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# European and Eurasian Studies Program

# NEWSLETTER

## Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence

Volume 1, Issue 3 — Summer 2019

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

• Presentation.....	1
• Art Exhibition: Return to sender .....	2-3
• The Death Penalty .....	4-5
• Roundtable EU-China Relations .....	6
• GTKE Resilience Lecture Anthi Christou.....	7-9
• Polish Play: Pola Negri.....	10-11
• Pierre Delsaux's visit to FIU.....	12-13
• Euro Challenge Competition Student Orientation .....	14
• Two-Day EU Conference: The Rising Importance of EU-Asia Relations .....	15-17
• Amb. of Estonia to the US .....	18
• Roundtable: Wunderbar Together—Germany/US.....	19
• Tout-Monde-Festival Echo- Natures: Lecture Valérie Loichot & Art Exhibition.....	20-21
• Sir Kim Darroch, British Ambassador to the U.S.....	22
• European Career Fair.....	23-26
• Model EU.....	27
• Ecological Degradation and Resilience.....	28
• The Divine Plan.....	29-30
• European Union Prize Literature David Machado.....	31
• Euro Challenge Competition.....	32-35
• 2019 Recognition Award Ceremony EU & Eurasian Studies Certificates .....	36-37
• May 9th: European Day Celebration and Consuls General roundtable.....	38-39
• Europe on the Big Screen.....	40-41
• Conversations on Europe.....	42
• Faculty and Graduate Student Research Grants.....	43-44
• Spotlight: New Director EU and Eurasian Studies .....	45
• Contact info.....	46



### 2018-2019 Highlights



Markus Thiel  
Director, MFJMCE



Christine I. Caly-Sanchez  
Associate Director, MFJMCE



David J. Kramer  
Director, EESP

Dear friends,

We are happy to share with you our summer 2019 newsletter, which provides you a good overview of the many events we hosted, and activities we implemented as part of our European & Eurasian Studies Program, and the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence over the past year.

We had a busy few months, since we had our regular campus events from the Jean Monnet Center as well as a number of cultural and resilience-oriented events aimed at 'creating resilient transatlantic relations' within our public diplomacy grant.

Our highlights include our annual Jean Monnet Center conference on EU-Asian relations, our Europe-Day celebration, the screening of European movies at the New

World Symphony Wallcast, our resilience-experts lecture series, our Euro Challenge and Model EU competitions, the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the European Career Fair and many other activities, which you can read about inside.

In other exciting news, we welcome our new director of FIU's European & Eurasian Studies program, Mr. David J. Kramer (more about him on page 45).

We look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming events in the new year.

Sincerely,

Markus Thiel & Christine I. Caly-Sanchez

Follow us and for more information:





## GTKE Art Exhibition: Return to Senders Corresponding to the Caribbean

Sept. 20—Nov. 16, 2018

Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union



From left to right: Prof. Jacek Kolasinski, Dr. Markus Thiel, Eddie Arroyo, Mette Tommerup, Dimitry Chamy, Amb. Paul Cejas, Valerie Jordan, John Stuart, and Christine I. Caly-Sanchez

As part of our public diplomacy 'Getting to know Europe' EU grant, the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, together with Miami Beach Urban Studios (MBUS), organized an art exhibition that critically reflected on the relations of the Caribbean and Europe: 'Return to Sender – Encounters between Europe & the Caribbean'. Bringing together 101 artists from the Caribbean, the US, Latin America and Europe\*, the exhibition provided viewers with original insights into the complex post-colonial relationship between the Caribbean and Europe.

The Art Exhibition on Friday, October 5, was well attended by ca. 80 people, where Ambassador Paul Cejas, MBUS director John Stuart and Professor and Curator Jacek Kolasinski opened the 8-week exhibition in presence of some of the artists. Based on a colonial postcard from Haiti as a starting point, the artists used various materials and techniques ranging from textile printing to multi-media projections to comment on themes prevalent in this relationship, such as development and politics, but also the beauty of nature and love.

We'd like to thank the MBUS leadership and its staff, and especially Prof. Kolasinski, for the great collaboration!

*By Markus Thiel & Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*

\* EU-Caribbean focused exhibition featured works by Eddie Arroyo, Dimitry Saïd Chamy, Valerie Jordan, Clive King, Jacek J. Kolasinski, Paweł Nowak, Blanca Pujals & Alfonso Borragan, Mette Tommerup, Kristap Zarinš and Elina Zunde.



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

Getting to know  
**EUROPE**  
EUINTHEUS.ORG/GTKE

## Opening Reception:

## Return to Senders

### Corresponding to the Caribbean

Friday, October 5, 2018 | MBUS



Prof. and Curator Jacek Kolasinski with Christine Caly and Markus Thiel



Artist Valerie Jordan



Artist Kristaps Zarinš



Painting from artist Mette Tommerup



Amb. Paul Cejas





## Death Penalty Discussion: European & International Perspectives

Oct. 9, 2018 | FIU College of Law



From left to right: Pedro Botta, Dr. Markus Thiel, Hon. Clément Leclerc, Hon. Gera Sneller, Prof. Stephen Harper, Hon. Cándido Creis-Estrada, Prof. Manuel Gómez

On Tuesday, October 9, 2018, the panel discussion "The Death Penalty: European & International Perspectives" was held at the FIU College of Law. The Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence and the European & Eurasian Studies Program were joined by the Steven J. Green School of International

and Public Affairs, the Ruth K. Shepard Broad Distinguished Lecture Series, the College of Law, and four European Consulates General at Miami in sponsoring and organizing this event.

This exchange, held on the eve of the World Day against the Death Penalty, was moderated by FIU College of Law Professor Manuel A. Gómez. International insights on capital punishment were offered by FIU College of Law expert Stephen K. Harper and the four sponsoring consuls general: Hon. Cándido

Creis-Estrada from Spain, Hon. Catalina Ghenea from Romania, Hon. Clément Leclerc from France, and Hon. Gera Sneller from the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

The discussion confirmed that a larger number of countries (a majority) currently do not practice the death penalty. The four diplomats shared the perspective of their respective European countries, which, like practically the rest of Europe, do not pursue the capital punishment. They explained their respective countries' level of activism promoting the abolition of the death penalty worldwide.

Professor Harper, on the other hand, made an in-depth analysis of the death-penalty practices in the US. He noted that the practice is slowly decreasing, as more US states abolish it. He, however, argued that one of the main reasons for the US retention of this type of

penalty is rooted in the culture of the American South. According to his presentation, this US region tends to have a different view on the value of life and a long history of racial violence that originated during slavery.

All the panelists expressed their gratitude to Professor Markus Thiel and to Mrs. Christine Caly-Sánchez for the initiative undertaken by JMCE to organize this event and for being included in the discussion of these timely and imperative matters in the human rights agenda.

*By Jean-Yves Lacascade & Christine I. Caly-Sánchez*



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

## Death Penalty Discussion: European & International Perspectives

Oct. 9, 2018 | FIU College of Law (Cont')



From left to right: Prof. Manuel Gómez welcoming the audience and panelists

From left to right: Hon. Clément Leclerc, Hon. Gera Sneller, Hon. Catalin Ghenea, Prof. Harper, Hon. Candido Creis-Estrada



**Prof. Manuel Gómez**  
Professor of Law, College of Law FIU

**Hon. Clément Leclerc**  
Consul General of France

**Prof. Stephen Harper**  
Professor of Law, FIU



**Hon. Gera Sneller**  
Consul General of The Kingdom of the Netherlands

**Hon. Catalin Ghenea**  
Consul General of Romania

**Hon. Candido Creis-Estrada**  
Consul General of Spain



From left to right: Dr. Yves Tiberghien, Dr. Lukas Danner, Dr. Julie Zeng, and Dr. Thomas Breslin

On Monday, October 22, 2018, the panel discussion "The Contemporary EU-China Relations" was held at FIU. The Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence and the European & Eurasian Studies Program were joined by the Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs, Politics and International Department in sponsoring and organizing this event.

The roundtable was composed of four experts in EU-China:

- **Dr. Thomas A. Breslin**, Professor, Department of Politics and International Relations, FIU
- **Dr. Lukas Danner**, Research Associate, Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, FIU; Honorary Research Fellow, East Asia Security Centre, Bond University; Adjunct Lecturer, Department of Politics and International Relations, FIU
- **Dr. Yves Tiberghien**, Director Emeritus of the Institute of Asian Research, University of British Columbia (UBC), Executive Director of the UBC China

Council; Professor of Political Science; Distinguished Fellow, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada

- **Dr. Jin Zeng**, Associate Professor, Department of Politics and International Relations, FIU

The four panelists discussed the opportunities and the challenges of an increasing economic and political interrelationship. They analyzed the larger geopolitical aspirations of both China and the EU, and the resulting political tensions that may arise out of the inherent asymmetry and differences.

After welcoming the audience, Professor Zeng introduced the panelists.

Professor Breslin opened the panel with some contextualization, and then Dr. Danner focused on the bilateral EU-China relationship; Dr. Zeng who was the moderator of the panel discussion, focused on IPE questions.

The Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence invited Dr. Yves Tiberghien, Director Emeritus of the Institute of Asian Research,

University of British Columbia (UBC), Executive Director of the UBC China Council; Professor of Political Science; and Distinguished Fellow, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada to discuss some of the strategic-political dilemmas and the role of larger members states and give his expertise on EU-China relations.

The panel discussion was a success. More than 50 students and faculty attended the event.

All the panelists expressed their gratitude to Professor Markus Thiel and to Mrs. Christine Caly-Sanchez for the initiative undertaken by JMCE to organize this event and for being included in the discussion of these timely and imperative matters in EU-China relations agenda.

*By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*



- To view photo gallery, [click here](#)
- To view Bios Panelists, [click here](#)
- To view Dr. Danner's PPT, [click here](#)
- To watch video, [click here](#)



## Building Urban Resilience through Networks and Communities: Lessons from Athens, Greece

Oct. 23, 2018 | Vizcaya Museum & Garden—Miami



**Ms. Anthe Christou, Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Manager of the City of Athens' Office for Resilience and Sustainability, Greece, presenting "Lessons from Athens" at Vizcaya Museum & Garden-Miami**

As part of the public diplomacy 'Getting to know Europe' EU grant, we organized a resilience lecture on Tuesday, October 23, 2018, in which Ms. Anthe Christou, Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Manager of the City of Athens' Office for Resilience and Sustainability (Greece), delivered an important presentation on Athens' Resilience initiative.

Held at the Viscaya Museum and Gardens in Miami, the event was attended by more than 90 people, including British Consul General Nicolette Brent, Honorary Consul of Estonia Jorge Viera, Ret. Ambassador of Germany Volker Anding, Consul of Romania Alina Dociu, Honorary Consul Emeritus of Belgium Anaide Govaert, members of FIU and the Miami community at large.

Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director, Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, and moderator of the discussion, introduced Anthe Christou to the members of the audience, who warmly welcomed her to Miami.

