



European and Eurasian Studies Program

NEWSLETTER

Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence

Volume 4, Issue 2 — Spring-Summer 2022

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SPRING-SUMMER 2022 Highlights



Markus Thiel
Director, MFJMCE



Christine I. Caly-Sanchez
Associate Director, MFJMCE & EESP

Dear friends,

We're happy to share with you our Spring-Summer 2022 newsletter, which provides a good overview of the many events and activities we hosted at our European & Eurasian Studies Program and the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence. Since January, we have hosted 37 virtual and five in-person events.

Highlights include our MEET-EU European Experts Career Panels; the Model EU, our annual Jean Monnet EU Conference on Societal Inclusion and Societal Diversity in Europe; the Celebration of Europe Day; the EUSA 17th Biennial Conference in Miami; the Conversations on Europe “Europe creating Europe” series with the University of Pittsburgh; the conversation on Transatlantic Relations in a Global Environment, by Dutch Ambassador to the United States, His Excellency André Haspels; and the interview on the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union with Consul General of France, Vincent Floreani.

We also were active with our EU Jean Monnet in the USA network, where we were able to connect with experts on Europe via virtual roundtables. Last but not least, in solidarity with Ukraine, we organized different virtual discussions with faculty on the war in Ukraine.

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

Finally, we wanted to bring you to Europe with the faculty and students who went to Genoa, Italy, and Budapest and Turkey this summer.

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

Sincerely,

Christine I. Caly-Sanchez
Markus Thiel



MEET EU

an initiative by
UNC-Chapel Hill
University of Pittsburgh
Florida International University

MEET EU

VIRTUAL EUROPEAN EXPERT CAREER PANELS



February 24 and April 21, 2022

“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](#)

During Spring 2022, our Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence hosted two “[MEET EU - European Expert Career Panels](#),” entitled “EU/ European Opportunities in Washington D.C.” and “Young Professionals share their Experiences Working in a European Context.”

In addition, we hosted **Simon Elvås, the 2022 MEET EU Emerging EU Filmmaker in Residence** from April 11 to 15 in Miami.

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](#).



EUROPEAN EXPERT CAREER PANEL

Thursday February 24, 2022 | 2:00 pm—3:15 p.m. ET | GTKE Webinar

MEET EU

Thursday, April 21, 2022 | 2:00 - 3:15 p.m. | Virtual



Attribution: Gustaf Fagerberg
Behind the scenes on Elvås’ graduation film, *A Swedish Defence*.

By Ernesto Fiocchetto and Christine I. Caly-Sanchez



MEET EU EUROPEAN EXPERT CAREER PANELS

EU/European Opportunities in Washington D.C.

February 24, 2022 | Virtual



On February 24, our Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence hosted a virtual panel as part of the MEET EU initiative. This panel was designed to highlight European employment and internship opportunities in the private or public sectors and diplomacy in Washington DC. Experts spoke about their experiences and advised students and alumni about the many chances in Washington DC.

The panelists were Amber Cassady, Senior Associate at Lewis-Burke Associate, LLC, Eric M. Feldman, Associate Director at FIU Washington DC, and Alastair Hamilton, Associate Director of Alumni Relations and Career Services at the Pitt Washington Center for the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA) at the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Markus Thiel, Director of the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence at FIU, moderated the virtual panel.

Amber Cassady went through her career path and focused on what she did in Europe concerning European politics and how she arrived in Washington DC. She showed that there are endless roadmaps to a career in politics, whether that be EU-focused politics or international politics.

Eric M. Feldman’s presentation revolved around finding an internship and explained why DC is an ideal city for International and European Affairs. He gave precious advice to the audience by highlighting the importance of proactively researching internship information from relevant organizations and networking.

Lastly, Alastair Hamilton elaborated on his role as the Associate Director of Alumni Relations and Career Services for GSPIA in DC and detailed all the opportunities that such a center offers to the students in that city.

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.

- ▶ For more information on FIU in DC and Internships, [click here](#)
- ▶ For more information on Pittsburgh GSPIA in DC, [click here](#)
- ▶ European Parliament Liaison Office in Washington DC, [click here](#)



- ▶ To watch video recording, [click here](#)
- ▶ To view bios’ panelists, [click here](#)
- ▶ To view flyer, [click here](#)



MEET EU EUROPEAN EXPERT CAREER PANELS

Young Professionals share their Experience

Working in European Context | April 21, 2022 | Virtual



Ian Schreiber-Altamirano



Isabella Venturini



Moderator: Renata Urban



Juan Debesa



Alex Alibrandi

Panelists:

- Alex Alibrandi
- Juan Debesa
- Ian Schreiber-Altamirano
- Isabella Venturini

On April 21, the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence hosted the second installment of the MEET EU-European Expert Career Panel of the Spring term. This panel made up of young FIU professionals, provided first-hand experiences from the student perspective regarding European work settings, including legal, cultural, and other human resources differences. Dr. Markus Thiel, Director of the MFJMC, welcomed the virtual audience and introduced the moderator for this panel, Ms. Renata Urban, an Intercultural Coach, Language and Communication Skills Trainer, and founder of Urban Training and Services, Inc.

The first panelist was **Alex Alibrandi**, an FIU Alumni (Spring 2019) who arrived from Italy, his home country, and is Sales and Marketing Associate at Bozzuto Group. He told the audience about his background, the places he has studied and worked abroad, including Spain and Argentina, and some of his experiences during his academic training.

The second panelist was **Juan Debesa**, FIU Alumni (Spring 2020), who is now pursuing a Master of Science in Information & Communications Technology at the University of Denver, specializing in Information Systems and Cybersecurity. Born in Cuba and raised in Miami, Juan completed his undergraduate studies in History and International Relations at FIU, where he also earned a Certificate in European & Eurasian Studies in Spring 2020. He narrated his experiences working at the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, FIU, and highlighted his internship at the [Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities \(HACU\)](#) at the [Library of Congress in Washington D.C.](#) and his fellowship at the Department of States that other students could consider as they progress in their studies.

Next, **Ian Schreiber-Altamirano**, FIU Alumni (Summer 2017), Renewal Manager at DocuSign, and MBA Candidate at Nova Southeastern University took the floor. He highlighted how his path at FIU and the opportunity to study at the [Université Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne](#), live with a French family in Paris, and work in France at [MICEFA](#) helped him become what he is today. He strongly encouraged attendees to consider internships abroad as a meaningful step in their academic path.

Lastly, **Isabella Venturini**, FIU Alumni (Fall 2019) and Graduate Student in the MS in Security Studies Program at Georgetown University, shared her experience abroad as an international exchange student at Science Po Aix, and the different international internships she carried out in the US. She emphasized how important the decision to work while studying was for her career and stressed her experience as an intern at the Consulate General of France in Miami, [the Department of Justice's Office of International Affairs](#), the [European Parliament Liaison Office in Washington, DC](#), the Office of Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia, and [the Congressional Hispanic Caucus in Washington D.C.](#)

The panel finished with a Q&A session. Again, the audience 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.



- ▶ To watch video recording, [click here](#)
- ▶ To view flyer, [click here](#)
- ▶ To view bios' panelists, [click here](#)

MEET EU

an initiative by
UNC-Chapel Hill
University of Pittsburgh
Florida International University

MEET EU

Meet our MEET EU Emerging Filmmaker
Simon Elvås, Swedish Filmmaker



Attribution: Gustaf Fagerberg
Behind the scenes on Elvås' graduation film, *A Swedish Defence*.

In Spring 2022, we were honored to welcome film director **Simon Elvås**, the 2022 MEET EU Emerging EU Filmmaker in Residence, to our Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence. Elvås is a filmmaker from Sweden, working with themes about masculinity and shame within the subjects of the climate crisis and Swedish weapon export. Simon studied the bachelor's program in directing fiction at the Stockholm Academy of Dramatic Arts.

In partnership with our Jean Monnet Center of Excellence at FIU and the Center for European Studies at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, the European Studies Center at the University of Pittsburgh launched a range of activities under the initiative "MEET EU: Making Encounters, Engaging Transatlanticists," including hosting an emerging EU virtual filmmaker resident.

Elvås applied with "*A Swedish Defence*," a short film that explores the intersection of politics, protest, and culture. This satirical drama is about a Swedish weapons engineer and his anti-war activist daughter and a protest that interrupts an international arms deal. A Turkish military delegation is visiting Sweden, and the weapon engineer Josef has been entrusted with selling the new Swedish weapon system. Joseph's 16-

year-old daughter Nadia is a peace activist, and together with her friends, she is determined to stop the arms deal. When Josef can't find his keycard, chaos and family quarrels break out in the middle of world politics.

Our Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence organized activities with Simon Elvås, both virtual and in-person, during the Spring term.



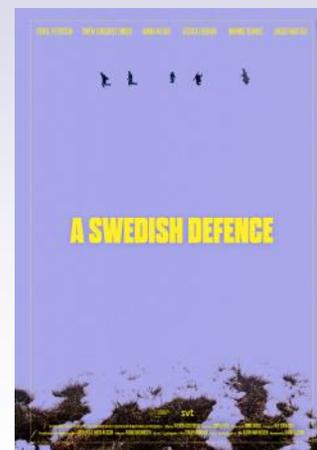
Attribution: Gustaf Fagerberg



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-)

INSPIRATIONS
- Claire Denis, *Beau Travail* (1991)
- Leos Carax, *The Lovers on the Bridge* (1991)
- Kelly Reichardt, *Old Joy* (2006)



► For more info. on the Resident Filmmaker Simon Elvås, [click here](#)

MEET EU

an initiative by
UNC-Chapel Hill
University of Pittsburgh
Florida International University

MEET EU

MEET EU Emerging Filmmaker-in-residence
followed by a Screening of his Movie | 01/26/22



On January 26, we hosted a virtual meeting with Elvås for a conversation on Sweden, Europe, and Global Security. He presented his short film "A Swedish Defence" to the virtual audience. After the film, the students, professors, and other participants joined Simon in a free-flowing discussion about American perceptions of Sweden, Swedish national identity, the filmmaking process, and more. Simon also shared his projects for the following years. During the residency, he has been working on a feature-length film that investigates issues surrounding a Swedish weapon deal with Thailand that started in 2006 and ended in 2013.

The audience engaged in an exciting conversation based on the short film and Simon's comments. The event was organized together with the student association Sigma Iota Rho Honor Society for International Studies.

- ▶ To view flyer, [click here](#)
- ▶ To watch trailer of Simon Elvås' A Swedish Defense, [click here](#)
- ▶ To view pictures, [click here](#)



A Swedish Defence by Filmmaker Simon Elvås

MEET EU

an initiative by
UNC-Chapel Hill
University of Pittsburgh
Florida International University

MEET EU

MEET EU Emerging Filmmaker-in-residence followed by a Screening of his Movie | 01/26/22



From April 11 to 15, Simon Elvås visited Florida International University. During these days, he participated in several events organized by our Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence. He had the possibility to meet professors and students to present and discuss "A Swedish Defence." He also visited the FIU museums, met with filmmakers and people related to the film industry in Miami, and participated in panel discussions at the MMC campus.

We are very proud of Simon and his extraordinary artwork. We met a brilliant and compelling director, a critical thinker, and a wonderful human being. We are happy to be part of his residence in the US and hope that our contribution will help him with his future career.

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

On Wednesday, April 13, our Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence hosted a free event open to all FIU students and the public. The audience had the opportunity to meet Elvås and watch, along with the filmmaker, his satirical short film. After the screening of the film, the audience engaged in a very productive conversation about different topics related to Elvås' work.



