



Newsletter



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“The 7th Annual Local Florida 2015 Euro Challenge Competition”

On Thursday, March, 12th, the Miami- Florida European Union of Excellence held the first round of the Euro Challenge Competition. This is the 7th year in which the Preliminary Round-Competition has taken place at Florida International University and the 6th year that the Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence partners with the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta-Miami Branch. Ten schools from Miami-Dade, Broward, Lee, Orange and Alachua counties participated in this year’s competition. The competition draws 9th and 10th grades high school students who have a variety of academic interests including law, international relations, psychology and the humanities. In addition to their normal course work students must find time to form teams, research their respective

topics and practice their presentations. “ We’ve been preparing for the completion for about a year. We’ve had a few bumps in the road such as teammates dropping out, recruiting new teammates and having to switch presentation topics,” said Bailey Peralto of Oasis High School. In addition to students from local schools, the competition also draws leading figures in the community and diplomats to serve as judges, many of which will go on to serve for

multiple competitions. Among them, Luis Alvarez, Spanish Embassy; Volker Anding, German Embassy; Sophie Delporte, Consulate General of France in Miami; Steef van den Berg, Consulate General of the Netherlands in Miami; Massimo Spiga, Consulate General of Italy in Miami; Gloria Guzman, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta-Miami Branch;

“I was really surprised the first time because they are really young but have a nice grasp of concepts that are really complex. Overall the competition is a nice outreach by the European Union to these American students and I come back every year,” said Sophie Delporte, a third year judge at the competition and the head of the public affairs department in



2015 Euro Challenge Competition Judges, From left to right: Luis Alvarez, Steef van den Berg, Dr. Rebecca Friedman, Sophie Delporte, Dr. Mihaela Pintea, Massimo Spiga, Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Gloria Guzman, Dr. Volker Anding

the Consulate General of France in Miami. Aside from knowledge of the facts and figures pertaining to EU member states’ economies and politics the judges also take into account the teams’ ability to clearly communicate with one another.

“The presentations each year get better... As judges, we’re looking for their understanding and management of the concepts and economic indicators of their countries. As well as their presentations and the flow



"The 7th Annual Local Florida 2015 Euro Challenge Competition"



Some of the 2015 Euro Challenge Competition Judges; from left to right: Massimo Spiga, Gloria Guzman, Dr. Volker Anding, Steef van den Berg, Sophie Delporte



At the competition, one of Oasis High School students making her presentation before the judges



At the competition, Trinity Preparatory School team making their presentation before the judges

of the overall presentation and their ability to work as a team," said Gloria Guzman a repeat competition-judge and the Economic and Financial Education Specialist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta in Miami.

Guzman also spoke about the monumental effort put forth by the students and their educators in order to ensure that the competition could happen. "It's commendable the amount of hours, effort and work that goes into this completion. It's really amazing."

The 2015 winners of the preliminary round were Trinity Preparatory School, and Felix Varela Senior High School.

The Euro Challenge is a program created and run by the Delegation of the European Union to the United states, with assistance from the

Federal Reserve Bank of New York. The program is also supported by The Moody's Foundation, Credit Suisse and Deloitte & Touche. Over the years the competition had expanded regionally and has resulted in the participation of the Federal Reserve banks of Chicago, Boston, and Miami, as well as the European Union Centers of Excellence across the nation and the DC World Affairs Council.

The Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence has been participating in this wonderful project since the beginning. Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director at the MEUCE is the recruiter and organizer of the competition in Florida. She is very proud to say "Since

2008, MEUCE has selected eighty-three Florida high schools from Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, St. Lucie, Lee, Orange, and Alachua counties, and sent twenty-one to New York to compete nationally. One hundred four students have gone to New York representing their Florida schools. This competition has become a showcase for our Florida schools, and it will continue to grow due to the tremendous response we have received from our local schools. We are extremely proud of our schools in Florida"

By Isabel Brador

For more information on the Euro Challenge Competition and to view photos [click here](#) . For more information, [click here](#)



Trinity Preparatory School



Felix Varela Senior High School

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“Recognition Award Ceremony for the 2015 Euro Challenge Competition Florida winners”



From left to right: Karen Gilmore, Robert Brazofsky, and Christine I. Caly-Sanchez



Felix Varela Senior High School Students receiving their certificates



Felix Varela Senior HS Students presenting their project “Germany and Aging Population” to the audience

On March 31st, the Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence organized a Recognition Award Ceremony Luncheon for the two Florida high schools winning teams at the Local Euro Challenge Competition 2015, Felix Varela Senior High School and Trinity Preparatory School. The event took place at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta Miami-Branch where students, teachers, judges and organizers were acknowledged and congratulated for their tremendous work.

Karen Gilmore, Vice President and Regional Executive, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta-Miami Branch, and host of the event, welcomed the audience and congratulated the two Florida winning high schools for their outstanding work. She mentioned that she was very happy to host this event at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta-Miami Branch and proud of having partnered with the Miami-Florida Eu-

ropean Union Center of Excellence for 6 years.

After presenting once again their project to the audience, students were awarded certificates of participation and achievement in the Euro Challenge Competition 2015, and congratulated by Karen Gilmore, Vice President and Regional Executive, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta-Miami Branch; Robert Brazofsky, Supervisor, Executive Director, Social Sciences, Miami-Dade Public Schools; and Master of Ceremony and Ambassador (ret.) Dr. Volker Anding.

Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director, Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence, and organizer of the Euro Challenge Competition in Florida, awarded certificates of appreciation to the teachers and thanked them for their leadership, guidance, and dedication to increasing understanding of the European Union and the Euro, and developing



Teachers receiving their certificates of appreciation from Christine I. Caly-Sanchez



Judges Massimo Spiga, Luis Alvarez, Gloria Guzman, Sophie Delporte, Volker Anding receiving their certificates



Euro Challenge Competition Recognition Award Ceremony at the FED—March 31, 2015

communication, critical thinking and team skills among their students. She also awarded certificates of appreciation to the judges and thanked them for their continuing support, and for making the competition fair and transparent.

After the recognition award ceremony, students, teachers, and judges, were privileged to have a private tour of the FED conducted by Gloria Guzman, Economic and Financial Education Specialist

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

By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez



Dr. Krzysztof Jasiewicz "Poland and the Ukraine Crisis"



Dr. Krzysztof Jasiewicz, Washington and Lee University, Lexington, VA. making his presentation

On Monday, March 2nd, the Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence had the pleasure of hosting Dr. Krzysztof Jasiewicz, professor and head of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Washington Lee University. Jasiewicz, who has published extensively on elections, voting behavior, party systems and political attitudes in Poland and other Central European states, gave a lecture titled "Poland and the Ukrainian Crises".

Dr. Rebecca Friedman, the co-director of the Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence, opened the event, which was graciously held during Dr. Micheal Brillman's, undergraduate European history course. Students in the class were given the opportunity to not only gain a deeper knowledge of the intricacies of the political system in Poland, but were also able to better understand how these politics affect the Ukrainian crises.

Jasiewicz, a native of Poland, began his lecture by giving an overview of the situation and its causes. During his introduction he specifically highlighted the importance of Russia to the overall discussion. "We cannot speak about this crisis without addressing the pink elephant in the room which is Russia, the country that is open conflict with the Ukraine. No matter what the Russian leaders claim about it."

The beginning of the lecture also included an analysis of the roles various countries both European

and Western played in the crisis. During the rest of the event, Jasiewicz focused the rest of his talk on the importance of Poland and what it's role should be in the crisis; whether the country should try to negotiate with Russia or become an advocate for Ukrainian needs. He also discussed Poland's past could help determine the outcome of this crisis and the future of the Ukraine.

"What drives Polish politics is the understanding that however painful past experiences with other foreign countries have been reconciliation is still possible. This applies to the current Ukraine crises even though certain other geo-political forces also drive politics in Poland."

To conclude his lecture Jasiewicz discussed the differences in Western and Russian ideologies. After giving a brief overview of the ideological differences, Jasiewicz offered solutions for how the European Union can maneuver or confront the challenges these created. "Certainly, there is a need for unity among the states in the union. There is also a need for cooperation between the EU and the US. NATO must become more stringent about its borders...Poland should assume the role of Ukrainian spokesman."

Jasiewicz also pointed out that this ideological split was not a static one. He drew attention to the fact that Ukrainian politics, which have been traditionally split according to the linguistic differences of the the region, have been reorganized after

feeling the effects of Russian politics. Jasiewicz attributed this to the population's increased identification with government groups rather than ethnic groups.

The event closed with remarks from Dr. Friedman and a question and answer segment with the students.

This event was part of the Blanka Rosenstiel Lecture Series on Poland. The lecture was also sponsored by the American Institute of Polish Culture and the Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Poland, and the Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence.

By Isabel Brador



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

For more information and video of the event please visit:

- [Video](#)
- [Photos](#)
- [PowerPoint](#)



Drs. Jeff Pennington and Beverly Crawford "The EU and the Ukraine Crises"



On Tuesday, March 17th the Miami -Florida European Union Center for Excellence hosted a joint-lecture by Drs. Beverly Crawford and Jeff Pennington of the University of California, Berkeley. Their lecture was held during Dr. Rebecca Friedman's, the co-director for MEUCE at FIU, colloquium on European Identities. Crawford, a professor of Political Science and Political Economy, and Pennington, Director of the Institute of Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies at the University of California, Berkeley, spoke to both graduate and undergraduate students about the recent change in the EU's foreign policy after the Ukraine Crises.

Their lecture "The EU and the Ukraine Crisis: The end of the "European Model?" analyzed and discussed the various reasons why the EU's policy shifted from viewing it's surrounding neighbors as a "ring of fire" rather than a "ring of friends."

The lecture began with an explanation of what the European Union's model was before the Ukraine Crises. Pennington explained the new order established by the EU after the end of the Cold War, "The European Union presented the world with a model of soft power. Throughout the 90s and the early 2000s it appeared that soft power had triumphed. The Cold war ended...and was heralded as a common victory of the West and the Russian people... The ambition was for open borders for capital, for people, for goods, ideas. This

was transformative. The Europeans were not interested in changing the borders of Europe like after WWI or WWII."

Crawford then elaborated on the idea that the before the crises the European model of soft power was a process by which eastern neighbors of the European Union would gain a privileged part-

ure of the European model of soft power. After analyzing both foreign and local obstacles within the Eastern partnership which led to the demise of soft power, Pennington and Crawford offered possible solutions to the problems at hand.