The presentation focused on a detailed presentation of the resilience efforts made by the city of Athens, which has been facing a serious socio-economic crisis, to adapt and to transform it into a more creative

and collaborative city. Through partnerships with civil society, academic institutions, private organizations and others, the municipality built robust networks for critical relief, social services and other initiatives. Athens is a large multicultural metropolitan region dealing with social inequality and segregation, budget pressures, lack of green spaces and increased vulnerability of the unemployed. These challenges, together with the impact of climate change in the form of increased heat waves and flash floods, necessitated an urban resilience strategy. Athens expanded rapidly becoming a densely populated city experiencing changing demographics with waves of migrant and refugee flows.

In this context, resilience is defined as capacity building to withstand chronic stresses and acute shocks, and can be achieved by building connections between people and breaking down silos between different levels of governance, the public and private sectors and civil society.

The city of Athens is part of the Rockefeller Foundation Resilient Cities global network program, which provides technical assistance to help cities change the way they understand their risks and plan for their futures.

### Anthe Christou

Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Manager City of Athens Office for Resilience and Sustainability

Born and raised in Athens, Greece, Anthe has a diverse background in law and communication studies. An active blogger since 2011, she has a passion for urban politics, social media, and networking. Anthe has a working experience as a community manager for both profit and nonprofit organizations.

From 2013 to 2016, she was a member of the core team of the Athens Municipality awarded civil society platform, "synAthina" ([www.synathina.gr](http://www.synathina.gr)) as of the community manager.

Since 2016, she is the Communications Manager of Resilient Athens program and she is responsible for the stakeholder engagement process of the Athens Resilience Strategy.

As a participant in the international Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, she has travelled in U.S.A. in order to meet and understand the American culture of volunteerism.



- To view photo gallery in Miami, [click here](#)
- To view photo gallery in Orlando, [click here](#)
- To view presentation PPT, [click here](#)
- To view Bio Panelist, [click here](#)



## Building Urban Resilience through Networks and Communities: Lessons from Athens, Greece

Oct. 23, 2018 | Vizcaya Museum & Gardens—Miami



Anthe Christou and Christine I. Caly-Sanchez



More than 90 people attended the event at Vizcaya Museum & Gardens



In the context of the established partnership, Ms. Anthe Christou is the city of Athens' Chief Resilience Officer, helping to develop a holistic resilience strategy, and assisting in the implementation of the priority projects.

This was achieved through a participatory and inclusive process which lasted 14 months and engaged 140 organizations in active dialogue. The counterparts included municipal employees, students, creative entrepreneurs, citizens and artists. This bottom-up approach resulted in the identification and realization of 65 resilient actions and 53 sub actions. Furthermore, the city of Athens also benefits through the European Re-

gional Development Fund (ERDF), with assistance geared towards reducing the economic disparity of the lesser developed regions of Europe. Cities experience persistent problems, such as unemployment, segregation and poverty. Hence, urban development is central to the EU's Regional Policy.

The lecture and Q&A were followed by a reception that allowed a meaningful interaction and networking among the participants of the function.

We would like to thank all the volunteers and staff who helped us to make this event a success, and particularly Dr. Mark Osterman, Adult

Learning and Engagement Management, Vizcaya Museum & Gardens and his team for partnering with us and allowing us to organize this event in this wonderful venue.

After her successful presentation in Miami-Dade, Anthe Christou participated in other workshops in the communities of Palm Beach, Orange, and Hillsborough counties on October 24, 25 and 26. Thanks to our partners from Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, the University of Central of Florida in Orlando, and the University of South Florida, Tampa. Getting to Know Europe on the road was a real success.

*By Jean-Yves Lacascade & Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*



From left to right: Mark Osterman, Jorge Viera, Dr. Volker Anding, Anthe Christou, Hon. Nicolette Brent, Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, and Alina Dociu



## Building Urban Resilience through Networks and Communities: Lessons from Athens, Greece

Oct. 25, 2018 | Rotary Club Orlando



Anthi Christou and Dr. Kerstin Hamann, moderator of the discussion, and Pegasus Professor & Chair, Dept. Political Science, UCF



Full audience at the Rotary Club luncheon in Orlando



Anthi Christou with Dr. Kerstin Hamann, and President and Board members of the Rotary Club Orlando



## Lady Blanka Rosenstiel Lecture Series

### Play: Pola Negri

FIU—BBC—Mary Ann Wolfe Theater—Nov. 8, 2018



Actresses Agata Pilitowska and Maria Nowotarska

On November 8, 2018, the Polish-Canadian Theater in Toronto treated an FIU audience to another riveting play presented in Polish with English subtitles projected onto a screen.

Performed by esteemed mother and daughter actors, Maria Nowotarska and Agata Pilitowska, **Pola Negri** is an exposé on the life of the Polish American actress, Filmdom's First Femme Fatale, **Pola Negri** (1894—1987). She was born Barbara Apolonia Chałupiec; she performed as a ballerina for the Imperial Ballet Academy of Warsaw, but her dancing career was derailed due to an illness. With her first marriage, she became Pola Negri, and she soon established herself as a successful stage actress and made her film début in 1914.

A few years later she met German director Ernst Lubitsch and together they emigrated to Hollywood. In 1921, she signed a contract with Paramount, the first European actor in history to do so. She quickly became one of America's most popular and wealthy silent film

stars, beloved for her seductive allure and tragic grand dame roles. She was also one of the few actresses who was able to transition speaking to singing parts.

Pola Negri was a style influencer and an undeniable trendsetter, popularizing red toenails, turbans and fur boots. She walked her pet cheetah on the residential streets of Los Angeles, and her passionate relationships with the leading men of the time, Charlie Chaplin and Rudolf Valentino, were daily fodder for celebrity followers. In the 1940s, she officially retired after her years as an important icon of cinema's golden era, and her contribution to film was recognized in 1960 with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

The play, written by Kazimierz Braun, which took place at FIU-Biscayne Bay Campus – Mary Ann Wolfe Theater, marked a wonderful evening of theater and historical significance. A reception was held after the show and approximately 85 guests gathered in the lobby to meet the actors, take photos, nibble on some canapés.

The Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence is grateful to the American Institute of Polish Culture, the Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Poland in Miami, the Embassy of the Republic of Poland, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland, the Blanka Rosenstiel Lecture Series on Poland at FIU, The European & Eurasian Studies Program at FIU, the Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs, the European Student Association, and the Council for Student Organization (CSO) for making this event possible.

*By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*



► To view pictures,  
[click here](#)

► To view flyer,  
[click here](#)

► For more information on the Polish Theater in Toronto, [click here](#)



## Lady Blanka Rosenstiel Lecture Series Play: Pola Negri

FIU—BBC—Mary Ann Wolfe Theater—Nov. 8, 2018



THE TALES OF POLA NEGRI

Text and direction:

Kazimierz Braun



Agata Pilitowska performing Pola Negri



Agata Pilitowska and Maria Nowotarska with Polish guest, and Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, and Alex Alibrandi

Beata Paszyc, Honorary Vice Consul of the Republic of Poland



Polish Guests with Anaide Govaert, David Skipp, and Pedro Botta

Agata Pilitowska and Maria Nowotarska



## Pierre Delsaux, Deputy Director General for Space Policy European Commission Visit to FIU | Nov. 15, 2018




FIU students with Dr. Astrid-Christina Koch, Pierre Delsaux, Jean-Luc Bald, and Christine I. Caly-Sanchez

On Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, the Delegation of the European Union to the USA in Washington D.C. organized a high ranking two-day conference on the *EU and the Americas*, where the European Union and leading stakeholders from throughout South Florida, Latin America and the Caribbean met in Miami, discussed cooperative approaches, and shared challenges from disaster recovery and resiliency to democracy, human rights and trade.

The Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence was privileged to participate in this conference and to organize the visit of high level diplomats from the European Commission and the Delegation of the EU to the USA at FIU on November 15<sup>th</sup> morning. Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director, Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, organized the program and welcomed Pierre Delsaux, Deputy Director-General for Space Policy, Directorate General for the Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SME's, European Commission; Dr. Astrid-Christina Koch,

Senior Expert, DG for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, Space Data for Societal Challenges and Growth, European Commission; and Jean-Luc Bald, First Secretary Space, Global Issues & Innovation Section, Delegation of the European Union to the United States of America, Washington, D.C.

After visiting the NHERI Wall of Wind Experimental Facility at the School of Engineering, the Extreme Events Institute – International Hurricane Research Center, and the Observatory at the Stocker AstroScience Center, the high rank representatives met with FIU researchers, meteorologist, astrophysicist , and faculty members. Mr. Pierre Delsaux made a brilliant exposition on '*Europe in the global space economy – A new frontier for the EU-US partnership*' ; The 40 students and FIU faculty who attended the lecture were fortunate to hear about the latest news on the European Union space policy and research, the satellite navigation Galileo/Egnos, the earth observation Copernicus, and defense industries.

We would like to once again thank the European Commission and the Delegation of the European Union to the USA for having given us the opportunity to meet with Mr. Delsaux and organize this event.

*By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*

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

► To view flyer, [click here](#)



Jean-Luc Bald, Pierre Delsaux, and Dr. Astrid-Christina Koch

## Pierre Delsaux, European Commission Space Policy visit to FIU | Nov. 15, 2018



From left to right: Dr. Astrid-Christina Koch, Jean-Luc Bald, Dr. Michael Sukop, Pierre Delsaux, Dr. Werner U. Boeglin, Dr. James Webb, and Eric Salna

### FIU Wall of Wind



At FIU Wall of Wind Experimental Facility



Dr. Astrid-Christina Koch, Eric Salna, Pierre Delsaux, and Jean-Luc Bald



At FIU Extreme Events Institute Pierre Delsaux, Dr. Astrid-Christina Koch, Jean-Luc Bald, Eric Salna



Dr. James Webb , astrophysicist & Pierre Delsaux



At the Stocker AstroScience Center with world-renowned astrophysicist Dr. James Webb



## Euro Challenge Competition

### Student Orientation | FIU | Nov. 30, 2018



**Moreno Bertoldi (left), Gloria Guzman (Center) Christine I. Caly-Sanchez and Kristian Orsini (right) with HS students**

"We are not only palm trees and beautiful faces, we are also smart," said Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director of the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, and organizer of the Euro Challenge Competition in Florida, during her opening remarks.

So began the Euro Challenge 2019 Orientation, where students and teachers from five different high schools participated on Friday, November 30th at Florida International University. The students are preparing to participate in the 2019 Euro Challenge, year of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the euro, and will create and present a series of presentations with hopes to win in New York this upcoming May. The Euro Challenge is a program launched by the Delegation of the European Union to the United States in partnership with many organizations across the country, including FIU, that aims to foster knowledge about the European Union and the Euro. 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students will work in teams to create a presentation answering questions about the European Union, the euro, and a specific Euro-Area country of their choosing. The first round of the competition will take place on March 13, 2019 at FIU. The finalists will travel to New York in May for the semi-final and final rounds, where they will compete to win one of the top five spots.

