Dear friends,

We’re happy to share with you our Fall 2021 newsletter, which provides a good overview of the many events and activities we hosted virtually at our European & Eurasian Studies Program and the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence. Since September, we have hosted 26 virtual and two in-person events.

Highlights include our MEET-EU European Experts Career Panels; the different roundtables on the German Elections with Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany, Andreas Siegel; the Conversations on Europe “Europe creating Europe” series with the University of Pittsburgh; the conversation on Ireland, the Pursuit of Peace in North of Ireland, and the Challenges of Brexit with Ireland’s ambassador to the United States, His Excellency Daniel Mulhall; Lady Blanka Rosenstiel Lecture Series on Poland; and the interview on the Legacy of Josephine Baker with Consul General of France, Laurent Gallissot.

We also were active with our EU Jean Monnet in the USA network (more than 11 EU Centers), where we were able to connect with experts on Europe via virtual roundtables.

You can watch the recorded videos about these and many other events inside this newsletter.

We are proud to announce that our Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence grant has been renewed for 3 years and we are pleased to offer a program where many events will be organized on the theme of “Social Inclusion & Societal Diversity.”

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you a safe, healthy, and prosperous New Year, and we are looking forward to seeing you virtually or in person at one of our events this spring.

Sincerely,
Christine I. Caly-Sanchez
Markus Thiel
David J. Kramer

Follow us and for more information:
“MEET EU: Making Encounters, Engaging Transatlanticists” is an initiative bringing EU-focused content to Florida, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania via three university campuses. Since spring 2021 European Centers of Excellence at the UNC-Chapel Hill, Florida International University, and the University of Pittsburgh have launched a range of activities to facilitate a greater understanding of the EU—European Expert Career Panels, a short film competition, virtual filmmakers in residence, Model EU teams, K-12 virtual reality presentations, and more.

This project capitalizes on this rich foundation to create and support a broad network of young Americans poised to become future Transatlanticists. The project aims to engage with the EU’s relevance to daily life in our localities, understand how EU institutions work, and explore issues vital to current events in both the US and EU. This initiative is co-funded by the European Union through a Getting to Know Europe Grant from the EU Delegation to the US.

The MEET EU focuses on four groups of activities:

- **Meet the EU**: Model EU circuit in the US and EU; European Expert Career Panels
- **Teach the EU**: Brussels-Lux Study Tour for educators; MEETEU360 Virtual Reality presentations
- **Create the EU**: Virtual residency for EU filmmakers, EU Film Festival, and short film competition
- **Nice to Meet EU**: Community Road Shows

In Spring 2021, our Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence organized and hosted two MEET EU-European Expert Career panels on “International Careers in European Diplomacy: European Perspectives” and “The Role of Lifelong Learning Languages in a Transatlantic Work Context”

During Fall 2021, we hosted two “MEET EU - European Expert Career Panels,” entitled “The Nitty-Gritty of Applying for a Job in the EU/Europe” and “Perspectives on Working with/for European Businesses.”

In addition, we were one of the hosts of the 2021 “Create the EU” Short Film Competition.

In the following pages, you will find information about the events, pictures, and links to videos, flyers, and the panelists’ bios. You can find more information about the MEET EU initiative here.

By Ernesto Fiocchetto and Christine I. Caly-Sanchez
On October 5, the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence hosted a virtual panel as part of the MEET EU initiative. This panel was designed for students and alumni to apply successfully for a job in the EU/Europe. European Human Resources experts and coaches advised students on applying for an internship/job in a European company in Europe and the US and how to be successful when working in EU/US relations.

The panelists were Ms. Annabel Edo, Ms. Renata Urban, and Mr. Stefano Vetralla. Nelly Leon, the Career & Talent Development contact for the Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs at Florida International University, served as the moderator of the event. Dr. Markus Thiel, the Director of our MFJMCE, delivered the opening remarks and welcomed the virtual audience, including over 95 students from across the US.

The first panelist was Ms. Annabel Edo, Managing Director US at Ackermann International based in Miami. After introducing the Spanish macro labor situation at that moment, she provided very useful advice about the particularities of looking for a job in Spain, including some differences between the EU and Spain, and particularities regarding CVs, personal social media, and languages applicants speak.

Secondly, Ms. Renata Urban, a German intercultural coach and language and communication skills trainer, took the floor. Based on her vast experience, she highlighted some aspects of job applications in German culture. She focused on intercultural communication and the German language and culture. She offered constructive tips for applying for a job, living, and working in Germany.

Lastly, Mr. Stefano Vetralla, Managing Partner AIMS International USA, a global HR Trusted Advisor with 30+ years of experience in M&A, HR transformation and change management, shared what he learned in his journey. He explained what it means to work for a European company in Europe and the US. He emphasized the importance of emotional intelligence and cultural intelligence and stressed the importance of being aware of the rationale, motives, and reasons of our decisions and activities. He also shared some experiences of Americans working in Italy and Italians working in the US.

The audience’s interest was manifested in the number of questions they made to the panelists during the Q&A session. Such participation fosters the MFJMCE’s commitment to the education and training of future generations.
On November 10, the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence hosted the second installment of the MEET EU-European Expert Career Panel. This event was designed for students and alumni who want to work with/for European businesses. European businesses experts spoke about their own experiences, and they advised students about a successful career in European business and trends in the European market.