Simon Elvås with FIU students and Professor Maria Krol

MEET EU

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UNC-Chapel Hill
University of Pittsburgh
Florida International University

MEET EU

Spring 2022 MODEL EUROPEAN UNION



University of Pittsburgh Model EU Feb. 18-19, 2022



West Coast Model EU March 4-5, 2022

The Model European Union (MEU) is a simulation of the EU decision-making process that takes place every year bringing together undergraduate students from across the United States. Participants replicate the work of the European institutions in the European Parliament, discussing controversial, real-life issues. During the conference, students play the roles of representatives of EU Member State delegations, and negotiate diverse issues of concern for their country in order to achieve consensus on significant resolutions for the Union.

Florida International University Model EU team consisted of five undergraduate students, including Lauren Cibrian Castro, Salome Otarashvili, Rita Kanazeh, Matthew Kertesz, and Shalva Otarashvili. The training sessions were organized by Ernesto Fiocchetto, Graduate Assistant at our center with the collaboration of Dr. Markus Thiel, Director of the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence. During Spring 2022, the team participated in three MEU conferences. The team had an outstanding performance and were awarded individually and as a delegation.

From February 18 to 19, the University of Pittsburgh's European Studies Center hosted the virtual MEU to address issues on "Deepening Integration and Rekindling the Transatlantic Partnership To Tackle Global Threats." The delegates discussed resolutions

about climate change, the Digital Europe Programme, and the EU-US Partnership. Our team represented **Austria** (Matthew Kertesz), **Czechia** (Rita Kanazeh), and **Spain** (Lauren Cibrian Castro). After a remarkable performance, **Matthew Kertesz received the awards as Best Delegate and Best Position Paper.**

The West Coast Model EU was organized from March 4 to 5 by the University of Washington, Seattle, WA. At this virtual event, the agenda Heads of Government included the Western Balkans Accession to the EU and the Ukraine Engagement Process. Meanwhile, Environment Ministers addressed the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and the Digital Economy Growth Proposal. The team represented **Belgium** (Lauren Cibrian Castro), **Bulgaria** (Shalva Otarashvili and Salome Katsia), and **Germany** (Matthew Kertesz). The judges recognized the performance of our students and awarded **Matthew Kertesz as the Best Head of Government for his performance as the Federal Chancellor of Germany.**





MEET EU



Spring 2022 MODEL EUROPEAN UNION

Indiana University –Bloomington, IN—March 30-April 2, 2022



At the Midwest Model EU at Indiana University | March 31-April 2: Shalva, Salome, Lauren, and Matthew

Lastly, the team took part in the **in-person Midwest Model EU from March 31 to April 2**. The event was hosted and organized by the Institute for European Studies at **Indiana University Bloomington, IN**. The MEU team travelled to Indiana with Mrs. Christine Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director, Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence.

On this occasion, the FIU delegation represented **Belgium** and was formed by Matthew Kertesz (Head of the Delegation), who chaired the European Council, Shalva Otarashvili (Foreign Minister), Lauren Cibrian Castro (Environment Minister), and Salome Katsia (Home Affairs Minister). During the training sessions, the delegation prepared resolutions and directives that were discussed during the event.

Over 160 college and university students met during 3 days. The students prepare for months for this prestigious simulation competition representing EU member states and the European Commission as they work together to advance the mission of the EU. The 2022 edition included the presence of the Consul General of France in Chicago and the European Parliament Liaison Office in Washington D.C.

Over 160 college and university students met from March 31 to April 2 for the Midwest Model EU annual event organized by Indiana University's Institute for European Studies in Bloomington, IN.

INDIANA MEMORIAL UNION



Indiana Memorial Union—Indiana University, Bloomington, IN

MEET EU

an activity by
EESP-Florida FIU
University of Birmingham
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MEET EU

Midwest Model EU Indiana University in Bloomington, IN



Matthew Kertesz, President of the European Council



Shalva Otarashvili at the Foreign Affairs meeting



Matthew Kertesz with the European Council group





MEET EU: MODEL EUROPEAN UNION

2022 Students' Testimonials



The members of the team shared with us their experiences during the events and the significance of their participation in the MEU for their personal and professional life.



Matthew Kertesz

BA in Political Science (Spring 2022)
Certificate in European & Eurasian Studies

As a graduating senior, joining Model EU was the best decision I could have made. In addition to solidifying my career interests in International Affairs and European Politics, participating in Model EU allowed me to further develop my research and analytical skills, as well as my global intercultural fluency. Throughout this semester, I had the opportunity to foster valuable connections with both students and faculty. These connections were made here at FIU as well as with students and faculty of other prestigious universities from across the United States and will be extremely valuable as I move forward in my academic and professional careers.

Across the various conferences that our team participated in, we had the opportunity to engage with topics that are relevant to the most current and pressing EU priorities. Through deep and productive negotiations with our fellow delegates, we were able to deliver resolutions and directives that worked to satisfy the interests of all parties involved. This semester, our team had the chance to represent the interests of a variety of EU member states. Personally, I was able to represent the interests of Austria, Germany, and Belgium. Acting on behalf of all three of these countries presented their own sets of unique challenges and opportunities. While representing Germany, I had the unique responsibility of expressing the interests of the EU's most powerful and influential member state. This facilitated the chance for me to take on a true leadership role as we worked towards reaching agreements on the various agenda items. Furthermore, as the delegate representing Belgium on the European Council, I was able to build on my previous leadership experience by embracing Belgium's role as President of the European Council. As a first experience chairing a council of this sort, my expectations were somewhat uninformed. However, from the moment the conference began, I had a wonderful time and was truly grateful for the chance to lead the discussion throughout the weekend. My fellow delegates were nothing but supportive and were integral in facilitating a productive conference in which we came together on a variety of current issues despite the existence of real and broad disagreement. By maintaining our commitment to the EU's values of solidarity, we kept our

focus on bridging our differences through a dedication to dynamic and respectful negotiation.

Prior to joining FIU's Model EU team, I hoped to gain valuable experience in the effort to debate and ultimately deliver effective and necessary legislation. Additionally, I expected to participate in an environment in which myself and my other teammates could work alongside likeminded students and assist each other in our pursuit to improve upon a variety of vital skills such as problem-solving, negotiation, teamwork, and leadership. After reflecting upon my experience, I can say with confidence that participation in Model EU facilitated and surpassed each of my expectations. I feel confident that I am walking away with a much-refined ability to research, analyze, and represent a broad set of viewpoints, and feel more confident than ever in the pursuance of my post-graduate academic and professional ambitions. I greatly appreciate the opportunity provided by FIU's Jean Monnet European Center of Excellence, as well as the invaluable support provided by our faculty advisors.



Rita Kanazeh

BS in Biological Sciences (Fall 2022)
BA in International Relations (Fall 2022)
Honors College
Certificate in Middle East and Muslim World Studies
Global Learning Medallion

I joined Model EU in sole coincidence, after a former Model EU member told me about the influential experience and it was a grand decision I pursued during my senior year at FIU. Although, I was hesitant to officially join the team because I didn't have experience in debating and negotiating. The beauty about it was that I gained these skills in our pre-sessions and in the model debates themselves. Within the model, I learned how these debates occur, the terminology used, and rules. I previously learned briefly about the European Union from Dr. Thiel's class on International Organizations, but actually living through it, its implications, as well as applying these skills within the model vastly different than just interpreting the textbook about this particular organization. Given the very brief knowledge I had before joining FIU's Model EU about the European Union, it didn't mean that I couldn't serve as a future delegate, but instead opened a new challenge and opportunity to broaden my understandings of this specific regional organization. As an international relations student, I believe it is important to have some degree of knowledge of what is happening politically, economically, socially in all regions of the world. Sometimes we tend to focus on one area, make it our forte,

MEET EU

an initiative by
 UMC-Chapel Hill
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 Florida International University

MEET EU: MODEL EUROPEAN UNION 2022 Students Testimonials



and forget other parts of the globe in this interconnected world. Thus, Model EU was the reason I grew professionally and academically. Looking back at my initial decision to join, I'm glad I took this route and didn't get intimidated from my lack of experience. I definitely recommend Model EU to anyone wanting to immerse themselves in a professional framework, enhance their public speaking skills, get out of their comfort zone, and most importantly, to learn, as education is the only discipline which moves us forward.

In my first model, at the University of Pittsburgh Model EU, I served as the Head of Government of Czechia. I really got a glimpse of how difficult it is to come to final decisions when countries are trying to implement policies, even in a setting where European core values and goals are quite aligned politically and economically. Serving as a delegate, I had to be quick and bold with my information and ideas and how to utilize them to sway decisions in favor of my country, Czechia. I embodied myself in the ideology of a Czechian politician and acted as they would respond, formed my strategic allies, and did what was in my best interest as a delegate of Czechia when debating the matters of "Protecting our climate and digital transformation, Digital Europe Programme and Cyber Threats, and EU-US gv". Lastly, I want to thank faculty advisors: Ernesto, Dr. Thiel, and Christine for preparing the team and teaching us about the works of the Model and of the European Union in addition to guiding us with the strategic methods of negotiation and debating. I raise a gratitude to their support which was all possible from the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet European Center of Excellence at FIU.



Lauren Cibrian

BA in International Relations and
 Political Science (Fall 2023)

In my first semester at FIU, as a transfer student, I learned about the Model EU program in Dr. Thiel's EU politics class. He stated that at the end of the semester, he would select the best five students in his class to participate in the program without having to go through the interview process. I received the email from Dr. Thiel at the start of the Spring semester and quickly expressed my interest in joining the team. I was really interested at the time in gaining a thorough understanding of the European Union and its functions. After attending the three conferences (Pittsburgh, West Coast, and Midwest), I am certain that I have accomplished my goal of learning more about the European Union and its politics. It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to walk in the shoes of EU policymakers and heads of state, and it gave me a better

understanding of how tough it is to represent a country's interests while trying to reach an agreement with 27 other countries on global concerns. I was hesitant to join the team at first because I had no prior experience, but Dr. Thiel, Ernesto, and Christine provided excellent training, preparation, and support throughout the semester. Overall, I am grateful for everything they did for the team and will undoubtedly return next year. As a result of this experience, I can confidently state that I have grown both personally and professionally. I met some amazing people and made some valuable professional connections. Professionally, it broadened my experience dealing with global issues and guided me in shaping the direction I want to pursue in my field of study. I learned public speaking, negotiating, and conflict resolution skills among other things. These abilities will undoubtedly benefit my professional career and having the opportunity to learn in such a wonderful environment was well worth the effort.



Salome Katsia

BA in International Relations and
 Political Science (Fall 2023)

I am Salome Katsia a soon to be junior at Florida International University, Studying International Relations.

Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence gave me the opportunity to become a member of the Model European Union team. Since my early teens I have been eagerly participating in Model UN and EU which makes me extremely excited for every single event we participate in. It is an honor to be continuing what I have started doing in middle school back at home. I have already participated in two Model EUs one of them being fully online on March 4-5 and finally traveling to Indianapolis on March 31-April 2, 2022, for the second one. We have done an amazing job at filling the real EU policymakers legacy with the help of our amazing mentoring team. Ernesto has helped us immensely. He has been extremely supportive all thought-out. Christine, who accompanied us did a great job at both support and organization of the whole trip. It has been an absolute pleasure to work with the whole team and I am looking forward to what is next to come.