Friday's orientation was an opportunity for students and teachers to gain more in-depth knowledge about the logistics

of the competition, as well as to receive some background knowledge about Europe from educators and experts in the area. The all-day event began with an introduction and overview of the Euro Challenge rules, requirements, and timeline given by Christine Caly-Sanchez and was followed by a presentation on Europe, the EU, the euro, and its history, given by Kristian Orsini, Counsellor-Economic and Financial Affairs, Delegation of the European Union to the US, Washington DC. After this, Gloria Guzman, Senior Education Program Manager, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta-Miami Branch, was on hand to talk to students about the key economic concepts and Indicators for the Euro Challenge, information that will be very valuable when the students plan their presentations for next year's competition. We were honored to have the presence of Mr. Moreno Bertoldi, Minister Counsellor & Special Advisor to the EU Ambassador to the United States Head of the Economic and Financial Section of the Delegation of the European Union to the US, Washington DC, at the orientation this year. He made a presentation on the economic aspects of the EU and updated the students on the Euro-area economy.

After a lunch break, and a presentation on the Euro Challenge website resources by Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, students got the chance to put some of their practical skills to the test with a hands-on activity and brief presenta-

tions. Students and teachers alike were excited about the competition, many groups having participated in previous years. The team from Miami Palmetto Senior high school was happy to talk about their experience and to give some advice to the other groups, talking about the importance of playing off each other's strengths as well as teamwork. They were proud and exited to participate in something on such a big scale. A student from Archimedean Upper Conservatory was excited about the Competition, "It's good for gaining experience and working on speaking in public," he said. Other students also showed their eagerness to learn new things through the project. "I really like history, so this challenge has given me an opportunity to see how the European Union has been impacted through history," said another student from Archimedean Upper Conservatory.

Overall, the atmosphere was of excitement and eagerness to learn. After this orientation, students are ready to go back to school and to work with their teams and teachers to choose an economic topic and to research it before presenting it to the judges in the first round next year.

*By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*

- To view pictures, [click here](#)
- To view agenda, [click here](#)
- To view Euro Challenge Website, [click here](#)

## CONFERENCE: The Rising Importance of EU-Asia Relations February, 11-12 2019



**Keynote speaker: Michał Safianik, Counselor at the Political, Security and Development Section, Delegation of the European Union to the United States**

On February 11 and 12, the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence organized a two-day conference on *The Rising Importance of EU-Asia Relations*.

This conference, open to the public, brought together leading experts on the EU and Asia to discuss different aspects of the EU's relations with Asia—the historical connections, economic development, political considerations, and diplomacy. Such an examination is timely, given that Asia has gained rising importance on the world

stage, while the EU is facing mounting internal and external challenges. The workshop centered on the historical-cultural relations, and economic and political cooperation with nations in Central, South, Southeast and East Asia. The latter is particularly important due to the recently signed EU-Japan FTA, the existing EU-South Korea FTA, the important role China played in the aftermath of the 2008 Global Recession and 2010 Eurozone Crisis, and the emergence of China as a global leader amid the retreat of the U.S. on some key issues.

### Michał Safianik

Counselor at the Political, Security and Development Section of the Delegation of the European Union to the United States.



Michał Safianik is a counselor at the Political, Security and Development Section of the European Union Delegation to the United States (since 2016). Before joining the EU Delegation in Washington D.C., Michał was director of communications and deputy spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland. Before holding these posts he was the deputy executive director of the Permanent Secretariat of the Community of Democracies as well as a lecturer at the Vistula University in Warsaw. Michał also served as director for board and corporate relations at the Atlantic Council of the United States in Washington D.C. from 2005-2007 and at that time, in 2006, contributed his expertise as a visiting scholar at the Elliott School of International Affairs of the George Washington University. With a master of arts degree in European Advanced Interdisciplinary Studies from the College of Europe, a master of International Relations degree from Dalarna University in Sweden, and a degree in European Studies from the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Michał began his professional career in international relations as the head and analyst of the Europe Program at the Center For International Relations in Warsaw.



Standing room only available to listen to Keynote speaker Michał Safianik on Feb. 11



## CONFERENCE: The Rising Importance of EU-Asia Relations February 11-12 2019 (Cont')



**Dr. Markus Thiel, Director, MFJMCE**

This conference enabled the audience to analyze the EU's Asia policies, and the opportunities and challenges it entails, especially amid the shift of global order toward a more multipolar world.

On the afternoon of February 11, Dr. John F. Stack, Jr., Inaugural Dean of the Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs at FIU, made the welcoming opening remarks at the event, emphasizing the importance of a broad discussion on EU and Asia relations.

Afterwards, Dr. Markus Thiel, Associate Professor in Politics & International Relations, Director of the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, introduced Michal Safianik, Counselor at the Political Security and Development Section at the Delegation of the European Union to the United States in Washington, D.C., who was the keynote presenter in the Conference. Mr. Safianik focused on the rising importance of the EU-Asia relations.

- To view pictures, [click here](#)
- To watch video, [click here](#)



Panel I, from left to right: Drs. Rebecca Friedman, Thomas Breslin, and Katja Weber

On February 12, four panels were held over the course of the day.

**Panel I: The Long Arc of European Asian Relations** was chaired by Dr. Rebecca Friedman, Faculty Fellow & Associate Professor at FIU. The panelists were Dr. Thomas Breslin, Professor of Politics & International Relations at FIU who spoke of '*Will Europe ever change China as much as China has changed Europe?*'; Dr. Amy Bliss Marshall, Assistant Professor of History and Asian Studies at FIU, who spoke of '*Japan's Cultural Relations to Europe in Historical Perspective*'; and Dr. Katja Weber, Professor and Director of Graduate Studies, Sam Nunn School of International Affairs, Director Southeast Asia Study Abroad Program, Georgia Tech, who spoke of '*EU-ASEAN Relations: What Lies Ahead?*'

**Panel II: EU-Asian Economic and Political Relations** panel discussion was chaired by Dr. Thomas A. Breslin, Professor of Politics and International Relations at FIU and included as panelists Ms. Siremorn Asvapromtada, Ph.D. Candidate in International Relations, Department of Politics & International Relations at FIU, who presented '*The EU and ASEAN: a Relationship beyond Trade and Investment*'; Dr. Bibek Chand, Visiting Instructor, Department of Politics & International at FIU, who presented '*Nepal's Interactions with the EU, India, and China*'; and Dr. Wei Liang, Professor & Program Co-Chair, International Trade and Economic Diplomacy, Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey, who presented '*EU-China Economic Relations in the Context of US-China Trade War*'

**CONFERENCE**  
**The Rising Importance of EU-Asia Relations**  
**February, 11-12 2019 (Cont')**



Dr. Wei Liang



Hon. Catalin Ghenea



Dr. Giovanni Finizio

**Panel III: The Romanian-EU Presidency and its perspectives on Asia** accounted for the participation of the Consul General of Romania in Miami, Hon Catalin Ghenea.

During **Panel IV: EU-Asian Relations in a Global Context**, the participants heard from Tamanna Ashraf, Ph.D. Candidate in International Relations at FIU about '*The European Union's Environmental and Climate Initiatives in South Asia*'; from Dr. Lukas K. Danner, Research Associate, Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, FIU about '*Polarizing EU/European-Asian Relations: Common and*

*Conflicting Interests in the Arctic*'; Dr. Giovanni Finizio, Professor of EU Foreign Policy and History, University of Turin, Italy spoke about '*Normative Power Europe Meets South-East Asia: The EU and the promotion of democracy through EU-ASEAN relations*'

Dr. Markus Thiel chaired the panel.

The event presented a great spectrum of international threats and challenges to the EU and US that could be dealt with coordinately and in cooperation for mutual benefit.

By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez

- ▶ To view photo gallery:
  - Keynote speaker, [click here](#)
  - Panel I, II, III, IV, [click here](#)
- ▶ To watch keynote speaker video, [click here](#)
- ▶ To view detailed program, [click here](#)
- ▶ To view Bios Panelists, [click here](#)



Markus Thiel and Christine I. Caly-Sanchez with the panelists



## Defense and Security in 2019 Transatlantic Relations and NATO



**By H.E Jonatan Vseviov, Ambassador of Estonia to the U.S.  
FIU | February 19, 2019**



Ambassador Vseviov addressed the audience at FIU

On Feb. 19, 2019, the European and Eurasian Studies Program and the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence at FIU's Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs had the privilege of welcoming the Ambassador of Estonia to the United States, His Excellency Jonatan Vseviov.

Amb. Vseviov made a brilliant presentation on defense and security in 2019 and talked about transatlantic relations and NATO in the

context of Estonia and the Baltic States before 90 students, FIU faculty and Miami-Dade community members at large, including Consul General of Turkey, Burç Ceylan; Honorary Consul of Estonia, Jorge Viera; and the Consulate General of Spain Deputy Attaché, Alvaro Redondo.

*By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*



- To view photo gallery, [click here](#)
- To view Ambassador's bio, [click here](#)
- To watch video, [click here](#)



Ambassador Jonatan Vseviov  
and Honorary Consul of Estonia, Jorge Viera



Pedro Botta, Jorge Viera, Amb. Jonatan Vseviov, Christine Caly-Sanchez , Hon. Catalin Ghenea, Alvaro Redondo, Dr. Markus Thiel, and David J. Kramer



H.E. Jonatan Vseviov  
Ambassador of Estonia to the U.S.



## Roundtable Developing a competitive workforce for the global economy: Challenges for Germany and the US

FIU | March 21, 2019



From left to right: Claudia Eberhagen, Isabelle Kurschner, Maida Watson, Kristin Blumenroether, Alexandra Peterson, and Markus Thiel

**What skills will employees need in the upcoming decade to meet the European and US labor market requirements in the world's fast changing Economy? International speakers, from both Germany and the US, discussed this question from several perspectives on March 21<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at Florida International University.**

**Dr. Isabelle Kürschner**, entrepreneur and author of **New Work** from Munich, gave a quick overview of future developments in the service industry (from self driving cars to self check out restaurants) and the foreseen job shortages due to progress in technology. However, she was quite optimistic that those lost jobs would be replaced by new types of jobs and that the media drawn horror scenarios of extensive unemployment rates would not be as dramatic as predicted, since this development is a process over

decades and does not happen overnight.

An impressive insight on how a modern and future-oriented multinational business organization can perform in this new labor market emergency **Ms. Claudia Eberhagen** from **Cisco Systems** gave us by twisting the question to 'What can we as an employer provide to attract and keep the best workforce?' She mentioned several initiatives from Cisco: diversity as a core value, office modernization, development of executive leadership teams, mentorship programs for employees and a new way of job descriptions. Who would not want to work for a company that invests in its people?

**Ms. Kristin Blumenroether**, from the **German Consulate in Miami**, shared with us her experience with the German Vocational Training System and highlighted how beneficial a practical training approach is to get ready for the labor market demands.

What importance do foreign languages have in a global economy, where basically everyone is expected to speak English in an international work environment?

**Dr. Maida Watson** from **FIU** brought it to the point: Learning a foreign language is not only about being able to speak to someone else in their mother language. It is about understanding the way another culture and its people think. Intercultural competence is therefore a personal skill that a multinational workforce will always need and probably more so in the future.

