



# European and Eurasian Studies Program

# NEWSLETTER

## Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence

Volume 4, Issue 4 — Fall 2023-Spring 2024

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## 2023-2024 Highlights



Dr. Markus Thiel, Director, MFJMCE; and Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director, MFJMCE & EESP

Dear friends,

We're happy to share with you our annual 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 in 2023-2024. What a great year! From September 2023 to June 2024, we organized 55 events, among them twenty-nine virtual and twenty-six in-person.

Highlights include our MEET-EU European Experts Career Panels, the MEET EU Road Shows, the Model EU, the Schuman Challenge, our annual Jean Monnet EU conference on "Reimagining and Reforming European Foreign Policies" with keynote speaker Michael Curtis, EU Deputy Ambassador, Delegation of the European Union to the United States ; the Europe Day Celebration with our European consuls general and diplomats in Miami, the Euro Challenge competition, the High School Teacher Workshop on Europe, the Conversations on Europe Series with the University of Pittsburgh, the Distinguished Lecture Series with European diplomats, including the *Conversation on Haiti and the International Community: A French Perspective* by H.E. Fabrice Mauries, Ambassador of France in Haiti; *A New Role in New Europe: Poland's*

*Strategic Priorities and Challenges* by H.E. Marek Magierowski, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland in Washington D.C, and the 61<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the Elysée Treaty and the Aachen Treaty with the participation of Hon. Raphaël Trapp, Consul General of France, and Hon. Christofer Burger, Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany.

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. In solidarity with Ukraine, we organized different discussions with faculty and diplomats on the war in Ukraine, among them *the Un(expected) Effects of the War in Ukraine on Wider Europe*. You can watch the recorded videos about these and many other events inside this newsletter.

We would like to sincerely thank all of you, students, faculty, speakers, sponsors and friends, for your support and participation in our events and look forward to seeing you virtually or in person at one of our upcoming events this fall.

In the meantime, we wish you a safe, healthy, and relaxing summer.

Christine I. Caly-Sanchez

Follow us and for more information:



**MEET EU**

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

**MEET EU**
**VIRTUAL EUROPEAN EXPERT CAREER PANELS  
AND ROAD SHOWS IN FLORIDA**
**October 19-20—November 13, 2023**


**“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; MEETEUE360 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 Fall 2023, our Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence hosted a [“MEET EU - European Expert Career Panels”](#), entitled **“Advancing Your Career by Studying in Europe”** for students and alumni who want to study in Europe and complete higher education studies in France, Germany, Italy, and Spain.

In addition, Dr. Markus Thiel and Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, were on the road in Florida to present the European Union's history, institutions and policies, current issues, and transatlantic relations to students at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, and the University of Central Florida in Orlando. They met more than 150 students in two days.



In the following pages, you will find information about the events, pictures, and links to videos, flyers, and the panelists' bios.

You can find more information about the MEET EU initiative [here](#).

By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez



**MEET EU**

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

**MEET EU: ROAD SHOWS IN FLORIDA****October 19, 2023: Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton****October 20, 2023: University of Central Florida, Orlando****Markus Thiel and Christine I. Caly-Sanchez at FAU**

Through our grant MEET EU, during two days, on October 19 and 20, Markus Thiel, Director, Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, and Professor, Politics & International Relations; and Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director, Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence and European & Eurasian Studies Program at FIU, travelled in Florida and met more than 150 students from Florida Atlantic University (FAU) in Boca Raton, and the University of Central Florida (UCF) in Orlando. The aim of these road shows was to inform students about the purpose and the values of the European Union. The presentation entitled “5 things you should know about the European Union” covers not only what the European Union is, the shared values among its 27 member states, its history, institutions, and policies, but also the current issues and transatlantic relations.



Many students were interested in knowing about the current issues in the European Union, including the war in Ukraine and its challenges for Europe, the migration and asylum, and the European defense.

At the end of the presentation, the students participated in a short quiz where the best teams were rewarded and happy to receive goodies with the EU logo (T-shirts, notebook, pens,) from Christine I. Caly-Sanchez. We definitely enjoyed meeting all these students.

We would like to sincerely thank our partners at FAU and UCF for helping us in organizing these events and meeting these bright students who were eager to learn more about the European Union: Dr. Steven D. Roper (FAU) and; Dr. Paul Vasquez, and Kerstin Hamann (UCF).

*By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez***Markus Thiel presenting “The 5 things to know about the European Union” to FAU students**



**MEET EU**

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

**MEET EU**

**MEET EU Roadshow with Community**

**Visit to the Florida Atlantic University—October 19, 2023**



Markus Thiel and Christine I. Caly-Sanchez



Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton



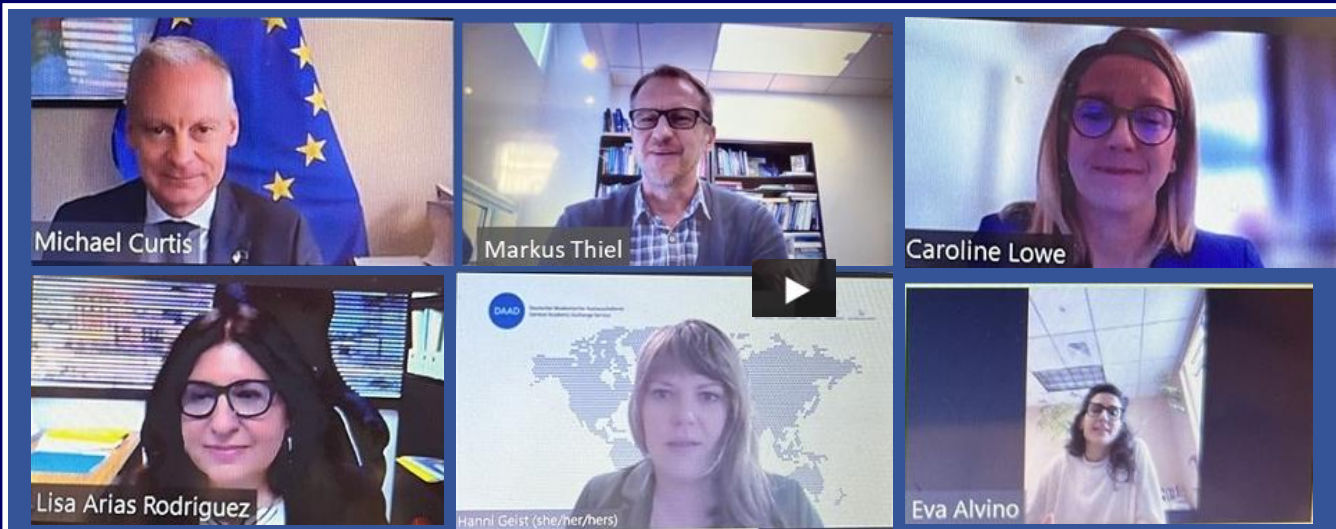
Steven Roper, Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, and Markus Thiel





**MEET EU**an initiative by  
UNC-Chapel Hill  
University of Pittsburgh  
Florida International University**MEET EU****MEET EU Roadshow in Florida****Visit to the University of Central Florida—October 20, 2023****Markus Thiel presenting "The 5 things to know about the European Union" to UCF students****Christine I. Caly-Sanchez with UCF students****Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Paul Vasquez, and Markus Thiel****Paul Vasquez and Markus Thiel with UCF students**



**MEET EU**an initiative by  
UNC-Chapel Hill  
University of Pittsburgh  
Florida International University**MEET EU EUROPEAN EXPERT CAREER PANELS****Advancing your Career by Studying in Europe****Monday, November 13, 2023 | Virtual**

On Monday, November 13, the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence at FIU hosted a virtual panel in the context of the MEET EU initiative. The event, titled “Advancing your Career by Studying in Europe” was designed for students and alumni who want to study in Europe and discover everything they need to know to plan and complete higher education studies in Europe, especially in France, Germany, Italy, and Spain.

Michael Curtis, EU Deputy Ambassador, Delegation of the European Union to the United States, delivered the opening remarks and shared with the audience valuable practical advice for developing a transatlantic career and how studying in Europe could boost their professional career and be a life changing experience. In addition, he pointed out that Europe offers different programs which offer high level scholarships for students to study in Europe, including [Erasmus+](#), [Erasmus Mundus](#), and [Fulbright Schuman Program](#).

Dr. Markus Thiel moderated the panel of European and diplomatic experts. On this occasion, we were honored with the presence of the following European experts:

- **Eva Alvino**, Deputy Consul General of Italy in Miami
- **Caroline Lowe**, Higher Education Officer Advisor and Partner Relations Campus France USA, French Embassy to the United States
- **Lisa Arias Rodriguez**, Education Advisor, Education Office of the Embassy of Spain.
- **Hanni Geist**, Senior Manager, University Relations, Head of Information Point San Francisco, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

Our European education experts and diplomats spoke about the benefits of studying in Europe for bachelor's, master's, doctoral, summer programs and more. They also provided information on organizing and financing studies in Europe.

**Eva Alvino**, Deputy Consul General of Italy in Miami, was the first panelist and highlighted the most important aspects to study in Italy. She began by recalling that Italy has influenced global culture with some of the richest collections of art, architecture, cuisine, and music in the world. An immersive study abroad experience in Italy helps students to develop an expanded world perspective and cultural appreciation. She added that study abroad programs in Italy are some of the most popular because of the country's food, scenery, historical sites, and museums. There are plenty of programs to choose from, including fashion, creative writing, and visual art. International students can receive quality education at the world's oldest universities, such as the University of Bologna founded in 1088, the University of Padua in 1222, the University of Naples in 1224, and the University of Siena (1240).

She continued by pointing out that among 97 universities, 67 are public and the tuitions fees are free or relatively cheap compared to the United States. In addition, there are a lot of funding opportunities Italy has for foreign students. You can find a whole page of scholarships on [the Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#) (AI MAECI) webpage and [scholarships offered by Italian universities](#).

You will also find all pertinent information to study in Italy at the following website:  
<https://www.universitaly.it>

She hopes students will consider studying in Italy.



MEET EU

## MEET EU EUROPEAN EXPERT CAREER PANELS

Advancing your Career by Studying in Europe

Monday, November 13, 2023 | Virtual



Paris, France



Florence, Italy



Madrid, Spain



Berlin, Germany

Then, **Lisa Arias Rodriguez**, Education Advisor, Education Office of the Embassy of Spain, gave a presentation on the many opportunities available to students to find the program they want to study in Spain, whether for a bachelor's, master's or doctorate. She mentioned the admission requirements for each program. She also pointed out that they can find all the relevant information about the different programs and universities, including scholarships, on the following portal [www.studyinspain.info](http://www.studyinspain.info)

She also presented the NALCAP program. The North American Language and Culture Assistants Program (NALCAP) is an educational outreach initiative of the Ministry of Education of Spain offering American college students and graduates the opportunity to be teaching assistants in Spain in classrooms across the country. Depending on the assigned region, NALCAP recipients receive a monthly stipend of 800 to 1000 euros and medical insurance from either the Ministry of Education of Spain or the regional governments of Spain. Hours of assistant teaching range from 14 to 16 hours per week also depending on the assignment awarded.

She finished her presentation by showing two short videos about the many benefits of studying in Spain. Students choose Spain not only because of their studies, and learning Spanish, but also to discover its culture, folklore, art, and gastronomy. Students who have studied in Spain or participated in the NALCAP program have had a great experience. "It changed their life forever."