Crawford recommended a change in policy. "The EU should have a new strategy towards the Eastern partnership countries, towards Russia and towards its own membership countries... They should review their policy on building civil society...There's a top-down failure that the money goes to the top and dissipates and doesn't come down. Also, having a blanket-policy for the whole neighborhood is wrong and the EU should get to know these countries and differentiate and perhaps have country-specific policies."

Pennington also concluded by discussing policy changes for dealing with Eastern neighbors, but he also spoke specifically about how the EU should interact with Russia. "At this point and time the EU cannot hope at present to transform Russia, but it should be aware of the price of

excluding Russia. There has to be dialogue, there has to be engagement and there has to be understanding. I don't just mean understanding as in acceptance I mean understanding the concerns, be they real or imagined, of the partner you're dealing with."

The lecture ended with a questions and answer time with students and audience members.

By Isabel Brador



**Drs. Jeff Pennington and Beverly Crawford
University of California, Berkeley**

nership with the EU. "This would mean a ring of well-governed, capitalist countries, which would accept the values of the European Union. The policies that the EU supported were a transition to democracy and to open-markets... these were considered to be in the stabilizing factors of a country... This would lead to a privileged partnership, but not membership within the EU."

Pennington and Crawford then reviewed past and recent events which have led to the fail-

For more information and video of the event please [click here](#)



Conversations on Europe Spring 2015: Collaboration with EU Centers Nationwide



The spring semester at the Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence (MEUCE) included the last two Conversations on Europe Video Conferences with the University of Pittsburgh. The conferences entitled "TTIP-Ping Point: The Present and Future of the Trans-Atlantic Trade Agreement" and "Before there was Ebola: European Responses" took place on Tuesday, March 17th, and Tuesday, April 14th, respectively. Both conferences featured expert panelists in related fields to discuss the issues at hand.

The March videoconference "TTIP-Ping Point" focused on the current and future implications of the trans-Atlantic agreement. The guest-panelists (Dan Hamilton of Johns Hopkins--SAIS, Elvire Fabry of the Jacques Delors Institute in Paris, Evgeny

Postnikov - Lecturer in International Relations at the University of Glasgow, and Dan Beachy of Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch in Washington) analyzed the projected benefits for the agreement including the strengthening the economic market by creating more jobs and stimulating industry. The conversation also focused on the complexity of the agreement and the possibility that because of the complexity of the negotiations public-access to how key issues of the agreement were being decided would be difficult.

"Before there was Ebola" began by discussing European responses to the recent Ebola epidemic and the conversation then turned to past European responses to

crises in Africa, especially those having to do with disease. Participants included Deborah Neill, Associate Professor of History, York University; Mari Webel, Assistant Professor of History, University of Pittsburgh; Guillaume Lachenal, Lecturer, Université Paris Diderot; and Jessica Pearson-Patel, Assistant Professor of International and Area Studies, University of Okla-



Christine I. Caly-Sanchez (left) and FIU Students at the "TTIP-Ping Point: video conference on March 17th.

homa Due to the nature of the topic at hand, the panel consisted mainly of historians from various backgrounds including Mari Webel, assistant professor of History at the University of Pittsburgh, whose areas of research are global health and medical politics. Webel began the conversation by commenting on the type of coverage the Ebola epidemic received in Western media.

"One of the most striking things about the Ebola coverage was that it occurred in the context of Western Africa being particularly pathogenic or bad. Sierra Leone was known as the white man's grave during the 19th century. This connection also transferred to trade. You would have traders

traveling to this part of Africa, dying in droves and creating a mythology that this place was particularly dangerous. I feel like this response to Ebola is "White Man's grave Redux. In the 19th century, the conversation is about white bodies and white bodies being sick. The conversation then turned to African bodies being diseased. I think there's a long tradition of treating Africa as a diseased place."

Panelists then focused on the language of origins that surrounds any epidemic or outbreak of disease. Dr. Deborah Neil, a professor of History at York University, discussed the need to find a beginning, or a group of people to blame, whenever there is a public health threat in any society.

"I was thinking about the SAURS epidemic in Toronto. There's a lot of emphasis and practice in trying to find out where a disease came from or who is to blame. This question of origins reveals very nasty prejudices. Particularly, in the case of SAURS in Toronto, against the Asian migrant communities in the cities."

Both events ended with a question and answer time with audience members. The *Conversations on Europe* videoconference series will resume in the fall semester.

By Isabel Brador

 For videos and summaries of each event please visit: the links below:

- [Before there was Ebola](#)
- [TTIP-Ping Point](#)



"In Endless Waiting Rooms: Our Stories" Florida Grand Opera, MEUCE



Left to right: Drs. Rebecca Friedman, Julie Maykowski and guest speakers

On Sunday, March 29th, the Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence (MEUCE) partnered with FIU's School of International and Public Affairs and the Florida Grand Opera to highlight and explore the language and themes of Gian Carlo Menotti's celebrated work *The Consul* which focuses on immigration.

The event, called "In Endless Waiting Rooms", was held at the Miracle Theater in Coral Gables. In addition to performances of various pieces in Menotti's opera, the event featured three speakers who shared their own immigration stories and their experience of coming to Miami.

Throughout the evening they reflected on their individual struggles and those of their respective communities as they fled violence, political repression or abject poverty and embraced the challenges and hopes found within the Miami landscape. Performers in the Florida Grand Opera then punctuated the stories by performing pieces from *The Consul* which resonated with the themes of each speaker's story.