Finally, **Ms. Alexandra C. Peters-Rutten** from **ONE Sotheby's International Realty Miami** talked about Miami-specific challenges she personally faced through her engagement in the **German American Business Chamber** when it comes to running a non-profit organization and attract new members.

The interesting panel was moderated by Dr. Markus Thiel from FIU's Politics & International Relations Dept. After the speakers input, the audience and panelists had a discussion about this controversial topic during a networking session.

This roundtable was part of **Germany, the United States, and the Challenges of the 21st century: a roundtable and networking series** organized by the University of Miami and supported by FIU. It was organized during the Year of German-American Friendship—*Wunderbar Together*—which was a collaborative initiative funded by the German Federal Foreign Office, implemented by the Goethe-

*By Verena Pernsteiner & Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*



- To view photo gallery, [click here](#)
- To view flyer, [click here](#)
- To watch video, [click here](#)



## TOUT-MONDE FESTIVAL SECOND EDITION

March 13-17, 2019



Valérie Loichot and Christine I. Caly-Sánchez



Valérie Loichot



Fanny Glissant and Valérie Loichot

The first edition of the Tout-Monde Festival was launched in 2018 by the Cultural Services of the French Embassy in the United States, in close partnership with the France-Florida Foundation for the Arts and French Arts Associates. It is a multidisciplinary arts festival that created new opportunities for Caribbean contemporary artists by fostering relations and building long-term partnerships among French Caribbean and other Caribbean artists, academics, and cultural institutions in Florida, the United States, and the wider Caribbean region.

The festival seeks to develop the knowledge of future generations on Caribbean culture and to encourage tourism and economic exchange between Florida and the Caribbean. Covering various fields — visual and performing arts, including music, dance, theatre, film, and literature — the Tout-Monde Festival presents contemporary artistic, cultural, and intellectual practices of the Greater Caribbean — *i.e.*, the insular, continental, and the diaspora Caribbean context.

The festival aspires to embody the spirit and philosophy of the *tout-monde* — the union of territories, cultures, and individuals with multi-

ple roots in one *whole world* — a concept introduced by Martinican writer, poet, and philosopher Edouard Glissant (1928-2011) in his book *Traité du Tout-Monde*.

FIU's Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence (MFJMCE) at FIU sponsored the opening conversation of the second edition of the Tout-Monde-Festival, which was held on March 13, 2019 at the Koubeck Center in Miami. Ms. Bénédicte de Montlaur, Cultural Counselor of the French Embassy to the United States, opened the session, followed by renowned collector Mrs. Bernice Steinbaum; and Vanessa Selk, Cultural Attaché, Cultural Services of the French Embassy in the USA Miami Office. The festival benefited from the official presence of the Consul General of France in Miami, Mr. Clément Leclerc.

The presentation was delivered by Professor Valérie Loichot, chair of the French and Italian Department at Emory University, and Author of "Entours d'Edouard Glissant"; and by Edouard Glissant's niece, Ms. Fanny Glissant. Professor Loichot is a world-renowned expert on the work of Glissant.

The theme of the festival's second

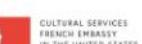
edition, *Echo-Natures*, aims at deconstructing stereotypes of the Caribbean by exploring the deep characteristics and the essence of the region through different beings, shapes, and environments. Analyzing how these Caribbean natures — encountered in insular, continental, and diasporic contexts — resonate with each other and with the rest of the world evoked by Edouard Glissant's *echo world*.

The MFJMCE also sponsored the exhibition's opening reception, *Echo-Natures-Cannibal Desire*, which was held on Saturday, March 16, 2019 at the Little Haiti Complex Center. *Cannibal Desire* responded to the powerful longings and fantasies of a violence from another time. In this project, the dimension of power defined an ambition that aimed at multiplying sensations and experiences free of any hierarchy and form of control. The impetus of cannibal desire thus became, for the Caribbean artists, a way to consider the world. Through selected paintings, sculptures, installations, photographs, and videos, the exhibition explored a poetic state of trance.

The exhibition *Echo-Natures-Cannibal Desire* was first shown in



- To view photo gallery 03/13, [click here](#)
- To view flyer, [click here](#)
- To view detailed program, [click here](#)





## Exhibition Opening Reception: Echo-Natures—Cannibal Desire



Little Haiti Cultural Complex | March 16, 2019



**Echo-Natures—Cannibal Desire**



**Artist Gwladys Gombie**

2018 at the Clément Foundation in Martinique, focusing on emerging artists from Guadeloupe. When transferred to Miami, the exhibition was expanded to artists from Martinique, French Guiana, Haiti, Mexico, and Venezuela. The exhibition, composed of 19 Caribbean artists, (Stephen Arboite, Minia Biabiany, Morel Doucet, Gwladys Gombie, Pepe Mar, Gerno Odang, Ricardo Ozier-Lafontaine, Ramon Ngwete, Vickie Pierre, Juan Ernesto Requena, Keisha Witherspoon, Ronald Cyrille, Tim Frager, Samuel Gelas, Cédrick Isham, Jérémie Paul, Raymond Médélice, Kelly Sinnappah Mary, Steek ) was curated by Jean-Marc Hunt and Marie Vickles.

The turnout and feedback from the Miami and regional community has been overwhelmingly positive.

1600 persons attended the Festival program over 5 days and in 6 different venues in Miami. The public was composed of local communities (Hispanic, Caribbean and American) and art professionals.

The Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence-FIU's support to this initiative through a great partnership with the French Embassy to the US and the French Consulate General in Miami contributes to a better understanding of the wider Caribbean region in Florida and in particular, the French outermost regions in the Caribbean.

*By Jean-Yves Lacascade & Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*

- To view photo gallery 03/16 , [click here](#)
- To view flyer, [click here](#)





## Sir Kim Darroch, British Ambassador to the US at FIU | 03/19/19



**Sir Kim Darroch, British Ambassador to the United States, with Dr. Thiel's European Union class students**

On Thursday, March 19, 2019, Sir Kim Darroch, the British Ambassador to the United States, participated at a European Union class discussion with FIU university students and faculty from the Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs, preceded by an academic [presentation](#) regarding Brexit by Professor John McCormick from Purdue University in Indiana.

This important exchange, held 10 days before the consideration of Brexit by the EU Council of Heads of State, provided an excellent opportunity for FIU students' class enrolled in Professor Markus Thiel to ask questions and interact actively with Ambassador Darroch.

Issues of discussion included immigration to the EU, EU-US relations,

the Brexit campaign in the UK, the enlargement of the EU, and the different proposals presented by PM Theresa May to the UK Parliament.

Professor Thiel expressed his gratitude to Sir Darroch for his participation during a very timely moment for the future of UK-EU relations.

*By Jean-Yves Lacascade*



Dr. John McCormick, Professor of Political Science, IUPUI



Sir Kim Darroch, British Ambassador to the United States





## YOUR EUROPEAN CAREER STARTS HERE

Career-fair | March 28, 2019



**On March 28, 2019, the 2<sup>nd</sup> European Career Fair was held at Florida International University and attracted over 200 participants.**

Around 150 highly qualified students and graduates with a special interest in a European or international career had been looking forward to this informative fair for weeks.

In the morning, after a warm welcome by Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director, Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, and European & Eurasian Studies Program, FIU; Nelly Leon, Assistant Director, FIU Career and Talent Development, and Robert H. Hacker, Director, and Co-Founder

StartUP FIU, four panelist sessions were held. Experts from the diplomatic field, the business sector and also students with work experience talked about their career paths, challenges and insights gained. The audience was invited to ask questions and the panelists were open to share their personal opinion and experience.

One of the main concerns was *Where and how do I start when I want to work abroad?* A common advice was to apply first for an internship in Europe and check out consulate programs and exchange organizations for open positions. Regarding the desired qualifications of a new employee or intern, personality seemed to be equally important. 'Passionate and strong

willingness to learn something new', 'team player' and 'creative problem solving', were among the top criteria when selecting candidates.

Starting with the lunch break, 22 exhibitors and interested students had a chance to network and talk about possible entry positions, mutual expectations and requirements. Many students handed over their resumes and applied already at the fair for open positions.

The event was organized by the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence in cooperation with FIU's Career and Talent Development, the support of StartUP FIU, and funded by the EU diplomacy grant "Getting to Know Europe".



From left to right: Nelly Leon, Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Dr. Volker Anding, Vanessa Selk, Beata Paszyc, Monique Quesada



## YOUR EUROPEAN CAREER STARTS HERE

Career Fair | March 28, 2019



Panel III, from left to right: Anna Pietraszek, Michael Bartelt, Vanja Hajdukovic, Arantxa Jordan, and Pascale Villet

During the European Career Fair, the students received first-hand information from experts and consultants for their career goals, asked the expert panelists questions on international career issues in the diplomatic and private sectors, and connected directly with companies and chambers of commerce to establish first business contacts and handed in their resumes to the interested parties.

Some students were even able to obtain an internship on the spot. The feedback we received from the students, panelists and exhibitors was overwhelmingly positive, which motivated us to plan another European Career Fair in the future.

By Verena Pernsteiner & Christine I. Caly-Sanchez

- To view pictures, [click here](#)
- To view program, [click here](#)
- To view Internship Guide, [click here](#)



Panel IV, from left to right: Nicolas Blin, Janelle Mendez, Isabella Venturini, and Nicole Jara

### European Institutions

- 1.– British Consulate General Miami
- 2.– Consulate General of France
- 3.– Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany
- 4.– Consulate General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
- 5.– Consulate General of Spain
- 6.– Honorary Consulate of Poland
- 7.– French American Chamber of Commerce, Florida
- 8.– German American Business Chamber of South Florida
- 9.– Italy-America Chamber of Commerce Southeast
- 10.– Romanian-US Chamber of Commerce
- 11.– Spain-United States Chamber of Commerce
- 12.– CIS - College International Studies
- 13.– City of Coral Gables
- 14.– Embassy of Spain/Education Office
- 15.– Gagel Law Firm
- 16.– Lufthansa Group
- 17.– Lufthansa Technik Component Services
- 18.– Malescu Law, PA
- 19.– Miami-Dade Beacon Council
- 20.– Sixt Rent a Car
- 21.– SPARIS
- 22.– Tabacalera USA
- 23.– US Department of State



## YOUR EUROPEAN CAREER STARTS HERE

Career Fair | March 28, 2019



At the European Career Fair



At the Consulate of the Republic of Poland table



Lufthansa Technik Component Services table



Vanessa Selk, Beata Paszyc, Christine Caly-Sanchez, Volker Anding, Monique Quesada



At the France-America Chamber of Commerce Southeast table



## YOUR EUROPEAN CAREER STARTS HERE

Career Fair | March 28, 2019



Solene David, Isabella Venturini, Nicolas Blin and Christine I. Caly-Sanchez at the Consulate General of France table



At the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany table

At the Embassy of Spain/Education Office table



At the German American Business Chamber of Commerce table

At the French American Chamber of Commerce of Florida table



Thank you FIU Career & Talent Development Service and MFJMCE Teams!

