



Newsletter

Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence - FIU

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The Death Penalty: European Union and International Perspectives

On October 10th, the *World Day Against the Death Penalty*, the Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence (MEUCE) held a panel discussion. The panel, titled "The Death Penalty: European Union and International Perspectives", was open to both students and community members.

A wide range of experts, including faculty members of Florida International University's (FIU) College of Law, European Consul Generals serving in Miami, and Philippa

Greer, a law fellow with the British legal action charity Reprieve, gathered together to discuss the topic of capital punishment.

The panel opened with a thank you and introduction from Dr. Rebecca Friedman, the Co-Director of the MEUCE. Dr. Noah Weisbord, an associate professor of law at FIU, moderated the panel

and introduced the topic of the capital punishment and the effect it has had on the American political community. "For me the most compelling arguments for and against the death penalty are about human dignity...I want to ask all of you this question, is it our

values that dictate our decisions or do we go through life making decisions and our values adapt? I suspect that these public decisions are mutually affecting and that they have changed the United States as a legal community. What I'm not sure of is how," said Weisbord.

The first speaker was the Consul General of Italy to Miami, Hon. Adolfo Barattolo who began his statement by discussing the mutual respect which needs to be practiced by both sides.

"Being in a country where the death penalty is applied quite intensively, we should respect the position of people who think the death penalty could be a means of fighting against crime. The other side should also respect the position of the twenty-eight European countries of the European



From left to right: Hon. David Prodger, British Consul General; Professor Stephen Harper, FIU College of Law; Hon. Nathalie Olijslager, Consul General of the Netherlands; Hon. Adolfo Barattolo, Consul General of Italy; Hon. Jürgen Borsch, Consul General of Germany; Professor Noah Weisbord, FIU College of Law; Hon. Philippe Létrillart, Consul General of France; Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, MEUCE Associate Director

Union and the other 140 other countries in the world that are completely against this kind of countries."

Following Hon. Adolfo Barattolo, Philippa Greer, addressed audience members. Greer introduced the mission statement of Re-



The Death Penalty: EU and International Perspectives (cont'd.)



Hon. Adolfo Barattolo, Consul General of Italy,
answering an important question posed by on the students



FIU students and guests listening attentively to the panelists

prieve by describing how current issues within the U.S. legal system are somewhat broken, and the problems are exacerbated when capital punishment is applied. "Innumerable aspects of the American penal experience speak to an exclusionist commitment and to a commitment to an extreme variant of incapacitation as a legal rational... I ask that you bear in mind throughout today's panel discussion that the death penalty in the U.S. is just one part of a broader system of criminal justice ...I have seen the death penalty both in the U.S. and across the world being applied in a discriminatory fashion and used disproportionately against the poor, minorities, and members of ethnic and religious communities."

Dr. Stephen Harper, a professor of law at FIU's law school, made his remarks after Greer. Harper discussed the changing attitudes towards the death penalty, "Americans are beginning to adopt more and more this

sense of human dignity. The way that we in America evaluate or measure whether something is now constitutional or unconstitutional... is that we look at evolving standards of decency. So as our culture and society change, evolving standards of decency change. That is what I think is going to ultimately end the death penalty, hat said the death penalty is still alive and well. There are 32 states which still have the death penalty on the books."

The rest of the panels allotted speaking time to each of European Consul General in attendance. Each Consul General discussed why their country did not embrace the death penalty. The Consul Generals which attended were the Consul General of Italy, Hon. Adolfo Barattolo, the Consul General of Spain, Hon. Cristina Barrios, the Consul General of Germany, Hon. Jürgen Borsch, the Consul General of France, Hon. Philippe Létriliart, the Consul General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Hon. Nathalie Olijslager, the Consul General of the United Kingdom, Hon. David Proddger.

The panel, which was MEUCE's third collaboration with FIU's College of Law, closed with a question and answer time for audience members.

By Isabel Brador



Professor Stephen Harper, FIU College of Law, presenting the points of view of
the USA and Florida on the death penalty

To watch video or to have more information on the panel,
please visit:



<https://miamieuc.fiu.edu/events/general/2014/meuce-panel-discussion-on-the-death-penalty-european-and-international-perspectives-fiu/>



This event was part of the many cultural events organized by
the Consulate General of Italy in Miami during October,
"The Italian and Italian American Heritage Month in Florida".



To view detailed program of the Italian Month, [click here](#)



A Semester of Commemorations: MEUCE Remembers WWI



Throughout the semester the Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence (MEUCE) had the opportunity to host various events which commemorated the centennial of World War I. These events included film showings, lectures, panel discussions and community outreach programs.

Throughout the fall, MEUCE hosted two film series which were centered on the First World War. The first series, *Apocalypse*, consisted of five episodes which followed the beginning, progression and resolution of World War I. The Consulate General of France in Miami kindly provided the documentaries and sponsored the event. The screening of the five documentaries took place in the

auditoriums GC 150 and GC 140 at FIU on Sept. 8 and 30, and Oct. 29. The producers of the series utilized professionally colorized archival footage to illustrate the stories of various war participants. The film also featured narration which not only analyzed the political processes which occurred throughout the war, but also explained the technological advancements made in military warfare.

Alongside this series, MEUCE also sponsored a series of films as part of FIU's School of International and Public Affairs' Ruth K. and Shepard Broad Distinguished Lecture Series. Rather than forming a continuous narrative each film in the series highlighted an individual topic pertaining to the First World War.

The series included groundbreaking films such as *All Quiet on the Western Front*, a 1930 American film based on the novel by the same name. The film deals specifically with the loss of innocence that comes with warfare.

The series also included films such as *Lawrence of Arabia: The Battle for the Arab World*, *Gallipoli* and *The Paths of Glory*. The films in the series were all chosen due to the impact they had in forming societal perception of WWI as well as the commentary they provided on warfare and military violence in general.

Aside from film series, MEUCE also hosted two community outreach events in commemoration of WWI. The first event, "Featuring World



Christine I. Caly-Sanchez; and Sophie Delporte, Head of Public Affairs Dept, Consulate General of France, at the screening of *Apocalypse: La 1ère Guerre Mondiale* - Documentary Series on Sept. 8th.



Screening of *Apocalypse*-WWI Documentary - Episodes 2 & 3 "Fear" & "Hell" Sept. 30, 2014 In the audience, students from International Studies Charter High School attended the event



A Semester of Commemorations: MEUCE Remembers WWI (cont'd.)



Dr. Rebecca Friedman, Co-Director, MEUCE, FIU
Introducing the panelists on "WWI Commemoration:
100 Years after: A FIU Panel Discussion" - Oct. 9th



Dr. Michael Brillman,
Professor of History, FIU



r. Gwyn Davies, war historian; Dr. Jon Mogul, Curator of the
Wolfsonian's WWI exhibition; Dr. April Merleaux, food historian, FIU

War I", was held early on in the semester and was a collaborative effort amongst various community organizations. The New World Symphony, the Knight Foundation, History Miami, the Wolfsonian-FIU, and the University of Miami (UM) among others came together to commemorate WWI through musical, historical and poetic elements.