For more information, go the website: <https://www.educacionpydeportes.gob.es/eeuu/convocatorias-programas/convocatorias-eeuu/nalcap.html>

**Caroline Lowe**, Higher Education Officer Advisor and Partner Relations Campus France USA, was the third panelist, and she presented Campus France USA, the French governmental agency based at the Embassy of France in Washington DC. She highlighted that Campus France USA is a key resource for students who want to study in France and find information on French Higher Education opportunities, dual degrees, [grants, scholarships and fellowships](#), and student life

in France. There are now over 1,600 degree programs that are taught in English to ensure their accessibility for international students, including 125 undergraduate programs, 1,200 Masters programs, 90 short and professional courses, and 140 summer classes. In addition, the French Ministry of Education program for young educators offers 7-month paid teaching assistant positions in French public schools for American students, as part of the [Teaching Assistant Program in France](#) (TAPIF).

She ended her presentation by emphasizing that studying in France is an unforgettable adventure, not only for learning French, the quality of teaching, the quality of life, the richness of cultural life, the location in the heart of Europe, but also for its moderate registration fees. Studying in France is an advantage and opens up professional pathways. In an increasingly global job market, demand for multi-lingual talent continues to rise. "For U.S. students who speak French, we see increasing opportunities across fields such as European Affairs and Diplomacy, International Development, International Environmental Policy, International Business, and more", she added.

For more information on Campus France, go the website: [usa.campusfrance.org](http://usa.campusfrance.org)

The last panelist, **Hanni Geist**, Senior Manager, University Relations, Head of Information Point San Francisco, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), made a presentation on [DAAD](#), Germany's national agency for international academic cooperation and exchange.

DAAD provides scholarships and grants (for all disciplines at all stages), information and counseling about studying and research in Germany, the study of German language and culture abroad. You can also find useful information about your stay in Germany from international students on the portal and at the following link <https://www.study-in-germany.de/en/>



**MEET EU**an initiative by  
UNC-Chapel Hill  
University of Pittsburgh  
Florida International University**MEET EU EUROPEAN EXPERT CAREER PANELS****Advancing your Career by Studying in Europe****Monday, November 13, 2023 | Virtual****Paris, France****Florence, Italy****Madrid, Spain****Berlin, Germany**

There are many opportunities to intern, study, and conduct research in Germany. Ms. Geist emphasized that Germany is a popular study destination.

The many excellent universities and research institutions offer a wide range of studies and courses across all subject areas, more than 2277 international programs.

For international students English-language study programs with special support services are of particular interest. You can choose your program at the following link:

<https://www2.daad.de/deutschland/studienangebote/international-programmes/en/> . For more information on DAAD, go the website: <https://www.daad.org/en/>

Students have also the opportunity of obtaining a grant for Juniors, Seniors, and Graduate students who wish to attend summer courses taught in German at German Universities for 3 to 4 weeks in June, July, and August. [www.summerschools.de](http://www.summerschools.de)

The panel ended with a question-and-answer session that was very well received by the audience. The students who attended could ask exciting questions that helped deepen the conversation.

All panelists agreed that studying in Europe is clearly a life-changing experience which boost students' professional career.

Markus Thiel gave the final remarks and thanked our experts for sharing their experiences and offering very significant advice.

We would like to thank the co-sponsors of the event, including the Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs, the European & Eurasian Studies Program, the Career and Talent Development, the Center for European Studies at UNC-Chapel Hill, the European Studies Center at the University of Pittsburgh, the Delegation of the European Union to the United States, the French Embassy, the Consulate General of Italy in Miami, the Consulate General of Spain in Miami, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) for their support.

By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez



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

- ▶ To view bios' panelists, click [here](#)
- ▶ To view flyer, click [here](#)
- ▶ To view PPT, click on the following links:

- **CAMPUS FRANCE**  
[Campus France \(French Higher Education and Opportunities in France\)](#)
- **DAAD**  
[German Academic Exchange Service \(DAAD\)](#)
- **NALCAP**  
[NALCAP Spain \(North American Language and Culture Assistants Program 2024-2025\)](#)







## EESP-MEUCE Lecture

### Haiti and the International Community: A French Perspective

**H.E. Fabrice Mauries, Ambassador of France in Haiti**

Thursday, October 5, 2023 | FIU



**H.E. Fabrice Mauries**  
Ambassador of France in Haiti

On Thursday, October 5, the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence was honored to receive the visit of His Excellency Fabrice Mauries, Ambassador of France in Haiti.

Sponsored by the Ruth K. and Shepard Broad Distinguished Lecture Series, we hosted the in-person event in collaboration with the Embassy of France in Haiti, the Consulate General of France in Miami, the European and Eurasian Studies program at FIU, the Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center, Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy, and the Politics & International Relations Department.

Ambassador Mauries was joined by Dr. Eduardo Gamarra, Professor of Political Science in the Department of Political Science and International Relations at FIU, to discuss “Haiti and the International Community: A French Perspective.”

Dr. Markus Thiel, welcomed the large audience and distinguished guests on October 5.

Haiti has been subject to many hardships for decades, ranging from an “exhausting political stock market” to the devastating consequences of natural events and hurricanes, as mentioned by Fabrice Mauries, the Ambassador of France in Haiti. Throughout his discussion before the students, faculty, and community, he mentioned Haiti’s “seemingly unsolvable problems,” described so because of a lack of solutions to the problems the country experiences on a daily basis, though this choice of words seemed to create a controversy later on in the event.

Haiti is the only country in the Western Hemisphere that did not experience growth in the 1960s and 70s as other countries did, and it is even considered to be one of the

### H.E. Fabrice Mauries

*Ambassador of France in Haiti*



Ambassador Mauries has been serving in his current position since September 2021. He previously served in a variety of high-ranking diplomatic posts, including Second Counselor in Beijing; Deputy Director of South-east Asia, the Far East (Asia and Oceania Directorate), the Minister’s Office of Foreign Affairs, and the Americas and Caribbean Directorate; and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary in Lima.

A graduate of the Paris Institute of Political Studies, he is a former student of the National School of Administration. He began his career at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Directorate of United Nations and International Organizations before being assigned as First Secretary to the French Permanent Mission to the UN.

poorest, if not the poorest, states in the world.

This leads to consequences that affect the Haitian population in every way, such as a third of young people not being in school, a great dependence by the Haitian economy on those of the United States and Dominican Republic, and intense political instability that is “not the exception, [but] the rule.” There has been one successful transition out of 28 presidents, according to His Excellency Mauries, and migration from Haiti is primarily linked to economic difficulties and high insecurity.

Considering these difficulties, how is it that we can come up with solutions to help Haiti?

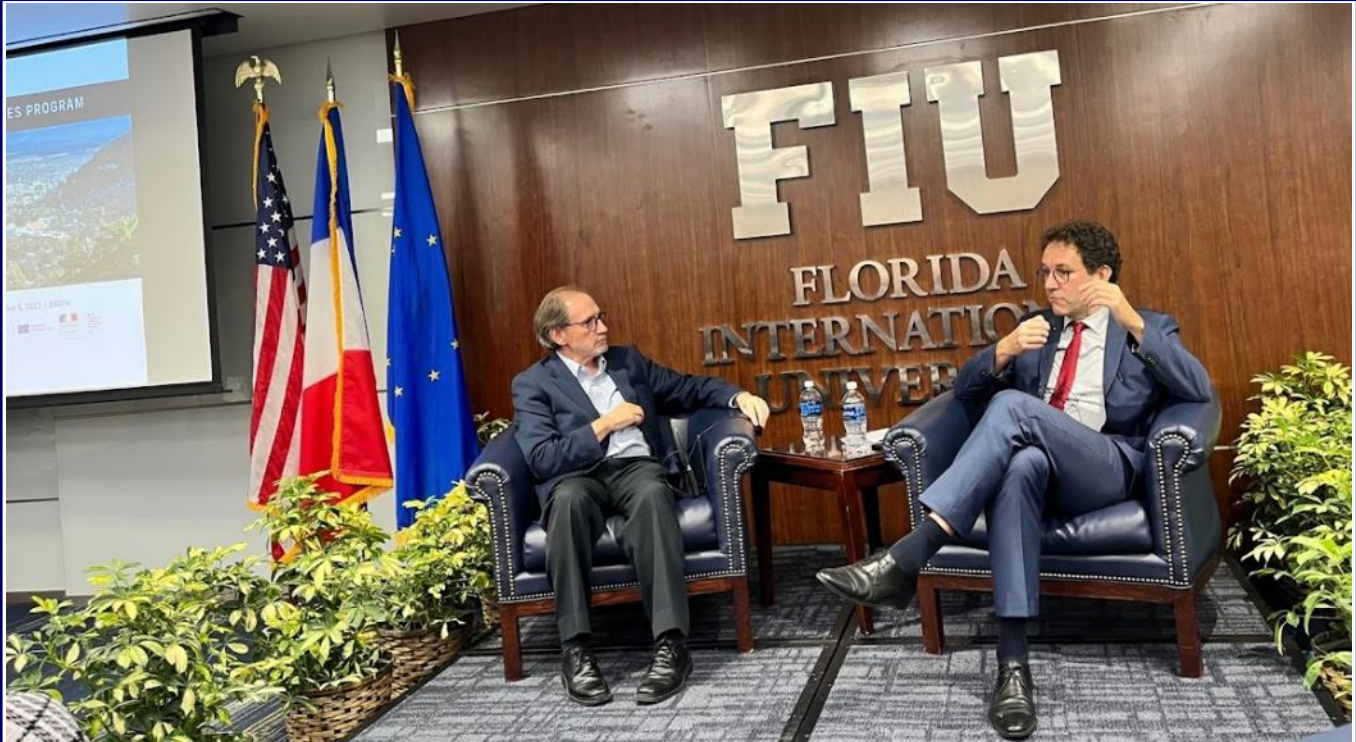
To what extent should developed countries like the United States and France even be getting involved in Haiti’s affairs? This is another cause of concern of many, and the answer is still heavily debated.

Fabrice Mauries’ idea for a possible solution



**Full audience at FIU**

## Haiti and the International Community: A French Perspective



Dr. Eduardo Gamarra and Ambassador Fabrice Mauries

encompasses elections that focus on expanding democracy in Haiti. He questioned the organization of elections, however, considering the fact that it is nearly impossible for candidates to actually campaign, and elections are generally controlled by gangs. Ambassador Mauries also mentioned that in order to have resources, the entire Haitian economy must be reformed. It is currently extremely difficult to carry out development projects in Haiti; water sanitation, hospitals, and power supply projects have been impossible to proceed with.

Coupled with the “brain drain,” construction stopping every 3 months for periods of 6 months due to gunshots, and a supply of chicken, pork, and corn that is almost entirely imported, a one-fits-all solution is difficult at best to conjure. Ambassador Mauries concluded by stating that a solution to Haiti’s situation should encompass three key points: the reestablishment of good governance, the presence of international cooperation, and proper conditions for democracy to thrive. How this can be done, however, continues to be a work in progress.

After his presentation, Ambassador Mauries engaged in a conversation with the large audience gathered in the Graham Center at FIU Modesto Maidique Campus.

We would like to thank all those who attended the event, including students, faculty, community, and distinguished guests Consul General of France, Raphaël Trapp; Consul General of Canada, Sylvia Cesaratto; Honorary Consul of Monaco, Tomas Abreu.

*By Nicole Martinez & Christine I. Cally-Sanchez*

► To view pictures, [click here](#)



Hon. Raphaël Trapp, Consul General of France in Miami and Ambassador Fabrice Mauries



## Haiti and the International Community: A French Perspective



Ambassador Fabrice Mauries with FIU students and Christine I. Caly-Sanchez



From left to right: Hon. Raphaël Trapp, Hon. Sylvia Cesaratto, and Ambassador Fabrice Mauries



H. E. Fabrice Mauries  
Ambassador of France in Haiti



# Blanka Rosenstiel Lecture Series on Poland



## A New Role in New Europe: Poland's Strategic Priorities and Challenges A Conversation with H.E. Marek Magierowski, Ambassador of Poland in the USA

Wednesday, November 15, 2023 | FIU



**H.E. Marek Magierowski**  
Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to the United States

On Wednesday, November 15, the Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs was honored to receive the visit of His Excellency Marek Magierowski, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to the United States to Florida International University.