Dr. Rebecca Friedman, an FIU Russian Historian and FIU professor and the Co-Director of MEUCE, moderated the event. In an interview after the event Friedman commented on how Menotti's opera was so relatable to the various migrant communities in Miami. "The opera *The Consul* was chosen for this event because it focuses on immigration and the experience of dealing with the consuls and being forced to flee one's homeland. An experience which is very relatable to various communities in Miami. This opera is also part of the Florida Grand Opera's series *Made for Miami* due to its ability to engage members of communities in Miami not only as audience members, but as participants as well."

Each speaker was coached by Charlene Eberly, a department administrator at FIU's department of Communication Arts and the assistant director of the CommArts studio. Eberly assisted each of the participants with the finer points of public speaking and helped them make their stories concise enough to fit into the time constraints, but still long enough to remain poignant and

representative of their experiences. The first speaker to share her story was Marleine Bastien, the founder and executive director of the non-profit Haitian Women of Miami. She is an advocate of human rights and justice for all refugees and immigrants; she immigrated from Haiti to the United States in 1981.

Bastien was followed by Dr. Alan Hall, who arrived in the United States from Nazi-occupied Poland in 1947. He is a retired attorney and university professor who is heavily involved with issues of creating affordable housing. He moved to Miami in 1951.

The last speaker was Maydel Santana, a Cuban-American who lives and works in Miami. She is a former journalist and is currently the Director of Media Relations at FIU. Santana immigrated to the United States in 1980.

The immigration stories of each speaker paired with Menotti's pieces made for a moving experience for both audience members and the speakers. Friedman spoke to the power of the event. "Essentially it was an incredibly emotional and powerful event due to the combination of the personal narratives with the opera. It was hands down the most moving event that I have been involved in. It was such a pleasure to get to know the Miami community more and bring together individual stories with an eye towards the historical background and the arts through opera. I'm hoping we can do so many more events like this one."



Left to right: Maydel Santana, Dr. Alan Hall, and Marleine Bastien



"In Endless Waiting Rooms: Our Stories" Florida Grand Opera, MEUCE



Marlene Bastien



Performers from the Florida Grand Opera



Dr. Alan Hall



Performers from the Florida Grand Opera



Performer from the Florida Grand Opera



Maydel Santana

This event was organized by the Florida Grand Opera and the FIU School of International and Public Affairs' European Studies Program and Václav Havel Initiative for Human Rights & Diplomacy.

The organizers would like to acknowledge the FIU College of Architecture + The Arts, Cuban Research Institute and Latin American and Caribbean Center for their invaluable help.

This project is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts and a grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

By Isabel Brador

For video of the event and pictures please visit the links below:

- [Pictures](#)
- [Video](#)



Performers from the Florida Grand Opera and guests speakers take a bow at the end of the event

Dr. Maxime Larive
European Security and Foreign Policy



On March 6th, the Miami-Florida European Union Center at FIU and the University of Miami had the pleasure of hosting Dr. Maxime Larivé, a research associate and Jean Monnet Chair at UM. Larive gave a lecture called “European Security” where he discussed the intricacy of EU security and how those nuances affect how the EU interacts with its neighbors. In an email interview, MEUCE was able to ask Dr. Larivé questions pertaining to his lecture and the current situation in Europe.

MEUCE: Could you give us an overview of the situation in Europe regarding defense and security?

Larivé: The current situation in Europe is a fantastic paradox. On the one hand, the threats to the security of the 28 Member States (EU-28) have never been greater since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. On the other hand, the EU-28 and European citizens are refusing to address the threats the proper way by requiring deeper integration and cooperation. The threats facing the Union are so varied and complex as they include the following: territorial integrity affected by the over-aggressive Russian foreign policy; ISIS in the Middle East and Northern Africa (MENA); massive illegal immigrations from Africa; security of supply for energy; environmental security; the rise of new powers; homeland terrorism; among others. In order to address and contain them, EU Member States ought to spend more on defense and security policies....Last, European leaders are trying to avoid the elephant in room

– deepening defense and security policy – by talking and looking at technicalities.

MEUCE: Why do you think this is so important to study and discuss?

Larivé: The most important dimension in studying European foreign, defense and security policy is the centrality of the Member State. The argument that national sovereignty is being eroded by the EU is not entirely accurate. The problem for the Member States citizens to re- that world com- the – soft and hard, new and old – cannot be solved by only one country. The national argument, in most EU Member States, that each country would be better off on its own is pure fantasy.



Dr. Maxime Larivé

The series of catastrophes occurring almost on daily basis in the Mediterranean sea with migrants from Africa and Middle East and North Africa (MENA) are a clear illustration of a need to boost up cooperation at the European level in terms of politics of defense, security, and foreign affairs. Aside from legal questions, solving the illegal influx requires more participation of the EU-28 and the EU in Africa and MENA through civilian and military missions.

MEUCE: What do you want audiences to take away from your lectures?

Larivé: The EU should be viewed through two lenses: an historical understanding; and a contemporary reading. From an historical point of view, the EU is a marvelous endeavor clearly demonstrating the realization by European leaders of the time (Monnet, Schuman, Adenauer, among others) that in order to attain a true peace on the European continent, it will have to go through serious and binding cooperation. From a contemporary point of view, the EU ought to be understood as an entity completely different from previously envisioned in the 1950s...Nevertheless, in the current domestic contexts, it is quite amazing that the EU can still function and be relevant on many important questions like migration, antitrust regulations, TTIP negotiations, environment, and so forth.