The event, held on September 20th, featured WWI-era music played by the fellows of the New World Symphony's brass band, as well as a panel discussion and a keynote address by Dr. Michael Neiberg, a professor of history at the Army War College and author of *Dance of the Furies: Europe and the Outbreak of World War I*. The panel was comprised of Dr. Dominique Reil, a professor of history at UM, Dr. Jessica Adler, a professor of history and health and policy management at FIU, and Dr. Michael Miller, a professor of history at UM. The event closed with a question and answer time with audience as well as a reception.

The second outreach event was a round-table of FIU history faculty

Knight Foundation and HISTORY MIAMI
present

WORLD WAR I: A CENTURY LATER

ORIGINS AND LEGACIES

Saturday, Sept. 20, 2014
Keynote Speaker at 2 p.m.
Panel Discussion and Q&A at 3 p.m.
Reception at 4 p.m.

New World Center
500 17th St.
Miami Beach

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Michael Neiberg, Ph.D.
Professor of History, Army War College, Carlisle, Pa.
Author, *Dance of the Furies: Europe and the Outbreak of World War I*

PANELISTS
Dominique K. Reil, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Department of History,
University of Miami
Jessica Adler, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Departments of History
and Health & Policy Management,
Florida International University
Michael Miller, Ph.D.
Professor, Department of History,
University of Miami

Featuring World War I music

**THIS EVENT IS FREE TO THE PUBLIC.
REGISTRATION AND TICKETS REQUIRED.**

FIRSTWORLDWARSYMPOSIUM.EVENTBRITE.COM
CLICK HERE FOR TICKETS

For questions, please call 305-375-1600.

Myth and Machine: The First World War in Visual Culture
Nov. 11, 2014-April 5, 2015 | The Wolfsonian-FIU
This exhibition reveals how artists, designers, and filmmakers confronted the birth of industrialized mass warfare. Among the paintings, sculptures, posters, books and photographs included are rare items that offer unique views of a conflict that changed the world. wolfsonian.org

St. George—Meunier
Lithograph for Roger Delmard, c.1918

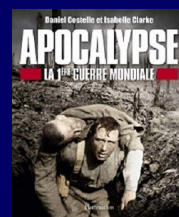
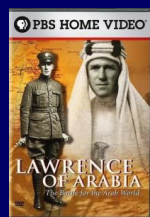
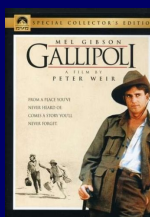
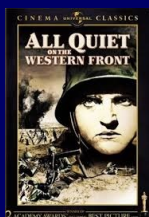
members and was held on October 9th. The event was opened and moderated by Dr. Rebecca Friedman, the Co-Director of the MEUCE and a professor of history at FIU. The roundtable included panelists such as Dr. Michael Brillman, a professor of history, Dr. Gwyn Davies, a war historian, Dr. April Merleaux, a food historian, Dr. Jon Mogul, the curator of the Wolfsonian's WWI exhibition "Myth and Machine the First World War in Material Culture", and Dr. Harry Rhea, a law and criminal justice professor. Each panelist was given the opportunity to give a presentation on WWI in their area of expertise. Afterwards, the discussion was opened to questions from the audience.

The large volume and diverse nature of the various commemorative events is part MEUCE mission to combine foster interest in the EU not only academically, but in the wider local community.

By Isabel Brador



For more information on WWI Commemorative events organized by the MEUCE: <http://europe.fiu.edu/news/2014/fall-2014-world-war-commemorative-events/>





The August Sky: 63 Days of Glory



Dr. Marek Chodakiewicz

The Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence (MEUCE) included the commemoration of the 1944 Warsaw Insurrection in its calendar of events this past semester. The event, which took place on September 25th, included the showing of the film *The August Sky: 63 Days of Glory* as well as a lecture by Dr. Marek Chodakiewicz. This event was part of our Blanka Rosenstiel Polish Lectures Series.

Chodakiewicz, the Kościuszko Chair in Polish Studies and a professor of history at the Institute of World Politics in Washington D.C., introduced the film by providing his-

torical context for the Polish insurrection of 1944. He also discussed how the commemoration of the insurrection affects contemporary culture in Poland. He discussed various instances where Polish citizens committed spontaneous acts of public commemoration for the insurrections, such as in soccer stadiums and public art murals.

In step with Chodakiewicz's lecture, the film also focused on both the past and the present. While parts of the film focused on a group of fictional teenagers participating in the very real drama of the insurrection, other parts honed in on the dilemma current Polish citizens face in balancing the commemoration of the past with the progress of the future. The producers of the film further reinforced the dual focus on past and present by incorporating contemporary hip-hop culture throughout the film.

In an interview after the event, Chodakiewicz commented on how the themes of the Polish insurrection discussed in the film were still applicable to modern-day viewers, "This story has a universal dimension of sacrifice. It doesn't necessarily have to be a spectacular type of a



Lady Blanka Rosenstiel, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland, and Dr. Marek Chodakiewicz

sacrifice where you face a Nazi tank with a gasoline bottle, but a sacrifice of a different type. You go to the beach and pick up garbage... You go and serve in the soup kitchen. You help."

In the same interview Chodakiewicz also commented on how practicing this self-sacrifice contributed to the overall quality of life for the practitioner, "We live in the era of mass politic under the dictatorship of pleasure. There [in the film] you had kids who sacrificed. I'm sure in many places, when the time comes teenagers, no matter what their background, will step up. Like Aristotle taught us, the unexamined life is not worth living, we're not vegetables we're human beings..."

Chodakiewicz has published various monographs and scholarly articles in Polish and English. These monographs reflect his interests in WW II, 19th and 20th century Europe, intellectual tradition, extremists movements and comparative civilizations among other topics.

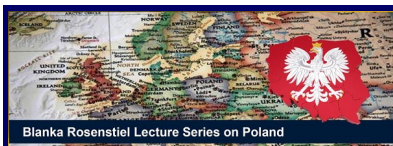
In addition to being sponsored by the Lady Blanka Rosenstiel Lecture Series on Poland, it was also sponsored by the American Institute of Polish Culture and the Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Poland.

By Isabel Brador



Beata Paszyc, Dr. Stan Wnuk, Dr. John Stack, Alicja Schoonover, Albert Slugocki, Lady Blanka Rosenstiel, Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Dr. Marek Chodakiewicz

To watch video, view the pictures or to have more information on the event, please visit: <https://miamieuc.fiu.edu/events/general/2014/meuce-european-film-series-warsaw-uprising-fiu/>



Polish Film Series



Film Screening: "The Pianist"



Poland's and much of Europe's most accomplished classical pianist in the 1930's. Beata Paszyc, Vice Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland introduced the film. This event was sponsored by the Blanka Rosenstiel Polish Lecture Series.

This film, entitled "[The Pianist](#)", is a memoir of the Polish composer of Jewish origin Władysław Szpilman, written and elaborated by the Polish author Jerzy Waldorff, who met Szpilman in 1938 in Krynica and became a friend of his. The book is written in the first person, as Szpilman's memoir. It tells how Szpilman survived the German deportations of Jews to extermination camps, the 1943 destruction of the Warsaw Ghetto, and the 1944 Warsaw Uprising during World War II. In 2002, Roman Polanski directed a screen version, also called *The Pianist*, but Szpilman died before the film was completed. The movie won three Academy Awards, the British Academy of Film and Television

On Nov. 18, 2014 the Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence (MEUCE), alongside the American Institute of Polish Culture and the Honorary Consulate of Poland was proud to air a film showcasing the true story of Wladyslaw Szpilman, who was



Beata Paszyc, Vice Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland, presenting the film

Arts Best Film Award, and the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival. Students and faculty were very touched by the film.