Mrs. Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, associate director of our European Center, welcomed the audience and introduced the moderator of this panel, Mr. Paul Griebel, Executive Director of the World Strategic Forum, a forum developed by the International Economic Forum of the Americas.

The first panelist was Mr. Jimmy Benaudis, an EY France Senior Partner, founder, and Global Head of EY’s French Business Network that comprises 500 Partners and Associates assisting French companies worldwide. He tackled the cultural aspects of doing business with French companies and highlighted the pros and cons of building an international career in business.

Then, Mr. Marcus A. Haderlein, Chief Operating Officer of nobilia North America, presented his company, which is located in Germany and is the largest manufacturer of built-in kitchens in Europe. He pointed out the differences between Germany and the United States.

The third panelist was Mrs. Dania Maccaferri, the Managing Director of International Divisions of the Beghelli Group and the CEO of Beghelli North America. She shared how she started working for that Italian company as a literature student at the university and described her journey until her current position.

She highlighted how studying literature contributed to building her career by stressing the importance of the anthropological element of her job. Also, she strongly suggested studying sales and marketing, especially business finance.

Lastly, Mr. Juan Carlos Pereira, Executive Director at the Spain-US Chamber of Commerce, took the floor. He commented how he decided to study law when he was younger in Spain and how such a university background helped him start his business career.

The panel finished with a Q&A session. The audience which including over 90 students from across the US, participated actively by making questions and comments. The thought-provoking interventions of the audience resulted in an engaging discussion between the panelists that made the conversation even more enjoyable.
MEET EU is hosting two film competitions for the years 2021-22. Each year, the three Centers involved with MEET EU, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the University of Pittsburgh, and Florida International University, will choose six finalists. Winning entries for the short film contest will be screened at a mini EU Amateur Film Festival and posted for subsequent viewing on our websites.

Inspired by the European Year of Rail, which shines a light on one of the most sustainable, innovative, and safest modes of transportation, and acknowledging the challenges we have all faced during the pandemic in traveling and forging new connections, the inaugural MEET EU Short Film Competition for US Youth asked young people to create a short film (documentary or non-documentary) responding to the theme “Transatlantic Connections” and submit it by the end of November 2021.

Our Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence received 11 short films from FIU students, which are currently in the pre-selection process. The top submissions from each of the three states will be screened at the 2022 Pittsburgh EU Film Festival, which will take place January 28-Feb.3, 2022. Festival audiences will help select the grand prize winners.

For this first installment of the Short Film Competition, we are honored to have the MEET EU’s first Virtual Resident Filmmaker, Simon Elvås, an emerging filmmaker from Sweden. In 2022, he will remotely engage with the artistic communities and academic life of the three universities and will travel to spend a week at each institution. Elvås’s film, A Swedish Defence, will also be screened and promoted in the three locations. Elvås will also be one of the judges for the Short Film Competition finalists, which will be screened at the 2022 Pittsburgh EU Film Festival.
Simon Elvås was born on January 28, 1993, in Stockholm, Sweden. As a filmmaker, he works with themes about masculinity and shame within the subjects of the climate crisis and Swedish weapon export. Simon studied the bachelor program in directing fiction at Stockholm Academy of Dramatic Art. Having recently graduated, he applied to the virtual residency with A Swedish Defence, a short film about a Swedish weapons engineer and his antiwar activist daughter and a protest that interrupts an international arms deal.

Elvås sees his project as thinking through Europe and Sweden’s self-image, so the residency’s emphasis on European identity and relationships. “The themes I’m continuing to come back to are shame and the search for family and family connections, and for the last two years I’ve been trying to find ways to talk about bigger subjects through these smaller themes.” He has been particularly interested in Swedish weapon export since Sweden has been one of the top ten weapon sellers for the last ten years. “It sits very badly with our values—we are known as being an open country that takes in a lot of refugees, that stands up for what’s right and wrong, or at least that’s our self-image, but this doesn’t really correspond with also selling weapons to the same countries that we sometimes save refugees from.”

During the residency, he will be working on a feature-length film investigating these issues surrounding a Swedish weapon deal with Thailand that started in 2006 and ended in 2013. The deal sold Swedish fighter jets to the military, and “the last deal, the last jets [Sweden] gave them, was just a couple of months before they had a military coup.” Elvås’s film will thus follow a father and daughter to Bangkok in this time, exploring the tension in their relationship as the father, a weapons engineer, works on the deal, and the daughter meets teens in Bangkok and begins to question her political values. Elvås recently received a grant from the Swedish Art Council to travel to Bangkok in August 2022 for a research and planning trip.

You can watch the trailer of Simon Elvås’ A Swedish Defence here.

GUilty Pleasures
“My guilty pleasure is business movies with fast-paced dialogue.”
- Margin Call (2011)
- The Big Short (2015)
- The Newsroom (2012-2014)
- Succession (2018-)

INspRAtiOns
- Claire Denis, Beau Travail (1991)
- Kelly Reichardt, Old Joy (2006)

For more info. on the Resident Filmmaker Simon Elvås, click here.
Model European Union Athens aims to promote knowledge of the decision-making process, representing the way new EU legislation comes to force while fostering mutual understanding and cooperation through debate and dialogue amidst youth within Greece and Europe. Participants aged from 18 to 30 years old had the chance to experience EU works by taking on the role of a European representative—either in the Council of the European Union or in the European Parliament—and thus had the chance to be actively involved in the creation of a legally binding text. As part of the MEET EU program, three students from FIU, who were trained by our Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, took part in this international event that took place in Athens from November 24 to 28. Our team included Danny Vazquez Tarrau, Jonathan Milian, and Abel J. Ramos Taype.