Congratulations to Lauren Cibrian Castro, Salome Katsia, Rita Kanazeh, Matthew Kertesz, and Shalva Otarashvili. We are so proud of you! Go Panthers!!!!

► Testimonials, [click here](#)



MEET EU: Teach EU

The Brussels –Lux Study Tour

June 12 -July 3, 2022



K-12 teachers in Brussels—Summer 2022

After two years of postponement, the Brussels Study Tour took place again this summer 2022. The tour provides a week-long, guided opportunity for a cohort of approximately twenty-five K-12 educators from across the nation to learn about the European Union and its institutions, and offered a content workshop to help educators develop EU-focused lesson plan. Many of the participating teachers were sponsored by European studies centers at University of Pittsburgh, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence at Florida International University, and American universities, and teach a variety of subjects to different grade levels of students.

The Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence selected nine Florida high school and middle school teachers from Miami-Dade, Broward, Alachua, Orange, and Palm Beach counties who were lucky to join one of the three tours that took place this summer from June 12 to June 19; from June 19 to June 26; and from June 26 to July 3.

During the tour, the teachers visited several EU institutions in Brussels including the European Commission, the European Parliament, the European External Action Services (EEAS), the European Council, and the Court of Justice of the European Union in Luxembourg. The teachers were fortunate to have their tour week coincide with several important events in EU politics, such as Sweden and Finland joining NATO and the announcement of member state candidate status being awarded to Ukraine and Moldova. They were lucky to meet with EU representatives who answered their questions on data privacy, security and defense, climate change, and have a better understanding on the process of how the Parliament and the Council work together.

The study tour emphasized the importance of the transatlantic relationship

The Brussels Study Tour 2022 was the result of a collaboration between European studies centers at University of Pittsburgh, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence at Florida International University with contributions from partner institutions such as the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and the University of Illinois.

By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez



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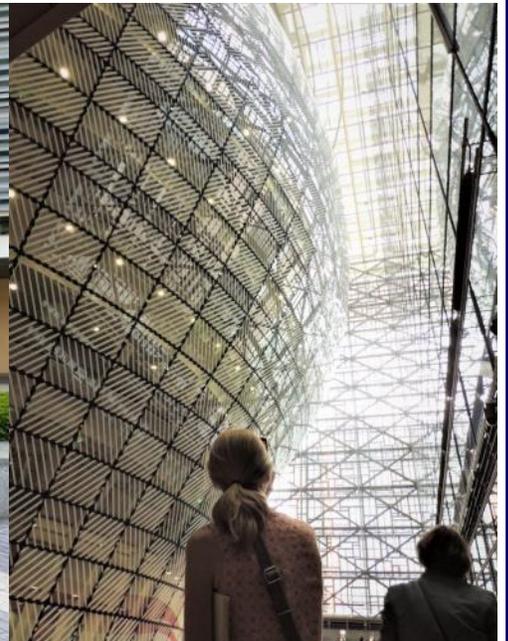
MEET EU: Teach EU

The Brussels –Lux Study Tour

June 12 -July 3, 2022



The European Commission



The European Council



The European Commission



The Court of Justice of the European Union in Luxembourg



The European Parliament



The Court of Justice of the European Union in Luxembourg



Virtual Conversations on Europe Spring 2022



Allyson Delnore



Louie Dean Valencia



Mohammed Bamyed



Rowena Arshad



Pawel Lewicki

January 19, 2022: Reckoning with the Past I: Decolonizing the Curriculum in Europe

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. This year's theme is "Recovering Europe."

During Spring 2022, 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 Spring 2022, sessions considered different, and often uneven, attempts to reckon with and recover from the enduring legacies of European colonialism. The series were bookended by sessions devoted to important elections impacting Europe. We connected with experts on Europe via videoconference for four conversations:

- Reckoning with the Past I: Decolonizing the Curriculum in Europe (January 19)
- Reckoning with the Past II: Decolonizing European Museums (February 16)

- Reckoning with the Past III: Reparations to the Victims of Colonial Violence (March 16)
- The French Election: What is at Stake (April 20)

You will find below a summary of the topics addressed in each Conversation, the links to the panelists' bios, flyers, and videos.

January 19, 2022: "Reckoning with the Past I: Decolonizing the Curriculum in Europe"

This first installment of the Conversations on Europe took place on January 19. Reckoning with the past in Europe often means reckoning with a legacy of colonialism. In the U.S. and Europe, student demands to remove statues celebrating Civil Wars generals or colonialists from the campus have been followed by a broader call to systematically decolonize the entire curriculum. But what does this mean? How have European universities responded? These were some questions our panel of experts tried to answer.

The Conversation was moderated by Dr. Allyson Delnore, University of Pittsburgh.

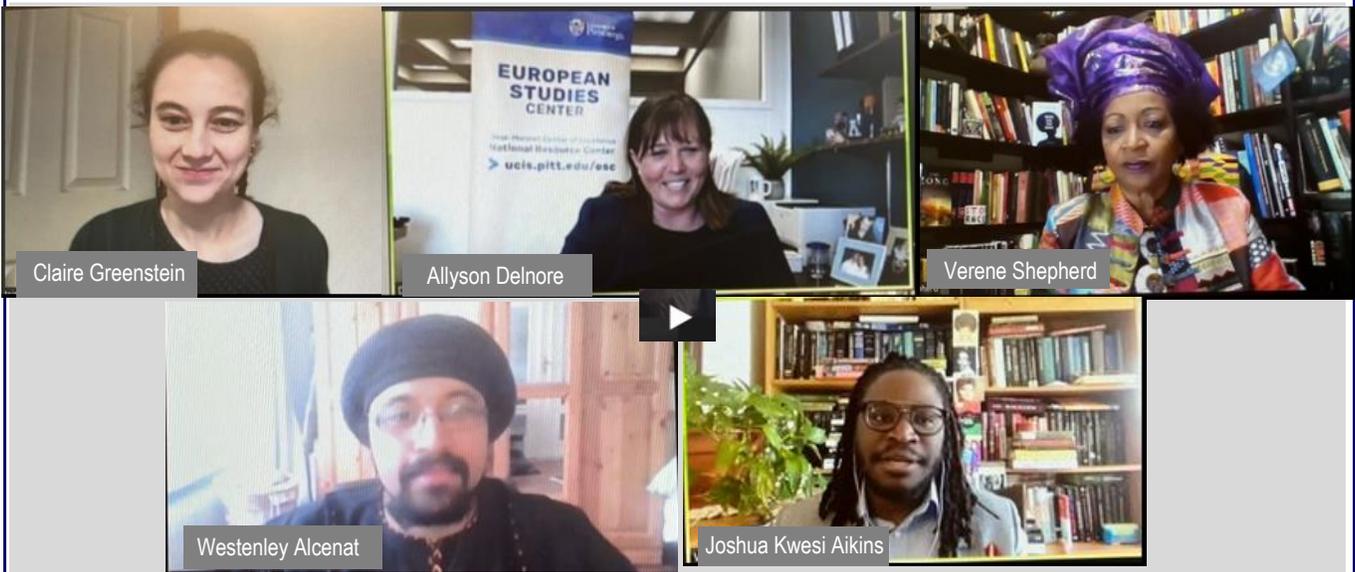
Four experts joined in the discussion, including:

- Dr. [Rowena Arshad](#), Professor Emerita, University of Edinburgh;
- Dr. [Mohammed Bamyed](#), Professor of Sociology and Religious Studies, University of Pittsburgh;

▶ To watch Jan. 19, 2022 "Reckoning with the Past I: Decolonizing the Curriculum in Europe", [click here](#)



Virtual Conversations on Europe Spring 2022



March 16, 2022: Reckoning with the Past III: Reparation to the Victims of Colonial Violence

- Dr. [Louie Dean Valencia](#), Assistant Professor of Digital History and Coordinator of the Center for Public History, Texas State University;
- Dr. [Pawel Lewicki](#), Research Associate, Europa-Universität Viadrina.

Feb. 16, 2022: “Reckoning with the Past II: Decolonizing European Museums”

On Feb. 16, for the second Conversations on Europe of the semester, our experts’ discussion revolved around at what it means to decolonize museums, how the issues at stake differ across Western and Eastern Europe, and what barriers exist. How do we measure success? Our interdisciplinary panel tackled those questions. The roundtable was moderated by Dr. [Maureen Porter](#), Associate Professor Anthropologist of education, School of Education, University of Pittsburgh, and the experts that took part in the conversation included:

- Dr. [Dan Hicks](#), Professor of Contemporary Archaeology University of Oxford, Curator at the Pitt Rivers Museum, and a Fellow of St Cross College
- [Sumaya Kassim](#), Writer/Independent Researcher, co-curator for Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery’s exhibition ‘Birmingham and the British Empire: The Past is Now’ (2017-18)
- Dr. [Erica Lehrer](#), Sociocultural anthropologist and curator, Professor in the Departments of History and Sociology-Anthropology, Founding Director of the Curating and Public Scholarship Lab (CaPSL) Concordia University, and
- Dr. [Aline Nyirahumure](#), Coordinator, [KUUMBA](#), (The Flemish-African house Kuumba)

March 16, 2022: “Reckoning with the Past III: Reparations to the Victims of Colonial Violence.”

The third Conversation on Europe of the semester was held on March 16. Colonialism in the eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth centuries left legacies of violence, displacement, and economic underdevelopment with which European states and countries formerly under European control continue to reckon. How are damages calculated? Will restitution and recompense lead to reconciliation and social justice? The roundtable was moderated by Dr. Allyson Delnore, University of Pittsburgh, and the panelists who tackled the above questions and helped better understand the complexity of this critical issue were:

- Dr. [Verene A. Shepherd](#), Professor of Social History, Director of the Centre for Reparation Research, University of West Indies in Mona;
- Dr. [Claire Greenstein](#), Assistant Professor, Dept. of Political Science and Public Administration, University of Alabama-Birmingham;
- [Joshua Kwesi Aikins](#), Political Scientist, Human Right Activist, PhD student, University of Kassel;
- Dr. [Westenley Alcenat](#), Assistant Professor Dept. of History, Fordham University .

April 20, 2022: “The French Election: What is at Stake?”

For the final session in the Spring series on Conversations on Europe, the interactive virtual roundtable discussion revolved around the French Election. On April 10th, France held a presidential election putting

▶ To watch Feb. 16, 2022. *Reckoning with Past II: Decolonizing European Museums*, [click here](#)

▶ To watch March 16, 2022 *Reparation to the Victims of Colonial Violence*, [click here](#)



Conversations on Europe Spring 2022



Allyson Delnore



Philippe Marliere



Arthur Goldhammer



Jean Beaman

April 20, 2022: The French Election: What is at Stake?

ideologies, personalities, and the future of France on the ballot. A run-off will be held on April 24th if no one secures a majority. The last Conversations on Europe for the 2021-22 academic year focused on the ramifications of this election's outcome, how Russia's invasion of Ukraine impact the election, and how this can shape the next decade not only of France but of Europe as a whole.

Dr. Allyson Delnore moderated this fascinating panel.

The invited experts on this occasion were:

- Dr. [Jean Beaman](#), Associate Professor of Sociology, University of California, Santa Barbara;
- Dr. [Arthur Goldhammer](#), Co-chair of the European Politics Seminar and Chair of the Visiting Scholars: New Research on Europe Seminar, Center for European Studies, Harvard University;
- Dr. [Philippe Marliere](#), Professor of French and European Politics, School of European Languages, Culture and Society, University College London

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 Fall 2022.