By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez



At the film screening "The Pianist", Students and Faculty—FIU—Nov. 18, 2014



Dr. Rebecca Friedman, Beata Paszyc, and Christine I. Caly-Sanchez



25th Anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall



The Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence (MEUCE) hosted the Consul General Jürgen Borsch to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. The event was held on October 7th and featured a lecture by the Hon. Jürgen Borsch.

Dr. Markus Thiel, the director of Undergraduate Studies in the department of Politics and International Relations, and Research Associate at our Center, introduced Hon. Borsch and his various international accomplishments. Thiel also contributed to discussion by offering his perspective on the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Hon. Jürgen Borsch commenced his lecture by discussing how pertinent the division of East and West Berlin was for the rest of the world and how the division became symbolic of the world-wide tension which emerged after the second World War, "The two parts of Germany were synonymous with the East-West conflict, just as the two parts of Berlin were divided into the two pieces and were synonymous with the iron curtain....it was the division of Berlin, of Germany, of Europe and the world into two parts. This was the line, as Winston Churchill is reported to have first called it, of the 'iron curtain' that divided the world into these two halves."

In addition to discussing the significance of the fall of the Berlin wall for contemporary politics, he also commented on the pertinence of the event for modern-day politics. "In a way this has changed the world completely. Everybody at that time thought, 'Wow this was the end of all conflicts,' because we had only known the East-West conflict and the Cold War. At that time nobody knew that the world of today would be filled of different types of conflict, like terrorism and other threats as we haven't seen them before. Until 1989 we had two big opponents, super-powers on both sides. In retrospective, this had been a quite dangerous, but funny enough quite stable set-up because nobody dared to do any-

thing wrong."

While the reunification of Berlin had long-standing, international repercussions Hon. Borsch also felt that the conflict had valuable lessons which both private citizens and political leaders could benefit to learn from. "The lesson that we have learned over this long period of the Cold War in my opinion is that you need to talk to one another you need to stay in touch... This has been a German approach to international policy over the years. We have always been proponents of talking to each other, even if it's sometimes very difficult to do so. If you don't talk one another this will lead to misunderstandings and even difficult and dangerous situations."

The event then closed with a question and answer time between Hon. Jürgen Borsch and Florida International University students and community members.

Hon. Jürgen Borsch also mentioned that on November 9th he would bestow a piece of the original segment of the Berlin Wall to the city of Miami at Miami Dade College. The wall segment, in its original condition with graffiti from the western side still visible, would be bestowed in the presence of community members as well as Miami Dade College President Eduardo Jose Padron and Mi-

ami Dade Mayor Tomas Regalado.

Hon. Jürgen Borsch has had previous experience representing the Federal Republic of Germany in positions in Warsaw, Washington D.C has well as Hong Kong. Before being assigned to serve in Miami Hon. Borsch was the Director of Crises Response Center of the Federal Foreign Office in Berlin.

By Isabel Brador



Hon. Jürgen Borsch, Consul General of Germany



For more information and to watch video, please visit MEUCE's website at page:

<https://miamieuc.fiu.edu/events/general/2014/meuce-lecture-25th-anniversary-of-the-fall-of-the-berlin-wall-fiu/>



Art +
Art History

Exhibition: "Stadtluft Macht Frei: City Air Makes You Free"

STADTLUFT MACHT FREI
URBAN AIR MAKES YOU FREE



Dr. Jacek Kolasinski, Chair of Art and Art History Department and exhibition curator



3-D models of medieval city structures created by Dr. Jacek Kolasinski

On September 10th the Patricia and Philip Frost Art Museum opened the exhibition *Stadtluft Macht Frei (Urban Air Makes You Free)*. The exhibition gave guests various artistic interpretations of the historical process of urbanization. Three artists, Jacek Kolasinski, the chair of the Art and Art History Department at Florida International University (FIU), Roberto Rovira, chair of FIU's department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental and Urban Design, and Orlando Garcia, a composer-in residence at The College of Architecture and the Arts at FIU, lent their artistic vision to the exhibition.

Kolasinski, the curator, discussed how the analysis of the exhibition's namesake medieval German law influenced the project. "The idea of the exhibition was based on the medieval German law 'Stadtluft macht frei' which means 'urban air makes you free'. The idea of the law was that when cities were created they had the privilege of rescuing people who escaped dependency from the feudal lord. If they [a vassal] ran away from the village and lived in the city for one year and one day the "city air made them free" and they became free people and citizens

of the city... The concept was how you interpret this dictum which allowed the proliferation of cities in Central and Eastern Europe and allowed people to self-define self-governance... Everybody had free opportunity to interpret what the dictum meant to them."

The exhibition implemented various artistic forms inspired by the unique backgrounds of each of the artists. Garcia, the former director of FIU's School of Music, employed the art of sound composition and contributed various sound recordings of cityscapes. His composition was then superimposed on a video, filmed by Kolasinski, of pedestrians in the main city square of Krakow. Similarly, Rovira utilized print-making and created maps of the migration patterns of both people and animals in the New World.

The study of the New World was juxtaposed with Kolasinski's deconstruction of the medieval city in the Old World. With the use of 3-D printing technology, he reconstructed various structures of medieval cities belonging to the Hanseatic League. Yet, rather than organize the structures into a model of the city, Kolasinski grouped the structures according to their typologies. "I decided to organize the project at the Frost museum by typologies... so the city was sort of destroyed on some level and then reassembled. I think historically it happens in cities that are appropriated or being re-appropriated. In Krakow they destroyed all the city walls and turned them into a park..."

One of the main points of the exhibition was a study of the various ways people interpreted and related to the physical space around them. Kolasinski, a native of Krakow, discussed the differences in this interpretation that arise out of cultural

differences. "Everyone here says 'go north', 'go south', 'go west'. Here, people understand more of a relationship to the geographical directions, whereas, the way I grew up in a city, like Krakow, I understood landmarks. Landmarks mean something historically and they kind of give you an idea of navigating through history... Every building you walk by has a historical significance. So you would say "go by this building".

Aside from the cultural differences in understanding space, Kolasinski hoped that exhibition-goers would take away with them, "an idea of urban expansion as a very positive moment in history; where centers were created so people could gain knowledge. [A moment] where the economic prosperity of the cities allowed the expansion of universities and of schools that were connected to ecclesiastic structures. [The exhibition] was kind of a moment to commemorate, on some level. Also, to go back to history and see what were the interesting and good moments which led to future constructs and collaborations, such as the European Union.... Where people put aside the differences we had historically and looked at the common good and the possibilities of collaboration."

For more information on Kolasinski's current and upcoming work please [click here](#).