Although MEUs mainly focus on the EU's policy-making process, applicants of MEU simulations are not required to have a legal or Political Science background. The dual purpose of the MEU is to experimentally educate people from all academic fields who are genuinely interested in how the decisions that affect us every day are made, and at the same time to create an embracing environment, where participants feel respected, heard, and valued despite coming from various walks of life and having differing opinions. It’s perfectly okay to be different, and in fact, the MEU welcomes and embraces it!

At the end of the MEU Athens, each participant felt enriched by this 4-day experience, not only because of the content itself but also because we felt united in our hearts and minds. After all, this is the motto of this event: United in Diversity we are, United in Diversity we stand. MEUs are truly the means for today’s youth to fulfill this and empower themselves.

MEU was an experience unlike many others. Not only did we get to take part in the complex and complicated reality that is EU politics firsthand, but the best part was also sharing this experience with students from across the Continent. From Russia to Belarus, to almost every EU Member State, and with still a few outside the EU, this was a truly European experience unlike any other.

Battery and Battery Wastage and Data Governance Act were the two pieces of legislation that we tackled during our almost week-long conference. From noting the highly complex nature of EU legislation to the strict rules and procedures that govern how we in Parliament must behave, to the often acrimonious yet exhilarating challenge of working with (or against?) the European Council to pass legislation that affects the entirety of the EU, allows those of us who have the honor to participate, to better appreciate the EU in all its idiosyncratic complexities.

While personally, having the opportunity of traveling to Athens and competing with my fellow FIU-MEU team, Abel Ramos and Jonathan Milian was a crowning achievement.
Yet what made this such a momentous week for me was the lifelong friendships and connections that I was able to make with my fellow MEPs and Council Members. From exploring Athens after the conference to waking up early and working hard to better the lives of our fellow Europeans truly and sincerely cemented the bonds of friendship and even family that we made throughout the week.

A truly unforgettable experience. One that I am especially thankful to the entire staff of the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet European Center of Excellence for helping to facilitate on our behalf. Helping to make better “Europeans” of us all.

By Danny Vazquez Tarrau
FIU student in International Relations
Elections in Germany
What happens after Angela Merkel
Sept. 26 and Nov. 2, 2021

Federal elections were held in Germany on September 26, 2021 to elect the members of the 20th Bundestag. Chancellor Angela Merkel, first elected in 2005, chose not to run again and, thus, Germany held its first election since West Germany’s first elections in 1949 in which there is no incumbent seeking re-election as Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany. During 16 years as Germany’s Chancellor, Merkel has led her country through a series of massive crises and has influenced the European Union and the international arena. Given such historic event, the MFJMCE hosted two panel discussions to tackle the situation of Germany and the EU before and after the elections in Germany.


Ahead of the September 26 elections, three experts gathered to discuss “What happens after Angela Merkel?” They explained that the question of how Germany’s next leader will shape the country’s role as an anchor of Europe will have far-reaching consequences in a future in which crises are the new normal. At the moment, polls predicted a close finish between the three candidates to succeed Merkel and it was fairly certain that the outgoing “Grand coalition” government of the CDU/CSU-SPD would not be reinstated as both the Conservatives and the Social Democrats have indicated their preference for a different government make-up.

Our panelists discussed diverse dimensions of this historic elections that would affect not only Germany but also the EU and the whole international community. Moderated by Mr. David. J. Kramer, Director of the European & Eurasian Studies Program and Senior Fellow in the Václav Havel Program for Human Rights and Diplomacy at Florida International University, the experts were:

• Dr. Maria Gonzalez Llanos, Associate Professor of International Relations and Political Science at the Miami Dade College Wolfson Campus,
• Hon. Andreas Siegel, Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany Miami, and
• Dr. Markus Thiel, Associate Professor of Politics & International Relations and Director of the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence at Florida International University.

The event was co-Sponsored by the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Miami, the Miami-Dade College Wolfson Campus, the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence at FIU, and the European & Eurasian Studies Program at FIU.

To view flyer, click here
Post-German Elections
Germany & Europe after Merkel
A conversation with Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany Andreas Siegel and Dr. Markus Thiel

Nov. 2, 2021: EESP Discussion: Post-German Elections: Germany & Europe after Merkel

On November 02, 2021, we had the honor to host a discussion on the post-German Elections and its impacts on Germany and Europe between the Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany, Andreas Siegel, and Dr. Markus Thiel. The in-person event was also broadcasted via Facebook Live.

German federal election on September 26 yielded a close finish. The center-left Social Democratic Party (SPD) took the largest share of the vote and is the largest party in the new Bundestag. It beat its senior partner in the governing coalition, the center-right Christian Democratic Union (CDU), and its Bavarian sister party, the Christian Social Union (CSU), into second place. Both Olaf Scholz, the SPD’s chancellor-candidate, and Armin Laschet of the CDU/CSU claimed a mandate to form a government. But the SPD had the edge in seats and votes. On October 27, coalition negotiations began with the Greens, who finished third (their best-ever showing), and the liberal Free Democrats on forming a “traffic-light” coalition.