Last but not least, the most important dimension in studying European foreign, defense and security policy is the centrality of the Member State. At the end of the day, the Member State is in charge of its national protection, border control and defense policy. The EU can only ask for greater cooperation and coordination, but cannot wage war against another state.

MEUCE: How did you become interested in this field?

Larive: Very young I was passionate about foreign affairs and politics. In some ways, I am a black sheep in my family as I was raised in a apolitical milieu. But I became extremely



Dr. Maxime Larivé European Security and Foreign Policy



interested in studying the EU and European affairs once I left France and moved to the US. My father, working at the time as a farmer, used to have a negative perception of the Union because of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). As a child the CAP did not mean much to me.

Doing my graduate studies (Masters in Boston and Ph.D. in Miami) in the US offered me the distance needed in order to re-discover the Union, its philosophy and meaning. Since then I have found great pleasure in monitoring and studying European politics.

MEUCE: Could you give us more information on you academic background? You have an active blog. When did that begin and what made you start that project?

Larivé: My first love, in terms of academics, is History. After my Baccalaureate, I completed a Bachelor in History and Geography at the University of Nice. A year later, I was starting a MA in Government at Suffolk University in Boston, where I met one of my key mentors, Roberto Dominguez. He advised me to do a Ph.D. in International Studies at the University of Miami, where I worked as a Research Assistant at the EUCE under Professor Roy. I defended my dissertation on European defense in 2012.

I started blogging almost simultaneously, while writing my doctoral dissertation, in which would be in 2009. I even wrote a piece for the *Chronicle of Higher Education* about the positive aspects of blogging in terms of writing skills. At first.... It is a nice

complement to academic writing, which tends to be drier and longer.

MEUCE: You've published a book on the topic, could you give a brief summary of the argument of your book?

Larivé: The overall argument of the book, *Debating European Defense Policy. Understanding the Complexity*, published with Ashgate consists in answering the following research question: why has the integration process of the EU security and defense policies been so unpredictable? Where the book distinguishes itself is by its design. Rather than writing *another* manuscript, I wanted to write a manual designed to fostering discussion and to some degree create frustration to encourage even more dialogue. Each chapter, 12 in total, are regrouped into three overarching parts: theoretical framework, historical and strategic questions, and the actors. Each chapter, one theme, opens with a question, which is answered through a yes and no approach.

The simple words, *Debating Security*, is a reflection, a dialogue on the transformation of European defense from its creation in 1957 to today.

MEUCE: What do you hope your book and research will contribute to the field of study?

Larivé: First of all it is too early to tell. Compared to many experts, I am still working on finding my voice. But so far, I would fully be satisfied if my writings could foster critical thinking and desire to learn more among my readers – I would consider myself honored.

As illustrated through my body of work I have been more concerned about empirical and qualitative studies as I believe in this methodological framework and I think is much more accessible to readers and non-experts.

My book, peer-reviewed and magazine articles, as well as my weekly comments share one core dimension: demonstrate the complexity of the EU machinery and underline the paradox between perceptions and reality.

By Isabel Brador



Maxime H. A. Larivé, Ph.D., is a Research Associate at the EU Center of Excellence at the University of Miami. He graduated from the University of Miami in 2012 and worked as

a Jean Monnet Postdoctoral Fellow at the EU Center of Excellence (2012-2013). He has published several EU related articles and reviews in peer-reviewed journals such as *European Security*, *Journal of Common Market Studies*, *Perceptions*, and *Whitehead Journal of Diplomacy and International Relations*. His book, *Debating European Security and Defense Policy. Understanding the Complexity*, published with Ashgate looks at the question of European Defense and Security from its creation to today. Occasionally, Maxime Larivé published policy-oriented articles for the *National Interest* and *World Politics Review*. Dr. Larivé also writes weekly commentaries on the EU and transatlantic relations for *PolitiPond* (<https://politipond.wordpress.com/>).

For Dr. Larivé's blog and bio click on the links below:

- [Bio](#)
- [Blog](#)



"A Night of Poetry, Reflection, and Culture at Vizcaya" by Stephanie Sepulveda



"Poetry makes us pause and see something differently, feel something never felt before, and think of the world in a brand new way." Those were the words written by Presidential Inaugural Poet, Richard Blanco, as he reflected on the poems submitted for the O, Miami Poetry Festival, whose culmination was celebrated at Vizcaya Museum & Gardens on April 29, 2015. Blanco's remarks, although referring to the Zip Odes poetry contest held that night, also illustrated the aim of the poetry project that students from the FIU Honors College Study Abroad France and Italy Programs, as well as the Aesthetics and Values class, presented that night.



Saskya reading her poem at Vizcaya

As part of the festivities, students were invited to share their poetry and reflections about Vizcaya as part of Professor John Bailly's City As Text Project—a semester-long project that allowed students to explore spaces and

draw conclusions and parallels between their individual cultures and external influences, particularly European. In preparation for their month-long journey abroad, students from all majors were given the task to explore Vizcaya and reflect on their experience through poetry. Topics explored in the po-

ems ranged from Vizcaya's history and combination of cultures, to its architecture and European influence.