By Isabel Brador



Chair Roberto Rovira, Dean Brian Schriner, and Chair Jacek Kolasinski



Dr. Kolasinski's exhibition



10th Anniversary of EU Expansion East



Among the various commemorative events sponsored by the Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence (MEUCE), was a discussion panel commemorating the 10th anniversary of the expansion of the European Union. The panel featured speakers such as Dr. Roger Kanet, professor of Political Science at the University of Miami, Dr. Tatiana Kostadinova, associate professor of Politics and International Relations at Florida International University (FIU), and Dr. Markus Thiel, assistant professor of Politics and International Relations at FIU.

The enlargement which occurred on May 1, 2004, is considered the largest single expansion of the European Union in terms of territory enlargement; the number of states

admitted and added population. The enlargement included Eastern European countries such as Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia.

Each of the panelists spoke about a different aspect concerning the EU enlargement process. Thiel focused on the meanings of membership of the countries since joining the union, Kostadinova provided insight into the domestic changes undergone by each country since become member-nations, and Kanet discussed the effects the enlargement had on regional relations, specifically the relationship between the EU and Russia.

During his presentation, Thiel discussed the nuanced and compli-

cated processes undergone by each country in order to enter the European Union as well as the processes undergone by these countries after they became member-states. "Europeanization is the various causal mechanisms through which EU policies, institution and political process impact the policies and processes of the member-states. The degree of Europeanization varies from country to country."

Kostadinova then discussed the effects that Europeanization had on these individual member-states and how this process impacted individual countries. She also outlined the goals that policymakers hoped the expansion would accomplish. "We wanted to see positive changes in three areas after the enlargement of the EU. One, that the expectation that the enlargement would made democracy stronger in these countries and consolidate democracy....Second, we wanted to see reforms that were happening more consistently and at a higher speed. Third, we wanted to see a stronger sense of belonging to Europe and the socialization process of these new citizens."

The purpose of the event was to gather the FIU community to discuss the challenges and benefits since the enlargement. The event closed with a question and answer time for audience members. The event was co-sponsored by the European Student Association, and FIU's Department of Politics and International Relations.

By Isabel Brador



From left to right: Dr. Markus Thiel, Dr. Tatiana Kostadinova, Dr. Roger Kanet

To view the video please click on the link below: [Video](#)

To view photos from the event please click on the link below: [Photos](#)



Czech Republic and Poland Lecture by Adam Michnik and Elzbieta Matynia



Adam Michnik, Polish Historian; Editor-in-Chief of the Warsaw daily newspaper Gazeta Wyborcza



Elzbieta Matynia, Adam Michnik, Martin Palous



Adam Michnik and Martin Palous

On October 15th, the Miami-Florida European Union Center for Excellence (MEUCE) was honored to hold an event which featured a lecture by Adam Michnik, political activist and journalist, and Elzbieta Matynia, author of the book *An Uncanny Era: Conversations between Vaclav Havel and Adam Michnik* and Dr. Martin Palous, a former ambassador to the United States from the Czech Republic. The event was held to commemorate the ten year anniversary of the addition of Poland and Czech Republic to the European Union.

Matynia, a professor of sociology and liberal studies and Director of the Trans-regional Center for Democratic Studies at the New School of Social Research in New York City, also served as a translator throughout the evening. The discussion opened with a statement by Dr. John Stack, Associate Dean, College of Arts & Sciences, and Executive Director of

FIU's School of International and Public Affairs. Stack introduced the first speaker, Dr. Martin Palous, a signatory of charter 77 which called for democratic reforms in Czechoslovakia. Palous began by commenting on the importance of remembering and commemorating the past. "I really believe it is quite important to use the experience of the past, of struggles with totalitarian governments, to understand ourselves and our current situations." Following Palous, Matynia outlined the process of publishing various political tracts and the perils that accompanied the dissemination of these tracts. Afterwards, Michnik discussed his role as Editor-in-Chief of the Warsaw daily newspaper Gazeta Wyborcza.

In an interview before his talk, Michnik discussed the importance of Matynia's book to understanding the fall of communism.

"If you think that what had happened

in 1989 with the collapse and end of communism is an important event, this book is an essential element to finding out what happened when the wall fell. Also, Havel was a person who should be looked at in several dimensions... Nobody articulated or summarized the philosophy or attitude of the political dissident as Havel did."

Michnik also had a message for students studying international politics, "I would like to tell them that it's worth it to live in agreement with yourself and in harmony with yourself. It pays off to defend freedom and truth and that it's worth it to live without hatred." The event closed with a question and answer time and a book signing by Matynia.

By Isabel Brador

For more information and watch the video, please click on the links below:

- [Photo Gallery](#)
- [Flyer](#)
- [Video](#)



Elzbieta Matynia signing her book for audience members



Adam Michnik, Elzbieta Matynia, Martin Palous

H.E. Mikael Barfod, Head of the Delegation of the EU to Barbados and Eastern Caribbean EEAS



H.E. Ambassador Mikael Barfod, Head of the Delegation of the EU to Barbados & the Eastern Caribbean EEAS

The Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence was honored to host a lecture by His Excellency, Ambassador Mikael Barfod, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean—EEAS

On October 8th, H.E. Mikael Barfod addressed a group of students and gave a talk on the challenges of working in Caribbean countries. He specifically focused on renewable and clean energy and the prevalence of an illegal drug economy. In an interview after his talk, H.E. Mikael Barfod outlined one of the biggest challenges, the economies of each country.

"The biggest issues are macroeconomic situations affected by the international economic crises. These are sometimes reinforced by the vulnerabilities of the Caribbean countries. Not just because of mother nature, but because they are so small in size they have trouble dealing with financial crises."

H.E. Ambassador Barfod also discussed how the overall goals of the EU are being fulfilled through

small delegations to countries outside the EU, like his delegation in the Eastern Caribbean.

"Well, I think that the European Union is known in the United States from the news from time to time, but there is never a really clear concept of what it is. There's not a clear concept of the fact that the European Union is moving towards something that could be called the United States of Europe, we are slowly federalizing. ... Even in foreign policy we are trying to coordinate ourselves to speak in one voice. Such as in my delegation."

H.E. Mikael Barfod also emphasized unity when discussing the real obstacles that need to be overcome in the Eastern Caribbean.

"I don't think that cultural differences in the Caribbean are that diffi-

cult to overcome. What they have to overcome is that they're all countries that have become independent recently and they have to basically give up a little bit of their sovereignty in order to gain more together. That is what has to happen and that is not a cultural thing... It's a question of mutual trust for a young nation.

H.E. Mikael Barfod accepted the post of European Union Ambassador to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean in October 2012.

H.E. Mikael Barfod is responsible for the island-countries of Barbados, Antigua, Bermuda, Dominica, Granada and St. Vincent St. Lucia and other territories which receive EU aid.

To view video of the event click [here](#)

By Isabel Brador



From left to right: Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, H.E. Ambassador Mikael Barfod, Dr. Rebecca Friedman, and Dr. Claire Oueslati-Porter



H.E. Mikael Barfod, Head of Delegation to Barbados and Eastern Caribbean EEAS (cont'd.)



H.E. Ambassador Mikael Barfod, Head of the Delegation of the EU to Barbados & the Eastern Caribbean EEAS at FIU with FIU students

Mikael Barfod took up the post of European Union Ambassador to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean EEAS in October 2012.

Ambassador Barfod was educated in his native Denmark, where he gained an advanced degree in Political Science and Economics. He also holds a Masters Degree in Government from the United Kingdom.