At the Spain-United States Chamber of Commerce



## MY EXPERIENCE WITH THE MODEL EU 2019



Bloomington, IN - March 28-30, 2019



From left to right: Dr. Markus Thiel, Christian Sanchez, David Melendez from FIU, Kitana Thomas and Leanet Gutierrez from FAU

Sponsored by FIU's MFJMCE, this past spring I had the opportunity to participate in the joint FIU-FAU delegation to attend the Midwest Model EU conference in Bloomington, IN. Having previously been a part of Model UN, and with Europe being my research interest, when I heard of this program in class I thought it would be a good way to deepen my understanding of Europe. Throughout a weekend of talking over and creating policy addressing some of Europe's most pressing contemporary issues: Brexit, migration, relations with Russia, and environment, this conference provided me a forum to further educate myself on these topics, and then apply this in debate with students from various universities across the Midwest. Sitting down with students to draft up policy directives addressing these topics and debating them with others is by far the best way to learn something new and an opportunity not often available in the usual classroom environment.

Starting in February, our delegation came together to discuss the structure of MMEU and began to familiarize ourselves with the basic functions of the organization we would be roleplaying in. Shortly after, we were given our assignment to be playing the role of Denmark. From this point on, that is when the preparation begins to

take shape. Model EU, while a similar competition format to Model UN, contrasts itself slightly as debate is more grounded around real-world law and playing into the character of your assigned nation in this framework. As such, most of the preparation that we did for the next several weeks consisted of familiarizing ourselves with the history of Denmark in the EU, its position on current topical issues, and speculating what countries would share the sentiments of our country. I worked with the other delegate from FIU over this period, meeting several times to practice writing directives, creating charts and reference sheets to aid us in debate, and reading news articles together.

The conference took place in the end of March, and our delegation split itself into four different rooms for debate based on our roles for our country. I was representing the Prime Minister of Den-

mark and found myself sitting in the European Council. Across the span of several hour-and-a-half sessions it was here that all the heads of state of the EU members held our conversations and formulated our own solutions to international issues I had talked about in class. It's for this experience that I would recommend Model EU to any student interested in International Relations or Political Science, as seeing these mock debates and competing delegations gives you a feel for how the EU would function and react to real-world problems. Learning how to form compromises on contentious issues between opposing states was an engaging way to familiarize myself with a different region. And seeing a directive you wrote lead to discussion and get voted into law was gratifying.

Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed participating in the Model EU over the semester. It was a great educational opportunity. Meeting students studying the same topics you are from different states and socializing with them in a new environment isn't something you can do often during your student routine. While taking classes on the EU, contemporary issues, or foreign affairs offers a good way to learn what is going outside of the US, experiencing it in a simulation like this offers you a chance to visualize what you learn in a lecture. Thus, I appreciate the support of FIU's JMCE, and the European Commission for this opportunity.

*By David Melendez*



During the competition, David Melendez



## Ecological Degradation and Resilience: The role of Interconnected Ecological Regimes / Regimes Shifts | MBUS | April 2-5, 2019



Juan Rocha presenting—Miami Beach Urban Studios—April 5, 2019

As part of our public diplomacy EU-grant 'Getting to know Europe', Dr. Juan Rocha, European expert on environmental degradation and resilience, made a presentation titled "Ecological degradation and resilience: the role of interconnected ecological regimes/regime shifts" on April 5<sup>th</sup> at the Miami Beach Urban Studios. Dr. Juan Rocha is a researcher at the Stockholm Resilience Center, a world-leading science center for addressing the complex challenges facing humanity, studying how regime shifts can be interconnected. He holds a PhD in Sustainability Science and his research aims to understanding critical transitions: from regime shifts in ecological systems to collective action in society. In his presentation, he showed how different climate change factors, such as increased trade and the resulting global warming, has interactive, cascading ef-

fects in vastly different places, from glacial melting to loss of biodiversity in coral reefs. Despite the rather depressing outlook, he addressed how public policy planners as well as civil societies can educate the general populace and work towards coordination of environmental and trade policies to preserve our planets natural state and resources.

Dr. Rocha did not only address a Miami Beach audience of environmental activists and interested citizens, but also gave the same lecture at the University of Central Florida in Orlando on April 2nd and Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton on April 3rd.

We would like to thank our local collaborators and have one more resilience expert coming in this Fall, so please be on the lookout for our upcoming events!

By Markus Thiel & Christine I. Caly-Sanchez



**Juan Rocha**  
Expert on climate adaptation and resilience

Dr. Juan Rocha is a researcher at the Stockholm Resilience Center, a world-leading science center for addressing the complex challenges facing humanity, studying how regime shifts can be interconnected. He holds a PhD in Sustainability Science and his research aims to understanding critical transitions: from regime shifts in ecological systems to collective action in society. Currently he is focusing on the idea of cascading effects or teleconnections, this is how a critical transition in an ecosystem in the world can affect the likelihood of another ecosystem tipping over. He is also looking for empirical signatures of cascading effects on trade networks. Juan is committed to the broad communication of scientific knowledge to the non-scientific audience by developing online tools such as the [Regime Shifts Database](#).



- To view pictures at FIU, [click here](#)
- To view pictures at FAU, [click here](#)





## Lady Blanka Rosenstiel Lecture Series on Poland Screening of film "The Divine Plan" with Filmmaker Robert Orlando | FIU—April 2, 2019



David J. Kramer and filmmaker Robert Orlando

To commemorate the 14<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passing of Pope John Paul II, FIU's European & Eurasian Studies Program and the European Student Association at FIU in collaboration with The American Institute of Polish Culture and the Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Poland screened publicly the film, "The Divine Plan: John Paul II, Ronald Reagan, and the Dramatic End of the Cold War" on April 2.

Directed by Robert Orlando, whose credits include "Apostle Paul: A Politicized Bribe" and the recent "Silence of Patton: First Victim of the Cold War", in this movie takes viewers behind the scenes of a partnership that changed the world.

Robert Orlando is an award-winning writer and filmmaker. The founder of Nexus Media, he has been involved in the production, development, or release of more than a dozen film and documentary projects, and was present for the screening and for a Q&A session with the audience afterwards.

Part documentary, part graphic thriller, the movie tells the story of president Reagan and pope John Paul II, an unlikely pair who combine deep

faith with political acumen and high-octane star power. A plot that involves two assassination attempts, KGB scheming, CIA intrigue and the final act to topple the Soviet Empire.

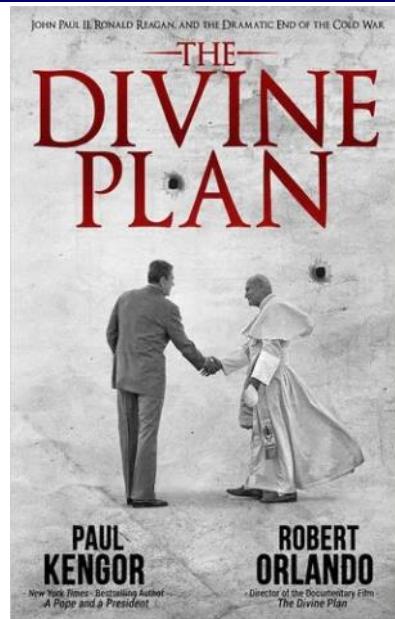
Based in part on captivating prose by Paul Kengor from his book *A Pope & A President*, the film discusses the American victory in the Cold War and its spiritual dimension. It explores the biographies of the two charismatic leaders to find the sources of their extraordinary commitment to the cause of vanquishing the Soviet empire.

Robert Orlando skillfully weaves a sophisticated tapestry of historians' accounts, personal biographies of the two leaders, memories of collaborators and friends, and original film footage to create a powerful and persuasive vision.

After the screening, the audience was excited to learn about a thus-far underappreciated perspective on the end of the Cold War, while Mr. Orlando openly discussed his approach of using documentary evidence to raise deeper spiritual questions about real world events.

### Cast of Characters

To solve the mystery, Orlando interrogates a crack team of world-renowned scholars, politicians, historians and journalists including [Paul Kengor](#), [Douglas Brinkley](#), [Richard Allen](#), [John O'Sullivan](#), [Craig Shirley](#), [Steve Kotkin](#), [George Weigel](#), Bishop [Robert Barron](#), [Anne Applebaum](#), [Monika Jablonska](#), Marek Jan Chodakiewicz, [HW Brands](#) and [Cardinal Timothy Dolan](#)



► To view pictures at FIU, [click here](#)



**At the discussion of the Screening of "The Divine Plan":  
with Filmmaker Robert Orlando and David Kramer  
FIU—April 2, 2019**



David J. Kramer and Filmmaker Robert Orlando

Beata Paszyc and Robert Orlando



Filmmaker Robert Orlando

David J. Kramer and Filmmaker Robert Orlando

Dr. Stanislaw Wnuk



From left to right: Anna Pietraszec, Beata Paszyc, Robert Orlando, David J. Kramer, Pedro Botta, Markus Thiel, Christine I. Caly-Sanchez



## GTKE: European Author David Machado The Shelf Life of Happiness April 12, 2019 | Books & Books Coral Gables



David Machado, European Union Prize Literature presenting his book "The Shelf Life of Happiness"

As part of the public diplomacy 'Getting to know Europe' EU grant, FIU's JMCE organized a book reading presentation with David Machado on April 12, 2019 at Books and Books in Coral Gables.

After introductory remarks by JMCE Director Professor Markus Thiel, David Machado delivered his presentation. Machado, a Portuguese national and graduate from the London School of Economics, writes fiction for adults and children. He won the prestigious European Union Prize for Literature in 2015 for his novel *The Shelf Life of Happiness*, which was presented at this event. The novel was adapted into a screenplay in 2016.

The book presents the story of Daniel, who is ripped apart financially, as a result of the economic crisis in his country, Portugal. It portrays the struggles he had to confront with his family to adjust to circumstances

beyond their control. In the story, Daniel's wife and children moved out from their home to live with family hours away, but he believed against all odds that he will find a job and everything will return to normal. Even as he loses his home and finds himself living in his old, abandoned office building, Daniel fought the realization that things have changed. He was unable to see what remained among the rubble — friendship, his family's love, and people's deep desire to connect. If Daniel could let go of the past, he just might save not only himself but also everyone that really mattered to him.

Machado's writing focuses on the theme of happiness and his book story is based on the realities of Portugal during the Euro-crisis. He argues that individuals are happy depending on the level of joy of the people around. He concluded by

referring to the Happiness Index numbers, which attempts to measure the state of happiness in countries worldwide.

The book reading was followed by a reception that allowed a meaningful exchange between the author and the participants at the book reading.

Mr. Machado also delivered another reading at the Write's Block Bookstore in Orlando on April 14.

*By Markus Thiel & Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*

► To view pictures, [click here](#)

**Author David Machado** hails from Lisbon, Portugal, and writes fiction for both adults and children. His books are popular in Portugal and have been awarded literary prizes, including the European Union Prize for Literature for the Portuguese version of this novel, *Índice médio de felicidade* (*The Shelf Life of Happiness*), which he adapted into a screenplay in 2016. When he's not traveling, he lives... David Machado was born in Lisbon in 1978. He has a degree in economics from ISEG, Lisbon's School of Economics and Management, but soon devoted himself to writing fiction and children's literature.