By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez

▶ To watch April 20, 2022. *The French Election: What is at stake?* [click here](#)



▶ To view Spring 2022 Program, [click here](#)

- **January 19** – “Reckoning with the Past I: Decolonizing the Curriculum in Europe”
- **February 16** – “Reckoning with the Past II: Decolonizing European Museums “
- **March 16** – “Reckoning with the Past III: Reparations to the Victims of Colonial Violence”
- **April 20** – “The French Election: What is at Stake?”





Transatlantic Relations in a Global Environment—A conversation with

André Haspels, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the U.S.
Tuesday, March 14, 2022 | FIU



H.E. André Haspels
 Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the U.S.

On March 14, the Miami Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence was honored to receive the visit of His Excellency André Haspels, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United States. Sponsored by the Ruth K. and Shepard Broad Distinguished Lecture Series, we hosted the in-person and virtual event in collaboration with the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in the United States, the European and Eurasian Studies program at FIU, the World Affairs Council in Miami, and the Dorothea Green Lecture Series.

His Excellency André Haspels was joined by Dr. Markus Thiel, Director of the MFJMCE, to discuss “Transatlantic Relations in a Global Environment.”

In a very dynamic conversation with the audience, the Ambassador tackled diverse contemporary Dutch, European, and global issues, including the transatlantic connections between the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the US and the role of the country and the European Union in the invasion of Ukraine. He emphasized the value of the Transatlantic alliance, the core elements of the Dutch-American political and economic relationship and its historical evolution, and how we can strengthen our partnership in a shifting geopolitical environment. In agreement with the audience’s feelings, he expressed his concern about the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation.

After his presentation, his Excellency engaged in an exciting conversation with the large audience gathered in the MARC Pavilion at FIU Modesto Maidique Campus. Many others were able to follow and participate in the event via the Live Webinar. Many participants asked very interesting questions. Also, the virtual audience posted comments and inquiries that the Ambassador kindly addressed.

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.

 **To watch video, [click here](#)**

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




FIU students, faculty, and guests at FIU MARC Pavilion

André Haspels, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the U.S.

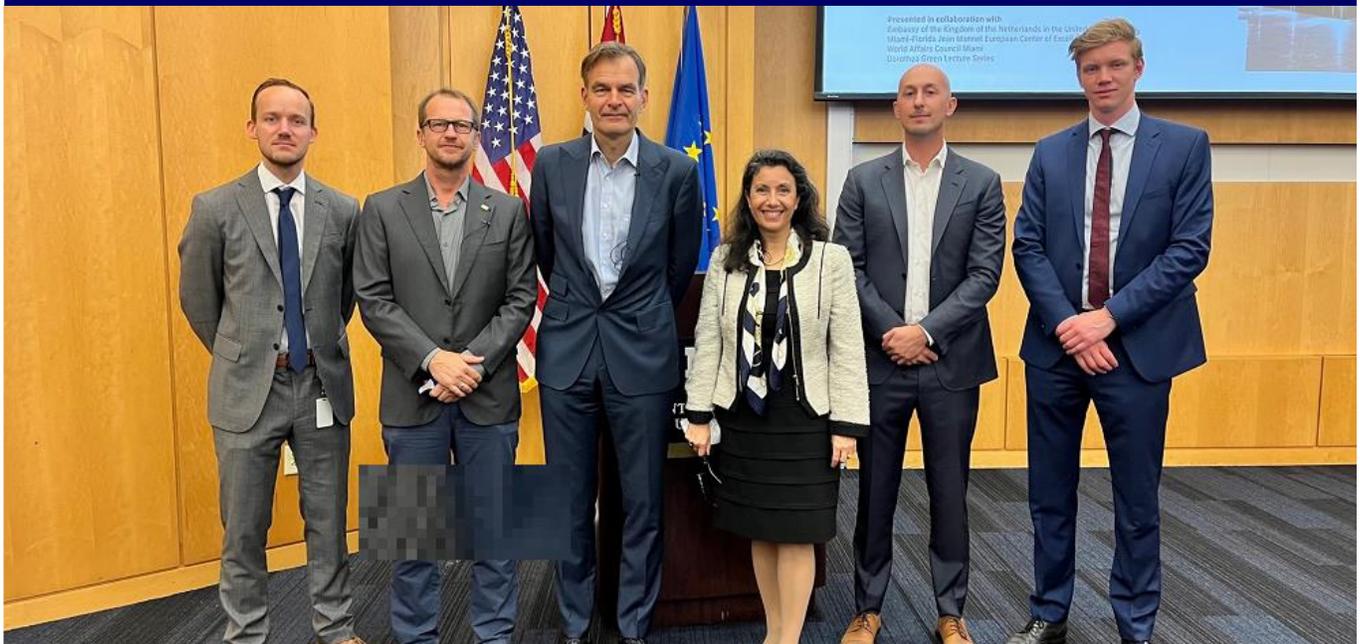


At the Q & A session with FIU Students



FIU Student with Ambassador Haspels

Consul General of Romania, Catalin Ghenea, and Ambassador Haspels



Luuke Nijman, Markus Thiel, Ambassador André Haspels, Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Aaron Rosen, and Jonas Kentson



MFJMCE CONFERENCE

Societal Inclusion and Societal Diversity in Europe
March 23, 2022 | Virtual



Markus Thiel



Mariely López-Santana



Joyce Marie Mushaben



The Miami Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence Conference is an annual event that aims to explore current issues concerning the European Union. Opened to the general public, the 2022 Conference “Societal Inclusion & Societal Diversity in Europe” was the first of a three-year conference program that explores inclusion and diversity issues from different perspectives. Societal inclusion and societal diversity are some of the key challenges in the EU in a post-pandemic age. Thus they have been highlighted as important issues for political action, including in the special “European Year of Youth 2022” and the European Diversity Month initiative. On March 23, our Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence hosted the first virtual Conference to highlight and debate the complexities surrounding societal inclusion and diversity in the EU in two panels with international experts from politics, academia, and civil society.

Dr. Markus Thiel, Associate Professor in the Department of Politics and International Relations at FIU and Director of our Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, opened the Conference. He thanked our sponsors and co-sponsors, welcomed the expert panelists, and gave the opening remarks.

Panel I revolved around a central question: **What do we talk about if we talk about inclusion and diversity in Europe?** The panel was conformed by **Dr. Mariely López-Santana**, Associate Professor and Director of the Political Graduate Program at the Schar School of Policy and Government at **George Mason University**, and **Dr. Joyce Marie Mushaben**, Adjunct Faculty member in the **BMW Center of German & European Studies** at **Georgetown University**, Curators’ Distinguished Professor of Comparative Politics (Emerita) at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, and International Advisor Board of Gender5Plus.

The panel focuses on the conceptualization of social inclusion and societal diversity in the EU, how it manifests in societal and political exclusions of ethnic, social, and gender & sexual minorities, and how these can be addressed through activism and politics.

Dr. López-Santana’s presentation helped the audience understand social inclusion and the challenges to the European Welfare States in the 21st Century. She concluded that welfare states are here to stay; however, the type of welfare states and their roles have changed significantly and are under debate during the last decades. Furthermore, EU coordination on social issues continues to be difficult given the “new” cleavages and the constant redefinition of policy agendas.

- ▶ Detailed program , [click here](#) ▶ To view bios panelists, [click here](#)
- ▶ To view flyer, [click here](#) ▶ To watch video, Panel 1 , [click here](#)

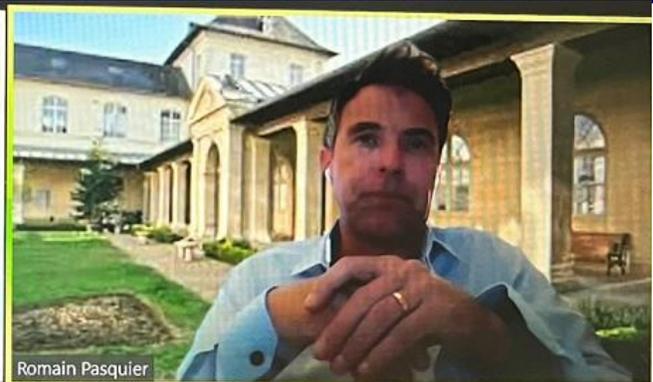


MFJMCE CONFERENCE

Societal Inclusion and Societal Diversity in Europe



Barbara Kinsey



Romain Pasquier



Markus Thiel, FIU



Nils Ringe

Dr. Joyce Marie Mushaben tackled the concept of social inclusion from a gender perspective in her presentation titled “Creating ‘A Union of Equality.’” She elaborated on women leaders in the EU, including Ursula von der Leyen, the first female president of the European Commission, among others. She highlighted what women have achieved regarding equality and the challenges that the union needs to face.

Panel II focuses in particular on ways to rectify multiple, intersectional inequalities in the EU and how to create new strategies and policies best to promote socio-political access, diminish discrimination and encourage active citizenship.

To that end, we imitated three experts, including

- **Dr. Barbara Sgouraki Kinsey**, Associate Professor at the School of Politics Security and International Affairs at the **University of Central Florida**,
- **Dr. Romain Pasquier**, a **CNRS** Research Professor (Directeur de recherche) at the “Centre de recherche sur l’action politique en Europe,” Institute of Political Studies, University of Rennes, and
- **Dr. Nils Ringe**, Professor of Political Science and Director of the Jean Monnet EU Center for Comparative Populism at the **University of Wisconsin-Madison**.

Firstly, Dr. Kinsey analyzed the electoral registration of nonwestern immigrants across municipalities in Belgium in 2006 and examined how hostile socio-political environments may affect the political participation, and thus political integration, of nonwestern immigrants.

Secondly, Dr. Pasquier elaborated on social policies in the EU. He tackled the intersections of poverty and social exclusion and the building of the specific European strategy on such matters and the challenges of the poverty multilevel governance in the EU.

Lastly, Dr. Ringe addressed the topic of political inclusion from the perspective of multilingualism and highlighted the importance of translation and interpretation for political participation and social cohesion in the EU.

We are proud of this successful event that gathered a large virtual audience. The event was sponsored by the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence at FIU. We also want to thank our co-sponsors, including the European & Eurasian Studies Program, the Politics & International Relations Department at FIU, The Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs, and #EUintheUS.

By Ernesto Fiochetto & Christine I. Caly-Sanchez

► To watch video, Panel 2 , [click here](#)



MFJMCE Lecture

Regional Integration & European-Latin American Relations under Current Political and Economic Circumstances April 6, 2022



The European Union and Latin America: winners and losers



The European Union in the World



Joaquin Roy



Markus Thiel

On April 6, the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence hosted Dr. Joaquín Roy, Jean Monnet Professor and Director of the University of Miami European Union Center of Excellence. Dr. Roy made an insightful presentation on European and Latin American Relations under Current Political and Economic Circumstances. Dr. Markus Thiel, Director of our center, welcomed the virtual audience and moderated this exciting panel.

“Why do the Latin American integration systems differ from the EU model?” This question triggered Dr. Roy’s thoughts about the issue. He compared and contrasted the EU against the Latin American integration models and analyzed the evolution of both models, the interconnections between them, the shortcomings, and contact points that may enhance the relationship

between the two regions. Lastly, he examined world factors influencing Latin America, including the Covid-19 impact and the invasion of Ukraine.