After a short stint in the Danish Central Administration, Ambassador Barfod joined the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), where he worked as a Senior Programme Officer and as a Deputy FAO Representative in Zambia and the Philippines respectively. He subsequently joined the European Union (then the European Commission) as Economic Adviser within the Delegations in Liberia and Zimbabwe.

After more than eleven years of field work, Ambassador Barfod joined EU Headquarters in Brussels in 1993 where he was responsible for policies and strategies within the European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO). In 2001 he joined the European Commission's Europe Aid Development Office (now Development and Co-operation) where he worked until his departure for Barbados. There he served in various management capacities including geographical responsibility for coordinating development assistance to the Caribbean and Africa, and his most recent position which saw him in charge of EU development assistance to Central and West Africa.

During his visit to Miami, H.E. Ambassador Mikael Barfod participated in a forum [CREF 2014: Caribbean Renewable Energy Forum](#) where he was the keynote speaker.

He also had the opportunity to meet members of the Miami community at large, and the European Consuls General. A meeting with the British, Dutch, French, German, Consul General and the Spanish Deputy Consul General, was organized at the Consulate General of France on Oct. 8th.

By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez



H.E. Ambassador Mikael Barfod at FIU



From left to right: Javier Pagalday, Deputy Consul General of Spain; Hon. David Prodger, British Consul General; Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director, MEUCE, FIU; Hon. Philippe Létrilliart, Consul General of France; H.E. Ambassador Mikael Barfod, European Union Ambassador to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean; Hon. Jürgen Borsch, Consul General of Germany.



Lecture with Latvian Ambassador H.E. Andris RAZĀNS



H.E. Andris RAZĀNS, Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Latvia to Mexico

Dr. Barry Mowell, Consul Ad Honorem of the Republic of Latvia to the State of Florida; Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director, MEUCE, FIU; H.E. Andris RAZĀNS, Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Latvia to Mexico; Dr. Shlomi Dinar, Associate Director, SIPA, FIU

Student participation during the Q & A session after the lecture on the Incoming EU presidency of Latvia.

The Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence had the honor of hosting His Excellency Andris RAZANS, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Latvia to Mexico. His Excellency RAZANS discussed the Latvian presidency of the European Union as well as security in the Baltic region of Europe with group of Florida International University (FIU) students and community members.

The event, held on November 10th, was opened by Dr. Shlomi Dinar, the associate director of academics at the School of International and Public Affairs.

Dinar contextualized the Latvian presidency of the EU in terms of current US foreign policy concerns, "Latvia EU's presidency comes at a time when Russia under

Putin is rolling out an aggressive foreign policy."

In an interview after his speech, Hon. RAZANS, described some aspects of the Latvia-U.S. relationship. "In Latvia they find one of the most transatlantic countries in the world. It's among those European countries which really cherishes its relationship with the United States, it's a friend."

H.E. RAZANS also discussed one of the most important aspects of Latvian foreign policy, "The main thing I would like to emphasize is the study of the complexity of the world, but you can't forget that the devil is in the details. You cannot generalize, you cannot apply the very the same patterns in every region. Once you start to understand the details you can better understand the bigger picture whether it's in the Middle East, the Baltic Sea region or Latin America."

H.E. RAZANS has served as ambassador and plenipotentiary to Mexico since 2012 and 2013, respectively. Previously, he served as the political director and undersecretary of state at the Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as desk

officer of the Northern Europe Division.

At the end of Ambassador Razans' presentation, the MEUCE Associate Director Christine I. Caly-Sanchez informed the audience about the current Latvian exhibition "Riga and World Cities. Live Painting and Another Horizon" in Miami Beach Urban Studios by artists Aleksejs Naumovs and Kristaps Zarins

By Isabel Brador



H.E. Andris RAZĀNS, Latvian Ambassador



For more information and watch the video, please click on the links below:

- [Video](#)
- [Photo Gallery](#)
- [Flyer](#)



Exhibition "Riga and World Cities. Live Painting and Another Horizon. Live Paintings"



Artist Aleksejs Naumovs, Rector of the Art Academy of Latvia; and Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director, MEUCE, FIU

The exhibition "Riga and World Cities. Live Paintings and Another Horizon. Live Paintings" introduces us to the work of two renowned Latvian painters, **Aleksejs Naumovs** and **Kristaps Zarins**. The event is a bridge between Riga (Latvia), Washington, and Miami, both in a literal and figurative sense. This joint exhibition focuses on urban landscapes and the unique atmosphere of global metropolises and historic European cities. The viewer is taken on a colorful journey from Riga to Washington, Miami, New York, Hong Kong,

Venice, Paris and countless other destinations, all of which the artists have visited at some point in their lives.

Nov. 10 was the opening reception of the exhibition in Miami at FIU Miami Beach Urban Studios. The Guest of honor was H.E. Andris Razans, Latvia's Ambassador to the U.S.

This event was organized by the Department of Art & History at FIU, the Miami Beach Urban Studios. It was sponsored by the Embassy of Latvia to the U.S., and supported by

the Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence, FIU.

To view photos gallery of the opening reception, [click here](#)

By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez



Ambassador of Latvia Andris Razans; and Dr. Jacek Kolasinski



At the opening reception of the exhibition on Nov. 10th, 2014
From left to right: Jacek Kolasinski, Kristaps Zarins, Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Aleksejs Naumovs, Ambassador of Latvia Andris Razans, Barry Mowell, Honorary Consul of Latvia



Kristaps Zarins: Live Painting Miami Beach



Kristaps Zarins: Live Painting Miami Fairchild Tropical Gardens

Discover Europe Film Series



Magda Pearson, Italian Instructor, and Director of Perugia Program; Hon. Adolfo Barattolo, Consul General of Italy in Miami; answering questions from the audience

Throughout the semester the Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence (MEUCE) had the opportunity to hold "Discover Europe", a European film and panel discussion series. The series was created in order to foster interest in the European Union and stimulate conversation on European tourism amongst the Florida International University community.

The first film in the series, *Europe Seen from the Sky*, shown on October 9th, focused on aerial views of some of Europe's oldest and most famous cities. The film, kindly provided by the Consulate General of France, created by Sylvain Augier, focused on cities in twenty-five different countries including Florence, Athens, Cordoba, Mykonos Island and Seville. The film also included narration by Augier, a French journalist and avid traveler.

On October 20th, the MEUCE showed the second documentary in the series, *Italia: Opera Unica*. The Consulate General of Italy in Miami kindly provided the Film and sponsored the event. The event, also included a panel discussion with Magda Pearson, Italian Instructor, and Director of Perugia Program, students who have previously studied abroad in Italy, and guest of honor Consul General of Italy Adolfo Barattolo. The film, about fifteen minutes in length, focused on the uniqueness of Italy's landscapes and cities and highlighted the diversity in the Italian economic sectors. The film served as a launching point for discussing Italian culture and tourism.

After the film, Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, the Associate Director of MEUCE, introduced Hon. Adolfo Barattolo, who made brief remarks on Italian culture and demographics and then answered students' questions.

Throughout the event Hon. Adolfo Barattolo encouraged students to not only travel to Italy, but to try and enjoy Italian culture while here in Miami, whether through eating at Italian restaurants, attending film festivals, listening to Italian music or reading Italian literature.