Our panelists exchanged views on policy-making and the economic pathway of the European Union after the stepping down of Angela Merkel, former German Primary Federal Chancellor.

Hon. Andreas Siegel gave an overview of the Merkel Legacy and the echo her departure causes in the European Union. He also talked about the elections and the immediate consequences that they generated.

Dr. Thiel elaborated on the foreign policies and the implications for the Union and the international community.

After their presentations, the audience actively asked questions and made very interesting comments to the panelists. All present engaged in an exciting discussion on the situation of Germany and the EU after Angela Merkel.

This event was organized by the student association Sigma Iota Rho Honor Society for International Studies and supported by our Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence.
On October 19, Mr. Andrej Auersperger Matić, Legal Advisor to the European Parliament Liaison Office in Washington D.C., was invited by the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence to make a virtual presentation on the Court of Justice and the supremacy of the Rule of Law at Florida International University.

In the last few years, the EU has experienced several challenges to the authority of its constitutional order. Some governments began to disregard decisions made by EU institutions. These challenges have received both a political and a legal response, which culminated in the summer and fall of 2021 when the European Court of Justice imposed a fine of one million Euro per day on Poland for not respecting earlier decisions of the Court. The stalemate still has to be resolved, and it is difficult to see a clear way out that would not seriously harm the credibility of either the EU or the recalcitrant states. Mr. Auersperger Matić’s talk shed light on the background of the rule of law crisis and explained the political and legal considerations involved.

At the end of the presentation, all the FIU-EU Politics students who attended were able to ask questions on the way the court works through preliminary judgments and direct actions. They all were impressed by his presentation and thankful to hear from a practitioner about issues such as the supremacy of EU law.

We want to thank the European Parliament Liaison Office in Washington D.C. for co-sponsoring this event.

By Ernesto Fiocchetto & Christine I. Caly-Sanchez
This year, Routledge published Dr. Markus Thiel’s new book entitled *Europe’s International Promotion of LGBTI Rights: Promises & Pitfalls*. In this book, Dr. Thiel examines how Europe attempts to jointly formulate and implement guidelines for the external promotion of LGBTI rights. He also problematizes the various normative and policy-based Eurocentric prescriptions to further these rights. Drawing on an international political sociology framework infused with queer theoretical thought, he investigates the apparent normative clash between Europe’s promotion of LGBTI rights as liberal human rights and the ensuing pushback by culturally and politically conservative states. In conclusion, the author suggests viewing the contention surrounding LGBTI rights within broader governance contexts and thus reimagining rights promotion in a more holistic manner.

On November 4, 2021, Dr. Thiel presented his work at a virtual event organized by our center. The presentation was co-sponsored by the Ruth K. and Shepard Broad Distinguished Lecture Series, the European and Eurasian Studies Program, the Vaclav Havel Program for Human Rights and Diplomacy, and the Center for Women’s and Gender Studies at FIU. Dr. Jessy Abouarab, Visiting Assistant Professor at the Center for Women’s and Gender Studies, led the conversation.

During the discussion, Dr. Thiel recognized the eminent role that the EU plays as an international LGBTI’s rights promoter. However, he also highlighted that, at the same time, there are unintended consequences of the highly liberal promotion of actors that are often unequal in nature. After offering an overview of the seven chapters of the book, Dr. Abouarab and Dr. Thiel talked about diverse aspects of the book, including his inspiration for the book, identity politics, recommendations on promotion policy, and the particularities of the EU LGBTI promotion in comparison to other states, such as the US.

The audience also participated by asking questions and making fascinating comments. Dr. Thiel had the opportunity to respond to them and, thus, deepen the presentation of some aspects of his new book.

To watch video recording, [click here](#)
To view flyer, [click here](#)
To learn more about the book, [click here](#)
On November 8, the European & Eurasian Studies Program and the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, along with Lady Blanka Rosenstiel, invited the Haitian contemporary artist and curator Edouard Duval Carrié and the New-Media artist Jacek J. Kolasinski, who is an Associate Professor of Visual Arts and the former Chair of the Art and Art History Department at Florida International University. During the conversation, the panelists explored the transnational connections between Poland and the Global South, Haiti in particular.

The Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence co-sponsored the event with the American Institute for Polish Culture, the Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Poland in Miami, and the African and African Diaspora Studies Program at FIU.

Mr. David J. Kramer, Director of the European and Eurasian Studies Program and Senior Fellow of the Václav Havel Program for Human Rights and Diplomacy, gave the introductory remarks. He highlighted that the historical background that underpins this topic begins with Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802. From 1802 to 1805, Napoleon dispatched about 5000 Polish legionaries to Saint-Domingue, modern-day Haiti, as part of his massive effort to contain the slave rebellion that had arisen in 1791. However, a group of Polish soldiers opposed Napoleon’s efforts to subjugate the rebels. Consequently, these soldiers unwittingly took part in the creation of the world’s first black-led republic and first independent Caribbean state when it cast off French colonial control and slavery in the early 19th century.