As part of Blanka Rosenstiel Lecture Series on Poland, and the European & Eurasian Studies Program, the Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs hosted two events with Ambassador Magierowski where he was the keynote speaker of a presentation on "A New Role in New Europe: Poland's Strategic Priorities and Challenges", and the guest of honor for the opening reception of an Art Exhibition entitled "THE UNCAPTIVE MIND—In the Pursuit of Freedom", where original Polish posters from the 1950s to 1980s were shown for the very first time in Miami.

In the morning of November 15, Shlomi Dinar, Dean, of the Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs at FIU, welcomed the audience and recognized Lady Blanka Rosenstiel, Honorary Consul of the

### H.E. Marek Magierowski

*Ambassador of the Republic of Poland  
to the United States*



Marek Magierowski graduated from the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan with a degree in Hispanic Studies. He worked as a reporter, editor and columnist for over 20 years. He was, among others, the deputy head of the economic desk at "Gazeta Wyborcza," the head of the foreign affairs desk and the business section at the "Newsweek Polska" weekly, and the deputy editor-in-chief of "Forum." From 2006-2011, he was the deputy editor-in-chief of "Rzeczpospolita." He regularly wrote columns on foreign policy for the "Uważam Rze" and "Do Rzeczy" weeklies. In October 2015, he left journalism to work for the Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Poland as an expert on public diplomacy, and was subsequently appointed Head of the Press Office of the Chancellery of the President. From June 2017 to May 2018, he served as Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Marek Magierowski served as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Poland to the State of Israel from June 25, 2018, to November of 2021.

Republic of Poland in Miami, and the founder and president of the American Institute of Polish Culture Inc; and Beata Paszic, Honorary Vice Consul of the Republic of Poland in Miami, and Executive Director of the American Institute of Polish Culture Inc., for their support and collaboration on this and many other events that they have worked together.

After being introduced by Dean Shlomi Dinar, Ambassador Marek Magierowski shared his insights on his nation's strategic priorities in the midst of Europe's shifting geopolitical landscape in front of a large audience of students, faculty, and distinguished guests. More than 75 people attended the event. Among the issues he touched upon were sustaining Ukraine's military capabilities, overdependence on Russian energy resources, countering Russia's worldwide disinformation campaign, and military cooperation between Poland and the U.S.



To watch video recording from the American Institute of Polish Culture, click on the following link:

► Ambassador Marek Magierowski keynote address, [click here](#)





## Blanka Rosenstiel Lecture Series on Poland



**A New Role in New Europe: Poland's Strategic Priorities and Challenges**  
**Wednesday, November 15, 2023 | FIU**



H.E. Marek Magierowski, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to the United States, addressing FIU audience

The events were organized in collaboration with the Embassy of the Republic of Poland, the Honorary Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Miami, the American Institute of Polish Culture, Inc. the European and Eurasian Studies program at FIU, the Václav Havel Program for Human Rights, the Ruth K. and Shepard Broad Distinguished Lecture Series, and the Dorothea Green Lecture Series.

We sincerely thank Ambassador Magierowski for his visit to FIU and his insights on these important topics.

*By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*

► To see pictures, [click here](#)



Ambassador Magierowski with FIU Faculty and distinguished guests



# Blanka Rosenstiel Lecture Series on Poland



## Opening Exhibition: The Uncaptive Mind "Nie zniewolony umysł"

Wednesday, November 15, 2023 | FIU – Green School Gallery-SIPA 1



**H.E. Marek Magierowski**  
Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to the United States



**Polish Circus Poster Bear in Tuxedo CYRK**  
on a bicycle - Edition from 1974 Poster

On the evening of Nov. 15, Ambassador Magierowski officially opened the art exhibition entitled **"The Uncaptive Mind: The Pursuit of Freedom,"** "Nie zniewolony umysł", a truly extraordinary exhibition which showcases works from the Polish School of Posters (1950s to 1980s).

After being recognized and welcomed by Dr. Dinar, Dean of the Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs at FIU, and Beata Paszic, Vice Consul of the Republic of Poland and Executive Director of the American Institute of Polish Culture, Inc., in his welcome remarks, Ambassador Magierowski reminded the audience that Poland has always been in the "top league" in terms of this kind of work and especially graphic art. He particularly liked one of the Circus posters showing a bear wearing a tuxedo and riding a bicycle at the same time which well illustrates a slogan that "everything is possible in Poland."

Featuring everything from circus to film posters, this collection exemplifies how art can serve as both a form of cultural expression and a subtle form of political communication. The exhibition will remain at the Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs in the Green School Gallery (SIPA 1, first floor) during one year through November 2024.

The Polish School of Posters (1950s to 1980s) stands as an artistic marvel and a testament to human ingenuity – a vibrant, creative, and innovative movement that brilliantly infused vivid colors, subliminal messages and sharp wit into posters.

With state financial support and artistic encouragement, graphic artists designed strong, original, individualistic images – often intended to surprise, provoke or disturb viewers' beliefs and values.







# Blanka Rosenstiel Lecture Series on Poland



## Opening Exhibition: The Uncaptive Mind "Nie zniewolony umysł"

Wednesday, November 15, 2023 | FIU



**Beata Paszyc**  
Vice honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland

They frequently used camouflage and commonly understood ironies to communicate secretly with the public and subversively comment on the rigid Soviet communist regime.

"The Uncaptive Mind collection, which was curated by Rodrigo Butori and includes more than 40 circus, film and theater posters, is a unique fusion of artistry, intellect and cultural resonance that influenced generations and set an unparalleled standard in graphic design," said Beata Paszyc. She also believes that Uncaptive Mind captures the essence of this exhibition. "The posters shown here today were created by Uncaptive Mind, the artists who demonstrated incredible talents, creativity, and intelligence."

The exhibition is presented by Blanka Rosenstiel Lectures Series in Poland, the European & Eurasian Studies Program, in collaboration with American Institute of Polish Culture, Inc, the Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Poland in Miami, and curated by Rodrigo Butori.

*By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*



BLANKA ROSENSTIEL LECTURE  
SERIES ON POLAND  
EUROPEAN AND EURASIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

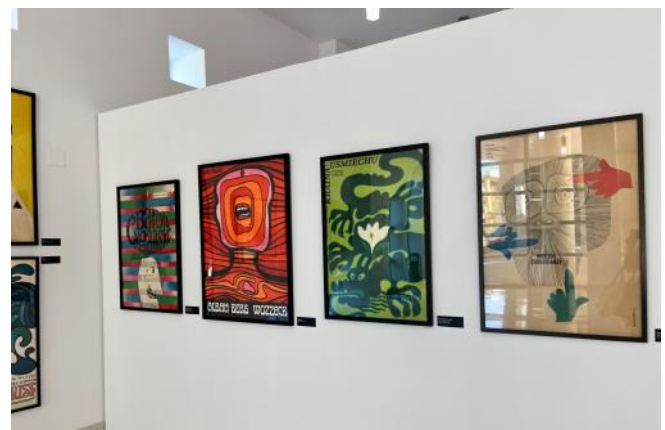
### THE UNCAPTIVE MIND IN THE PURSUIT OF FREEDOM

Art Exhibition Opening Reception  
Wednesday, November 15 | 6:30 PM  
FIU MMC, GREEN SCHOOL GALLERY

Co-sponsors:  
Ruth K. and Shepard Broad Distinguished Lecture Series  
Vander Naal Program for Human Rights and Democracy  
Blanka Rosenstiel Lecture Series



On this occasion, renowned Polish artist Rafal Olbiński created a powerful poster featuring a swallow symbolizing independence and freedom, with the colors of the Ukrainian flag and a bleeding heart. This poignant artwork was painted as a response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2021 and blue in support of Ukraine



"The Uncaptive Mind in the Pursuit of Freedom" will remain at the Steven J. Green School Gallery (SIPA 1, 1st floor) during one year through November 2024



To watch video recording from the American Institute of Polish Culture, click on the following link:

► Opening Art Exhibition: "UNCAPTIVE MIND", [click here](#)



## Virtual Conversations on Europe Fall 2023—Spring 2024



*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, the series of *Conversations on Europe* discussed various aspects of "security" - whether issues of national security, security of supplies or security of livelihoods of people.

During Fall 2023, the European Studies Center at the University of Pittsburgh hosted 3 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.

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

▶ To view program Fall 2023, [click here](#)

### September 12, 2023: European Year of Skills: What's the future of labor in Europe?

This first installment of the *Conversations on Europe* took place on September 12 and was a discussion on the future of labor and its security in Europe. As the EU marks 2023 as the Year of Skills, our Conversation on Europe (CoE) dived deep into the challenges faced by today's workforce, recent strikes like the Yellow Vest, disruptions in industries, and the implications of inflation, energy scarcity, and AI on employment. We heard about EU's strategies for cultivating a skilled and culturally diverse workforce for the 21st century.

The Conversation was moderated by Dr. **Randall Halle**, Director, European Studies Center at the University of Pittsburgh.

Three experts joined in the discussion:

- **Jane Gingrich**, professor in the Department of Politics and International Relations, Magdalene College, University of Oxford
- **Stefan Olsson**, Deputy Director General, European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion
- **Jamie Woodcock**, researcher based in London and a senior lecturer at the University of Essex

▶ To watch Sept. 12, 2023 "European Year of Skills: What's the future of labor in Europe", [click here](#)





## Virtual Conversations on Europe Fall 2023



October 17, 2023: Polish Post-Election Review: Analysis of Election Results in Poland and their impact on EU

### Oct. 17 2023: Polish Post-Election Review: Analysis of Election Results in Poland and their impact on European Security

On October 17, for the second Conversations on Europe of the semester, our experts' discussion revolved around the results and analysis of the Polish Elections. October is the month of Parliamentary Elections in Eastern Europe's powerhouse, Poland. On 15 October, the electorate stands at a crossroads and our invited panelists discussed the path the Polish voters have chosen. In addition to the implications for Poland, our panelists discussed what the election results mean for relations with Poland's neighbors, Ukraine in particular. And given that Brussels has repeatedly drawn attention to Polish democratic backsliding under the current government, this CoE asked what the election means for the EU?

Our interdisciplinary panel was moderated by Drs. **Randall Halle**, Director, European Studies Center at the University of Pittsburgh; and **Pawel Lewicki**, Associate Director, University of Pittsburgh

Three experts joined the discussion:

- [Jan Kubik](#), Rutgers University/University College of London
- [Michal Kotnarowski](#), Polish Academy of Sciences
- [Monika Nalepa](#), University of Chicago

- ▶ To watch Oct. 17 conversation on *Polish Post-Election Review*: [click here](#)
- ▶ To watch Nov. 14. conversation *Yaounde Conventions 60 Years on*, [click here](#)

### November 14, 2023: Yaoundé Conventions 60 years on: Africa-EU Relations Now

The third Conversation on Europe of the semester was held on November 14. It is 60 years since the signing of the Yaoundé Convention (1963). This was a moment in the history of decolonization when the Associated African States, 12 mainly young postcolonial Western Africa countries, signed a trade agreement with the also young European Economic Community. The Yaoundé Convention was part of the EEC's Eurafrica initiative, an effort to maintain a presence in the former colonies. Yaoundé initiated a series of trade and aid agreements that replaced the colonial relationship with a developmental model. An era of trade and infrastructural development followed. However, many critics have suggested that this strategy of aid set off the pattern of uneven and unequal development. This Conversation on Europe and Africa takes this event as an opportunity to consider development aid in Africa historically and in its contemporary form. Our panelists bring a mix of historical and regional knowledge to the conversation

Professors **Randall Halle**, Director of the European Studies Center, University of Pittsburgh; and **Catherine Koverola**, Director for African Studies University of Pittsburgh, moderated the panel.