► To view video of the event, [click here](#)

This event was part of the many cultural events organized by the Consulate General of Italy in Miami during October, "The Italian and Italian American Heritage Month in Florida". To view detailed program of the Italian Month, [click here](#)



FIU students Talia Torbica and Dayra Carvajal at the European Film/Documentary "Europe Seen from the Sky by Sylvain Augier" - FIU - Oct. 9, 2014

The last film in the series, shown on November 21st, focused on a fictional love story between a French woman and a German man in the 1950s. *Nous Nous Sommes Tant Haïs* (How We Hated Each Other) uses this post-World War II love story as an analogy for the formation of the European Coal and Steel Community, the predecessor of the EU.

This film series was co-sponsored by the European Student Association, the European Studies Program as well as the MEUCE.

By Isabel Brador

For more information on upcoming events and film-showings sponsored by MEUCE visit <https://miamieuc.fiu.edu/events/general/>.



Italian Documentary: "Italia Opera Unica" - Oct. 20, 2014 - Guest of Honor: Hon. Adolfo Barattolo, Consul General of Italy. - FIU—Oct.. 20, 2014
In the picture, center: Magda Pearson, Italian Instructor, Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director, MEUCE; Hon. Adolfo Barattolo, Consul General of Italy; with FIU students



French Weeks



Hon. Philippe Létriliart,
Consul General of France in Miami
Guest of honor - Panel Discussion on "FIU Students' Experience in France: What they learned"
FIU - Oct. 28, 2014

This semester the Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence participated in "French Weeks" from October 21st to November 11th.

"French Weeks Miami" was launched by the French-American Chamber of Commerce in order to strengthen ties between many local and international partners. In order to do so the weeks include various events which require the cooperation of universities, museums, art galleries, economic organizations as well as community associations and schools.

The weeks included various conferences, films series and panel discussions which centered on French culture and social and political issues. The events held by the Center also strived to engage community members. One such event was the lecture by the



John Bailey with panel of Students

French Consul General to Miami, Hon. Philippe Létriliart.

This event also highlighted the involvement FIU students were having in the French community.

The panel discussion "FIU Students' Experience in France: What They Learned", was opened by Hon. Philippe Létriliart who listened as a group of a students recounted their experiences abroad in France through FIU's various study abroad programs.

In an interview following the event, Hon. Philippe Létriliart discussed the various ways student could absorb French culture in Miami. He highlighted the food festival French Spice, a spinoff of the popular Miami Spice which draws attention to various restaurants in the Miami area which serve authentic French cuisine.

Létriliart encouraged students to explore the French community in Miami.

By Isabel Brador



Hon. Philippe Létriliart, Consul General of France in Miami (center), with FIU students/panelists, and FIU Faculty

French Weeks Oct. 21st—Nov. 11th

Tuesday, Oct. 21 | 12:00pm - 1:30pm

FIU, MMC—Green Library—GL 156

Video Conferences with EU Centers "1914 Revisited? The EU-US-Russian Triangle"

Thursday, Oct. 23 | 6:30pm - 8:30pm

FIU, MMC - College Business Complex, CBC 232

MEUCE/Broad Series/Film Series on WWI "Gallipoli"

Friday, Oct. 24 | 2:00pm - 4:00pm

FIU, MMC - Graham Center—GC 140

MEUCE European Film Series: "Midnight in Paris"

Tuesday, Oct. 28 | 2:00pm - 4:00pm

FIU, MMC - Green Library—GL 220

Panel Discussion: "FIU Students' Experience in France: What They Learned"
Guest of Honor: Hon. Philippe Létriliart,
Consul General of France in Miami

To view video, [click here](#)

Wednesday, Oct. 29 | 2:00pm - 4:00pm

FIU, MMC - Graham Center—GC 140

MEUCE/ Broad Series/ Film Series on WWI (French Documentary— Subtitled in English)
"Apocalypse— The World War I " Episodes 4 & 5 "Rage & " Deliverance"

Thursday, Oct. 30 | 6:30pm—8:30 p.m.

FIU, MMC - College of Business Complex - CBC 155

MEUCE/ Broad Series/ Film Series on WWI "Lawrence of Arabia: The Battle for the Arab World"

Thursday Nov 6 | 6:30– 8:30pm

FIU, MMC - College Business Complex - CBC 155

MEUCE/ Broad Series/ Film Series on WWI "Paths of Glory"

Tuesday Nov. 11 | 12:00– 1:30pm

The Wolfsonian-FIU-1001 Washington Avenue-Miami Beach

Exhibition on WWI– Nov 11– April 5, 2015
"Myth and Machine: The First World War in Visual Culture"

To view detailed program, click:

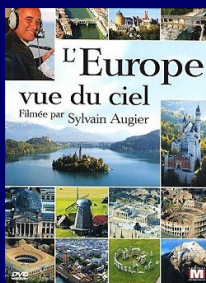
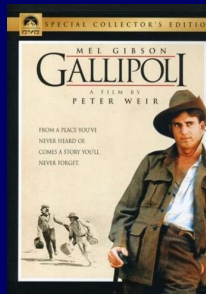
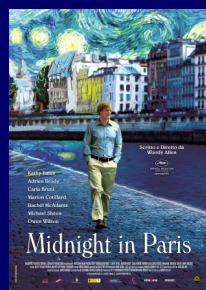
<https://miamiuec.fiu.edu/events/general/2014/meuce-french-weeks-oct-21-nov-21-2014-fiu/flyer-detailed-french-week-update-oct-21-nov11-2014.pdf>

French Weeks is sponsored by The Consulate General of France in Miami, The French American Chamber of Commerce Florida, The Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence, The European Studies Program, Le Cercle Français and the Pi Delta Phi, FIU Modern Languages Department, The Europe Student Association, The Council for Students Organizations

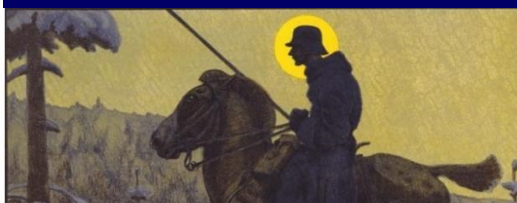




French Weeks at FIU (cont'd)

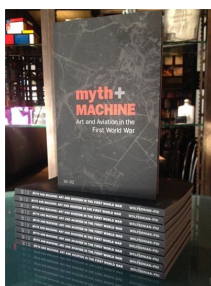


WOLFSONIANFIU



FIU exhibition *Myth and Machine: The First World War in Visual Culture*—Nov. 11, 2014 - April 05, 2015

The First World War was radically unlike any earlier armed conflict. On the occasion of the centenary of the start of the war, The Wolfsonian-FIU exhibition *Myth and Machine: The First World War in Visual Culture* shows how artists, designers, and filmmakers responded to the unprecedented qualities of the war: new technologies, from aircraft to chemical weapons to tanks; the massive mobilization of armaments industries on the home front; the grinding everyday experiences of soldiers in trenches along stationary fronts; and the immense scale of destruction that the war entailed. The exhibition focuses on the role of myth in giving comprehensible form to the shattering realities of the war, and on the relationship between humans and machines as a key theme of wartime visual culture. Among the paintings, sculpture, posters, books, and photographs included are many rare and unique items that will offer an unfamiliar view of a conflict that changed the world.