Dr. Jacek J. Kolasinski and Mr. Edouard Duval Carrié engaged in a stimulating conversation that tackled topics ranging from the Haitian constitution of 1805 to the present.

Edouard Duval Carrié narrated how his personal experiences about how he discovered the Polish influence in Haiti. He focused on the image of the Virgin of Czestochowa and how the icon influenced Haitian culture.

This fascinating discussion finished with a Q&A session that contributed to the event’s success because the audience actively participated and interacted with the panelists.

We want to thank the Co-Sponsors of this wonderful event, including the American Institute of Polish Culture, Inc., the Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Poland in Miami, and the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence.

By Ernesto Fiocchetto & Christine I. Caly-Sanchez
This academic year 2021-2022, the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence at FIU continues to be part of the Jean Monnet in the U.S.A. Series, #JMintheUS, an initiative of several EU-funded Universities across the United States, 11 in total. Co-sponsors of the #JMintheUS initiative can better share programming related to the European Union and European Union studies, increasing access to more communities throughout the country.

In Fall semester 2021, we were able to connect with distinguished experts on Europe via virtual roundtables and open them to our students, faculty, and community at large. Below, you will find the links to some of the video recordings and podcast.

**SEPTEMBER**

- **September 30, 2021**
  Trade, Technology, and the Transatlantic Relationship—A conversation with European Commission Executive Vice President Valdis Dombrovskis organized by University of Pittsburgh, European Studies Center (ESC)
  ➤ To watch video recording, click here

**OCTOBER**

- **October 5, 2021**
  Germany after Merkel—Assessing the 2021 Elections With Joyce Mushaben, Christiane Lemke, Sarah Lohmann, and Sabine Lang | Organized by the Jean Monnet Center for West European Studies, University of Washington—Seattle
  ➤ To listen to podcast, click here

- **October 7, 2021**
  How Europe (Mis) Understands Black America With Garry Younge, author, broadcaster, and editor-at-large for The Guardian based in London, England and Professor of Sociology at the University of Manchester | Organized by University of Pittsburgh, European Studies Center (ESC)
  ➤ To watch video recording, click here

**NOVEMBER**

- **November 16, 2020**
  Relaunching the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Cooperation With Franck Riester, French Minister Delegate for Foreign Trade and Economic Attractiveness, attached to the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs | Organized by the Transatlantic Policy Center at American University ➤ More info, click here
Virtual Conversations on Europe
Fall 2021

Conversations on Europe is a virtual roundtable series that connects experts from around the United States and Europe to discuss contemporary issues facing Europe and the Transatlantic relationship. The series is intended to present a broad range of views and opinions about topics relevant to Europe. Using personal and institutional videoconference technology, panelists take questions and interact with audiences from both sides of the Atlantic.

During Fall 2021, the European Studies Center at the University of Pittsburgh hosted the events, which were co-sponsored by the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence at Florida International University; the European Union Center at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign; the Center for European Studies at University of Texas at Austin; the Center for European and Transatlantic Studies at Georgia Tech; and the Center for European Studies at the University of Florida. These events were possible through generous support from the European Commission and were co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union.

In Fall 2021, we connected with experts on Europe via videoconference for four conversations:

- Black, Red, Green: What to Expect in the German Federal Election (September 21)
- An Uneven Recovery? Health Outcomes and Economic Impacts Across Europe (November 16)
- COP26 and the Green New Deal: Europe’s Response to Climate Change (December 7)

You will find below a summary of the topics addressed in each Conversation, the links to the panelists’ bios, flyers, and videos. You can look at the general flyer for the Fall sessions [here](#).


This first installment of the Conversations on Europe took place on September 21, on the eve of the German Federal Elections. Our panel of experts weighed in on the various issues concerning German voters, the legacy of outgoing Chancellor Merkel, the potential impact of this election on the EU and Germany’s relationship with the U.S., and the significance of the Green Party mounting their first-ever candidate for the Chancellorship.

The Conversation was moderated by Dr. Steve Sokol, President of the American Council on Germany. Four experts joined in the discussion, including:

- **Dr. Kai Arzheimer**, Professor of Political Science the University of Mainz;
- **Dr. Marcel Lewandowsky**, DAAD Visiting Assistant Professor at the Center for European Studies University of Florida;
- **Dr. Jae-Jae Spoon**, Director of the European Studies Center at the University of Pittsburgh;
- **Dr. Jana Puglierin**, German Policy Fellow, European Council on Foreign Relations.

To watch Sept. 21, 2021 “Black, Red, Green: What to Expect in the German Federal Election” video, [click here](#)

To view Fall 2021 Program, [click here](#)

On October 19, for the second Conversations on Europe of the semester, our experts’ discussion revolved around “Free Movement in the Time of COVID: The Economics and Ethics of Digital Vaccine Passports.” As Europe seeks to recover from the impacts of COVID-19, European leaders have implemented digital health passes and vaccine passports. These measures have met comparatively little resistance compared to the U.S., but critics warn of ethical and legal concerns, including data privacy. What does free movement mean in the time of COVID? How might we understand differences in public health policy with regards to vaccine mandates and vaccine passports across Europe, and how does that compare to the U.S.?

