

Democratic Values & Civic Participation in Europe and 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**

The year 2024 was a “super election” year. In many European elections, including those for the European Parliament, as well as in the United States, governments changed, sparking a broader debate about democratic values and civic participation. This conference explores issues of inclusion and diversity, with a focus on democratic governance and resilience, and political participation by individuals and civic groups. What challenges do established democracies face in this regard, and how can they be addressed collectively? What can be done to combat apathy and polarization, which are fueled by misinformation and slow consensus-building in increasingly diverse societies? These questions have emerged prominently in both the U.S. and the EU, but they also require reflection on the broader geopolitical contexts in which democratic backsliding and polarization are taking place.

PROGRAM

Monday, March 10, 2025 | MARC Building – MARC Pavilion

➤ 5:00 p.m. **Welcome & Opening Remarks**

Markus Thiel, Ph.D.

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

➤ 5:15-6.30 pm **Keynote Address**

Walter Goetz, Ph.D.

Head of the Office

European Parliament Liaison Office in Washington D.C.

The European Parliament’s role in upholding transatlantic democratic values

9:00 a.m. Welcome & Opening Remarks

Agatha Caraballo, Ph.D.

Founding Director of the Maurice A. Ferré Institute for Civic Leadership
Teaching Professor in the Department of Public Policy and Administration
Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs

**9:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Panel I: Democratic values & Civic Participation:
contexts and issues**

This panel introduces the concepts of democratic values & civic participation, and highlights their relevance for pluralistic, liberal democracies. What are the historical, normative and contextual foundations for vibrant democratic political cultures?

Moderator: Markus Thiel, Professor, Politics & International Relations
Director, Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, FIU

➤ **Kirsten E. Wood, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor

History Department, FIU

American Civic Participation and Democratic Possibilities as seen from the Early Republic's Taverns.

➤ **Alicia Steinmetz, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor, Politics & International Relations, FIU

Democracy and the Art of Argumentation

➤ **Kathleen McInnis, Ph.D.**

Director, Smart Woman, Smart Power Initiative

Senior Fellow, Defense & Security

Center for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS)

The story of a democracy

10:55 a.m. - 11:55 a.m. Consular Roundtable on Gender Equality Policies & Democracy

Moderator: **Agatha Caraballo**, Founding Director of the Maurice A. Ferré Institute for Civic Leadership, Teaching Professor in the Department of Public Policy and Administration
Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs

- **Sylvia Cesaratto**
Consul General of Canada in Miami
- **Raphaël Trapp**
Consul General of France in Miami
- **Christofer Burger**
Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Miami

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Panel II: Democratic resilience and participation in a transatlantic comparison

This panel takes a closer look at the challenges of established democracies on both sides of the Atlantic, such as polarization and populism as well as diversity and inequality, and explores to what degree democratic resilience can be achieved or maintained.

Moderator: Tatiana Kostadinova, Professor, Politics & International Relations;
Director, European & Eurasian Studies, FIU

- **Mauro Barisione, Ph.D.**
Professor, Department of Sociology and Political Science
University of Milano, Italy
Transatlantic Lessons in Political Polarization
- **Regis Dandoy, Ph.D.**
Professor
Center for European Studies
Universidad San Francisco de Quito
Transatlantic democratic support? The European missions of election observation in the Americas.
- **Ekaterina R. Rashkova, Ph.D.**
Associate Professor of Comparative Politics
Public Governance and Management unit
Director PPE Utrecht
Utrecht University School of Governance, The Netherlands
The role of political parties in mobilizing the migrant vote

1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. Lunch for panelists

**2:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Panel III: From Local to global, from Miami to the world:
possibilities & linkages**

This conversational panel highlights the local-global connections that are fundamental for vibrant democratic political cultures, as they are reflected in Miami/Florida and beyond.

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

➤ **Carl-Philippe Juste**

Miami Herald Foto-Journalist & Community Activist

➤ **Tameka Bradley Hobbs, Ph.D.**

Library Regional Manager

Broward County African American Research & Cultural Center

Historian, educator, author, and activist

**5:15 p.m. – 7:15 p.m. Closing Reception for panelists
The Café at Books & Books – 265 Aragon Avenue, Coral Gables, FL 33134**