Conversations on Europe A Video Conference Series



Throughout the semester, the Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence (MEUCE) had the opportunity to participate in a series of video conferences hosted by one of its sister-centers, the University of Pittsburgh's European Union Center for Excellence.

The series, titled *Conversations on Europe*, consisted of four conferences each dedicated to the discussion of contemporary political issues affecting the European Union. The first of the conferences, "The Scottish Referendum: Results and Implications", was held on September 15th. This video conference featured panelists such as Dr. Ailsa Henderson, a professor in political science and head of the Department of Politics and International Relations at the

University of Edinburgh, Dr. B. Guy Peters, a professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Pittsburgh and Dr. André Lecours, a professor in the School of Political Studies at the University of Ottawa.

The discussion throughout the conference centered on the possible outcomes of the Scottish referendum for independence. The conversation included an analysis of the strategies of various political parties in Scotland and their efforts to persuade voters. The event closed with a question and answer time where private viewers and the various European Union Centers across the United States were given the opportunity to ask the panelists questions.

The second conference, titled "25 Years of the Berlin Republic", was held on October 3rd. The conference

was moderated by Dr. Steven Sokol, President and CEO of the World Affairs Council in Pittsburgh, and was held in commemoration of German Unity Day. The conference featured panelists Dr. Georg Menz, a visiting professor at the University of Pittsburgh's Department of Political Science, and Ruprecht Polnx, former

Graduate Studies and an associate professor of the history department at the University of Pittsburgh, and Dr. Frank Furedi, author and sociologist.

The panelists discussed whether contemporary, international conflicts and tensions mirror those of the year 1914 before the outbreak of World War I. The conference mainly focused on political, social and cultural similarities and the likelihood of history repeating itself.

The last conference, "Displaced: The Refugee Crises in the Mediterranean Basin", took place on November 18th. The panelists discussed the current influx of refugees from the Mediterranean and into various European countries, including European Union member-nations.

The series of video-conferences was an example of the various collaborations MEUCE engages in throughout the semester. MEUCE's cooperation extends beyond its ties with local community members and students to include a national and international network of globally conscious individuals.

By Isabel Brador



Christine I. Caly-Sanchez (left) and Students at the "Scottish Referendum: Results and Implications" video conference on September 15th.

Chairman of the Germany Bundestag Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Sokol and Menz discussed the importance of German unification and the implications unity had in international matters, both then and now. This event took place a few days before the German Consul General Jürgen Borsch visited Florida International University to join MEUCE in commemorating the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall.

On October 21st MEUCE participated in the third conference of the series "1914 Revisited? The U.S., E.U., Russia Triangle". This conference featured a large panel of experts such as Dr. Mark Steinberg, a professor of history at the University of Illinois, Dr. Carol Saivetz, a research associate at Harvard's Davis Center for Asian and Eurasian Studies, Dr. Gregor Thum, the Director of

**To watch the videoconferences
please click on the links below:**

- Scottish Referendum, Sept. 15 [Event Video](#)
- Berlin Republic, Oct. 3- [Event Video](#)
- 1914 Revisited?, Oct 21 [Event Video](#)
- Refugee Crises, Nov 18 [Event Video](#)



Visit of Italian Delegation of Information & communication Technology Companies



Italian Delegation at FIU School of Engineering and Computing with Christine I. Caly-Sanchez—Nov. 3rd, 2014

From November 3 to November 5, eleven companies and associations of start-ups in the ICT sector of Friuli region from Italy visited Florida. The mission, organized by the Italy-America Chamber of Commerce in collaboration with Unioncamere Friuli Venezia Giulia, had an intensive program that included workshops with industry experts, visits to research centers and technology parks, and especially B2B meetings with local ICT companies in Miami, Fort Lauderdale, Boca Ra-

ton and Orlando.

The IACC has organized meetings also with Florida universities such as Florida International University, the University of Miami and the University of Central Florida. Collaborative relationships between incubators for start-up of Friuli and Florida have been created and provide the incoming companies with useful contacts for selling their products in the American market, also through joint ventures with local companies.

On November 3rd, at the request of the Italy-America Chamber of Commerce Southeast Florida, the MEUCE was proud to organize a visit of FIU College of Engineering and Computing Science for the ICT Italian delegation.

It was planned in the agenda a meeting with FIU School of Engineering and Computing Dean, researchers at Computing and Information Science, and FIU Faculty, a visit of different laboratories (Wall of Wind, Discovery Lab), and a presentation on Horizon 2020 by Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director, MEUCE, FIU.

For photo Gallery, [click here](#)

By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez

Below you can watch the video about the trade mission with the **interviews to some of the participants (in Italian)**, the Italia America Chamber of Commerce made:

[Italian ICT companies Mission in Florida—YouTube Video](#)



Italian Delegation visiting the Wall of Wind at FIU School of Engineering



BILAT Announcement

Workshop on US Research Funding Opportunities "EUROPE TOUR"

Brussels: Oct. 27, 2014—Oslo: Oct. 29, 2014—Berlin: Oct. 31, 2014



You're invited to join us at valuable (and FREE) workshops in Europe:

"Workshop on US Research Funding Opportunities—EUROPE TOUR"

Oct. 27, 2014 | 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Oct. 29, 2014 | 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Oct. 31, 2014 | 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Venues:

Brussels: Regus Brussels Central Station

Oslo: Research Council Norway

Berlin: Premises of the Leibniz-Gemeinschaft

The US is one of the top-ranked countries in technology, innovation and R&D expenditures and many European researchers and institutions have developed strong research links with US researchers

and their institutions. However, some opportunities within US federal funding programs, such as NIH (National Institutes of Health) and NSF (National Science Foundation), may not be well-known in Europe, and European researchers and research managers may not be familiar with the specific application processes & grants management procedures required by US federal research funding agencies.

Benefits and goals of the workshop include:

- Promote awareness of US federal research funding opportunities for European researchers
- Strengthen European institutions' expertise in applying for and managing US research funds

- Provide case studies of research collaboration between US and European institutions
- Topics that will be discussed with experts are:

- US Federal Research Funding – How to Apply, with specific focus on NIH and NSF
- Managing US Federal Research Awards with specific focus on NIH and NSF: What a European Institution Needs to Know
- Case Studies of Transatlantic Research Collaboration from a European perspective

- ▶ For more information Berlin, [click here](#)
- ▶ For more information Oslo, [click here](#)
- ▶ For more information Brussels, [click here](#)



BILAT Announcement

US and EU Researchers: LinkedIn Group for H2020 and Subgroup for US interest

you can now join an [excellent platform](#) on LinkedIn that provides a valuable and efficient dissemination for the H2020 [element](#).



