

European & Eurasian Studies Program

The Arctic at a Crossroads Strategic Competition and Security in the High North

Florida International University | Modesto A. Maidique Campus
11200 SW 8th Street, Miami, FL 33186 – SIPA II – Room 102

Tuesday, April 14, 2026 | 3:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

Roundtable Participants: Biographical Notes



Lukas Danner, Ph.D.

*Research Associate, Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence
Adjunct Professor, Department of Politics and International Relations
Department of Politics & International Relations
Florida International University*

Dr. Lukas K. Danner serves as Associate Director / Faculty Administrator, FIU Global, Office of the Provost at Florida International University. Dr. Danner is currently Fulbright-NSF Arctic Research Scholar at the Centre for Arctic Studies, Institute of International Affairs, University of Iceland. He is also Research Associate at the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, FIU, Research Fellow at the East Asia Security Centre, Bond University, Australia, EWC/KMI North Pacific Arctic Fellow, and Fellow, North American and Arctic Defence and Security Network (NAADSN).

He holds a Ph.D. in International Relations and an M.A. in International Studies from FIU, as well as an M.A. in Sinology, American Cultural History, and International Law from the University of Munich, Germany. Dr. Danner is the author of *China's Grand Strategy* (2018) and co-editor of *New Challenges and Opportunities in European-Asian Relations* (2021; with Bibek Chand). His research interests include security studies, environmental politics, small states, foreign policy, and geopolitics of Europe, Asia, and the Arctic.



John F. Clark, Ph.D.

Professor

Politics & International Relations

Department of Politics & International Relations

Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs

Florida International University

Professor Clark specializes in the state-society relations of African polities and the international relations of sub-Saharan Africa. He is co-editor of *Political Reform in Francophone Africa* (1997, with David Gardinier), editor of *The African Stakes of the Congo War* (2002), author of *The Failure of Democracy in the Republic of Congo* (2008), and co-author of the *Historical Dictionary of Congo* (2012, with Samuel Decalo) and *Africa's International Relations* (2018, with Beth Whitaker). He has also published over fifty articles and book chapters, including articles in / *African Affairs*/, *the Journal of Democracy*/, *the Journal of Modern African Studies*/, *Comparative Studies in Society and History*/, *African Security*/, and *the Africa Spectrum*. During the 1999-2000 academic year he was a Fulbright lecturer and research scholar at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda, and he made numerous research trips to the Republic of Congo and the Democratic Republic of Congo between 1990 and 2012. In the summer of 2014, Professor Clark was a Fulbright Specialist consultant at the Mbarara University of Science and Technology, where he was also Visiting Professor. He was awarded, with three collaborators, a grant by the American Political Science Association to organize a two-week workshop on Conflict and Political Violence in Nairobi, Kenya, in July 2015. He is currently studying the foreign policies of African states. Professor Clark served 6 years (2002-2008) as Chairperson of the International Relations Department at FIU and another 4 years (2016-2020) as the Chairperson of the Politics and International Relations Department at FIU.

Areas of Expertise

Sub-Saharan African Politics, Foreign Policy Analysis, Politics and Democratization, State-Society Relations

Degrees

BA, Georgia Southern University, Political Science, 1986

MA, University of Virginia, Foreign Affairs, 1988

PhD, University of Virginia, Foreign Affairs, 1992



Hon. 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. Ms. Cesaratto is pleased to be representing Canada in the dynamic state of Florida.



Katie V. Laatikainen, Ph.D
Professor and Chair
Department of Political Science and International Relations
Adelphi University

Diplomas/Degrees

Ph.D. in International Studies, University of South Carolina (1996)
M.A. in International Studies, University of South Carolina (1992)
Graduate Study at the International Graduate School, University of Stockholm (1991)
B.A. in Political Science, Washburn University (1988)
Denmark's International Studies Program, University of Copenhagen (1986)

Professional Experience

2024-2026: Chair of Political Science and International Relations Department, Adelphi University
2020-2023: Director of the Levermore Global Scholars Program, Adelphi University
2021-2022: Interim Chair of Political Science
2020-2023: Founding Director, International Relations Program, Adelphi University.
2017-2020: Director of International Studies Program, Adelphi University
2010-2013: Director of International Studies Program, Adelphi University

TEACHING

Analysis Of Global Issues

International Law & Organization

Seminar In The Social Sciences International Law And Organization

Seminar In The Social Sciences Theories And Practice Of International Relations

Theories And Practice Of International Relations

My research focuses on international institutions in international relations, in particular the United Nations and the European Union. I have published several books and articles on United Nations politics as well as how the European Union interacts with the United Nations, and EU foreign policy more generally.

Field research and expert interviewing in India 2024; Taught at University of Tampere, Finland during AY2016/17; Fulbright to Macau S.A.R., China 2010; Studied in Denmark and Sweden; Research networks throughout the Nordic region; Jean Monnet International Research Network anchored in Athens; Advisory Board of UNU-CRIS located in Bruges, Belgium; Executive Committee of the International Organization section of the International Studies Association.

Katie Verlin Laatikainen and Karen E. Smith, eds. (2020). *Group Politics in UN Multilateralism* Leiden: Brill Publishers, 326 pages. ***Awarded the 2020 Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS) Biennial Book Award in June 2020.***

Knud Erik Jørgensen, Åsne Kalland Arstad, Edith Drieskens, Katie Laatikainen, and Ben Tonra, eds. (2015). *The Sage Handbook on European Foreign Policy*. London, United Kingdom: Sage. Two-volume handbook, 1096 pages.

Donald J. Puchala, Katie Verlin Laatikainen and Roger A. Coate (2015). *United Nations Politics: International Organization in a Divided World*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Longman Prentice Hall. Reissued by Taylor and Francis as part of the Routledge Series in International Relations, 2015; originally published by Prentice Hall, 2007, 256 pages.

Knud Erik Jørgensen and Katie Verlin Laatikainen (2013). *The European Union and International Institutions: Performance, Policy Power*. London, United Kingdom: Routledge, 512 pages.

Katie Verlin Laatikainen and Karen E. Smith (eds) (2006). *The European Union and the United Nations: Intersecting Multilateralisms*. Basingstoke, United Kingdom: Palgrave Macmillan, 232 pages.



Markus Thiel, Ph.D.

*Professor, Department of Politics and International Relations
Director, Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence
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 Ficchetto & 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.