Our interdisciplinary panel tackled those questions. The roundtable was moderated by Dr. Jae-Jae Spoon, Director of the European Studies Center at the University of Pittsburgh, and the experts that took part in the conversation included:

- Dr. Peter Baldwin, Professor of History in the College of Social Sciences at the University of California Los Angeles,
- Dr. Sarah Chan, Chancellor’s Fellow in Ethics and Science Communicator in The Usher Institute at the University of Edinburgh,
- Dr. Alex John London, Clara L. West Professor of Ethics and Philosophy and Director of the Center for Ethics and Policy at Carnegie Mellon University, and
- Dr. Ana Beduschi, Associate Professor of Law and Senior Research Fellow at the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights at the University of Exeter

Nov. 16, 2020: “A Uneven Recovery? Health Outcomes and Economics Impacts Across Europe”

In focus on the Covid-19 pandemic, the third Conversation on Europe of the semester was held on November 16. The round table questioned the impact and response to COVID and the distribution of vaccines and PPE across Europe. What institutional structures are leading the recovery effort, and who is being left behind?

The panelists who tackled these questions considered that the effects of COVID-19 have been felt unevenly across Europe, a trend that continues into the recovery from the pandemic. They discussed how these inequalities have been felt on an individual level and at the national level in terms of health and educational outcomes and economic impacts.

To help better understand the complexity of this critical question, a panel of interdisciplinary experts joined Dr. Jae-Jae Spoon, who moderated the conversation. The experts that convened the roundtable were:

- Dr. Holly Jarman, Associate Professor at the Health Management & Policy at the University of Michigan,
- Dr. Julia Lynch, Professor of Political Science at the University of Pennsylvania,
- Dr. Martin Myant, Associate Researcher at the European Trade Union Institute, and
- Dr. Sylke Viola Shnepf from the JRC-European Commission.

To watch Oct. 19, 2021 Free Movement in the Time of COVID, click here
To watch Nov. 16, 2021 A Uneven Recovery? Health Outcomes & Economics Impacts Across Europe, video click here
Dec. 7, 2021: “COP26 and the Green New Deal: Europe’s Response(s) to Climate Change

For the final session in the Spring series on Conversations on Europe, the interactive virtual roundtable discussion revolved around “COP26 and the European Green Deal.”

In the first weeks of November, the United Nation’s much-hyped Climate Conference convened representatives from around the globe. In this session, our panel of experts discussed what happened in Glasgow, European leaders’ reactions to the conference outcomes, and Europe’s role in international efforts to respond to climate change and climate-driven migration.

Dr. Jae-Jae Spoon moderated this fascinating panel.

The invited experts on this occasion were:

- Dr. Patrick Bayer, Senior Lecturer in International Relations at the School of Government & Public Policy, and Chancellor’s Fellow in the Centre for Energy Policy at the University of Strathclyde,
- Dr. Shanti Gamper-Rabindran, Associate Professor in Environment, Energy, Development Economics at the University of Pittsburgh,
- Dr. Katharine Rietig, Senior Lecturer in International Politics at the Newcastle University, and
- Dr. Rosemary McCarney, 2020/2021 Massey College / Bill Graham Centre Visiting Senior Fellow in Foreign and Defence Policy Affairs at the University of Toronto.

The four virtual conversations were well attended by students and faculty from interdisciplinary programs. The MFJMCE at FIU is looking forward to participating again this Spring 2022.

By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez
On November 30th, 2021, Josephine Baker will enter the Pantheon, in Paris. In this "Temple des grands hommes" (Temple of great men), she will take her place next to Voltaire, Victor Hugo, Aimé Césaire and Marie Curie. Throughout her life, Josephine Baker challenged conventions and broke down barriers through her style, art and beliefs. A true symbol of the fight for equality and an emblematic figure of the Roaring Twenties, she will be the first Black Women to enter the Pantheon.

The Consulate General of France in Miami with local partners, artists and local leaders are organizing different events to pay tribute to Josephine Baker during the months of October and November. Due to these important events, and celebration, Laurent Gallissot, Consul General of France in Miami, sat down for an interview with Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director, Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence at FIU, and reflected on the legacy of Josephine Baker and all the events organized in Miami.

MFJME: Could you please tell us a little bit about Josephine Baker?

In two words, Josephine Baker was a trailblazer and a rule breaker! In one sentence, she was a fabulous dancer playing with the norms or "codes" of her time to make her own, a wonderful singer with a timeless performances in many languages including French, Spanish, Portuguese and even Yiddish, the first black actress to star as the main character in major motion pictures, a great humanist, a War hero, and a Civil rights fighter. For those who are eager to learn more about her multifaceted and rich life, the French Consulate has published articles in English and French along with videos that can be viewed here.

MFJME: What does Josephine Baker represent to France?

Josephine, as the French called her, is a popular icon for many generations: she held high the motto of the French Republic “Liberty, Equality, Fraternity”. For Fraternity, Josephine Baker very often used the term "Brotherwood", emphasizing that all humans are of “the same blood” and should reach unity. Since the 20s -when she conquered the Parisians’ hearts almost overnight with her unique, modern style- she is seen in France as an accomplished artist, a muse, and more and more as a true hero thanks to the work that has been done around her legacy as a French Resistant!