The panelists that took part of the Conversation included:

- **Mounir Saidani**, Centre des Etudes Economiques et Sociales (CERES)
- [Pernille Røge](#), Associate Professor of history, University of Pittsburgh
- [Michael Odijie](#), University College London
- [Abdou Seck](#), Gaston Berger University, Groupe D'Action et D'Etude Critique Africa (GAEC)



## Conversations on Europe Spring 2024



Feb. 13, 2024: Mis-Disinformation Security: Protecting EU Values and Democracies"

### February 13, 2024: Mis-disinformation Security: Protecting EU Values and Democracies

The first Conversations on Europe of Spring 2024 semester was held on February 13. This panel discussed what steps Europe is taking to shore up EU values and counter disinformation.

Not to be confused with misinformation, meaning inaccurate information, disinformation is false material meant to intentionally mislead or misinform individuals. Brought to the fore in 2016 with Brexit and the election of Donald Trump, disinformation threatens to erode trust in democratic systems, weaken individual freedoms, and increasingly undermine governments around the world. While the U.S. has yet to make meaningful progress in addressing disinformation, Europe has moved forward with new legislation and initiatives.

The conversation was moderated by **Erica Edwards**, Associate Director, European Studies Center, University of Pittsburgh, and the panelists that took part of the conversation included:

- **Ralitsa Kovacheva**  
Associate professor in International Journalism, Sofia University, "St. Kliment Ohridski"
- **Julia Partheymuller**  
Senior Scientist at the Vienna Center for Electoral Research (VieCER), University of Vienna
- **Elena Bruni**, Assistant Professor, LUISS Guido Carli, Italy  
Fulbright Distinguished Lecturer, University of Pittsburgh

### March 12, 2024: The Russian War in Ukraine: Displaced People and Changing Security Concerns

Russia's invasion of Ukraine transformed European security concerns dramatically. It has disrupted the lives of countless people in the region. It triggered a new wave of rapid forced migration throughout the EU and in other neighboring countries. Displacement from the war impacts not only Ukrainian women and children fleeing to Poland, Germany, Hungary, Moldova, and other neighboring countries. It has also affected Russians avoiding mobilization or Russian intellectuals avoiding repressions in their home country. Unfortunately, at a time of record numbers of internal and external displaced persons worldwide, numbers of people seeking asylum have now risen in Central Asia and Caucasus. In addition to considering the overall security situation resulting from the war, this Conversation on Europe asked: how do these movements of people affect the current situation in the EU and in receiving countries? How have societies and state apparatuses reacted to this migration and what can we learn from these dynamics? What role does "security" and securitization play in these processes?

The conversation was moderated by Randall Halle, and Erica Edwards, University of Pittsburgh, and the panelists included:

- **Joachim A. Koops**, Leiden University
- **Kseniya Yurtayeva**, University of Michigan

▶ To watch Feb.13 conversation on *Mis-disinformation Security*, [click here](#)

▶ To watch March 12. conversation on *The Russian War in Ukraine*, [click here](#)





## Conversations on Europe Spring 2024



April 9, 2024: European Parliament Elections across the 27 members states"

### April 9, 2024: European Parliament Elections across the 27 members states

For this last Conversations on Europe of Spring semester, the interactive virtual roundtable discussion revolved around the ongoing election campaign to the European Parliament, as the elections will take place between June 6th and 9th. With looming economic slowdown, increasing migration both on the southern and eastern border of the EU, and growing support for populist and nationalist parties, what are the prospects for the EU integration? What are the main topics of the campaign, and how will they impact the elections? Which parties will gain a majority in the upcoming 5 years term and shape the future of the EU?

The moderators of the Panel were **Jae-Jae Spoon**, University of Pittsburgh; and **Zeynep Somer-Topcu**, the University of Texas at Austin.

The panelists included:

- **Kai Arzheimer**, Professor of Political Science, University of Mainz
- **Catherine DeVries**, Dean for International Affairs and Professor of Political Science, Bocconi University
- **Jan Rovny**, Professor of Political Science at the Center for European Studies and Comparative Politics, Sciences Po-Paris

This year's virtual conversations were well attended by students and faculty from interdisciplinary programs. The MFJMCE at FIU is looking forward to participating again this Fall 2024.

*By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*

► To watch April 9 conversation on European Parliament Elections, [click here](#)

## Conversations on Europe

► To view Fall 2023 Program, [click here](#)

- **September 12** – Mis/Disinformation Security: Protecting EU Values and Democracies
- **October 17** – Polish Post-Election Review: Analysis of Election Results in Poland and their impact on European Security
- **November 14** – Yaoundé Conventions 60 years on: Africa-EU Relations Now

► To view Spring 2024 Program, [click here](#)

- **February 13** – Mis/Disinformation Security: Protecting EU Values and Democracies
- **March 12** – The Russian War in Ukraine: Displaced People and Changing Security Concerns
- **April 9** – Elections 2024: European Parliament Elections across the 27 members states

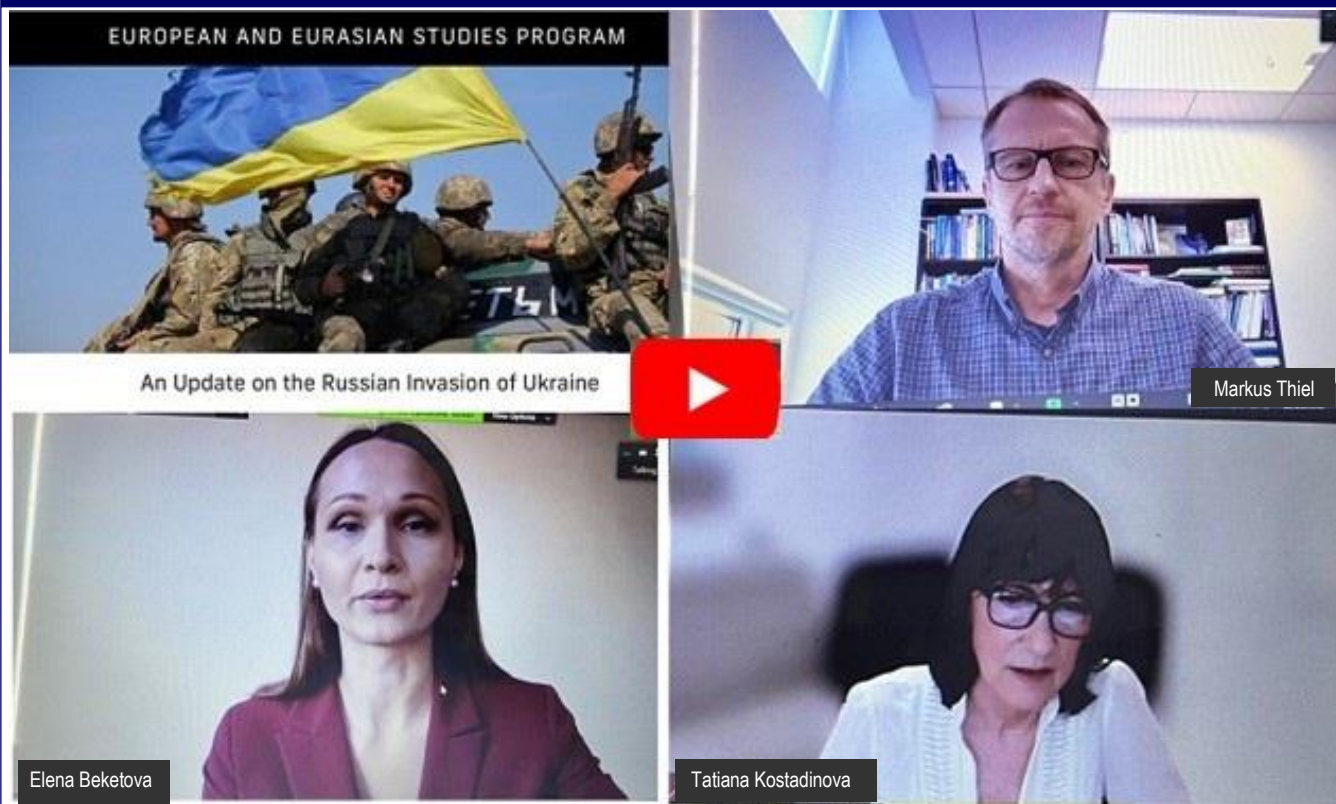




## EESP Virtual Roundtable

### An Update on the Russian Invasion of Ukraine

Thursday, October 12, 2023 | FIU



The main goal of this online panel, organized by the European & Eurasian Studies program at FIU, was to offer most recent information about the current situation in Ukraine and its efforts to fight against the Russian Invasion. This public event took place on the 12<sup>th</sup> of October, with an invited key speaker expert from Washington's Center for European Policy Analysis (CEPA) and was moderated by Drs. Markus Thiel and Tatiana Kostadinova.

The panel detailed developments in the last couple months, both in the occupied territories and in the rest of Ukraine, discussing various issues that have emerged during the conflict.

The lengthy war that Russia started in early 2022 tested the coherence of the Ukrainian nation, its resilience, courage, and determination to defend its land. While the war accelerated the country's association with the West, the issue of how to end the war and achieve sustainable peace remains open.

The guest speaker, Ms. Elina Beketova, discussed many of these pressing questions from her unique perspective of a native Ukrainian. She is an in-residence fellow with the Democracy Fellowship program at the CEPA. Her research focuses on temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine after Russia's full-scale invasion on February 24, 2022.

Elina Beketova started her career as a journalist in Feodosia, Crimea, working for the local newspaper. Later she was involved as a Benjamin Franklin Transatlantic Fellow in Wake Forest University and in the Global Undergraduate Exchange Program, University of Mississippi.

Elina Beketova worked as a journalist, editor, and TV-anchor for different news stations in Kharkiv and Kyiv, Ukraine. In her presentation, Ms. Beketova provided important background that helps understand the conflict in its complexity. Her account on the fate of the occupied territories, the story of somebody born and raised in the Crimea, was extremely interesting and powerful.

The event was attended by both undergraduate and graduate students from FIU who had the opportunity to learn from a unique perspective of a native Ukrainian. Many of them participated by asking questions and sharing comments on what Ms. Beketova had discussed. Some students taking the International Relations of Europe and the Russian Politics course wrote short essays – reflections on the update on the war, the unexpected facts learned, and their views about Ukraine's future.

By Tatiana Kostadinova

► To view flyer, [click here](#) ► To view bio, [click here](#)  
► To watch video, [click here](#)



## PIR Conference Personalism and Good Governance EESP Conference—December 1, 2023 | FIU



From left to right: Drs. Fernando Bizzarro (Yale University), Tatiana Kostadinova (FIU), Kevin Evans (FIU) Milena Neshkova (FIU); and William G. Resh (University of Southern California)

On December 1<sup>st</sup>, the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet European Center of Excellence co-sponsored a research conference featuring new scholarship on the impact of personalist leadership in various parts of the world. The event was organized by the FIU Department of Politics and International Relations. The conference theme - personalism and understanding its effect on governance - brought together researchers from different fields - Political Science, Public Policy and Administration, and International Relations. In attendance were faculty, graduate and undergraduate students, and FIU alumni.