An engaging discussion between Dr. Roy and the attendees followed the presentation. The audience actively participated in the online platform and contributed provocative comments and questions that made the lecture even more enjoyable.

[To watch video, click here](#)

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



MFJMCE Lecture

Child Rights in the European Union

Between International Norms & National Jurisdiction: The Case of Child Marriages | April 12, 2022 | FIU



Drs. John Oates, Kerstin Hamann, and Markus Thiel

While child rights have become more prominent in international law and relations, there are still issues remaining with protecting minors. One significant problem is that child marriages are still allowed in many European countries and elsewhere.

On April 12, the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence welcomed Dr. Kerstin Hamann, Pegasus Professor in the School of Politics, Security, and International Affairs (SPSIA) at the University of Central Florida, Orlando. Her research highlights the complexities of finding an EU-wide solution to impede child marriages in EU member states and abroad.

She started the lecture by questioning the idea that child marriage does not occur in wealthy Western countries. She problematized child marriage by showing the

multiple intersections of the issue, including age, sex, gender, culture, and ethnicity. Her main hypotheses indicate that the more a country is embedded in the international norms regarding child marriage, the lower we expect the prevalence of child marriage to be, and women’s political power is beneficial for regulating child marriage. She explored the case of Spain to show some evidence to support her premises.

The students that attended the lecture shared their thoughts with Dr. Hamann. They made valuable comments and asked interesting questions. Thus, the audience engaged in an exciting conversation with our invited lecturer.

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



EURO CHALLENGE 2022

Euro Challenge 2022 Virtual Award Ceremony Thursday, May 19, 2021 | 4:45 p.m.—5:30 p.m. | Virtual



On May 19, W!se, the Moody's Foundation, and the Delegation of the European Union to the United States organized a virtual Award Ceremony for the High Schools that participated in the Euro Challenge Competition this year. Among the 60 American and Canadian High Schools that participated, our Florida High schools' students were recognized for their hard work and enthusiasm, and the teachers for their dedication. The Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence at FIU was also recognized for its support by the president of the Moody's Foundation, Ms. Phyllis F. Perillo; Ms. Christine Elliott, Managing Director Global Corporate Affairs, Moody's; and Michael Curtis, Deputy Ambassador of the EU to the US.

Mr. Michael Curtis, Deputy Ambassador to the Delegation of the European Union to the United States stated, "I was thoroughly impressed by the dedication and optimism displayed by the high school participants of our #EuroChallenge. My sincere congratulations to the 2022 winners: Mount Saint Mary Academy! I hope you all remain strong supporters of Europe and the EU-USA relationship. We need you."

Here are the five finalists:

- 1st place: Mount Saint Mary Academy, NJ
- 2nd place: Princeton High School, NJ
- 3rd place: Eleanor Roosevelt High School, NY
- 4th place: Georgetown Day School, DC
- 5th place: Charlotte Country Day School, NC

Congratulations to PK Young Developmental Research School, selected in Florida to compete in NY for the semi-finals and recognized at the Euro Challenge Virtual Award Ceremony.

We are proud of our Florida high schools and look forward to participating next year! Go Florida!

By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez



Isabella Lemos, Lucy Callahan, Harper Jose, Valeria Andrade, Isabella Acuna

More Information on the Euro Challenge, [click here](#)



The Russian Invasion of Ukraine as viewed by Ukrainian Scholars



Tuesday, June 7, 2022 | FIU



On June 7, the MFJMCE hosted a virtual webinar on the Russian invasion of Ukraine from the Ukrainian scholars' perspective. Two Ukrainian International Relations professors analyzed several dimensions of this conflict, including the Russian occupation of southeastern Ukraine, a.k.a. the Donbas, and Ukraine's ambition to join the European Union.

Dr. Markus Thiel, Director of our center, moderated this panel, made up of two experts, including:

- **Dr. Nataliia Kasianenko**, Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science at California State University, Fresno,
- **Dr. Roman Kalytchak**, Fulbright Scholar at George Washington University and Associate Professor in the Department of International Relations and Diplomacy at the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv.

Dr. Nataliia Kasianenko tackled the background of the war in Ukraine and discussed her area of research with a specific focus on the Donbas region and identity politics. She examined how media is used as a tool to give legitimacy to the government and how media is manipulated in order to shift and shape public opinion. She addressed the conflict in the Donbas from a historical perspective and Russia's interests in the region and beyond it. Furthermore, she focused on public opinion in the area. She argued that, according

to her ongoing research work, the majority of the people there expressed the preference to remain in Ukraine rather than being annexed to Russia, and around 10% preferred independence.

Dr. Roman Kalytchak focused on the accession of Ukraine to the EU. He discussed the different moments when Ukraine applied for membership and the responses from the Union in the past, including temporary solutions and the resistance to any agreement opening the "membership question." He also highlighted the Russian political stance on this situation, based on the country's geopolitical interests and the alleged claim of the EU's intrusion into the Russian sphere of influence to undermine its positions. Dr. Kalytchak gave a profound analysis of the current situation and his perspectives on the possible scenarios for the future of EU-Ukraine relations.

An engaging discussion between the panelists followed their presentations. The audience that actively participated in the online platform contributed provocative comments and questions that made the roundtable even more interesting.

To watch video, [click here](#)

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



MFJMCE Roundtable

May 9th: Let's Celebrate Europe Day EU recognition Award Ceremony for FIU students



Markus Thiel, Vincent Floreani, Andreas Siegel, Cristiano Musillo, Catalin Ghenea, and Sofia Ruiz del Árbol Moro

To celebrate Europe Day, the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence invited Consul General of France, Vincent Floreani; Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany, Andreas Siegel; Consul General of Italy, Cristiano Musillo; Consul General of Romania, Catalin Ghenea; and Deputy Consul General of Spain, Sofia Ruiz del Árbol Moro, to discuss with FIU students

about the importance of a strong and united European Union. All together in a panel moderated by Dr. Markus Thiel, Director, Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, they promoted democracy, freedom, equality, and human rights, without forgetting that all the EU members states are standing together with Ukraine. Among the students who attended the event, the ones



Consuls General of Italy, France, Germany, Romania, and Deputy Consul General of Spain with FIU students and faculty



MFJMCE Roundtable

May 9th: Let's Celebrate Europe Day & EU recognition Award Ceremony



Hon. Cristiano Musillo, Hon. Vincent Floreani, Markus Thiel, Lauren Cibrian, Christine Caly-Sanchez, Mrs. Sofia Ruiz del Árbol Moro, Hon. Andreas Siegel, and Hon. Catalin Ghenea

who graduated this Spring 2022 and had fulfilled all the requirements for the Certificate in European & Eurasian Studies, were proud and honored to receive their certificates from the consuls general at the recognition award ceremony. The four students who participated in

the four models EU this year were also honored and received a certificate of appreciation. After the ceremony, students, faculty and consuls general networked at a reception hosted by the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence.



Hon. Vincent Floreani, Matthew Kertesz, Mrs. Kertesz, Hon. Andreas Siegel

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



At the reception, Consul General of Romania



May 9th: Let's Celebrate Europe Day



At the International Studies Charter High School, students met Consuls General of Germany, France, Italy, and Spanish Education Advisor

On the afternoon of May 9th, Consul General of France, Vincent Floreani; Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany, Andreas Siegel; Consul General of Italy, Cristiano Musillo; Deputy Consul General of Italy, Eva Alvino; Elisa Bueno Brinkmann, Education Advisor, Consulate General of Spain; and Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director, Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, met the students from the International Studies Charter High School

and George Washington Carver Middle School to share the values of the European Union. The students were proud to meet in person with the diplomats and have their questions on the European Union answered.

By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez

► To view pictures at ISCHS, [click here](#) ► To view pictures at GW Carver, [click here](#)



At George Washington Carver Middle School, students met with Christine Caly-Sanchez, MFJMCE; Elisa Bueno Brinkmann, Spanish Consulate; Eva Alvino, Italian Consulate; Hon. Andreas Siegel, German Consulate; Hon. Vincent Floreani, French Consulate



European Union Studies Association 17th Biennial International Conference InterContinental Miami | May 19-21, 2022



More than 500 participants from the US, the EU, and other part of the world and members of EUSA participated in the conference

On May 19-21, 2022, our Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence was co-sponsored the 2022 EUSA 17th Biennial Conference, celebrated in the InterContinental Hotel in Miami. The European Union Studies Association (EUSA) is the premier scholarly and professional association focusing on the European Union, the ongoing integration process, and transatlantic relations. Founded in 1988, EUSA now has over 600 members throughout North America, all EU member states, and all continents, representing the social sciences, the humanities, business and law practitioners, news media, and governments on both sides of the Atlantic.

The 2022 conference was titled “Recovery and Reconnection: European Integration Against the Tide.” Like many other parts of the world, the European continent faces key challenges: from the post-pandemic economic recovery to climate change, from the technological transition to growing geopolitical instability and uncertainty. These challenges do not stop at the border. The Call for Papers invited scholars to submit

their work on crucial questions for Europe’s future, including how EU institutions and member state governments shape the recovery, reconnect with citizens, neighbors, and allies, and foster geopolitical relationships. During the day of the conference, more than 500 participants from the US, the EU, and other parts of the world gathered to present their papers and discuss their findings.

Our MFJMCE was actively involved both in the organization and several events before and during the conference. Thus, on May 18, Dr. Markus Thiel, Director of the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, took part in the doctoral workshop “From Conference Paper to Journal Article,” a venue for advanced Ph.D. students and early-career researchers. That same day, Christine Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director of our Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, and Ernesto Fiochetto, our Graduate Assistant, participated in the JMintheUS Coordination/Networking meeting. The meeting included brief updates from all the JM centers, the planning of some joint events in 2022 and 2023, and



JMintheUS Coordination/Networking Meeting at the Intercontinental Miami | May 18, 2022



European Union Studies Association

17th Biennial International Conference

May 19-21, 2022



Dr. Markus Thiel presented a paper based on his last published book, as part of the panel “Democracy Through the Gender’ Lens: International Experience

other topics concerning the organization and the experiences of the network.

Dr. Thiel was also one of the facilitators of the “Diversity and Inclusion Café,” hosted on May 20. The event gathered more than 20 participants interested in raising awareness of the importance of diversity and inclusion in the field of European Studies and International Relations as well as the EUSA conference itself.

It is also worth noting that Dr. Thiel presented a paper based on his last published book on May 19, as part of the panel “Democracy Through the ‘Gender’ Lens: (Inter)national Experiences.” His exciting presentation revolved around “The Promises and Pitfalls of the EU’s International Promotion of ‘Gender’ and Sexuality Rights.” Finally, our Graduate Assistant, Ernesto Fiocchetto, presented part of his research in the “Immigrant Incorporation” panel on May 21. His paper tackled “The Ambivalent Role of Faith Actors working with Latin American LGBTIQ+ Asylum Seekers in Spain.”

The 2022 conference concluded with the EUSA Awards Presentations in the Bayfront Ballroom at the Inter-Continental hotel, followed by the 2022 EUSA Conference Reception, co-sponsored by our Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence. More than 300 participants attended and enjoyed a delightful evening. On that occasion, we were honored to receive important authorities from Miami consulates, including Consul General of France, Vincent Floreani; Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany, Andreas Siegel; Consul General of Romania, Catalin Ghenea; Deputy Consul General of Italy, Eva Alvino; Honorary Consul of Monaco, Tomas Abreu; Amb. Volker Anding, German Ambassador (ret.)