Tatiana Torres, a senior who is part of the Italy Study Abroad Program and who studies Italian, wrote a poem that com-

bined Italian and English phrases. Her poem, titled: *Perduto Nella Traduzione-Lost in Translation* is musing on why, with all its Italian influences, Vizcaya lacks information in Italian. Of her choice to of topic she said, "I felt that in incorporating Italian into the poem it was kind of like incorporating more of the original Italian cultural roots back into Vizcaya."

Wendy Wolf is the Learning Programs Manager at Vizcaya, and the person who collaborated with Professor Bailly to make this project a reality. When asked why she thought Vizcaya was a good starting point for students studying abroad in Europe she said, "Vizcaya is the combination of European inspirations in an American context, it's a perfect cultural resource to consider an orientation to European art history, architecture, design and art collections." And she is right. The house, with its ornate ceilings, art-laden walls, and manicured gardens, looks like it be-



"A Night of Poetry, Reflection, and Culture at Vizcaya" by Stephanie Sepulveda



Tatiana Torres presenting her poem at Vizcaya



Alisa Pazos reading her poem at Vizcaya

longs somewhere in Italy or France. By being allowed the freedom to explore it, students were able to start a connection to what they would be and experiencing on their trips, and were given the opportunity to begin developing an

analytical way of exploring places and examining different cultures. "I appreciate that the student poetry could be incorporated into a public program onsite; it allowed for a culminating event to recognize the outcomes of the pro-

gram. Poetry is meant to be read and spoken, so it was serendipitous that we could account for both opportunities," said Wolf as she reflected on the results on the program, and she added that she would love to engage in similar projects in the future.

As for the success of the project in engaging student participation, it seems to be working. Students from all three classes expressed their enthusiasm for stepping out of the classroom environment and doing something creative. Alisa Pazos, who is studying abroad for the second time, was happy to attend the event, saying, "I loved the experience! I enjoyed challenge of getting my creativity flowing and exploring such a beautiful place."

To see the results of the City As Text Project you can visit www.fiuhcitaly.wordpress.com and www.fiuhcfrance.wordpress.com.

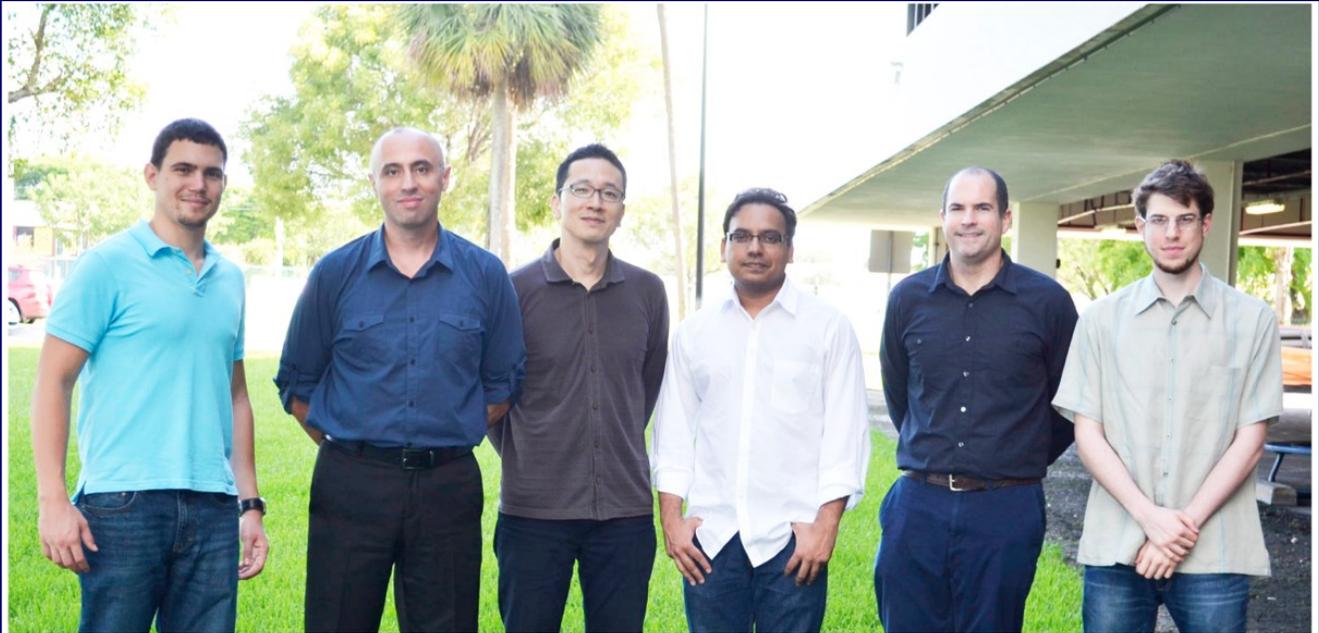


Students from the FIU Honors College Study Abroad France and Italy Program at Vizcaya

By Stephanie Sepulveda



Dr. Sakhrat Khizroev, FIU Center for Personalized NanoMedicine



Dr. Sakhrat Khizroev, Director, FIU Center for Personalized NanoMedicine (second left) and his team

Dr. Sakhrat Khizroev is an inventor with an expertise in electron and nuclear spin physics. His current research focus is nanotechnology and medicine and is working with various medical researchers to advance knowledge in Oncology, Neurodegenerative Diseases, Infectious Diseases, Ophthalmology, HIV/AIDS, and other applications. Over the past few years, he has overseen research which has led to ground-breaking discoveries in these fields. In a recent over the phone and email interview, MEUCE was able to ask Dr. Sakhrat about his academic background, his research goals and his research collaborations.