This conference offered a platform for presentation and discussion of new scientific work that casts light on the mechanisms of policymaking and implementation in countries ruled by powerful individuals. As many observers have noted, contemporary political systems reveal the increasing importance of the personal characteristics of politicians, government officials, and civil servants. Stark examples of this phenomenon are authoritarian figures such as Russia's Vladimir Putin, Turkey's Recep Erdogan and Peru's Alberto Fujimori, as well as leaders of democratic nations represented by Italy's Silvio Berlusconi and the United States' Donald Trump. As more political parties led by charismatic individuals win elections, the need for a better understanding of the consequences has become urgent and the conference was an attempt to respond to this need.

The program included three panels with participants from various U.S. universities and from abroad. The guest presenters included Dr. Fernando Bizzarro of Yale University, Dr. William Resh of University of Southern California, Dr. Joseph Wright of Pennsylvania State University, Dr. Donald Moynihan of Georgetown University, and Dr. Jessica Weeks of University of

Wisconsin-Madison. Their work, theoretically innovated and methodologically sophisticated, focused on the effects of personalism on economic development, bureaucratic transformations, anti-Covid policies, peace decision making, and democratic backsliding. Dr. Gideon Rahat of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem who connected via Internet, presented on the role of personalist leadership in Israel's policy response to Hamas' violent attack last October. FIU's Drs. John Clark and Anthony Pereira spoke of authoritarian approaches to foreign policy making in Africa and Brazil and Drs. Milena Neshkova and Tatiana Kostadinova discussed results from a study on corruption and personalism in young European and Latin American democracies. The audience engaged with challenging questions and feedback on the presented research.

*By Tatiana Kostadinova*



Drs. Markus Thiel, Tatiana Kostadinova, Milena Neshkova

- ▶ To view detailed program and bios, [click here](#)
- ▶ To view pictures, [click here](#)



## MFJMCE HS Teacher Workshop

### Teaching the EU in a Transatlantic Context

Friday, January 19, 2024 | FIU



**Markus Thiel and Christine I. Caly-Sanchez with Miami-Dade High School Teachers**

On January 19, as part of our Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence EU-grant, we organized a one-day workshop designed to give senior high school educators an overview of the European Union and address issues affecting Europe and EU/US relations. Fifteen Miami-Dade county high school teachers attended the workshop entitled “Teaching the EU in a Transatlantic Context” and were eager to listen to European experts and shape their knowledge on Europe in order to better teach the European Union to their class.

In the morning, Dr. Markus Thiel covered the values of the European Union, its history, Institutions major policies, and the Euro.

Christine I. Caly-Sanchez presented the Euro Challenge competition and showed teachers where to find key resources on the web that will help them better teach the European Union. Her presentation proved to be of great interest to all participants.

In the afternoon, Dr. Thiel was joined by three European faculty experts, Dr. Tatiana Kostadinova, Director, European & Eurasian Studies Program and

expert in Russia and East European countries, Dr. Lukas Danner, Research Associate at the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, FIU, and Fulbright-NSF Arctic Research Scholar at the Centre for Arctic Studies, Institute of International Affairs, University of Iceland; and Ernesto Fiocchetto, PhD candidate in International Relations, in a panel designed to address issues affecting Europe and the EU/US relations. After listening with interest to the panelists speaking about their expertise on EU-US relations, migration and asylum, Ukraine-Russia relations, the war in Ukraine and its challenges for Europe, and the European defense, teachers were able to engage in a lively discussion with our experts.

Each educator was also provided with a packet of materials to bring back to their classrooms as a means of facilitating student learning. The workshop was as lively and engaging as ever, as educators were given a broad range of information on topics related on the European Union.

*By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*

► To view pictures, [click here](#)





## MFJMCE Presentation

### The Aachen Treaty: A Celebration of Friendship & Cooperation between France and Germany | Tuesday, January 23, 2024



Markus Thiel, Hon. Christofer Burger, and Hon. Raphaël Trapp

The Elysée Treaty was signed on January 22, 1963 by French President Charles De Gaulle and German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer to consolidate its friendship and cooperation. Chancellor Angela Merkel and President Emmanuel Macron, along with lawmakers from both countries, called for a "new Élysée Treaty" in January 2018 on the occasion of its 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the so called Aachen Treaty was signed on January 22, 2019. Sixty-one years later, the world has changed, as have the challenges for European countries, but the solution remains the same: it is the continuation of the European project to achieve peace, freedom, and prosperity on the continent. The Franco-German partnership has a decisive role to play. More than ever, Europe needs a strong and united partnership between the Germans and the French.

On Tuesday, January 23, to celebrate the friendship and cooperation between France and Germany, the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, invited Hon. Raphaël Trapp, Consul General of France in Miami, and Hon. Christofer Burger, Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Miami, to discuss the 61-year anniversary

of the Elysée Treaty, the importance of Franco-German relations, the European dimension, and transatlantic aspects with Florida International University students.

Dr. Markus Thiel welcomed Consuls General Trapp and Burger to his class on Comparative Politics of Western Europe and introduced them to the audience.

After reminding the audience about the history of the Elysée Treaty and Aachen Treaty, the consuls general of Germany and France highlighted the unique relationship binding France and Germany in recent history. Thanks to their political will, successive leaders from both countries built a common future based on reconciliation, friendship, and the participation of civil societies. Many programs were created in 1963 and in the following decades to allow French and German citizens to better understand each other and to get



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





## MFJMCE Presentation

### The Aachen Treaty: A Celebration of Friendship & Cooperation Between France and Germany | Tuesday, January 23, 2024



Consuls General of France and the Federal Republic of Germany with FIU students and faculty

closer. Both consuls general confirmed that this shared goal of converging of views is still essential to address the current challenges, whether they are bilateral, European, or global. They also highlighted the work done by both countries, along with their other European partners within the framework of European integration, to achieve peace, freedom and prosperity on the continent.

We would like to sincerely thank Hon. Raphaël Trapp, Consul General of France; and Hon. Christofer Burger, Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany, for their fantastic presentation and for engaging with our students.

*By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*



Full audience at FIU



Christine Caly-Sanchez, Markus Thiel, Christofer Burger, and Raphaël Trapp

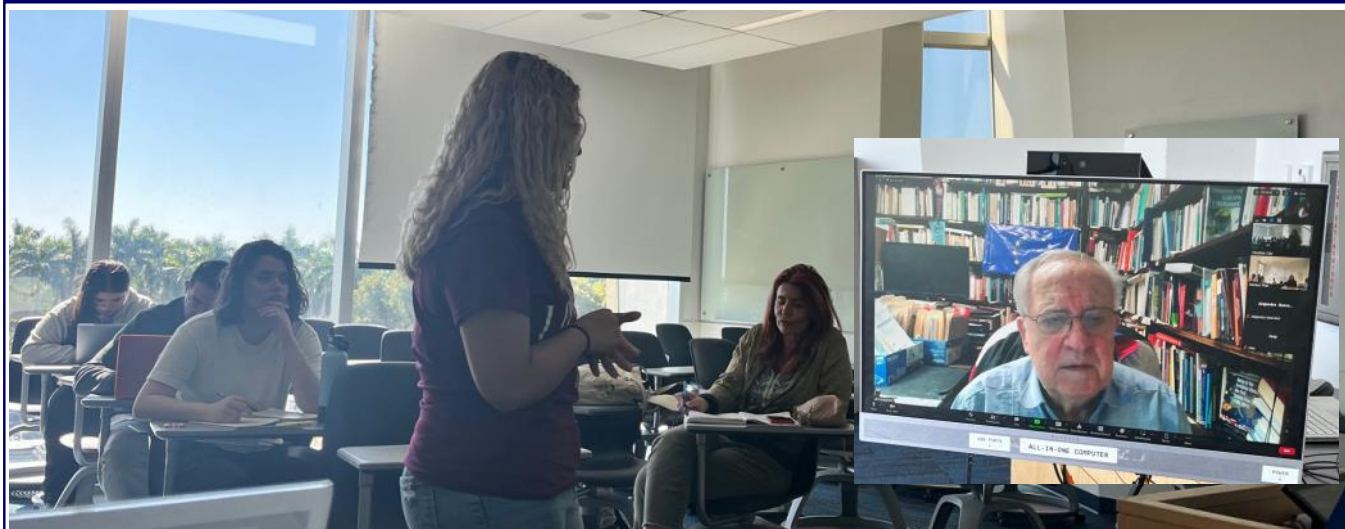




## MFJMCE Presentation

### Regional Integration and European-Latin American Relations History and Current Trends by Dr. Joaquín Roy, University of Miami

Tuesday, February 20, 2024 | FIU



Dr. Roy answering FIU students questions on EU-Latin American relations

As part of our Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence grant, on February 20, Dr. Joaquín Roy gave a presentation on Europe and Latin American Relations, history and current trends, via video conference in Dr. Markus Thiel's class *Politics of Western Europe*.

Dr. Roy (Lic. Law, University of Barcelona, 1966; Ph.D., Georgetown University, 1973) is Jean Monnet Professor and Director of the University of Miami European Union Center. He has published over 200 academic articles and reviews and is the author or editor of 39 books. He has also published over 1,400 columns and essays. King Juan Carlos of Spain awarded him the Encomienda of the Order of Merit.

Dr. Roy addressed a question that guided his presentation: Why do the Latin American integration systems differ from the EU model? He answered through a comprehensive presentation on the issue. He argued that the main obstacle to mirroring the EU

model is the unfinished task of consolidating national identity: the production of the uniquely Latin American species of the *pensadores*. However, in his view, national integration takes precedence over continental cohesion. He also argued that Latin America and the Caribbean is an ideal area to receive the influence and inspiration for one of the most important messages of the EU, namely, regional integration. Dr. Roy's fascinating lecture also tackled how the Russian Invasion of Ukraine affected the Latin American region and gave us an update on the EU-Latin American relations.

An engaging discussion between Dr. Roy and the students followed the presentation.

This event was part of the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence activities. We counted on our co-sponsors' consistent support, including the European & Eurasian Studies Program and the University of Miami.

By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez



Dr. Thiel's CPO 3103 class listening to Dr. Roy's presentation



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## MFJMCE Presentation

### The Dark Cloud: A comparison of US/EU Policy on Critical Materials for the Digital Economy

Thursday, Feb. 22, 2024 | FIU



Guillaume Pitron, French journalist, author, and filmmaker, with FIU students

On Feb. 22, our MFJMCE was honored to host Guillaume Pitron, a prominent French journalist, author, and filmmaker, for a presentation about his recently published book, *"The Dark Cloud: How the online world is costing the earth."* The discussion focused on the origins of digital technology, and the disastrous effect on the finite amount of our planet's resources used to support it, which creates catastrophic consequences for our environment. He compared U.S./EU policy on critical materials for the digital economy, the geopolitics of extracting the raw materials, and reflected on Europe's energy sovereignty and the upheavals caused by artificial intelligence.

Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director, Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence at FIU was honored to welcome and introduce such prominent journalist.

Guillaume Pitron is a French award-winning journalist and documentary-maker for France's leading television channels. His work focuses on commodities and on the economic, political, and environmental issues associated with their use. *The Rare Metals War*, his

first book, sold 80,000 copies in France and has been translated into ten languages. Guillaume Pitron holds a master's degree in international law from Georgetown University (Washington, DC), and is a TEDx speaker. Guillaume is an expert in geopolitical issues linked to natural resources. He covers diverse issues, such as the limits of our planet's resources, the challenges of shifting to a circular economy, China's technological rise, Europe's energy sovereignty and the upheavals caused by artificial intelligence.

After being introduced, Guillaume Pitron made his presentation in front of a full audience made up of students from Dr. Arraras' international relations class at the College of Law.