We dedicated a webinar in partnership with the World Affairs Council of Miami, on “Joséphine Baker, the Résistant” that you can watch again here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K8FJtZXlvWM

On Nov. 30, 2021, she will be making history again by entering the Pantheon, which is France’s national mausoleum dedicated to great figures in history. She will be the first Afro-American woman and the first artist of music hall to be inducted in this prestigious monument.

► For more information on “The Legacy of Josephine Baker”, and events organized in Miami, click here
MFJME: Could you share with us the accomplishments of Josephine Baker?

She has numerous great accomplishments but, above all, she will forever be THE first black international star! While in Paris, she rose herself to stardom in an unprecedented short period, conquering European audiences with jazz and Afro-American culture. During her 50-year-career, she never hesitated to reinvent herself. Very early, while she had great success on stage, she embraced the newly-born cinema to rise as the first black actor to be starred as the main character in major motion pictures!

In France, then in the United-States, she used her fame and her talents to support great humanist causes: giving food and resources to the poor in the 30s, helping war refugees and saving Jews during WWII, raising fund for the Resistance, supporting the French troops and the Allies – mostly with her own money-, influencing foreign leaders to help the General de Gaulle in the process of becoming the future Leader of Free France, and while in the United-States, by supporting the Civil rights activists.

One of the pinnacles of her advocacy for equality – and the most recorded- was at the March on Washington in 1963, where she addressed the quarter million persons present on the National Mall, just before the famous speech of Martin Luther King Jr. She gave her speech in her French military uniform, a strong symbol of her fight against discrimination, while stating that it was the “best day of her life” and a day that she waited for so long.

MFJME: This year, in October and November Miami celebrates Josephine Baker. What are some of the events that have been planned for this occasion?

Considering Josephine Baker’s print in South Florida, The French Consulate with local partners, artists and local leaders put together a series of events called “Miami celebrates Josephine Baker” in November around the time of her National recognition in France. With these happenings, we are trying to highlight her multifaceted career and her incredible life. We first had a discussion at Books and Books (Coral Gables) around her role in cinema thanks to Terri Francis, author of “Josephine Baker’s Cinematic Prism” and then, a webinar focusing on her role during WWII. On November 19, we had the screening of a documentary “Josephine Baker: Story of an Awakening” by Ilana Navaro, unveiling her tough beginning, her rise to stardom and her struggle to change the world. On November 23, Kevi Donat, founder of the guided tour “Le Paris Noir”, made a presentation of the places where Afro-American artists met in Paris during the last century.

And as a “Grand Finale”, on November 28, there will be a collective tribute by local artists and local leaders at the National Hotel, the Art Deco flagship of Miami Beach, a cultural movement that embraced her and made her a true icon!

For more information on “The Legacy of Josephine Baker”, and events organized in Miami, click here.
The City of Miami Beach has proclaimed November 28th as Josephine Baker Day. What does this proclamation mean?

To answer, I will go back to the connection between Josephine Baker and Miami.

When Josephine Baker was invited to perform at the Copa City Club in Miami Beach in January 1951, she convinced the owner to desegregate the audience, which set a precedent for all the venues that she toured in the United-States. The City of Miami Beach’s Proclamation setting November 28, 2021 as “Josephine Baker Day” is a recognition of her courage as a rule-breaker and trailblazer!

The city and the FIU-Wolfsonian Museum will name the Art Deco bridge tender located on Washington avenue “Josephine Baker Pavillion 1951”; a plaque will tell the story of the concerts of January 1951 for residents and tourists. Last but not least, the Miami Dade County has decided to create a “Josephine Baker Award” that will support a local Black Dance company. For emerging dancers, it is a fabulous gift to perpetuate her unique artistic contribution to popular and modern dance.

MFJMCE: Do you have any last thoughts you would like to share with us?

I am amazed to hear that the young generation is inspired by her life. Students and artists particularly are coming back to me to express warmly how her courage has stimulated them to express their own cultural approach and to think about the role of artists in our societies today.

MFJMCE: “MERCI” Mr. Consul!

By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez
Associate Director, Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence & EESP, FIU

Byline: Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director, Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence & EESP, FIU
THE LEGACY OF JOSEPHINE BAKER

Proclamation of Josephine Baker Day on Nov 28 by Mayor Dan Gelber (right) and the City Commission. Consul General of France, Laurent Gallissot, (center).

For more information on “The Legacy of Josephine Baker”, and events organized in Miami, click here
To read Proclamation Josephine Baker Day, click here

Display of a memorial plaque in front of FIU the Wolfsonian Museum in Miami Beach on Nov. 28, 2021
On November 16, the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence was honored to receive the visit of His Excellency Daniel Mulhall, the Ambassador of Ireland to the United States. Sponsored by the Ruth K. and Shepard Broad Distinguished Lecture Series, we host the event in collaboration with the Embassy of Ireland, the World Affairs Council Miami, and the European Union Center at the University of Miami.

His Excellency Mulhall tackled diverse contemporary Irish issues, Ireland’s significance in a post-Brexit European Union, and the country’s transatlantic connections. He explained the value to Ireland of the EU and how the membership benefited the country. He also remarked the challenges that both Ireland and the Union need to face in the following years at several levels and analyzed the new European and Irish situation after Brexit.