MEUCE: What is your academic background and field of study?

Khizroev: Electrical Engineer and Physicist by background, I am a Professor at the FIU College of Medicine and College of Engineering with a research focus at the intersection of nanotechnology and medicine to revolutionize therapies in cancer, immunology, and neuroscience. In 2011, I came back to FIU

to undertake a challenging task of working hand-in-hand with my colleagues at the recently established Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine to create a world-class university-wide research initiative in the emerging field of patient- and disease-specific medicine (Personalized Nanomedicine).

The main approach is to use nanotechnology to bridge advances in fundamental research with the current need in medicine. The focus is on research to impact everyday clinical applications. I also represent FIU as a faculty member of the National Science Foundation (NSF) Science and Technology Center (STC) for Energy Efficient Electronics Science (E3S), based at UC-Berkeley, MIT, Stanford, UT-El Paso, and FIU. From 2006 to 2011, I was a tenured professor at the Department of Electrical Engineering of the University of California, Riverside (UCR). I started my academic career in 2003 as an Associate Professor at the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at FIU, where I was tenured in 2005.

The research activities in my group

have been supported through numerous competitive grants from National Science Foundation, Department of Defense (DoD) including DARPA, ONR, Army, Air Force, Department of Energy (DoE), National Institute of Health, States of Florida and California, and private foundations and companies including IBM, Western Digital, Seagate, Motorola, and others.

MEUCE: Could you give a brief overview about the different fields of research you've been working in and the developments made? (Cancer, Brain, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's)

Khizroev: The most important scientific discoveries recently made in my group at FIU relate to using a new class of "smart" multifunctional nanostructures known as magneto-electric nanoparticles (MENs) to open a pathway to the following pioneering applications: Non-invasive deep-brain stimulation in patients with Parkinson's disease, Targeted Delivery of important anti-retroviral medicine across the blood-brain barrier to treat HIV deep in the brain,



Dr. Sakhrat Khizroev, FIU Center for Personalized NanoMedicine



High-specificity and externally-controlled treatment of Ovarian Cancer at the intra-cellular level.

Probably, researchers in every laboratory across the globe one way or another have been trying to answer many related fundamental questions. It would be presumptuous of me to say that now we can cure cancer. We are far from achieving this big goal. Every little step forward is in this global research is an important milestone. Together with my students, we are trying to find another unique angle to the research, which comes from "technobiology" and not the traditional "biotechnology" perspective. In my past career as an Electrical Engineer I am best known for leading the groundbreaking 1997 IBM-CMU demonstration of Perpendicular Magnetic Recording (PMR) – today the core technology in the multi-billion-dollar data storage industry.

Other pioneering concepts that came under my supervision include three-dimensional (3D) multilevel memory, near-field optical transducers (Nanolasers) for 5-nm diagnostics, and sub-10-nm spin nanodevices for energy-efficient information processing.

MEUCE: What led you to be interested in the field you're studying now?

Khizroev: I am passionate about finding solutions to unsolved scientific problems. What can be more challenging and exciting at the same time than trying to figure out the physical mechanisms which underlie devastating diseases such as Cancer, HIV, Alzheimer's? I have many friends in medical fields. Interaction with them was instrumental to realize that an expert in the physics of spin

electronics (spintronics) could make a positive impact on important medical fields if he/she were in the environment to understand the real-life problems in medical fields.

The emergence of a new medical school at FIU and the open-mindedness of FIU administration were critical for providing a truly unique cross-disciplinary research environment. Last but not least, at FIU, I was fortunate to meet Dr. Carolyn Runowicz, a leading expert in gynecologic oncology, who also happened to be a cancer survivor. FIU was the perfect place at the perfect time to launch such an important and extremely challenging cross-disciplinary and multi-campus research initiative.

MEUCE: What is the most fulfilling part of your research, or the most gratifying?

Khizroev: It is hard to describe in words how overwhelmingly inspiring it is to know that your work can make even a tiny contribution to the big goal of curing people of such devastating diseases as Cancer, Autism, Parkinson's and Alzheimer's Diseases, AIDS, and others.

MEUCE: You mentioned that you collaborate with laboratories around the world, can you elaborate on any collaborations you've had or will have with European labs?

Khizroev: The collaboration with European labs is not that strong yet but I do have good friends and collaborators in Europe: Professor Andreas Lyberatos, Department of Materials Science and Technology, University of Crete, Greece, Professor Roy Chantrell, Department of Phys-

ics, University of York, U.K., Professor Leon Abelmann, Twente University, Netherlands.

MEUCE: You mentioned that the research you're conducting is not a one-man job, would you be able to give a brief overview of the labs that have made significant contributions to your work?

Khizroev: First of all, I was truly blessed to meet researchers who are incredibly dedicated and passionate about their research. I want to mention my former PhD Student and today my collaborator Dr. Rakesh Guduru and PhD Students (in alphabetical order) Ali Hadjikhani, Adam Manoussakis, Alexa Rodzinski, Emmanuel Stimphil, Mark Stone, and Dennis Toledo.