For the last 15 years, Guillaume has been working as a reporter in the field, on missions, to work on many resources. He added that the most fascinating issues he has worked on is the issue on the critical minerals. First on the digital transition, he wrote his first book *"The Rare Metals War-The dark side of clean energy"*

► To view Guillaume Pitron's bio, [click here](#)





## THE DARK CLOUD: A comparison of US/EU Policy on Critical Materials for the Digital Economy



Guillaume Pitron, French Journalist, author, and filmmaker

and digital technologies”, and second “*The Dark Cloud*” where he investigated during two years.

Guillaume told the students that during his 45 minute lecture he wanted to try to make them as interested as possible in these fascinating topics.

“Let me start just by reminding you that we are living in an IT world and turning virtual, doing something in the virtual world, sending an e-mail, an envelope to your grandmother to say “hi” is much better for the environment. If you do live in the virtual world, you have less impact on the environment,” he said. He added, “this has been confirmed in many studies UNESCO or UN agencies who said that if you turn online, if you have to do what you have to do in virtual world, if you put your data in a cloud, that’s going to be better for the environment.”

In 2017, UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) stated that “Global CO2 savings resulting from efficient use of ICTs is estimated to amount to 15% of global emissions.”

In 2015, UNESCO confirmed that “Mobile technology alone could reduce GHGs emissions by 2% by 2020.”

But it has been a challenge. If we go back to 2019, the SHIFT PROJECT—The Carbon Transition Think Tank proceeds in the opposite direction.

The question of “IT for Green” is one thing, but does “Green IT” exist?

The digital transition in its current form does more to contribute to global warming that it does to help prevent it.

70-80% of IT’s impact on the planet is due to the extraction of rare resources that we need to use for resource servers, submarine cables, telephone antennas, data centers, satellite, and even cell phones.

Guillaume Pitron continued his presentation by asking the students if they knew what their phone was made of. At the surprise of everyone, we learned that more than 50 metals compose our cell phone: Cobalt, Lithium, Gold, Copper, Tin, Neodymium, Tungsten, plastic, are among them. These rare-earth metals are necessary to build high-tech products.



Astrid Arraras, Guillaume Pitron, and Christine I. Caly-Sanchez



## THE DARK CLOUD: A comparison of US/EU Policy on Critical Materials for the Digital Economy

Critical minerals such as copper, lithium, nickel, cobalt and rare earth elements are also essential components in many of today's rapidly growing clean energy technologies – from wind turbines and electricity networks to electric vehicles.

ICT is an environmentally friendly technology, but as the Butterfly Effect of Matter, and if we compare it to an iceberg, we only see the tip of the iceberg, and not what's behind it. We need to take into consideration that there is a finite amount of our planet's resources used to support it and we have environmental issues which are becoming critical.

It turns out that the digital world, essential for communicating, working, and consuming, is much more tangible than we would like to believe. Today, it absorbs 10 percent of the world's electricity and represents nearly 4 percent of the planet's carbon dioxide emissions. We are struggling to understand these impacts, as they are obscured by the mirage of "the cloud."

Guillaume Pitron's research reveals not only how costly the virtual world is, but how damaging it is to the environment.

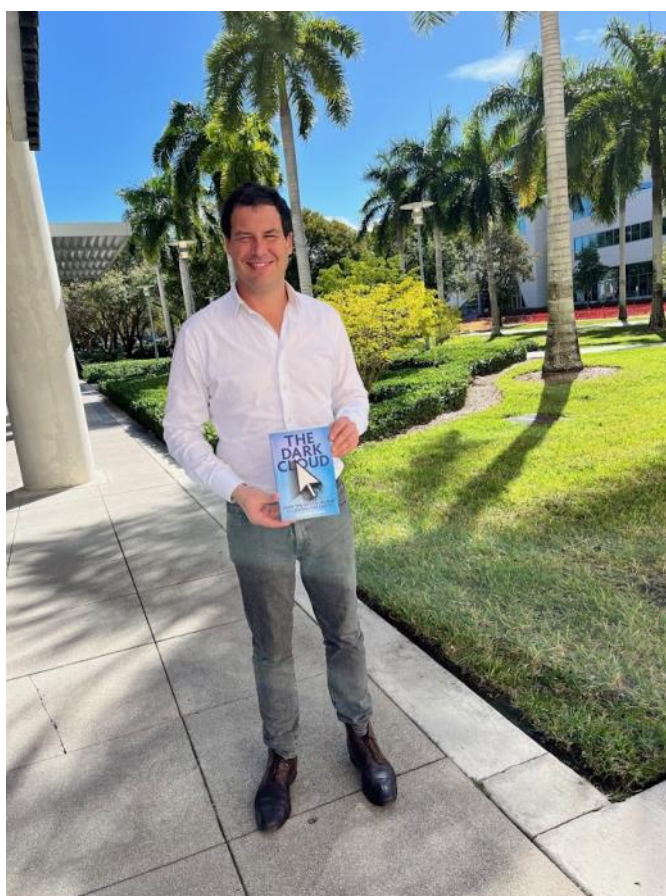
In his second part of his presentation, he compared US -EU policy on critical materials for the digital economy, the geopolitics of extracting the raw materials, and reflected on Europe's energy sovereignty and the upheavals caused by artificial intelligence.

Guillaume Pitron's fantastic presentation was followed by a Q&A session. The students engaged in an exciting discussion with the journalist, and their thought-provoking questions resulted in an enjoyable conversation.

We would like to warmly thank Guillaume Pitron for his fascinating presentation which opened our eyes to the material impact as well as the economic and geopolitical issues of a totally connected world.

The event was co-sponsored by the Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs and European & Eurasian Studies program, the Dorothea Green Lecture Series, the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, the Department of Politics & International Relations, the Consulate General of France in Miami, Cultural Service, Villa Albertine, and the French Embassy.

*By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*



Guillaume Pitron, French Journalist, author, and filmmaker



- ▶ To view flyer, [click here](#)
- ▶ To view bio, [click here](#)
- ▶ To view pictures, click [here](#)
- ▶ More info on the book, [click here](#)







## MFJMCE CONFERENCE

# Reimagining and Reforming European Foreign Policies

## March 11-12, 2024



**Keynote speaker: Michael Curtis, EU Deputy Ambassador, Delegation of the European Union to the United States**

As part of our European Union grant focusing on social inclusion and societal diversity, we organized a two-day conference on “Reimagining and Reforming European Foreign Policies” this year. It took place in-person at Florida International University on March 11-12, 2024.

This conference explored ways to make European foreign policy more inclusive and less Euro-centric. After a keynote reflecting on the overall theme on day one, three academic panels revolved around the question of how to de-center Euro-centric foreign policy prescriptions to make them more inclusive-participatory and less interventionist. This also entails a critical re-evaluation of existing EU foreign and multilateral policies, especially as it relates to questions of race and migration, gender and sexuality, postcolonial relations, environmental protection and democracy and rights promotion. These issues are not only considered in the context of relations with major actors and challenges, such as the United States, Russia or China, but also revisited in the context of global (United Nations) governance and, importantly, include non-state actors.

### **Keynote Address: H.E. Michael Curtis** **EU Deputy Ambassador** **Delegation of the European Union to the United States**

On Monday, March 11, 2024, Dr. Markus Thiel opened the conference. He thanked our sponsors and co-sponsors, welcomed the expert panelists, and gave the opening remarks. He introduced our keynote speaker, H.E. Michael Curtis, EU Deputy Ambassador, Delegation of the European Union to the United States in Washington D.C.

Before starting his speech, Michael Curtis thanked Markus Thiel and Christine I. Caly-Sanchez for inviting him to deliver the opening speech of our conference “Reimagining and Reforming European Foreign Policies” and address *the EU-US relations and the EU’s foreign policies priorities*. He also congratulated Florida International University and SIPA for being the focal point for EU studies and hosting the European Center of Excellence for over two decades since 2001. He added that the EU Delegation was appreciative for all we have done and are doing to educate so many Floridians and American students on the European Union.



## MFJMCE CONFERENCE

# EU-US Relations and the EU's Foreign Policy Priorities Keynote speaker Michael Curtis—March 11, 2024



Michael Curtis, EU Deputy Ambassador,  
Delegation of the European Union to the United States

### H.E. Michael Curtis

*EU Deputy Ambassador*

*Delegation of the European Union to the United States*

Michael Curtis has been the EU Deputy Ambassador to the US since September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019. Immediately before joining the Delegation, he served in the team of the EU's Foreign Policy Chief, Federica Mogherini, advising her on a number of important foreign policy issues for five years, including on transatlantic relations.

He has had a long career in the European Union institutions working mainly on foreign policy and external relations, trade, development and humanitarian issues. From 2004-2008, he worked as the EU Humanitarian Affairs Counsellor to the United Nations in New York. From 2000-2004, he worked on the team of the EU Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid, Poul Nielson, first as Press Spokesperson then as a member of his Staff.

Mr. Curtis has also had two stints working for the European Commission's Secretariat General focusing on relations with the EU Member States in the area of foreign policy and trade, then relations with the European External Action Service where he was closely involved with its setting up in 2010.

Mr. Curtis has a Bachelor's degree in French and Politics from Leicester University in the U.K and a post-graduate Master's degree in European Politics from the College of Europe in Bruges, Belgium. He is a dual Italian/British national.

He continued his remarks by affirming that since the opening of this Center in 2001, the EU launched the Euro, had three enlargements in 2004, 2007, and 2013; created a new diplomatic service, the European External Action Service. The Delegation to the United States in Washington, where he serves as Deputy Ambassador, is part of a network of 143 diplomatic missions.

In his speech, he provided an overview of EU-US relations and the main EU foreign policy priorities, reflecting on the ambitions, as well as challenges, of current EU external relations globally.

He addressed the invigorated pace of EU integration on security/defense & support for Ukraine, which is one of its priorities. "The European Union (EU) and our 27 Member States remain united and determined in our unprecedented support for Ukraine," he said. "Since the start of the war, the EU and our Member States have made available close to \$110 billion in financial, military, humanitarian, and refugee assistance." Under today's European Security and Defense Policy, the EU can and does undertake joint actions and plays a leading role in international peacekeeping operations and conflict prevention. Around 5,000 military and

civilian staff are deployed in operations on 3 continents. There are currently 12 civilian missions and 9 military missions in Europe, North Africa and the Middle East.

One of these missions has so far trained 25,000 Ukrainian soldiers and aims to bring that number to 40,000 by the end of the year. At the same time, the EU has introduced an unprecedented package of sanctions against the Kremlin, as well as the Lukashenko regime in Belarus.



Full audience of distinguished guests, students, and faculty





## MFJMCE CONFERENCE

## EU-US Relations and the EU's Foreign Policy Priorities Keynote speaker Michael Curtis—March 11, 2024

He emphasized that the solidarity they have built in the European Union over seven decades has served them well and continues to be the glue that keeps the EU moving forward together. "Our diversity is our strength and can help us to take bold steps to not just respond to crises but also to plan for the future," he said.

He also stated that the EU plays a leading role in global affairs, including on development and climate change.

Finally, Michael Curtis emphasized the importance of transatlantic relations among the economies on both sides of the Atlantic, which share values, and global objectives, along with common threats and challenges. The United States and Europe face the same phenomena and fear that globalization may affect their labor markets, their immigration policies and the resurgence of nationalism that threatens the post World War II order. However, to confront them, each must stand together with allies and join forces. This has been the key to success for both continents in past

years. "The Europeans maintain their willingness to work together with the U.S. for a better world. For decades, trade has been the backbone of the EU-US relationship. We are the US's most important trading partner with two-way trade in goods and services worth over \$1.3 trillion in 2022. That's \$3.6 billion a day! EU investment in the US stands at \$1.24 trillion — around 10 times what the EU invests in India and China together. "Our economic relationship is a major prosperity driver on both sides of the Atlantic supporting 9.4 million jobs directly and 16 million indirectly," he said.