## Euro Challenge Competition 2019 Preliminary Round in Florida FIU | March 13, 2019



**Florida Euro Challenge Competition 2019, Christine Caly-Sanchez (center) with 2019 judges:  
Maria Lorca Susino, Nathalie Cluzet-Bertot, Volker Anding, and Lukas Danner**

As part of the EU Grant "Getting to Know Europe", on March 13<sup>th</sup>, the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence held the first round of the Euro Challenge Competition. This is the 14th year in which the Preliminary Round-Competition has taken place at Florida International University and the 12th year that the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence partners with the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta-Miami Branch.

Three schools from Miami-Dade County participated in this year's competition on site at Florida International University, and two schools from Orange County presented via video conference at FIU on March 13th afternoon.

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 (three to five students), research their respective economic problem topics at the country level (among the 19 EU member countries that have adopted the Euro so far), identify policies for responding to that problem, and practice their presentations.

"We've been preparing for the competition for about a year," said one of the students.

In addition to students from local schools, the competition also draws leading figures in the community and diplomats to serve as judges, many of whom will go on to serve at multiple competitions, among them, Dr. Volker Anding, from the German Embassy; and Nathalie Cluzet-Bertot from the Consulate General of France in Miami;

Aside from the students knowledge of the facts and figures pertaining to EU member states, the euro, economies and politics, the judges also take into account the team members' ability to clearly communicate with one another.

"Each year, the presentations get better and 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, the flow of the overall presentation, and their ability to work as a team," said Volker Anding, a repeat competition-judge and Ret. German Ambassador.

The 2019 winner of the preliminary round was Gulliver Preparatory School, followed by PK Yonge DRS, and Miami Palmetto Senior

High School (3rd place). Gulliver Preparatory School was proud to advance and represent Florida at the national final held at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta in New York on May 2, 2019.

The Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence has been participating in this wonderful project since the beginning. Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director at the MFJMCE, is the recruiter and organizer of the competition in Florida. She has very proudly stated, "Since 2008, MFJMCE has selected one hundred seven Florida high schools from Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, St. Lucie, Lee, Orange, and Alachua counties, and sent twenty-three to New York to compete nationally. One hundred twenty 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 Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*

► To view pictures, [click here](#)



## Euro Challenge Competition 2019 1st round: Florida Winners FIU | March 13, 2019



### EURO CHALLENGE

#### 1st round: Florida Euro Challenge Competition Winners 2019

##### Gulliver Preparatory School—1<sup>st</sup> Place Advanced to NY on May 2, 2019

- Lucas Cavalieri
- Alex Galliland
- Antonia Lemann
- Sofia Restrepo
- Elizabeth Rivabem  
*(Kamal James, Teacher)*

⇒ Country Chosen: **Italy**  
 ⇒ Economic Challenge: **Demographics and an Aging Population**

##### PK Yonge DRS—2<sup>nd</sup> Place

- Julia Lemos
- Mya McAfee
- Andrea Ortiz
- Ethen Ungaro  
*(Grisell Santiago, Teacher)*

⇒ Country Chosen: **Ireland**  
 ⇒ Economic Challenge: **Living with a Single Monetary Policy**

##### Miami Palmetto Senior HS—3<sup>rd</sup> Place

- Jacob Grindstaff
- Robert Mazer
- Jada Pita
- Moutaz Talas  
*(Armando Gonzalez, Teacher)*

⇒ Country Chosen: **Greece**  
 ⇒ Economic Challenge: **Tackling High Unemployment**

► To view pictures-March 13, [click here](#)

► For more information on the Euro Challenge, [click here](#)





## National Euro Challenge Competition at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York

May 2, 2019



Congratulations to Gulliver Preparatory School for winning 3<sup>rd</sup> place at the final in the 2019 Euro Challenge Competition!

On May 2nd, 2019, Gulliver Preparatory School, the Florida High School selected in Miami at the local Florida Euro Challenge Competition on March 13, traveled to New York to represent Florida at the national Euro Challenge Competition, a program created and run by the Delegation of the European Union to the United States, with assistance of W!se, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, and support from the Moody's Foundation, Credit Suisse and Deloitte & Touche, and won 3<sup>rd</sup> place at the final.

The team consisting of 9th grade students was accompanied by its teachers: Kamal James, and Daniela Brenha. The students were really thrilled and proud to compete nationally and present their economic challenge and European country (**Italy: Demographics and an Aging Population**) before a panel of prestigious judges from the

European community: ambassadors, consuls, EU Delegation officials, and financial experts.

After a long day of competition for the 25 teams selected from around the country at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York (semi-finals in the morning, and finals in the afternoon), all the students were invited to the Recognition and Award Reception on the 20th Floor of the Moody's Foundation (7 World Trade Center) where Ambassador Stavros Lambrinidis, of the European Union Delegation to the United States, congratulated the winning teams. Gulliver Preparatory School was proud to receive monetary awards generously provided by the Moody's Foundation and a trophy for winning 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

"By participating in this unique educational contest, high school students from across the United States learn about the European Union – the largest economic

partner of the United States – and the 19 countries that share its single currency, the euro," explained European Union Ambassador to the United States Stavros Lambrinidis. "It was truly impressive to watch today's competition and to see the level of performance and creativity in addressing complex economic issues. On the 20th anniversary of the euro, I am proud to say that over 7,000 students have now participated in this exciting competition." Our students had the privilege to meet and talk to Ambassador Stavros Lambrinidis, who enjoyed spending time with them.

2019 will mark the 14<sup>th</sup> iteration of the Euro Challenge, which continues to expand nationally. Over 100 teams have participated in this year's competition, collectively representing high schools from 16 U.S. states: Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Massachusetts, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota,



## National Euro Challenge Competition Gulliver Preparatory School in New York May 2, 2019



New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, and the District of Columbia.

The Euro Challenge is supported by BNP Paribas, Florida International University, the University of Washington, the University of Pittsburgh, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the University of Texas at Austin, Rutgers University, the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh, the World Affairs Council of Charlotte, the World Affairs Council of Seattle, the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta-Miami Branch, and the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago (Detroit Branch).

*By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*

### EURO CHALLENGE Final Round!



#### EURO CHALLENGE SEMIFINALISTS 2019

Charlotte Country Day School Charlotte, NC	Montclair High School Montclair, NJ
Delbarton High School Montclair, NJ	Mount Saint Mary Academy West Orange, NJ
East Chapel Hill High School Chapel Hill, NC	Mundelein High School Mundelein, IL
Fairlington High School Fairlington, VA	Okefenokee High School Elizabethtown, AR
George W. Hewlett High School Roslyn, NY	Pittsburgh Allderdice High School Pittsburgh, PA
Greenwich High School Greenwich, CT	Princeton High School Princeton, NJ
Gulliver Preparatory High School Miami, FL	Rumson-Fair Haven Regional High School Rumson, NJ
Hastings High School Hastings-on-Hudson, NY	Sachem High School North Ronkonkoma, NY
Henrietta USD New罗杰斯, NY	Saint Joseph High School South Bend, IN
High School for Math, Science and Engineering at CCNY New York, NY	School of Business & Management Dallas, TX
High Technology High School Lancaster, NJ	St. Albans School Washington, DC
Inglemoor High School Kenmore, WA	West Windsor-Plainsboro High School North Plainsboro, NJ
International Academy AlmaCorpus Christi, TX	

Congratulations to Gulliver Preparatory School for winning 3rd Place at the Final Round!

► Euro Challenge Website, [click here](#)



Gulliver Preparatory School students with teacher Kamal James in New York—May 1st, 2019



## 2019 Recognition Award for European & Eurasian Studies Certificate Earners

May 1st, 2019—FIU



Students receiving their certificates in European & Eurasian Studies—From left to right: Sarah Ehrman, Isabella Garcia and Alex Alibrandi

May 9<sup>th</sup> is Europe Day, a holiday that each year marks the pivotal Schuman declaration of 1950, in which Robert Schuman (French foreign minister) proposed the creation of a supranational European community, an idea that laid the foundation for the EU.

On May 1st, one day before, a group of aspiring scholars and professionals gathered at Florida International University's (FIU) Modesto A. Maidique campus to be honored for their incredible accomplishments. These young men and women, all recent graduates, were presented with their European & Eurasian Studies Certificate in a recognition ceremony. These students, by applying their academic energies to understanding more about European history, politics, and culture, earned this prestigious honor that designates their familiarity with European civilization. The [European & Eurasian Studies program](#) at FIU was designed to enhance a student's understanding of European politics, society, and culture, drawing on a broad range of

courses in the arts and sciences and thereby to complementing the student's major course of study. These certificates, which are available to any undergraduate or graduate student who has an interest in European civilization and culture, requires additional work by students in courses focused on European languages and cultures. Some of these graduates even augmented their experience by participating in study abroad programs, and were able to experience Europe intimately. Whether in honors college courses in Normandy, or European Art history classes at FIU's Wolfsonian, these students have exerted maximum effort to learn about the many nations and peoples of the European community.

On May 1st, the hard work paid off, and these students were prepared to be recognized for their achievement. The ceremony began with the European Union Anthem "Ode to Joy"- Beethoven-9th Symphony. Afterwards, Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director/

Project Manager, Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence and European & Eurasian Studies, congratulated the students and gave them their Certificates in European Studies.

Christine Caly-Sanchez addressed the students and families, and indicated that these graduates had been his students, and expresses his pride at having been part of their educational experience. Since FIU also offers a graduate certificate in European Studies, we hope that many of these students return to increase their familiarity and expertise with the nations of Europe. Once more, a hearty congratulations to these recent graduates.

After the Award Ceremony, students, friends and family gathered for refreshments graciously offered by the European & Eurasian Studies Program.

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

*By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*



## 2019 Recognition Award for European & Eurasian Studies Certificate Earners



Students receiving their certificates in European & Eurasian Studies  
From left to right: Sarah Ehrman, Isabella Garcia, Alex Alibrandi

**MEUCE would like to congratulate this year's program graduates, who are listed below**

### Spring 2019 CERTIFICATES IN EUROPEAN & EURASIAN STUDIES

#### Spring 2019 Awardees

- **Alex Alibrandi** (BA in International Relations and Political Science)
- **Sarah Ehrman** (BA in International Relations)
- **Isabella Garcia** (BA in English Literature and Women's and Gender Studies; Minor in French Language and Culture)
- **Ashley Morales** (BA in International Relations and Political Science)
- **Aileen Sainz** (BA in International Relations and Political Science)
- **Jennifer Osejo** (BA in International Relations)
- **Julieanne Viana**, (BA in International Relations, and Sustainability & the Environment)



Sarah Ehrman, BA in International Relations



#### CERTIFICATE IN EUROPEAN & EURASIAN STUDIES

- The European & Eurasian Studies Certificate program is open to all who have an interest in any aspect of European civilization, past or present.
- It is an interdisciplinary program that draws on a broad range of courses from throughout FIU to complement a student's own interests.
- Approved study-abroad courses, including those offered by the Honors College, may be accepted for certificate credit.
- The program also offers a senior colloquium, "European Identities", that allows students the opportunity to engage in research on topics of their own choosing in close conjunction with a member of the Program Faculty.
- The certificate program is open to all students enrolled at FIU and to interested individuals in the community.
- Since Spring 2001, 204 Students obtained their Certificates in European & Eurasian Studies.