For us, the 2022 EUSA Conference was an exciting experience. We could learn about cutting-edge scholarship about the EU, and it was amazing to share thoughts and opinions with many researchers from around the world who are doing exceptional work in the field. Furthermore, the conference was a great venue to stay connected to other Jean Monnet Centers in the US.

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

By Ernesto Fiocchetto & Christine I. Caly-Sanchez



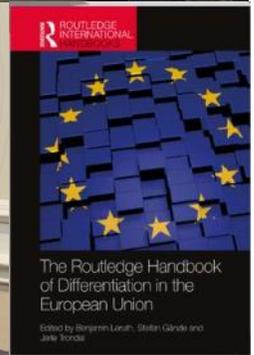
At the reception: Christine Caly-Sanchez, Tomas Abreu, Volker Anding, Eva Alvino, Andreas Siegel, Catalin Ghenea, Mrs. Ghenea



European Union Studies Association

17th Biennial International Conference

May 19-21, 2022



Intercontinental Miami | May 19-21, 2022



European Union Studies Association

17th Biennial International Conference

May 20, 2022: Reception | InterContinental Miami



At the Reception, Hon. Vincent Floreani, Consul General of France in Miami, with Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director, MFJMCE



Left picture: Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Tomas Abreu, Volker Anding, Eva Alvino, Andreas Siegel, Catalin Ghenea, Mrs. Ghenea
Right picture: Aaron Rosen, Ryan Meilak, Tomas Abreu, Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Volker Anding

MFJMCE FACULTY CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT GRANT AND FACULTY & GRADUATE STUDENT EU RESEARCH GRANTS

And the winners are...



Each year, FIU-MFJMCE hosts an annual competition that awards research and curriculum development grants to prospective faculty members from FIU and its partner institutions: University of Central Florida, University of North Florida, University of South 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.

This year, the jury committee awarded three EU research grants: one Faculty Curriculum Development Grant to a faculty member from Florida International University (FIU), **Dr. A. Douglas Kincaid**; one Faculty Research Award to a faculty member from Florida Atlantic University, **Dr. Steven D. Roper**; and one Graduate Student EU Research Award to an FIU doctoral student, **Dilara Hekimci**. Congratulations to the three recipients for their great proposals.

FACULTY RESEARCH AWARD 2022 GRANTEE



► **Dr. Steven D. Roper**, Professor, Department of Political Science, Florida Atlantic University.

Research: “EU Assistance for Managing Ukrainian Refugees: The case of Moldova.”

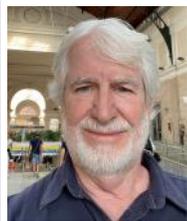
GRADUATE RESEARCH AWARD 2022 GRANTEE



► **Dilara Hekimci**, Ph.D. Candidate in Political Science, Department of Politics & International Relations, Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs, Florida International University

Research: “The Opposition Strategies towards Populism in Turkey and Hungary”

By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez



FACULTY CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT AWARD 2022 GRANTEE

► **Dr. A. Douglas Kincaid**, Associate Professor of Sociology, Department of Global and Sociocultural Studies, at Florida International University. Dr. Kincaid received this grant for his proposal titled: “Global challenges for Italy and the European Union: Questions of citizenship, identity, and the changing faces of immigration and refugees.”

- For more information on the Faculty Curriculum Development Grant, [click here](#)
- For more information on the EU Faculty & Graduate Students Research Grants, [click here](#)





MFJMCE

GRADUATE STUDENT EU RESEARCH GRANT

Interview with grantee Dilara Hekimci



Dilara Hekimci is a Ph.D. Candidate in Political Science at the Department of Politics & International Relations, Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs, Florida International University. This year, she received the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of

Excellence Graduate Student EU Research grant for her research "The Opposition Strategies towards Populism in Turkey and Hungary."

She sat down with Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director of the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, to answer a few questions about her research and her trip to Istanbul and Budapest this summer.

MFJMCE: Can you tell us a little bit about yourself and what studies you pursued at FIU?

My name is Dilara Hekimci, and I am currently a Ph.D. candidate in Political Science at the Department of Politics and International Relations. Regarding my degree, my major is comparative politics, with a minor in American politics. I have also taught comparative politics and American government classes at FIU.

MFJMCE: Can you tell us in a few words what the focus of your EU research project is?

I am writing my dissertation on the opposition strategies against incumbent populists in Turkey and Hungary, where they lead their respective countries toward more authoritarian regimes. In this regard, I am analyzing the European Union's role regarding these two countries, Turkey as a non-EU and Hungary as an EU country.

MFJMCE: What are your plans for the research you are conducting?

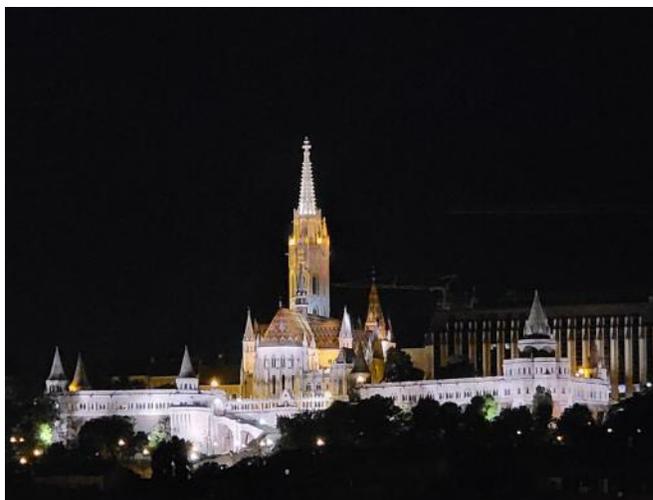
First, I will complete my dissertation. Then I plan to expand my research by including different countries to increase the analytical leverage and publish it as a book.

MFJMCE: Could you tell us about your trip in Europe, and how it has helped you for your research?

On this trip, I went to Istanbul and Budapest for my research. In Budapest, I presented a paper titled: "Opposition Strategies towards Populism in Hungary: Social Media as an Alternative?" at a conference named "The End of 'Freedom' in Central and Eastern Europe? Addressing the Challenges of an Illiberal Turn", hosted by Andrassy University. At the conference, I was chosen to moderate a public debate with three journalists about the freedom of media in Eastern and Central Europe. On this trip, I also interviewed party officials from the United opposition in Hungary and academics about the latest election results.

In Istanbul, I had a chance to attend a workshop on a project called TurkuazLab, which had been researched for over two years in various cities in Turkey to understand how to overcome polarization. In that workshop, we had focus groups, including civil society leaders, academics, and journalists, to develop policy proposals for the depolarization of politics.

Additionally, I interviewed experts from different schools and the newly appointed Ambassador of Turkey in Budapest before her term started. The Budapest conference helped me understand the country better because it was my first time visiting and gave me a better perspective while writing my dissertation. But I also created a network that helps me further my future research. Although Istanbul is my hometown, living away from it makes things harder to



Budapest, Hungary



MFJMCE GRADUATE STUDENT EU RESEARCH GRANT

Interview with grantee Dilara Hekimci



Istanbul, Turkey

understand. Talking with the experts related to my study and observing people more closely gave me a better understanding of the current situation before the election next year.

MFJMCE: How do you hope your research will contribute to the field of International Relations/ Political Science?

Previous scholarship on populism has focused on the causes and consequences of populist leadership and the spread of populist attitudes. However, this study aims to fill a gap in the literature by examining the opposition’s roles against populism. Furthermore, Turkey and Hungary have been studied as either single-case studies or as part of large datasets. However, there is no in-depth comparative study analyzing how these different countries with past legacies, institutional designs, and cultures came to have populist leaders with similar authoritarian tactics.

MFJMCE: Why do you think this research is essential to conduct at the present time? Once completed, this project “will help foster...”

To understand current strategies the opposition aims to adopt to respond to the challenges imposed by the populist in power.

MFJMCE: Do you have any last thoughts to share?

We have been experiencing democratic backsliding worldwide, and one of the key reasons is the emergence of populism. Therefore, how to overcome populism and re-democratize countries has become an essential question. I hope that my research will shed light on this issue.

By Christine I. Cally-Sanchez



Dr. Tugce Ercetin, Assistant Professor in International Relations Dept., Bilgi university, and Dilara Hemkici - Istanbul, Turkey



TurkuazLab Workshop—Bilgi University, Istanbul, Turkey



MFJMCE

GRADUATE STUDENT EU RESEARCH GRANT

Interview with grantee Dilara Hekimci



Dilara Hekimci presenting her paper “Opposition Strategies Toward Populism in Hungary” at Andrassy University, Budapest



Andrassy University, Budapest



Interview with Tugba Goktas, Academic Planning Coordinator Bahcesehir University Graduate School, Istanbul, Turkey



Dilara Hekimci with Ihsan Alpargin, General Coordinator, ULMER and School of Government and Leadership at Bahcesehir University Graduate School, Istanbul, Turkey



Dilara Hekimci with Ambassador of Turkey Gulsen Karanis



MFJMCE

2022 FACULTY EU RESEARCH GRANT

Interview with grantee Dr. Steven D. Roper



Dr. Steven D. Roper is a Professor of Political Science at Florida Atlantic University. This year, he received the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence Faculty EU Research grant for the development of his project. His proposal is entitled: “ EU Assistance for Managing Ukrainian Refugees: The Case of Moldova.”

He was kind enough to answer a few questions about his research.

work in the 1990s centered on Romania and Moldova, but over the past two decades, I have worked in several countries in Europe, Southeast Asia, and the Middle East.

MFJMCE: In a few words, can you tell us what the focus of the research project for which you received this grant is?

Like many of us, I have been deeply impacted by the war in Ukraine. The unfolding human tragedy is a humanitarian crisis and regional/global governance concern. My research project focuses on the European Union border and refugee infrastructure and its ability to assist with Ukrainian refugee processing in Moldova. There are three separate EU-based institutions functioning on the Moldovan border tasked with assisting Ukrainian refugees while at the same time monitoring for various forms of smuggling. Therefore, this research project seeks to identify whether the developing EU border infrastructure in Moldova creates overlapping jurisdictions, operational problems, and integration challenges.

MFJMCE: How did the idea for this research come up?

In conversations with Moldovan colleagues, one of the concerns was the large influx of Ukrainian refugees and the ability of Moldovan state institutions to process the individuals. Moreover, refugee crises, like this one, also create conditions for human and material smuggling as the border becomes overwhelmed and porous. Therefore, the EU border monitoring and

MFJMCE: Can you tell us a little bit about yourself?

I am Professor of Political Science at Florida Atlantic University. My work focuses on human rights, particularly human rights law and war crimes, and comparative constitutional design. My initial country

Countries neighbouring Ukraine

Country	Data Date	Individual refugees from Ukraine recorded across Europe	Refugees from Ukraine registered for Temporary Protection or similar national protection schemes	Border crossings from Ukraine*	Border crossings to Ukraine**
Russian Federation***	7/19/2022	1,745,800	Not applicable	1,745,800	Data not available
Poland	7/19/2022	1,234,718	1,234,718	4,787,154	2,751,289
Republic of Moldova	7/19/2022	86,240	Not applicable	541,323	171,803
Slovakia	7/19/2022	85,964	85,771	610,201	342,055
Romania	7/18/2022	84,527	45,530	870,241	528,256
Hungary	7/19/2022	26,932	26,932	995,637	Data not available
Belarus	7/19/2022	10,351	Not applicable	16,677	Data not available
Total		3,274,532	1,392,951	9,567,033	3,793,403

***The figure for individual refugees recorded in the country is an estimate as potential further movements or returns cannot be factored for the time being.