After his presentation, the audience engaged in an exciting conversation with Mr. Curtis during the Q&A session. Our MFJMCE was honored to have hosted this prestigious diplomat.

*By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*

- ▶ To watch video recording of keynote speaker, [click here](#)
- ▶ To see pictures, [click here](#)



Michael Curtis, EU Deputy Ambassador, Delegation of the European Union to the US with distinguished guests



## MFJMCE CONFERENCE

# Reimagining and Reforming European Foreign Policies



Panel I—From left to right: Drs. Victor M. Uribe-Uran, Jean Muteba Rahier, Nora Fisher Onar, Markus Thiel

### Panel I: Concepts and Contexts

On Tuesday morning of March 12, 2024, students, faculty, and the general public met at FIU Graham Center to attend the first panel on “Decentering & Reimagining European Foreign Policies? Concepts and Contexts.” The panel focused on various critical approaches towards European foreign relations, and highlighted the ways in which racialized, gendered, sexual, religious, and other diverse populations encounter exclusions and Eurocentric perspectives in European foreign relations. The panel aimed to answer this question: What are the historical, socio-political, and global contexts that led to a need to provincialize and reform existing European foreign policies and practices?

The panel consisted of Jean Muteba Rahier, Professor of Anthropology and African & African Diaspora Studies, Department of Global and Sociocultural Studies, FIU ; and Dr. Victor Uribe-Uran, Professor of History and Law, FIU, and Drs. Nora Fisher Onar, Associate Professor of International Studies, Academic Coordinator, Middle East Studies, University of San Francisco; Dr. Markus Thiel, moderated the conversation between the three experts. The topics presented by this panel covered several regions and conceptual issues including Africa and Latin America.

Dr. Jean Muteba Rahier offered meaningful insights on conceptual issues in Africa. He presented the history of the European colonialism in Africa and its racial repercussions for today and how to decenter the

European “White” supremacy”. His comments on the delay with which post/decolonial theory has made inroads in IR quite useful to get an ‘outside’ perspective.

Dr. Uribe-Uran’s presentation was titled “*Legacies of European Colonialism: Law, Politics, and Violence in Latin America*.” After an historical overview of European colonialism, he focused on the repercussions for today in Latin American (post) colonial perspective. Based on his research on Latin American colonial history and law seems to have important implications of how European governments and the EU are perceived today as global actors.

Lastly, Dr. Nora Fisher Onar addressed her presentation on “Towards Allyship in Diversity? Critical Perspectives on the European Union as a Global Actor.”



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





## MFJMCE CONFERENCE

## Reimagining and Reforming European Foreign Policies



Panel II—From left to right: Christofer Burger, Drs. Louise K. Davidson Schmich, and Susanne Zwingel

**Panel II: Feminist Foreign Policies - an inclusive way to move beyond Eurocentrism?**

In the second panel, three experts participated in the discussion about Feminist Foreign Policies and aimed to answer this question: Can Feminist Foreign Policy, with its holistic yet broad ambitions, be a sustainable way to move beyond paternalistic Euro-centrism in foreign policy making across the world? And How to promote it as a tool for better societies worldwide?

Feminist foreign policy (FFP), with its focus on gender and human security, peace building, anti-racism, climate justice and international collaboration, originated in Europe, but has gained attention and a following around the world.

The experts in the panel were Hon. Christofer Burger, consul general of the Federal Republic of Germany; Dr. Louise K Davidson Schmich, Professor of Political Sciences, University of Miami, and Sofia Pérez Gil, Visitor Scholar-in-residence, School of International Service, American University, Washington D.C.

Suzanne Zwingel, Professor in International Relations at Florida International University introduced and moderated the panel.

Louise Davidson Schmich was the first panelist. Her presentation entitled *Women's Involvement in Foreign Policy: Not Just a Western Luxury* focused on feminist foreign policy in Europe and Beyond. She reminded that the European Commission stated that the EU promotes and financially supports gender equality and women's empowerment across the globe; however, women and marginalized groups still have limited access to the decision-making process, especially in the field of foreign and security policy. In reality, "Feminist Foreign Policy has not yet been realized in terms of who makes decisions or what these decisions entail," she said.

Christofer Burger, Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany was the second panelist and presented *Not a revolution, but a turn – Germany's Feminist Foreign Policy guidelines* and what they entailed.

Germany's new Feminist Foreign Policy guidelines which were published by the German government in 2022, seek to anchor gender equality in different areas of German foreign policy. But they also raise hard questions about what it means to put these feminist principles into practice—particularly in light of security concerns raised by the war in Ukraine.

Consul General Burger explained that the guidelines focus on three overarching objectives: equal *rights* for women and girls, the equitable *representation* of women in all areas of society, and equal access to *resources* for women and girls (in short: rights, representation, and resources).

To advance these objectives, the [guidelines](#) highlight three main areas of action: gender mainstreaming, gender budgeting, and internal diversity. First, in terms of mainstreaming, the guidelines note that Germany will integrate a focus on gender equality and women's rights across different areas of external engagement, including peace and security, humanitarian response, human rights policy, climate diplomacy and external energy policy, foreign trade and investment, and cultural and public diplomacy. Viewed comparatively, Germany's framework appears to be ambitious: rather than focusing only on development, it covers various areas of foreign engagement, including security policy, trade, and climate policy. This new Feminist Foreign Policy represents a welcome step to increase attention to gender equality issues in Germany's international engagement. The fact that the guidelines were



## MFJMCE CONFERENCE

## Reimagining and Reforming European Foreign Policies



From left to right: Raphaël Trapp, Consul General of France; Michelle Mistò, Consul General of Italy; Lisette den Breems, Consul General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands; Christofer Burger, Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany; and Dr. Markus Thiel

developed in close consultation with civil society, parliamentarians, and academics also points to a growing recognition that more diverse voices should help shape Germany's international engagement.

To sum it up, he wanted to think that Feminist Foreign Policy does not pretend to have audiences, but he hopes that it will bring questions such as: "Can Feminist Foreign Policy decenter Foreign Policy?"

Lastly, Sofia Pérez Gil, expert on feminism and feminist foreign policy, presented *the Feminist Foreign Policy in Colombia: a Work in Progress*. She described that there are three principles in Colombian feminist foreign policy: it must be participatory, bisexual, and pacifist.

Sofia stressed that the government must include women in decision-making on the three topics included in the feminist foreign policy: total peace, environmental justice, and education and culture.

She pointed out that although there are some challenges, there is progress in feminist foreign policy in Colombia.

Sofia's presentation proved to be of great interest to all participants.

This panel focused on FFP, how far the concept can be diffused, what the limits and issues are when applied outside Europe, and if it can represent a way to move beyond Eurocentrism.

### Consular roundtable: National Views on Reimagining & Reforming European Foreign Relations

During the afternoon, the Consular roundtable panel took place. Dr. Markus Thiel moderated the conversation. The panel was made up of Christofer Burger, Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany, Lisette den Breems, Consul General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Michelle Mistò, Consul General of Italy, and Raphaël Trapp, Consul General of France. The goal for the Consular roundtable was to provide insights on a national perspective when trying to create a common EU foreign policy of 27 different member states.

Each of the consuls general spoke about his/her national priorities and shared his/her reflections and perspectives on how to adapt European/EU foreign relations to not only make the EU a more impactful global actor, but also to make them more inclusive and participatory for underrepresented, non-European partners. This includes how to negotiate the tension between values and geopolitical interests, and the historical obligation of European countries to contribute to a more peaceful and sustainable tomorrow.

All of them pointed out that peace and security are the most important priorities since the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Defending European values and international law is indispensable. The Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany said that German foreign policy is a matter of European interests.

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

► To see pictures, [click here](#)





## MFJMC CONFERENCE

## Reimagining and Reforming European Foreign Policies



From left to right: Markus Thiel, Tomas Abreu, Raphaël Trapp, Michael Curtis, Christofer Burger, Lisette den Breems, Michelle Mistò, and Christine I. Caly-Sanchez

In his presentation, he focused on the security policy necessary for a safer world. The consul general of France added “we believe that we have to be better prepared. We need to work together on security and defense to anticipate threat.”

The Consul General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands confirmed that the main policy areas of the EU are important and a model for the Netherlands.

The European Union's foreign policy has four key aims that the Dutch government follows: to support stability, promote human rights and democracy, spread prosperity, and support the enforcement of the rule of law and good governance. She read the four priorities for this year: increase prosperity and resilience and accelerate the green and digital transition; strong geopolitical Union confidently assuming its role on a broad stage; A union growth in democracy, rule of law, share values; availability to carry out the transition and to preserve.

The objectives of Dutch foreign policy are threefold: to promote good relations between the Kingdom of the Netherlands and other countries; to protect the country

against outside threats; and to promote a fair world where peace, security, welfare, and human dignity are guaranteed.

Another topic for the Dutch government is the Green Deal Multilateral Trade. “We have to adapt in the technology,” said Lisette den Breems.

The Italian Consul General addressed Italy's political priority and stressed that he wants a stronger border and control. “We must have a common policy of solidarity and collaboration,” he said.

Consul General of France pointed out they believe they need more Energy interdependence to fight climate change.

On the question of interdependence between the European Countries, Consul General of France, Raphaël Trapp stated, “there is a will to be stronger. We are stronger together.”

At the end of the presentation, our students were honored and grateful to engage in conversations with our diplomats.

► To watch video, Consular roundtable, [click here](#)



## MFJMCE CONFERENCE

### Reimagining and Reforming European Foreign Policies



Panel III—From left to right: Ioannis Stivachtis, Johanne Dohlie Saltnes, Tatiana Kostadinova, Ernesto Fiocchetto

#### Panel III: Rethinking European Foreign policy Practices

During the afternoon, the third panel took place.

Dr. Tatiana Kostadinova, professor in the Department of Politics and International Relations at FIU's Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs, moderated the conversation.

The panel was made up of Ernesto Fiocchetto, Ph.D. Candidate in International Relations and Graduate Assistant of the MFJMCE at FIU; Dr. Johanne Dohlie Saltnes, Collaborating researcher and lecturer University of Brasilia; and Dr. Ioannis Stivachtis, Professor of Political Sciences and Jean Monnet Chair, Director, Center for European & Transatlantic Studies, Virginia Tech.

The speakers were invited to discuss other critical foreign policies that the EU pursues with its member states, and that are important focal points for more inclusive and reflective relations with the Global South: human rights promotion, climate change policies, and European Foreign & Security Policy. They attempted to answer the following question: How can these be normatively and strategically (re)formulated and reconstructed to do justice to Europe's historical and contemporary obligations as a powerful actor—especially as those are contested by Europe's growing far-right forces?

Ernesto Fiocchetto discussed the protection of human rights and some ways to improve the refugee status determination process based on discourses around the credibility assessment of LGBTIQ+ Latin Americans seeking asylum in Spain and the EU.

Dr. Johanne Saltnes looked at EU environmental and development policies in Brazil with the case of green unilateralism and Brazilian contestation of the EU's plan to protect and restore the world's forests and implications for EU foreign policy. She focused on global justice and the EU's external environmental policies.

Lastly, Dr. Stavichtis' presentation was titled *the European Union's Relations with Its Neighbourhood and the Global South: Reminiscent of the Past?* He addressed civilizational discourses and implications for foreign & security policy and made connections to EU-US/transatlantic relations.

All three panels concluded with question-and-answer sessions where students, faculty, and the general public were able to interact with our panelists.

The MFJMCE feels honored to have organized such a fantastic event, welcomed these excellent experts, and hosted a vibrant audience that showed interest and enriched the discussions with comments and questions.