#### Requirements

The program requires 15 credits hours (5 courses) from at least 3 departments, distributed as follows:

##### ► Language Requirements (3 credits)

One course in a European language at the intermediate (2000) level or above.

##### ► Breadth Requirement (9 credits)

- Three courses at 3000-level or above, not all of which can be in either Social Science or in Humanities.
- Courses must be from an approved list published in the class schedule each term, or else contain substantial European content and approved by the Director.  
Such courses are offered by the Departments of:
  - Art and Art History,
  - Economics,
  - English, Environmental Studies,
  - History,
  - Humanities,
  - International Relations,
  - Modern Languages,
  - Philosophy,
  - Political Science,
  - and Religion, among others.

##### ► Exit Requirement (3 credits)

Interdisciplinary Colloquium, focused on a broad European topic

For more information on the program, visit the following page:  
<http://europe.fiu.edu/certificate-programs/undergraduate-advising/>



## MFJMCE Celebrates Europe Day Coral Gables Country Club | May 9th, 2019



### EU Consuls General Roundtable: The EU & US: Building Communities



From left to right: Dr. Lukas Danner, Hon. Rob Zaagman, Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Hon. Catalin Ghenea, Hon. Annette Klein, and Hon. Candido Creis-Estrada

**On May 9th,** The Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence celebrated **Europe-Day** at the Coral Gables Country Club, where **4 European Consuls General** presented and reported on their (national) view of Europe, and the meaning of the EU for Europe and transatlantic relations in a commemorative panel . This high-level event, with over 50 civic leaders from local government, businesses present, was followed by a networking reception.

MFJMCE would like to sincerely thank the following panelists for their important contribution to our event:

- **Candido Creis-Estrada**, Consul General of Spain
- **Catalin Ghenea**, Consul General of Romania
- **Annette Klein**, Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany
- **Rob Zaagman**, Consul General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

This event was part of the EU diplomacy grant "Getting to Know Europe"

*By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*



- ▶ To view pictures , [click here](#)
- ▶ To view flyer, [click here](#)



## MFJMCE Celebrates Europe Day—May 9th European Consul General Roundtable Coral Gables Country Club



From left to right: Dr. Lukas Danner, Hon. Rob Zaagman, Hon. Candido Creis-Estrada, Hon. Annette Klein, Hon. Catalin Ghenea



Full audience at the roundtable



Anaide Govaert and Michael Lewis



From left to right: Dr. Lukas Danner, Matthias Eggertsson, Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Hon. Neval Greenidge, Ian O'Flaherty, Michael Lewis, Carmen Betancourt-Lewis, Nabil Achkar, Hon. Catalin Ghenea, Hon. Annette Klein, Hon. Candido Creis-Estrada, Hon. Rob Zaagman



## MFJMCE Celebrates Europe



### Europe on the Big Screen | New World Symphony's WALLCAST| Miami Beach



At the screening to the German film 'Almanya: Welcome to Germany' on April 18th

From left to right: Christine I. Caly-Sanchez; Axel Zeissig, Vice Consul, Consulate General of Germany; Markus Thiel

#### April 11th-25th, 2019,

**'Europe on the Big Screen'**  
On three Thursday evenings in April 2019, Miami families and friends came together to the New World Symphony WALLCAST to mingle, picnic, and enjoy humorous European stories, broadcast under the starry sky of Miami Beach.

As part of its EU diplomacy grant "Getting to Know Europe", every Thursday evening, from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., and from April 11<sup>th</sup> to April 25<sup>th</sup>, the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence at FIU presented free outdoor European movies on the New World Symphony WALLCAST at the New Center Soundscape Park in Miami Beach. This program was done in collaboration with the Consulates General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Italy, the Federal Republic of Germany, Romania, and the Honorary Consulate of Poland, and the support of Miami Beach Department of Tourism, Culture and Economic

Development, Cultural Affairs Program, Cultural Arts Councils and The Miami Beach Mayor and Commissioners, and the New World Symphony, America's Orchestral Academy.

All the films presented were screened in English subtitled in their native language.

On April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019, we kicked off the program with a Polish-UK drama "Loving Vincent", which let us appreciate the remarkable story of Vincent van Gogh. In a story depicted in oil-painted animation, a young man comes to the last hometown of painter Vincent van Gogh to deliver the troubled artist's final letter and ends up investigating the artist's final days. The film brings the paintings of Vincent van Gogh to life to tell his remarkable story. Every one of the 65,000 frames of the film is an oil-painting, hand-painted by 125 professional oil-painters who travelled from all across the world to the Loving Vincent studios in Poland and Greece to be a part of the production. It won European

Film Award for Best Animated Feature Film. The film, written and directed by Dorota Kobiela and Hugh Welchman, is a Polish-UK co-production, funded by the Polish Film Institute, and partially through a Kickstarter campaign.

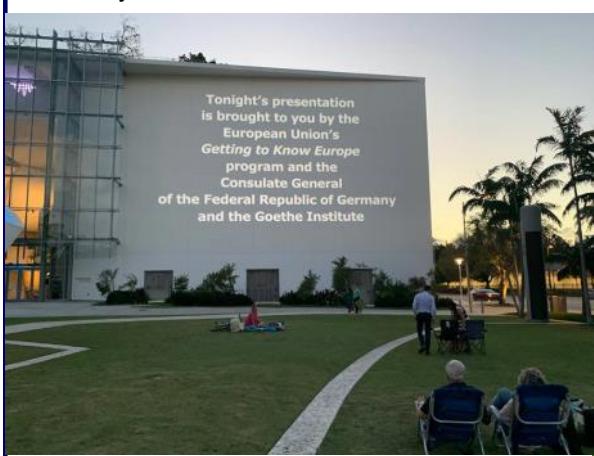
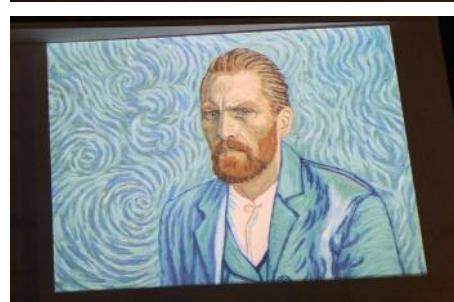
The screening of "Loving Vincent" brought the Polish, Dutch, and European community to the screening, and we were honored to have the film co-sponsored by the Consulate General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and the Consulate of the Republic of Poland.



- ▶ To view program, [click here](#)
- ▶ To view April 11th pictures , [click here](#)
- ▶ To view April 18th pictures , [click here](#)



## MFJMCE Celebrates Europe Europe on The Big Screen New World Symphony's Wallcast



On April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019, thanks to the Consulate General of the Republic of Germany and the Goethe Institute, the German comedy of "Almanya: Welcome to Germany", directed by Yasemin Samdereli, and Deutscher Filmpreis 2011 winner in the categories Best Script and Best Film at the 61st Berlin International Film Festival, was screened. It represented a Turkish family living in Germany that struggles with the concept of "home" after their grandfather announces plans to move the entire clan back to their native country. The tragic comedy dramatizes the question of identity and belonging for former Turkish guest workers in Germany and their descendants.

The film opened in German cinemas on March 10 and was the fourth most successful German film of 2011 with 1.5 million viewers.

On April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019, the 2011 Italian -French comedy-drama film directed by Nanni Moretti and star-

ring Michel Piccoli and Moretti, "We Have a Pope" (original title: *Habemus Papam*) was screened. Its original title is Latin for "We have a Pope", the phrase used upon the announcement of a new pope. The story revolves around a cardinal who, against his wishes, is elected pope. A psychoanalyst is called in to help the pope overcome his panic. The film premiered in Italy in April 2011 and played in competition at the 64th Cannes Film Festival.

Each screening brought more than 60 people from the Miami-Dade community at large. The audience enjoyed European comedy and drama while sitting on the lawn on a blanket or sitting in a beach chair in front of the New World Symphony's WALLCAST, a soaring, 7,000-square-foot projection wall that uses striking visual and audio technology.

*By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*

**Conversations on Europe**  
**Fall 2018-Spring 2019**

EUROPEAN STUDIES CENTER  
PittGlobal | University Center for International Studies

**Conversations on Europe—Room GL 156**

A virtual roundtable series on *Conversations on Europe* were held every Tuesday of each month during the academic year 2018-2019, connecting top experts from the US and the EU to discuss contemporary issues confronted by Europe and the Transatlantic relationship. These meetings were possible due to the use of personal and institutional video conference technology. Panelists took questions and interacted with audiences from the Universities of Pittsburgh, Illinois and FIU. The events were hosted by the European Studies Center, a Jean Monnet European Union Center of Excellence at the University of Pittsburgh, and co-sponsored by UCIS, European Union Center at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, the Center for European Studies at North Carolina-Chapel Hill and the Jean Monnet Center of Excellence at FIU.

Here are the last four conversations held in Spring 2019:

- **January 15<sup>th</sup>: The Finnish Educational Model: What Can We Learn?** This conversation emphasized Finland's education system which consistently ranks high in the OECD's annual Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) study, prompting U.S. educators and education reformers to ask "What can the U.S. learn from Finland?" In this conversation, education experts discussed this question and explored issues impacting student achievement in both countries.

The Panelists were [Anneli Rautiainen](#), Head of Innovation Unit at the Finnish National Agency for Education; Dr. Jyri Linden from the University of Tampere; [Dr. Cassie Fay Quigley](#), Associate Professor of Science Education in the Department of Instruction of Learning at the School

of Education at the University of Pittsburgh Quigley; and [Tim Walker](#) from Taught by Finland Blog. [Dr. Jae-Jae Spoon](#), European Studies Center director at the University of Pittsburgh, moderated the panel.

- **February 12<sup>th</sup>: 40 Years of Democracy in Spain**

In this conversation, conducted in Spanish, the ESC invited experts to discuss "40 Years of Democracy in Spain". [Diego Holstein](#), Professor, Department of History, University of Pittsburgh, moderated the panel.

The panelists were [Pablo Fernandez-Vazquez](#), Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Pittsburgh; [Carolyn Dudek](#), Professor and Chair of the Department of Political Science and Director of European Studies, Hofstra University; [Robert M. Fishman](#), Conex-Marie Curie Professor of Political Science and Sociology, Madrid's Carlos III University.

- **February 26<sup>th</sup> : World's Fairs and International Expositions**

The ESC devoted this session to discussing the history of world's fairs and international expositions. Beginning in Europe in the nineteenth century, early world's fairs were used by European leaders to showcase technology and their imperial power. In the last century, non-European nations became active participants and hosts. The panel experts explored this change over time and discussed the role of world's fairs and international expositions yesterday and today.