MFJMCE FACULTY EU RESEARCH GRANT

Interview with grantee Dr. Steven D. Roper



Refugees from Ukraine waiting to cross the border

Photo credited to the UNHCR, UN Refugee Agency (photo shows IOM credit)

assistance programs are vital for refugees fleeing Ukrainian as well as Moldovan nationals coping with housing and caring for these refugees.

MFJMCE: Why do you think your research focus on the EU is of particular interest to American students?

In the United States (US), we have an ongoing debate over border and refugee issues. Therefore, for American students, this project allows them to think about these issues outside of the US and view more broadly the humanitarian and institutional capacity issues surrounding refugee crises. The challenges that the EU and member-states face on various issues (e.g., climate change, economic insecurity, immigration and the rule of law) are the same challenges that we face in the US.

MFJMCE: Where will your research take you in the future? Do you plan to continue developing this project, or do you have others in mind?

EU border policies and institutions has emerged over

the past decade as a serious EU-wide problem, particularly in member-states such as Greece and Italy but of course also in Central Europe in countries such as Hungary. This project fits into a broader debate how the EU protects refugees and works with member-states to ensure the principle of non-refoulement while balancing state interests in maintaining control over immigration policy.

MFJMCE: Do you have any last thoughts to share?

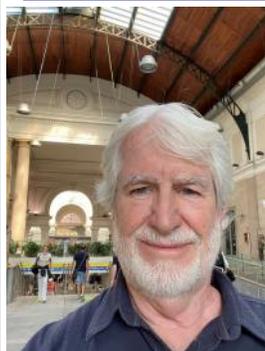
I want to thank the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence for providing me a grant to assist in my research efforts and look forward to future collaboration with the Center. Issues of concern such as immigration and refugee policy facing the EU and member-states are incredibly relevant and important to south Florida.

By Christine I. Cally-Sanchez

► For Dr. Steven D. Roper's Bio, [click here](#) 



MFJMCE
FACULTY CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT GRANT
Interview with grantee Dr. A. Douglas Kincaid



Dr. A. Douglas Kincaid is an Associate Professor of Sociology in the Department of Global and Sociocultural Studies at Florida International University. He received the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence Curriculum Development

grant this year for developing a new course in Genoa, Italy. His proposal is titled: "Global challenges for Italy and the European Union: Questions of citizenship, identity, and the changing faces of immigration and refugees." He was kind enough to answer a few questions about his proposal.

MFJMCE: Can you tell us a little bit about yourself?

I am a sociologist who has always been interested in a comparative historical approach to questions of social and political change. Earlier in my career my work focused on development issues in Latin America, more specifically the conflicts over land and agriculture that tore apart Central America during the 1960s, 70s and 80s, and then democratization processes as the conflicts subsided. More recently, as a result of administrative work in international education, I developed a strong interest in European issues of nationalism and immigration that built on some of my graduate training in US migration studies, and that led to a series of collaborative relationships with scholars at US and European universities during 1995-2010.

MFJMCE: In a few words, can you tell us what the focus of the research project for which you received this grant is?

The focus of the current project is to study contemporary problems of immigration and refugee flows within the European Union and their impact on citizenship, identity and public policy, through the lens of an Italian case study. Italy is both a gateway for such flows into Europe and a host society within which political, economic and social conflicts are playing out, and as such should provide a strong comparative base for thinking about these issues at the wider European level.

MFJMCE: How did the idea for this research come up?

The idea for this project has its roots in the collaborative work with US and European scholars that I alluded to previously. Over about 15 years we had two very productive consortia of university partners, the first called State Policy, International Migration, Foreigners and Xenophobia, and then a successor called Transnationalism, Immigration, Refugees, and the State. With grant support we carried out a number of conferences and student and faculty exchanges under those auspices. During that period much of the population movements were fueled primarily by labor market dynamics. During the last ten years or so, however, the refugee dimension of these flows has increased dramatically, with large influxes from Syria, Afghanistan, and North and West Africa. Now the war in Ukraine is contributing a new dimension. So this seems like a critical and propitious moment to reexamine these issues, again with Italy serving as a case study.



COMUNE DI GENOVA



Università degli Studi
di Genova



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MFJMCE

FACULTY CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT GRANT
Interview with grantee Dr. A. Douglas Kincaid



Genoa, Italy

MFJMCE: Your grant proposal says that you would use this research for classroom teaching in Genoa, Italy. What do you hope students will gain by attending the course you are developing?

The title of my course to be taught in Genoa is Globalization and Society. At the most general level, the objective is to provide students with critical capacities to understand the complexities of globalization and impact of globalization on our daily lives. More specifically, the study of citizenship, identity, and immigration and refugees offers a fascinating doorway to increased understanding of some of the defining global issues of our times.

MFJMCE: Why do you think the focus of your course has specific interest for students in the U.S.?

I think there are two ways in which this course will appeal to FIU students. First, there is already a strong interest among SIPA students in Europe and the EU, an interest that has been cultivated for many years now by the European and Eurasian Studies program and the Miami European Union Center of Excellence. Second, a focus on immigration, refugee, and citizenship questions resonates strongly with problems of a similar nature here in the US, so we will emphasize the importance of a comparative global approach.

MFJMCE: Where will your research take you in the future? Do you plan to continue developing this project, or do you have others in mind?

We shall see. For the moment I am excited about the opportunity to revisit and extend the work and ideas we started on many years ago. Of course, now the challenge is to get students to share this sense of excitement and discovery.

MFJMCE: Do you have any last thoughts to share?

I would only add that I have been working for some time now to develop high quality study abroad programming for FIU students, and I would like to see a much wider effort in SIPA to offer our students more and better opportunities for it.

By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez



Genoa, Italy

MFJMCE FACULTY CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT GRANT Interview with grantee Dr. A. Douglas Kincaid



Dr. Kincaid with his students in Genoa, Italy - May 15 - June 18, 2022



Food, Society, and Economy Program in Genoa, Italy—Summer 2022
Left picture: Students in Frantoio Fratelli Magnone (artisanal olive oil production) in Finale Ligure

Student trip to Genoa will inform future FIU partnership, study abroad opportunities in Italy By



Michelle Puentes and Amelia Raudales walking along the old Port of Genoa, Italy

By Clara-Merethan Kiah

June 21, 2022 at 1:45pm

How can FIU inspire its students to broaden their perspectives by experiencing the world outside Miami – say, in Italy? Recent graduate Amelia Raudales '22 and student Michelle Puentes have ideas.

The two were recently awarded a weeklong trip to Genoa, Italy, by [FIU Global](#) to experience the city’s rich culture and history; meet with local university administrators, municipal officials and business leaders; and identify opportunities for FIU students who may be interested in studying or interning abroad.

FIU Global leads the university’s campus internationalization efforts and works closely with internal and external constituents to advance the institution’s impact on fostering international and intercultural understanding.

During their exploratory mission, Puentes, a double major in art and psychology, and Raudales, who has a bachelor’s in international relations, were encouraged to collect observations about the city and its population — through the eyes of students — which will inform FIU Global’s future outreach campaigns and partnerships in the city.

“Genoa is a fantastic city with wonderful people. Living there will change students’ lives. Amelia and Michelle offer a unique perspective on the city that will help FIU encourage students to come here and experience what it has to offer,” said FIU World Center Italy Director Matthew Rice, who has lived in Genoa for 20 years and

spent the last 18 years helping FIU identify mutually beneficial opportunities and build relationships across the city.

Rice said FIU has formed connections across Genoa that have the potential to benefit students immensely, above all with the University of Genoa. FIU is also resuming discussions with the Genoa Chamber of Commerce and with Genoese industries such as hospitality and tourism. These could open future opportunities for dual-degree programs and academic certificates, faculty or student exchange programs, long-term student internships abroad, and more. A thriving FIU–Genoa program could also strengthen the connection between industries in Genoa and Miami and promote a greater sense of cultural understanding among the cities’ populations.



Michelle Puentes, Amelia Raudales, and Matthew Rice

Student trip to Genoa will inform future FIU partnership, study abroad opportunities in Italy By



City Councilor for Culture and Education Barbara Grosso, Mayor Marco Bucci, Michelle Puentes and Amelia Raudales

Puentes and Raudales were selected for the Genoa trip out of a group of applicants who submitted written proposals demonstrating their open-mindedness, cultural awareness, communication skills and general views on traveling and studying abroad.

While in Genoa, Raudales and Puentes served as student ambassadors of FIU, participating in several meetings with local leaders. In one such meeting with the Costa Crociere Foundation and Secretary-General Davide Triacca, they discussed the potential for student internships as cruise activities resume in the wake of COVID-19.

At the University of Genoa, they met with its president, Federico Delfino, and other university leadership as well as U.S. Consular Agent Anna Maria Saiano to discuss potential collaborations with FIU, such as faculty and student exchange, joint research projects and more.

They also met with City of Genoa Mayor Marco Bucci and City Councilor for Culture and Education Barbara Grosso to explore how the local government may support opportunities for international education programs.

Alongside their ambassadorial itinerary, Raudales and Puentes had plenty of time to explore. They visited The Wolfsonian, an FIU affiliate and sister institution of [The Wolfsonian—FIU](#) museum, library and research center in Miami Beach; toured the Ligurian coast and historical landmarks, including the Palazzi dei Rolli (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) and the Staglieno monumental cemetery; attended the Euroflora international flower exhibition; and learned about the city’s public transportation system.

In her written observations following the trip, Puentes noted students would be interested in Genoa’s many outdoor attractions, including hiking and visiting nearby fishing villages or historical landmarks. She suggested that FIU could emphasize similarities between the Miami and Genoa coastlines to make students feel more at

home traveling between the two cities. She also pointed out that the city is only a few hours from several major Italian cities, including Milan, Turin and Florence, which would make exciting day trips for students studying abroad.

“This place has it all: the coast, the mountainsides, the valleys, the fields, and the big city feel. The social life erupts in this city with hundreds of people walking the streets by day and crowding the piazzas by night,” Puentes wrote in her report.

Raudales and Puentes both noted the city’s affordable dining and access to transportation would be attractive to students, as well. Their ideas to convince FIU students to study or intern abroad in Genoa include increasing visibility of the FIU—Genoa program on social media, especially on Instagram, and using social media to showcase all that Genoa has to offer FIU students. They also suggested FIU foster more partnerships between departments at FIU and the University of Genoa, which could reach a more diverse group of students who may be interested.

“What marked me the most from this visit was how livable Genoa is for FIU students past a one-week experience... there are hundreds of things to do in Genoa during one’s free time,” Raudales wrote in her report. “The citizens are friendly and proud of their city, it is a historical and architecturally beautiful place, and nature is everywhere you go. Genoa is the perfect location for students, faculty, families and solo travelers.”

Puentes said her experience in Genoa was “life-changing.”

“[It was] one I will never forget. It was my first time visiting the other side of the world, and seeing in person the wonderful sights, narrow streets, and bright color everyone described was a dream come true.”

► Discover, Genoa, [click here to watch video](#) and [here to see pictures](#)



Amelia Raudales and Michelle Puentes

Student Spotlight

Lauren Cibrian: My amazing trip to Europe this summer



View from Lauren Cibrian's apartment in Genoa

Lauren Cibrian, a student in International Relations and Political Science at Florida International University's SIPA, tells us a little bit about herself and the amazing experience she had in participating in the Food, Society, and Economy program in Genoa, Italy, and discovering Europe this Summer.