We work hand in hand with multidisciplinary researchers in other laboratories in Miami and across the country including Professors Richard Cote, Norman Altman, and Ram Datar at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, Dr. Andrew Schally and Dr. Luis Salgueiro at Miami VA Hospital, Dr. Jeffrey Horstmyer at Neuroscience Centers of Florida Foundation (NSCFF), Professor Ping Liang at the University of California – Riverside, Professor Jeffrey Bokor at the University of California – Berkeley, Professors Wolfgang Porod and Gary Bernstein at the University of Notre Dame, and others.

By Isabel Brador



For Dr. Khizroev's bio and the webpage of the research Institute, click on the links below:

- [Bio](#)
- [Institute for Personalized Medicine Webpage](#)



BILAT Announcement

Workshops on "Learning about Horizon 2020: The Opportunities and Hands-On knowledge"

March 4, 2015: Orlando— March 12–17: Webinars



You're invited to join us at valuable (and FREE) workshop in Orlando.

"Learning about Horizon 2020: The Opportunities and Hands-On Knowledge"

► **Orlando, FL**
March 4, 2015 | 1:00—5:00 p.m.

Venue: Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin, Oceanic 3 - 1500 Epcot Resorts Blvd. - Orlando, FL 32930

► For more information, [click here](#)



Benefits:

This workshop will provide:

- an introduction to this €80 billion (\$90 billion) research program funded by the European Commission,
- hands-on training in finding appropriate funding opportunities, registering your institution in the electronic system, and suggestions for resolving common issues in the grant agreement.
- answers your questions on the grant restrictions and how the money can be spent
- meet with European research managers who are very experienced in dealing with European Commission grants.

Horizon 2020 is the world's largest multinational research and innovation programme. It is the European Union's flagship research funding programme and is fully open to researchers from public and private organizations from across the world.. For more information on Horizon 2020, [click here](#)

Sessions:

1. Introduction to Horizon 2020
2. Hands-on Training in the Participant Portal
3. Common Issues in the Grant Agreement and How to Resolve Them
4. Tips on Managing a Horizon 2020 Grant

Presentations:

- ◆ [Introducing Horizon 2020, Martin Baumgartner](#)
- ◆ [Common H2020 Issues, Martin Baumgartner](#)
- ◆ [Advanced H2020 Issues, Martin Baumgartner](#)
- ◆ [Hands-on training on Participant Portal, Oksana Rogalski](#)
- ◆ [Tips on Managing a Horizon 2020 Grant, Oksana Rogalski](#)

► For more information, [click here](#)



You're invited to join us at valuable two webinars.

► **Webinar**
March 12, 2015 | 1:00—2:30 p.m.
"Webinars - Eye on NIH Policy: OMB Uniform Guidance"

► **Webinar**
March 17, 2015 | 11:00 am—12:30 pm
"Invitation to the BILAT USA 2.0 and ERA-Can+ Webinar on Financial Issues of H2020"

Webinar March 12

Audience: The Presentation Video and Interactive Q&A are designed for research administrators and faculty at research institutions who work with NIH grants and are responsible for understanding NIH grants policies.

Purpose: The Eye on NIH Policy: OMB Uniform Guidance - What It Means for NIH & You Presentation Video provides viewers with information on recent and upcoming changes to NIH policy as a result of the publication of HHS' regulations implementing OMB's Uniform Guidance, and how it affects the grants process. The Interactive Q&A provides an opportunity for the grantee community to get their questions answered by NIH policy officials.

► For more information March 12 Webinar, [click here](#)

Webinar March 17

The webinar will be hosted by PT-DLR and target US and Canadian researchers who already have experience with the new EU Framework Programme in support of Research and Innovation, Horizon 2020. If you are not yet familiar with Hori-



zon 2020, please listen to a previous webinar 'Introduction to H2020', available on the ERA-CAN+ website <http://www.era-can.net/news/era-can-webinar-on-horizon-2020> or follow this link directly: <https://webconf.vc.dfn.dep39onein2oe>.

Nina Schüle, Senior administrative officer at PT-DLR, will present legal and financial issues of H2020 covering therewith Rules for Participation, Funding Conditions and Agreements as well as Financial Management & Payment Modalities, Financial Rules and Reporting/Audits. The panelist will also be available to answer questions raised by the audi-

By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez





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SOME OF OUR UPCOMING MAY-JUNE



- May 1-5 eMerge Americas Symposium on Research & Innovation
- Monday, May 4-6 European Short Film Festival “ Youth in Europe”
- Tuesday, May 5th Screening of Polish Film, “Jack Strong”
- Wednesday, May 6th Concert Film Screening
“Love in Portofino” with Andrea Bocelli
- Wednesday, May 6th EU Research and Innovation Funding
Horizon 2020 Workshop—BILAT USA 2.0
- Friday, May 8th Undergraduate and Graduate European Studies
Certificate Recognition Award Ceremony
- Friday, May 8th Screening of film “Nous Nous Sommes Taint Hais”
- Tuesday, May 12th EU Consul’s Information Panel “European Identity and
Intercultural Communication”
- Friday, May 22nd High school Teacher Workshop “Understanding and
Teaching the European Union”
- Thursday, June 4 “The Price of Energy and its impact in the Economics of the
US and Eurozone: Implications for the TTIP”

For details please visit: miamieuc.fiu.edu - Events
 or contact Christine I. Caly-Sanchez at calyc@fiu.edu