaratto is a multi-lingual senior executive with the Canadian government with extensive overseas experience in delivering Canada's foreign policy, international business and international development priorities. She has a proven track record in leading multicultural and multi-functional teams to deliver results on behalf of stakeholders (government, business, citizens). She has led teams providing strategic advice to senior decision-makers as well as policy recommendations on advancing bilateral relations with international partners, including enhancing relations with Canada's North American neighbours: Mexico and the United States.

She has had 4 prior international assignments, with her first to South Africa following the lifting of economic sanctions. Other overseas assignments have included London, UK; Brussels, Belgium and from 2011 to 2015 as Canada's Ambassador to Panama. Ms. Cesaratto was most recently the Director General for Central America and the Caribbean at headquarters.

**Moderator and panel participants to be announced**

### **PANEL III**

**Moderator:** Rebecca Friedman, Professor of History; Founding Director, Wolfsonian Public Humanities Lab; Director of Research, *iWitness*: IPC Institute of Visual Journalism, Florida International University



#### **Carl-Philippe Juste**

*Miami Herald Foto-Journalist & Community Activist*

**CARL-PHILLIPE JUSTE** is a Haitian born, politically active photographer. Since 1991 he has been working with the *Miami Herald* and has been showcasing his work throughout the world.

Juste has covered national and international stories for the *Herald*, including assignments in Haiti, Cuba, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iraq. In addition, he has worked on various documentary projects for the HistoryMiami Museum, including *At the Crossroads: Afro-Cuban Orisha Arts in Miami* (2001), *South American Musical Traditions in Miami* (2002), and *Haitian Community Arts: Images by Iris PhotoCollective*. All were funded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts.

In 2019, Juste was a recipient of an **Ellies Award from Oolite Arts**.

In 2016, Juste won a prestigious **Knight Arts Challenge grant** to complete *Havana, Haiti: Two Cultures, One Community*, a book and exhibit of photographs and essays about Cubans' and Haitians' lives and shared humanity. This project is further supported by two Knight Miami Arts Champions: columnist and author Dave Barry and Perez Art Museum Director Franklin Sirmans, along with a grant from the Green Family Foundation.

Besides being a renowned photographer, Juste is also the founder of the *Iris PhotoCollective*, which produces collaborative projects, often in partnership with organizations and non-profits. Most begin with an idea, a place, or a moment in time, and tell human stories founded in the principles of photojournalism.





**Tameka Bradley Hobbs, Ph.D.**

*Library Regional Manager*

*Broward County African American Research & Cultural Center*

*Historian, educator, author, and activist*

Tameka Bradley Hobbs is the Library Regional Manager of Broward Public Library's African American Research Library and Cultural Center (AARLCC) in Fort Lauderdale. She has also worked as a researcher, writer, consultant, and director for several public and oral history projects. She earned her undergraduate degree from Florida A&M University, and her doctoral degree in United States History and Historical Administration and Public History from Florida State University. Her book, *Democracy Abroad, Lynching at Home: Racial Violence in Florida*, was published by the University Press of Florida and has been awarded bronze medal for the 2015 Florida Book Award for Florida Nonfiction, and the 2016 Harry T. and Harriette V. Moore Award from the Florida Historical Society. Hobbs has also appeared in several award-winning documentaries.

In 2024, Hobbs was recognized as one of 50 Movers & Shakers in the nation by *Library Journal* magazine. Additionally, the Black History Saturday School Series that she conceptualized has received commendations from both the National Association of Counties and the Urban Libraries Council.

Hobbs has served as founding and current president of the South Florida Branch of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Inc. (ASALH, Inc.). She also serves on the board of directors for the South Florida People of Color (SFPoC), a non-profit organization based in Miami Shores, Florida, dedicated to eradicating racism through education and advocacy. She helped to conceptualize the organization's award-winning program, the Awkward Dinner, as well as its Unity360 Community Race Dialogue Series.



**Rebecca Friedman, Ph.D.**

*Professor of History*

*Director, Wolfsonian Public Humanities Lab*

*Department of History*

*Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs*


*Florida International University*

Dr. Rebecca Friedman focuses on the history and culture of modern Russia. Her monograph *Modernity, Domesticity and Temporality in Modern Russia: Time at Home* <https://www.bloomsbury.com/uk/modernity-domesticity-and-temporality-in-russia-9781350112438/> (Bloomsbury, 2020) explores how, from the nostalgic landed estate with its backward gaze to the present-focused and efficient urban apartment to the utopian communal dreams of a Soviet future, the idea of time was deeply embedded in Russian domestic life.

Her 2006 book on the history of masculinity in Russia --*Masculinity, Autocracy and the Russian University, 1804-1863* – examines behavior, loyalty and sociability among a generation of Russian university students that would reshape the Russian social and political landscape for decades to come. She edited (with Barbara Clements and Dan Healy) *Russian Masculinities in History and Culture*, (<https://www.palgrave.com/gp/book/9780333945445> ) which is the first volume in English to focus on the growing field of Russian masculinity studies. She has also written about Russian childhood, the gendering of the Cadet Corps and European Identities. She edited (with Markus Thiel), *European Identity and Culture: Narratives of Transnational Belonging* (Routledge, 2012)

Dr. Friedman has been a leader at Florida International University in a number of capacities. She served as the Director of the European Union Center of Excellence/European and Eurasian Studies for over eight years and since 2012, she serves as the Faculty Fellow in the Office of the Provost and in 2019, she was named Director of the Wolfsonian Public Humanities Lab, one of FIU's Emerging Preeminent Programs.



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