The acting moderator was [Dr. Jae-Jae Spoon](#) from the Department of Political Science, European Studies Center of the University of Pittsburgh. The panelists included Dr. [Alexander C.T. Geppert](#), from New York Univer-

sity; [Dr. Robert Rydell](#) from Montana State University; and [Anastasia Remes](#), European University Institute

- **April 16<sup>th</sup>: EP Elections: What's at Stake**

The last conversations on Europe this Spring 2019 was on the European elections.

On May 23-26, 2019, voters across the European Union headed to the polls to elect 751 members of the European Parliament. In this conversation, our panel of experts discussed the key players, parties and issues at stake (including the role of Brexit) in the upcoming elections. The acting moderator was [Dr. Jae-Jae Spoon](#) from the Department of Political Science, European Studies Center of the University of Pittsburgh. The panelists were [Dr. Andrea Aldrich](#), Department of Political Science, Yale University; [Dr. Catherine de Vries](#), Department of Political Science and Public Administration, Free University of Amsterdam; [Dr. Matthijs Rooduijn](#), Department of political Science, University of Amsterdam.

The eight conversations held at FIU were well attended by students and faculty from interdisciplinary programs on Tuesdays in GL 156. The MFJMEC at FIU is looking forward to participating again this Fall 2019.

By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez



- To view Fall 2018 program, [click here](#)
- To view Spring 2019 program, [click here](#)
- To watch Jan. 15 video, [click here](#)
- To watch Feb 12 video, [click here](#)
- To watch 2018–2019 videos, [click here](#)



## 2019 MFJMCE Faculty Research Grants Awardees



Each year, FIU-MFMCE hosts an annual competition that awards research and curriculum development grants to prospective faculty of FIU and its partner institutions: University of South Florida, University of Central Florida, University of North Florida, and Florida Atlantic University. Award recipients are provided with financial support for travel, research/archival work, implementation of new curriculum,

and other associated costs. These grants are designed to stimulate new research on the European Union (EU) and the role it plays in global affairs. We would like to congratulate this year's winners of the faculty research grant:

► **Dr. Lukas Danner**, Research Associate at Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, Dr. Danner travelled in Iceland this

summer to pursue his research on "Iceland and its application for EU Membership"

► **Dr. Peter Funke**, Associate Professor of Politics, at the University of South Florida His research was titled: "Gilets Jaunes and the European Parliamentary Elections"

► For more information on the research grant: [click here](#)

### Spotlight: 2019 MFJMCE Graduate Research Grant Awardee: Nevena Trajkov



**Nevena Trajkov**

In 2019, The Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence was pleased to award research award for advanced graduate student working on European Union issues. The winner was Nevena Trajkov, PhD candidate, Politics & International Relations, FIU. Her proposal was titled: "The Paradox of Accommodation: Minority groups and risks to the consolidation of the state (Spain/Macedonia)". Nevena Trajkov, was kind enough to tell us about her research. Her proposal requested funding to support her research in Spain and Macedonia for one month in June 2019. This fieldwork research was essential to her dissertation.

#### **Nevena Trajkov:**

"My research focuses on the relationship between minority group accommodations and the integrity of state consolidation. Focusing on the cases of Spain and Macedonia, I traveled to the two countries in June 2019 to conduct interviews in Barcelona, Bilbao, Madrid, Santiago de Compostela, and Skopje with the goal of collecting contextual data to test a proposed model of how group accommodations might affect state consolidation. With less than a month given to complete over twenty interviews in 5 cities between the two countries, the 1500 euros awarded to me by the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence helped immensely in alleviating the costs of this time-intensive trip, and I am thankful to the both the Centre and the selection committee for their support. The interviews with promi-

nent academics, politicians, journalists and ministerial advisors revealed just how complex the layers are to the structural relationships within these societies at varying levels: within-group, between-group, as well as the relationship between the group and the state. Because of the limited space for this report, I will briefly comment on two larger, overarching findings in both countries: the comparative application of state welfare to groups and the placement of identity. With regard to the first point, in all the regions of the study, the principle of the welfare state was mentioned by every subject, unsolicited. All subjects emphasized the importance of the welfare system (specifically education and healthcare), but there was variance on its perceived application to their specific group. In short, every group "in the minority" (to be

## Spotlight: 2019 Graduate Research Grant Awardee Nevena Trajkov



Barcelona, Spain



Bilbao, Spain



Skopje, Macedonia

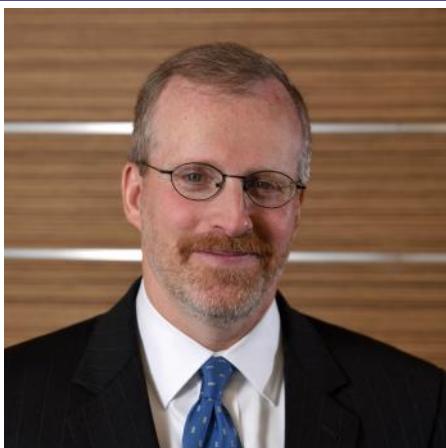
addressed next) believed that agreed-upon provisions between the group and the state are not only unfulfilled, but, in some cases, purposefully sabotaged, and used as leverage by the state against the group. To add an additional layer of tension, groups that demand a remedy for any perceived relative deprivation are seen as belligerent by the remaining groups within the state – who ironically believe themselves to be the deprived group within the country. This clearly puts strain not only on the relationship between groups themselves, but also between the group and the government, and subsequently, as institutions become “illegitimate”, between the group and the state. Another interesting finding was the variance between groups on how they self-identify, as well as how the state and its institutions identify groups. For example, in Galicia, academics fully acknowledged that there is a distinct Galician language and identity, often superseding the Spanish identity, as well as a recognition of a strong degree of kinship with Portugal as opposed to the remaining groups in Spain. Yet during the interviews in Santiago de Compostela, there was a great deal of pushback when I would refer to the economically poorer, culturally distinct Galicians as a minority group.

Most of the Galician subjects interpreted this as being “less than” in equality to the remaining populations in Spain rather than “less than” in numbers for their distinct membership. Many reasserted themselves as equal to, for example, the Basque, though also expressing relative deprivation for their group in comparison to the Basque or other groups within the country. This is in stark contrast with the paradigms of the Basque or Catalans, especially the latter whose subjects fully embraced the label “minority group”, as they not only acknowledge their qualitative fulfillment of the label, but also sentiments of relative deprivation to the “majority” because of their “minority” position. Perhaps the most interesting vantage came from interview subjects in Madrid, who, like Galicians, generally hesitated using “minority group” as a label, mostly because of legal doors and obligations this would open – especially if the word “nation” was used as the identifying term. However, when some subjects in Madrid lamented about the two historically “problematic” groups (Basque and Catalans), referring to them as “they”, I asked them to identify “they” in non-nominative terms (i.e., nation or ethnic group). Responses varied, with some refusing to answer the question, acknowledging

the legal consequences of doing so. As one subject said, knowing that my other case was Macedonia: one only had to look at Macedonia to see the Pandora’s legal box that awaits once a group has internationally recognized legal rights. This was a profound moment if only because Spain is a member of the European Union, an organization that claims to protect human rights by placing minimum standards of expectations on its member states in areas such as these, however inconsistent their enforcement. Further, this comment brings us to a crucial trifecta in both Spain and Macedonia for overall state consolidation in the period of post-democratic transition: what was the structural positioning of “minority groups” in the country vis a vis political agreements made during democratic transition; have those agreements been successfully implemented; and have any attempts to modify elements of an agreement resulted in social or political strain? Any distance in responses between group members (“minority” and “majority”), then, fosters space for social, political and institutional trust to erode, and an environment for state consolidation to fray and possibly unravel.”

*By Nevena Trajkov*

## SPOTLIGHT: New Director for the European & Eurasian Studies Program at FIU



**David J. Kramer**  
Director, European & Eurasian  
Studies Program at FIU

The European & Eurasia Studies Program at FIU's Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs is pleased to announce it has a new director, Mr. David J. Kramer.

Dr. Markus Thiel will remain director of the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, and Mrs. Christine I. Caly-Sanchez remains Associate Director and Project Manager for both programs.

The European & Eurasia Studies Program, which enables students to obtain an interdisciplinary concentration in various aspects of Europe, is designed to enhance students' understanding of European politics, society, and culture, drawing on a broad range of courses in the arts and sciences. It offers two certificates: [The Undergraduate Certificate in European and Eurasian Studies](#) and [The Graduate Certificate in European and Eurasian Studies](#).

Mr. Kramer has extensive experience in European and Eurasian matters from his time working in the U.S. government, the NGO world and at various think tanks.

He joined Florida International University's Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs as a Senior Fellow in the Vaclav Havel Program for Human Rights and Diplomacy in May 2017. He will remain affiliated with the Havel Program while also directing the European & Eurasian Studies Program.

Before moving to Miami, Mr. Kramer worked in Washington, DC for 24 years, most recently with the McCain Institute for International Leadership as Senior Director for Human Rights and Democracy. Previously, he served as President of Freedom House. Prior to that, he was a Senior Transatlantic Fellow at the German Marshall Fund of the United States. He also was an Adjunct Professor for two years at George Washington University where he taught a Colloquium on Europe and Eurasia.

Mr. Kramer served eight years in the U.S. Department of State during the administration of President George W. Bush, including as Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, and as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs (responsible for Russia, Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus affairs as well as regional non-proliferation issues). He is author of the recent book, [Back to Containment: Dealing with Putin's Regime](#).

Dr. Thiel will continue to oversee the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, a consortium of Florida International University (FIU) and the University of Miami (UM), established in 2001 with support from the European Commission, as one of the ten original EU Centers of Excellence in the United States. In 2015, in a global competition, the Miami-Florida European Center of Excellence at FIU was one of only seven U.S. universities to gain the prestigious designation of "**Jean Monnet Center of Excellence**" by the European Commission.

Dr. Thiel's research interests are the political sociology of the EU and European (Union) Politics more generally, Nationalism & Identity (Politics) and Mixed Methods Research Methodology. He has published several EU-related articles and book chapters at the EU Center of Excellence as well as in Transatlantic Monthly, International Studies Compendium, Journal of Human Rights, Perspectives on European Politics & Society and the Journal of European Integration. He published *The Limits of Transnationalism: Collective Identities and EU Integration* (Palgrave, 2011) and also has co-edited four volumes. His latest publications, [European Civil Society & Human Rights Advocacy](#) (Univ. of Pennsylvania Press, 2017), and [EU Development Policies—Between Norms and Geopolitics](#) (Palgrave Mcmillan, 2019) focuses on the promotion of rights policies through EU-based civil society; and EU Development Policies.

## Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence

European and Eurasian Studies Program

### Contact the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence



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Photo: European Commission - European Institute for Gender Equality



*All of us at the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence want to thank all of our faculty, students and friends for participating in our events this year.*



*The activities of the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence will continue in fall 2019.*

*In the meantime, all of the MFJMCE team members wish you a great summer and look forward to seeing you all next fall!*

For details please visit: [miamieuc.fiu.edu](http://miamieuc.fiu.edu) - Events  
or contact Christine I. Caly-Sanchez at [calyc@fiu.edu](mailto:calyc@fiu.edu)