In September 2014, the owner of the 150,000+ member LinkedIn group on Horizon 2020 agreed to set up a subgroup for U.S. researchers interested in H2020 AND Euro-

pean researchers interested in U.S. funding opportunities. As of today, there are 2,200+ members of this subgroup. Our partner NCURA (National Council of University Research Administrators) in Washington D.C. has informed us that US researchers interested in H2020 and EU researchers interested in US funding are able to join the LinkedIn subgroup. This LinkedIn subgroup as well as the overall group is a useful

dissemination channels for H2020 information and BILAT USA 2.0 events

- Here is the link to the subgroup: [LinkedIn subgroup targeting U.S. researchers](#) (<http://goo.gl/agkbDT>)
- Here is the link to the overall H2020 group: [LinkedIn Group targeting anyone interested in H2020](#) (<http://goo.gl/R5yTtU>)

By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez



Book Presentation: "La Edad de Hielo" (The Ice Age) by Diego López Garrido



Diego López Garrido, Spanish Deputy presenting his book "La Edad de Hielo"

On Dec. 5th, The Initiative for Spanish and Mediterranean Studies hosted a book presentation by Diego López Garrido on an exciting new approach to the global economic crisis. The Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence at FIU along with the Consulate General of Spain in Miami, and DOHGSa were happy to co-sponsor the event. Miami Community members such as Javier Pagalday, Deputy Consul General of Spain in Miami, Francisco J. García Nieto, Executive Vice President International Personal Banking Manager, Totalbank, attended the event and were pleased to hear Spanish Deputy Diego López Garrido. Dr. Aurora Morcillo, Professor of History at FIU and Director of the Spanish and Mediterranean Studies welcome the audience, thanked the Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence for co-sponsoring the event, and introduced the speaker.

The Great Crisis that is still castigating western democracies is not a simple parenthesis in the economic growth. It has inaugurated a new era, cold and hard like the Ice Age, that brings with it profound changes, especially in the south of Europe. Society has found itself devastated by unemployment and underemployment,

by the increase in poverty and inequality, and by a notable increment in xenophobia. The State has been weakened, stripped of its tributary power by the enormous fiscal evasions and circumventions of the great fortunes and multinationals, and a hegemonic financial power has become consolidated to which can be traced the origins of the Ice Age. Faced with the new panorama, the United States has reacted in a more innovative way than the European Union, which is still torn between failed austerity measures and the loss of social rights, and the proposal to rescue the welfare state with an intelligent Europeanism and solidarity without borders. This second position is that which is defended by Diego López Garrido in this clearheaded book, which looks to add to the already intense debate surrounding the new Europe that we need to build following the 2014 European elections.

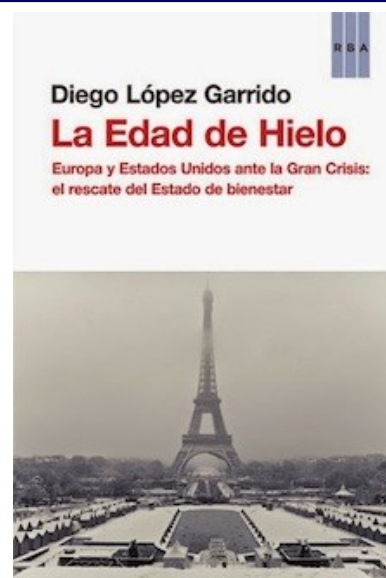
After his presentation, Diego López Garrido kindly signed copies of his book for the audience.

► To view video (in Spanish), [click here](#)

► To view photo gallery, [click here](#)

For more information on the events sponsored by MEUCE visit <https://miamieuc.fiu.edu/events/general/>.

By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez



Diego López Garrido signing copies of his book for the audience



Dr. Aurora Morcillo, Diego López Garrido, and Christine I. Caly-Sanchez



Preparations for the 2015 Euro Challenge Competition have already begun!



Florida High Schools students and teachers at the Euro Challenge Competition Student Orientation—FIU—Dec. 8, 2014

The 2015 Euro Challenge Competition is right around the corner (March 12, 2015), and students and teachers are getting ready to participate in this fascinating and ever-growing contest, where 9th and 10th grade students from different schools in Florida compete to represent our state in the national competition held in New York City on April 30, 2015. The most challenging aspect of the competition is that these bright high school students, in their teams composed of three to five students, will suggest solutions to Europe's most pressing economic problems. A jury of experts ranks the teams on the basis of their presentation (*which consists of three parts: describe the current economic situation in the "euro area", select one economic related challenge confronting the euro area and pick one of the 19 member countries of the euro area to illustrate that challenge, recommend a policy*), knowledge, and the ability to answer questions.

To that end, students representing 6 schools met at FIU for an all-day stu-

dent workshop to hear from experts on Europe in order to hone their skills for the competition. This year, two schools from Broward County, International School of Broward, and Nova High School, were present as well as schools from Dade county, including Archimedean Upper conservatory, Felix Varela Senior High School, Gulliver Preparatory School, Miami Palmetto Senior High School. Dr. Rebecca Friedman, Co-Director of the MEUCE, FIU, welcome the audience. Students heard lectures from FIU Assistant Professor, Politics & International Relations Dept, Dr. Markus Thiel ("From Europe to the Euro"); Economist from the University of Miami, Maria Lorca-Susino ("The Crisis and its Impact on the Euro Area Economy"; "Key Economics Concepts"); and Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director, MEUCE. ("Competition Overview"; "Resources on the website and interactive exercise on the ten challenges"). In the afternoon, students had the chance to practice and present an economic challenge and Euro-

pean country, and recommend a policy during the interactive exercise. They were also lucky to meet one of last year student winner from Nova High School who kindly gave them advice for the competition.

After the workshop, students gave growing evaluations to the presenters for their ability to easily explain complex issues, and to Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director, MEUCE, FIU and organizer of the competition in Florida, for her logistical skills in the successful organization of the workshop.

► To view PowerPoint Presentations and photo gallery, [click here](#)

For more information on the competition, and to know more about what is new in 2015, go to the official Euro Challenge Website: <http://www.euro-challenge.org/wordpress/>

By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez



Next Webinars with WISE and the Delegation of the European Union

- Dec. 9, 2014 | 3:30 p.m.—4:30 p.m.
- Dec 15, 2014 | 3:30 p.m.—4:30 p.m.



Next Teacher Orientations at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta—Miami

- January 29, 2015 | 4:30 p.m.—7:00 p.m.
- February 26, 2015 | 4:30 p.m.—7:00 p.m.



Contact the Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence

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 Modesto A. Maidique Campus
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 Miami, FL 33199

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The Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence team wishes you and yours Happy Holidays and a great and prosperous New Year!

SOME OF OUR UPCOMING 2015 EVENTS



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|------------|---|
| Jan. 26 | European Film Series: Croatian films |
| Feb. 10 | Polish Lecture Series—Book presentation on “Columbus”
by Dr. Manuel Rosa, historian |
| Feb. 13. | <i>Plutopia: The Great American and Soviet Plutonium Disasters</i>
by Kate Brown , Professor of History,
University of Maryland, Baltimore County |
| Feb. 23-24 | Two-day EU Conference: "European Civil Society: Legitimacy Through Cooperation?" |
| Feb. 26 | 2nd Euro Challenge Competition Teacher Orientation
At the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta-Miami Branch |
| March 2 | Polish Lecture Series
<i>Poland and the Ukrainian Crisis</i> by Dr. Krzysztof Jasiewicz, Wash-
ington and Lee University, Lexington, VA |
| March 12 | Local Florida Euro Challenge Competition 2015 |

For details please visit: miamieuc.fiu.edu - Events
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