After his presentation, his Excellency engaged in an exciting conversation with Dr. Markus Thiel, Director of our MFJMCCE. They discussed several topics, including the Irish border conflict, the potential future Irish unification, and the challenges and opportunities that the larger issue of Brexit has post to the island. The audience both in-person and virtually participated with questions and comments.

This event was also meaningful to us because it was the first in-person panel that we organized after the pandemic restrictions. A large audience gathered in the MARC Pavilion, at FIU Modesto Maidique Campus, and many others were able to follow and participate in the event via Live Webinar.

From left to right: Shiomi Dinar, Pedro Botta, Desmond Alufohai, Ian O’Flaherty, Amb. Daniel Mulhall, Sean Murray, Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Markus Thiel, David Kramer, Tomas Abreu, Paul Griebel, and Joaquin Roy

To watch video, click here
To view flyer, click here
To view, bios, click here
On December 8, Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director, Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, and organizer of the Euro Challenge Competition in Florida, met virtually with Florida high school teachers and 9 and 10 grade students to present the rules and requirements for the 2022 Euro Challenge Competition.

The students are preparing to participate in the 2022 Euro Challenge, year of the 20th anniversary of the launch 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 of the Delegation of the European Union to the United States in Washington D.C., organized by Working In Support of Education (W!se), and in partnership with the Moodys’ Foundation, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and many organizations across the country, including FIU. Launched in 2006, Euro challenge is an exciting educational opportunity for 9th and 10th grade high school students to learn about the European Union and the euro. Students are asked to make presentation answering specific questions about the European economy and the single currency, the euro. They are also asked to pick one member country of the “euro area” to examine an economic problem at the country level, and to identify policies for responding to that problem.

The first round of the competition will take place virtually in Florida at the end of March 2022. If the sanitary conditions will allow, 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.

Wednesday’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 two-hour virtual event began with an introduction and overview of the Euro Challenge rules, requirements, and timeline, as well as the updates and tips for the competition given by Christine I. Caly-Sanchez and followed by a presentation on the key economic concepts and Indicators (GDP, unemployment, and inflation) for the Euro Challenge, which will be very valuable when the students plan their presentations for next year’s competition.

Later on, Dr. Markus Thiel, Associate Professor of Politics and International Relations and Director of the MFJMCE at FIU, made a presentation about the European Union, its history, and the euro.

After completing this orientation, the students are now ready to go 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.

Before competing in March, students will have the opportunity to attend other virtual presentations and receive updates on the Economic situation.

By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez
Congratulations to the recipients of Fall 2021
European & Eurasian Studies Certificates

Recipients of the Fall 2021 European & Eurasian Studies Certificates:
Brandon Lee, Joshua Sapp, Bryan Suarez

Congratulation Grads!

While we can’t gather physically, we can still celebrate the accomplishments of our newest Panther Alumni who graduated this Fall 2021, and obtained their European & Eurasian Studies Certificates.

The European & Eurasian Studies Program and the MFJMCE would like to congratulate this Fall 2021’s program Graduates:

CERTIFICATES IN EUROPEAN & EURASIAN STUDIES

Fall 2021 Undergraduate Awardees

- Isabel D’Orta
  BA in International Relations

- Brandon Lee
  BA in in International Relations & Political Science, Minors in Business Analytics & Economics

- Joshua Sapp
  BA in International Relations, Minor in Political Science

- Bryan Suarez
  BA in International Relations & Political Science

- Juan Valletta
  BA in International Relations & Hospitality Management, Minor in Logistics & Supply Chain Management

- Danny Vazquez Tarrau
  BA in International Relations

UNDERGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN EUROPEAN & EURASIAN STUDIES

- The undergraduate 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 certificate program is only open to all degree-seeking students enrolled at FIU.

- Since Fall 2021, the certificate is also open to the students who are enrolled in an online degree-seeking.

- Since Spring 2001, 244 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 (12 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.

- For more information on the program, visit the following page:
  [http://europe.fiu.edu/certificate-programs/undergraduate-advising/](http://europe.fiu.edu/certificate-programs/undergraduate-advising/)

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN EUROPEAN & EURASIAN STUDIES

- For more information on the requirements, visit the following page:
  [https://europe.fiu.edu/certificate-programs/graduate-certificate-program/requirements/](https://europe.fiu.edu/certificate-programs/graduate-certificate-program/requirements/)
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Jan. 4  H.E. Michael Adler, US Ambassador to Belgium
Jan. 19  Conversation on Europe: Decolonizing the Curriculum in Europe
Jan. 23-28  FIU's 7th Holocaust and Genocide Awareness Week
Jan. 26  MEET-EU Filmmaker-in-Residence Simon Elvás, Film Screening & Discussion
Jan. 28-Feb.3  MEET EU: Pittsburgh EU Film Festival 2022
Feb. 16  Conversation on Europe: Decolonizing European Museums
Feb. 24  MEET EU—European Expert Career Panel—European Internship Opportunities
March 16  Conversation on Europe: Reparations to the Victims of Colonial Violence
March 23  MFJMCE Conference: Societal Inclusion and Social Diversity
March 31-April 2  Midwest Model EU Competition
April 18  Conversation on Europe: Whose France and Whither Europe? Elections in France
May 19-21  EUSA 17th Biennial Conference “Recovery and Reconnection: European Integration against the Tide”

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