MFJMCE: What did you initially expect from the program in Genoa? Did the program meet or exceed these expectations?

I participated in the Food, Society, and Economy in the Italian Riviera program during my nearly two-month stay in Europe, which included five weeks of cultural immersion in the Ligurian region of north Italy from May 15 to June 18. In my free time, I also had the opportunity to visit other significant Italian cities including Florence, Rome, Bologna, Milan, and Parma. At first, I thought we were going to have more in class time. However, the program was divided between classes and daytrips which were very fun and educational. I learned a lot from experts in areas such

as History, Food and Economic development. Overall, the program exceeded my expectations, and I would recommend it to anyone looking for a change in their lifestyle even if it's just temporary as you emerge in a fully different culture and language.

MFJMCE: Did you have a favorite part of the program? If so, what was it?

What I loved about the program was that all the knowledge learned in class was applied to our everyday life. For example, our language class taught us the basics to get around as locals. Additionally, we celebrated the "Festa della Repubblica," which is equivalent to the US Independence Day. All week long, we had the opportunity to learn in-depth about the founding of the Italian republic and participate in the celebration that took place in the city. We joined the locals in singing Italian classics, and it was an unforgettable experience.

MFJMCE: What was the place you visited, or an activity you did, that impacted you the most?

The connections I established over this 5-week program had the greatest impact on me. I got to know some wonderful locals with whom I intend to keep in touch. I also got to know FIU classmates that I wouldn't have on campus because of their varied majors or backgrounds.

MFJMCE: Did this program change or impact your career goals?

This study abroad impacted my career goals in several ways as it was a lot of "firsts" for me. I got to experience for the first time far from home a completely different culture and it taught me the importance of having an open mind. Secondly, I had never been to Europe before, so I was mesmerized by the differences between continents. I loved Europe and definitely look forward to working there someday.

I want to thank Dr. Kincaid and Matthew Rice, the program directors, for providing such an excellent educational experience. I also want to express my gratitude to our professors, Alessandro Cavalliere and Ferdinando Fasce, who gave us invaluable knowledge that I will cherish for the rest of my life. I was so proud to be the first recipient of the Bellelli First Generation Scholarship and will always be grateful to Gloria Bellelli former Italian consul for her gift that made my scholarship possible.

► For more information on the Food Society, and Economy program in Genoa, Italy, [click here](#)

Student Spotlight Lauren Cibrian: My amazing trip to Europe this summer



Lauren Cibrian with her classmates and Dr. Kincaid at an authentic Genovese cooking class, Genoa, Italy

MFJMCE: Which European countries were you able to visit during your trip?

As the program ended, I got to do some independent travel throughout Europe. The cities that highlighted my trip were Berlin, Florence, and Prague. Going to Germany was a dream come true, especially Berlin as it is so rich in modern history. I was excited to visit everything I learned from books and judge from my own experience. The way this city is so big and has a little bit of everything, futuristic architecture, old buildings from past eras, and a forest in the middle of the city. Florence exceeded my expectations; I had always admired the Medici family for the great development in art and politics so walking through the city I got to admire things that took huge sacrifices for some decades ago and now we get to enjoy. And finally, Prague, this city is a little smaller than I thought it would be but in terms of architecture is one of the richest and most astonishing places I've ever been to. The way that all building and culture is perfectly preserved is something to appreciate. Overall, as I visited places where great history has been made, I felt nostalgic to walk in the same steps as kings, queens, and great politicians did. This feeling made me realize that dreams come true, one just needs to work hard enough to make the world a better place.

By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez



Lauren Cibrian in front of the Trevi fountain in Roma, Italy

Student Spotlight Lauren Cibrian: My amazing trip to Europe this summer By



St. Vitus Cathedral, Prague



Lesser Town Bridge Tower, Prague



Reichstag, Berlin



Brandenburg Gate, Berlin



East side Gallery (Kiss of Gorbachev and Erich Honecker)



Berlin Cathedral



Marienplatz, Munich

*Pictures
courtesy of
Lauren Cibrian*



Congratulations to the recipients of Spring 2022 European & Eurasian Studies Certificates



Recipients of the Spring 2022 European & Eurasian Studies Certificates: Alexandra Ippoliti, Matthew Kertesz, Julia Rivera

Congratulation Grads!

We would like to celebrate the accomplishments of our newest Panther Alumni who graduated this Spring 2022, and obtained their European & Eurasian Studies Certificates.

The European & Eurasian Studies Program and the MFJMCE would like to congratulate this Spring 2022's program Graduates:

CERTIFICATES IN EUROPEAN & EURASIAN STUDIES

Spring 2022 Undergraduate Awardees

- **Katuska Escobar-Mejia**
BA in Interdisciplinary Studies & Global Studies
- **Alexandra Ippoliti**
BA in International Relations
- **Matthew Kertesz**
BA in Political Science
- **Julia Rivera**
BA in International Relations
- **Rebecca Meredith Smith**
BA in International Relations & Criminal Justice

Summer 2022 Undergraduate Awardee

- **Saniya Pradhan**
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, 287 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/>

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/>





THE FRENCH PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION | January-June 2022

A Conversation with Honorable Vincent Floreani Consul General of France in Miami



Hon. Vincent Floreani, Consul General of France in Miami

Vincent Floreani took over as Consul general of France in Miami on February 1st, 2022. He arrives in Miami at a very crucial moment: The French Presidency of the Council of the European Union and the French Elections.

Due to these important events Vincent Floreani, 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 Presidency of the Council of the European Union and all the events organized in Miami.

MFJMCE: What does your job as the Consul General of France entail?

My first goal, with the Consulate general's team, is to strengthen the bridges connecting France and Florida by promoting:

- The French expertise and “savoir-faire” in this great state and supporting local entrepreneurs and investors; to do so I meet companies representatives and local leaders;
- The French culture and French language; I was for instance at the “Congrès de la culture Française” in Orlando recently, which is an incredible contest where hundreds of High School students compete in French!

It also means promoting France at large: its thriving economy and rich cultural environment to attract talents, new businesses and investments in my country.

Working in both directions generate more partnerships and diverse cooperation benefiting both sides of the Atlantic with more jobs and more understanding of each other!

To that end, we share best practices and work on common goals such as environment issues or innovation priorities.

For students, we are developing awareness on the opportunities to study and work in France. I encourage your readership to check [Campus France's](#) website regularly.

Our Consulate provides also consular services to all French citizens living in our constituency (Florida, Puerto-Rico and other close islands). We issue passports, IDs, and render social assistance.

In a nutshell, my work day is always different and interesting!

MFJMCE: What are your priorities?

We are currently focusing on organizing our presidential and legislative elections, respectively in April and June 2022. The Consulate's team is very involved to allow French citizens who live in our area to cast their votes. We will open 8 poll stations in 6 different cities! The French President is directly elected

 ► For more information on the Consulate General of France in Miami, [click here](#)

The French Presidency of the Council of the European Union



Of course, the security of French residents and tourists is a constant priority. We cooperate closely with US authorities. The Consulate is an essential point of contact, and it is my duty to make sure that French citizens are well informed about the risks of the region in order to be prepared – for the hurricane season for instance- or well aware about the many changes provoked by the Covid-19 pandemic.

MFJMCE: France has taken the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union this next six months. Could you tell us what are France's priorities in this leadership?

Indeed!

From January 1st to June 30th, 2022 the French government has presented the following priorities:

- A more **sovereign Europe**, with regard to the ecological transition as we must fight global warming together; digital issues, with more regulations to protect our citizens and private companies; economic issues, as a historic recovery has helped Europe overcome the health crisis; and defense, with the European Intervention Initiative;
(<https://presidence-francaise.consilium.europa.eu/en/programme/priorities/>)

- The second key point is **recovery**. We need a new European model for growth: to make Europe a land of production, with job creation, innovation and technological excellence while being aligned with our climate goals. We must also make sure that Europe offers high-quality, high-skilled, and better-paying jobs.

(https://presidence-francaise.consilium.europa.eu/media/qh4cg0qq/en_programme-pfue-v1-2.pdf)

- The 3rd priority is **making Europe more humane**. We need to listen to the concerns expressed by our citizens, to defend the rule of law and uphold to our values; to take pride in our culture(s), trust science and fight discriminations. We also need to think more about the next generations, and welcome youth as an active part of the conversation.

- These past weeks, the invasion of Ukraine is largely making its print. However, we noticed that the 27 countries of the European Union made a common front by agreeing swiftly and unanimously a package of unprecedented sanctions against Russia and that for the first time, a spending defense budget was provided to support Ukraine!

► For more information on The French Presidency of the Council of the European Union, [click here](#)

The French Presidency of the Council of the European Union



At the #OneOceanSummit, more than 100 countries affirm their determination to preserve the ocean by contributing to the Brest commitments

MFJMCE: What does the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union represent to France and its citizens?

We witness an important momentum among French citizens and all citizens of the European Union as we need to stand for our common values: democracy, justice, and the rule of law and the dignity of all human being. The majority of European citizens no longer complains that Europe does too much, but rather that it does too little!

MFJMCE: Could you please share with us what France has already accomplished during the Presidency since January?

Yes, for example the city of Brest recently held the **One Ocean Summit**. It was intended to reassert the place of the Ocean at the core of the new European model of sustainable growth that we are striving to achieve. We also held an informal meeting of Transport Ministers. They set the three major priorities for the future of European Transport which are: decarbonize, regulate, and innovate.

MFJMCE: Are there any special events you plan to organize in Miami?

Of course! On March 2nd, we invited some of our European counterparts as well as representatives of key companies in the maritime sector (CMA-CGM and Royal Caribbean) to discuss the future of transport by sea, and the measures to decarbonize the sector. Two

members of the UE delegation of Washington were part of the discussion. Thanks to this type of events, we are sharing our best practices and are moving forward to set goals and new initiatives aligned with the priorities set by our Presidency.

On March 8th, on the occasion of International Women's Day, we also gathered some inspiring women from the business world, the public sector, and academia to discuss what types of challenges they are facing and the solutions that can be implemented in order for them to thrive in their career without compromising with their personal life.

And of course, we will celebrate May 9th which is Europe Day. I definitely want to share my European enthusiasm with your students and my European colleagues!

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

If any French student of faculty member is among your readers, I invite them to vote or to encourage those whom they know to do so.

I also wish to come to meet your students to discuss directly with them about my passion for diplomacy and the European Union of course.

MFJMCE: "MERCI" Mr. Consul!

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

Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence



European & Eurasian Studies Program Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence



Contact the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence/EESP

Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence
Florida International University
Modesto A. Maidique Campus
11200 SW 8th Street, SIPA 513
Miami, FL 33199



Dr. Markus Thiel
Director, MFJMCE

Christine I. Caly-Sanchez
Associate Director / Project Manager
MFJMCE / EESP
Phone: (305) 348-5949
Fax: (305) 348-1013
E-mail: calyc@fiu.edu
Web: <https://miamieuc.fiu.edu/>

Ernesto Fiocchetto
Graduate Assistant, MFJMCE



All of us at the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence and the European & Eurasian Studies Program would like to thank all of our students, faculty, and friends for their support and participation in our virtual and in-person events.



The activities of the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence will continue in fall 2022.

In the meantime, all of the MFJMCE and European & Eurasian Studies Program team members wish you a safe and healthy summer and look forward to seeing all of you next fall!



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

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