We also want to thank the support of our co-sponsors: the Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs, the Green School's Dorothea Green Lecture Series, the Ruth K. and Shepard Broad Distinguished Lecture Series, the European & Eurasian Studies Program, the CWGS Center for Women's and Gender Studies, the SIPA's Vaclav Havel Program for Human Rights and Diplomacy, the Department of Politics and International Relations, and the Department of History.

By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez

► To watch video, Panel 3, [click here](#)





## MFJMCE Presentation

### Social Movements and Europe Left-wing and right-wing visions for a Global Europe

Peter Funke, Associate Professor, USF

Tuesday, April 16, 2024 | FIU



Dr. Peter Funke, Associate Professor of Politics, USF

On April 16, the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence invited Dr. Peter Funke, Associate Professor of Politics at the University of South Florida, for a presentation on social movement in Europe.

The moderator for this presentation was Dr. Markus Thiel.

Dr. Peter N. Funke is Associate Professor of Politics at the School of Interdisciplinary Global Studies at the University of South Florida, Tampa. He received his PhD from the University of Pennsylvania and his "Vordiplom" from the Freie Universität Berlin. His research focuses on social movements & contentions politics, capitalism & class, media & technology.

Peter Funke's presentation detailed the role of civil society organizations and social movements in Europe in the pursuit of social justice in the EU, highlighting how polarization over inequality, immigration has spurred activism across the political spectrum. In view of the upcoming European elections, such activism is consequential, but also important in terms of how Europe is projected across the globe.

Dr. Funke presentation was followed by a Q&A session. The students engaged in an exciting discussion with our expert, and their thought-provoking interventions resulted in an enjoyable conversation.

*By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*

► To view flyer, [click here](#)

► To view pictures, [click here](#)



Drs. Markus Thiel (left) and Peter Funke (center), with FIU students

# **CHALLENGE 2024**

## Local Florida Euro Challenge Competition 2024

Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 | 8:00 a.m.—5:30 p.m. | FIU



From left to right: Gloria Guzman, Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Markus Thiel, and Volker Anding

As part of our grant, on April 1<sup>st</sup>, the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence was proud to hold in-person the local Florida Euro Challenge Competition, one of the EU Delegation's most important outreach programs for youth in the United States. This is the 18<sup>th</sup> year in which the Preliminary Round-Competition has taken place at Florida International University and the 17<sup>th</sup> year that the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence partnered with the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta-Miami Branch. Nine schools from Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, and Leon Counties participated in this year's competition on site at Florida International University on April 1<sup>st</sup>, and five schools from Alachua, Orange and Palm Beach Counties presented via video conference at FIU on March 28 afternoon, in total, 14 schools.

The competition draws 9th and 10th grade high school students who have a variety of academic interests, including law, international relations, economics, and the humanities. In addition to their normal course work, students must find time to form teams (three to five students), research their respective economic problem topics at the country level (among the 20 EU member countries that have adopted the Euro), identify policies for responding to that problem, and practice their presentations and public skills.

Students chose the following economic problem topics this year:

- Climate Change and Going Green
- What Role does Inflation Play in an Economy?
- Managing Migration Flows
- Inequality, Social Mobility and the Gender Gap
- Innovating for Long-Term Growth and the Future of Work

and the following EU countries: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain.

"We've been preparing for the competition for about a year, and are thrilled to compete in-person and present our project *Ireland and Managing Migration Flows*," said one of the students.

In addition to students from local schools, the competition also draws leading figures in the community and diplomats to serve as judges, among them, Dr. Volker Anding, Ret. Ambassador of Germany; and Gloria Guzman, Senior Economic & Financial Education Specialist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta Miami Branch.

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



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



# €URO CHALLENGE 2024

**Local Florida Euro Challenge Competition 2024**  
**Monday, April 1st, 2024 | 8:00 a.m.—5:30 p.m.**



**Archimedean Upper Conservatory School: 3<sup>rd</sup> place in Florida**

“Each year, the presentations get better and better. As judges, we’re looking for their understanding and management of the concepts and economic indicators of their countries, as well as their presentations, the flow of the overall presentation, public speaking and their ability to work as a team,” said Volker Anding, a repeat competition-judge and Ret. German Ambassador.

Four schools were selected in Miami to advance to the national competition in New York this year. The 2024 winners of the preliminary round were Maclay School (1<sup>st</sup> place), followed by Benjamin High School (team 1—2<sup>nd</sup> place), Archimedean Upper Conservatory High School (3<sup>rd</sup> place), and PK Yonge High School (4<sup>th</sup> place). Those four teams were proud to advance and represent Florida at the national final held in New York on April 30, 2024.

The Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence has been participating in this wonderful project since the beginning. Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director at the MFJMCE, is the recruiter and organizer of the preliminary competition in Florida. She has very proudly stated “Since 2008, the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence has selected one hundred thirty Florida high schools from Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, St. Lucie, Lee, Alachua, Orange and Leon counties, and sent thirty-two to New York to compete nationally. One Hundred and sixty-one students have gone to New York representing their Florida schools. This competition has become a showcase for our Florida

schools, and it will continue to grow due to the tremendous response we have received from our local schools. In addition, this competition has been a transformative experience for the students that significantly contributed to their personal and academic growth. We are extremely proud of our schools in Florida.”

*By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*



**Maclay School: 1<sup>st</sup> Place in Florida**

From left to right: Suhani Gawde, Nishi Bhandari, and Reid Roberts



# €URO CHALLENGE 2024

Local Florida Euro Challenge Competition 2024 | FIU



Archimedean Upper Conservatory School — Teams 1 & 2



International Studies Preparatory Academy



Gulliver Preparatory School



Florida Atlantic University High School



Palm Beach Gardens Community High School



# 

## Local Florida Euro Challenge Competition 2024 | Testimonials

The members of the teams shared with us their experiences during the competition and the significance of their participation in the Euro Challenge Competition for their personal and professional life.

### THE BENJAMIN SCHOOL



**Annabelle, Sage, Isabella, and Madison**  
The Benjamin School Team

**Annabelle Persson**, 10th grade  
**Sage Ponchock**, 10th grade  
**Isabella Pedroni Spinola**, 9th grade  
**Madison Lambert**, 10th grade

Three members of our team competed in the Euro Challenge in 2023 and progressed to the National competition in 2024. This year, we added another student to our team. We progressed again to the National Competition where we placed 4th overall with our presentation regarding "Climate Change and Going Green in Greece". The Euro Challenge was an incredible experience that we have enjoyed immensely for the past two years. We have enjoyed every minute of it and are sad that we can no longer compete. However, we will continue to value the experience and knowledge we have gained about the Euro Area and the economics surrounding the zone. The suggestions and mentoring we were given from skilled financial advisors and energy specialists were invaluable and incredible to receive. We hope that many other students will take this incredible opportunity to partake in the Challenge.

### ARCHIMEDEAN UPPER CONSERVATORY



**Riana Hazra**

Archimedean Upper Conservatory  
9th grade

Participating in Euro Challenge has been an incredibly eye-opening experience for me. Through Euro Challenge, I have learned public speaking and the importance of teamwork, all while gaining extensive economic knowledge. My favorite part was the competition day, which was exhilarating and enjoyable at both the regional and semifinal levels. The thrill of competing and sharing our in-depth research on Ireland was immensely rewarding. I encourage every high school student to join the Euro Challenge and embark on this journey, gaining knowledge that will benefit them for years to come.



**Gabriela Rosa**

Archimedean Upper Conservatory  
9th grade

Participating in Euro challenge as a freshman has been an absolutely instrumental experience, to my journey in high school. The competition allowed me to explore new and exciting fields of interest, and discover new passions. It has undoubtedly been one of the most enjoyable academic competitions I have participated in, and I would urge any student to take a chance on it! It has also cultivated me into a more informed and cultured student, by pushing me to learn about foreign nations, and their economies. Overall, participating in the Euro challenge competition was both a rewarding and pleasurable experience, and I can't wait to participate in it next year!!



**Dylan Suster Sanchez**

Archimedean Upper Conservatory  
9th grade

Hello, my name is Dylan Suster Sanchez and I participated in the 2024 Euro Challenge competition for Archimedean Upper Conservatory. My team qualified for the national level from performing well in the FIU Florida regional's. But besides that, I'd like to briefly talk about my personal experience with Euro Challenge. At the beginning of the year, being a freshman, I didn't know it even existed. Euro Challenge taught me a lot, from improving my Research skills, to working well with my amazing teammates. Overall, the Euro Challenge experience is a challenging-but rewarding one!

# 

## Local Florida Euro Challenge Competition 2024 | Testimonials

### P.K. Yonge Development Research HS



**Valeria Andrade**

P.K. Yonge Developmental Research School  
11th grade

The Euro Challenge competition has helped me grow immensely as a student and person. It has helped me develop into a person with strong presentation and public speaking skills, which I can use to further benefit my academic career.

The Euro Challenge also has helped me think outside the box and has shown me how looking at a problem through different perspectives can generate a creative solution.

I love participating in this competition because we as a team get to showcase our hard work and knowledge and build camaraderie between each other.



**Purni Hasitha Tumati**

P.K. Yonge Developmental Research School  
11th grade

Participating as a semifinalist in the Euro Challenge Competition was a transformative experience that significantly contributed to my personal and academic growth. This journey provided me with a profound understanding of economic principles and the multifaceted factors that influence global economies daily. One of the most impactful aspects of the competition was the in-depth research required to analyze and present on specific economic challenges faced by the Eurozone. This process immersed me in the complexities of economic policies, fiscal strategies, and monetary regulations. It was through this rigorous research that I learned to appreciate the delicate balance policymakers must maintain to ensure economic stability and growth. Understanding the dynamics of inflation, unemployment, and GDP growth within the Eurozone, for instance, sheds light on the interconnectedness of global economies and the ripple effects that policy decisions in one region can have worldwide.

The competition also enhanced my communication skills. Presenting our findings to a panel of judges required clarity, confidence, and the ability to engage an audience. This experience taught me how to convey complex information effectively, a skill that is essential in any professional setting. The constructive feedback from judges and peers helped me refine my presentation techniques and boosted my confidence in public speaking.

Working as part of a team was another significant learning experience. Collaborating with peers to research, discuss, and present our topic highlighted the importance of teamwork and diverse perspectives. Each team member brought unique insights and strengths to the table, and learning to integrate these effectively was a key to our success. This experience underscored the value of collaboration and the power of collective intelligence in tackling complex issues. Beyond the technical and interpersonal skills, the Euro Challenge fostered a deeper awareness of current global economic issues. It instilled in me a sense of responsibility to stay informed about economic developments and to understand their broader implications. This awareness is crucial in today's interconnected world, where economic events in one part of the globe can have significant repercussions elsewhere.

In reflection, my time as a semifinalist in the Euro Challenge Competition was a period of substantial growth. It equipped me with a robust understanding of economic factors, enhanced my analytical and communication skills, and taught me the importance of teamwork. More importantly, it sparked a lasting interest in economics and global affairs, encouraging me to continue exploring how economic policies shape our world every day. This experience has undoubtedly laid a strong foundation for my future academic and professional endeavors.



Launched in the US in 2006, the Euro Challenge competition on European economic and monetary policy provides high school students the opportunity to learn about the euro, the single market, and other concepts central to the European Union and economics.

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



# EURO CHALLENGE 2024

## National Euro Challenge Competition in New York | April 30, 2024



Maclay School team at the finals; from left to right: Suhani Gawde, Reid Roberts, and Nishi Bhandari

EU Ambassador

Following regional contests, 25 HS teams from across the country travelled to New York City to participate in the national Euro Challenge semi-finals hosted at the New York City Bar Association and the final round on April 30. Among them, our four teams from Florida HS were thrilled and proud to have been selected at the local Florida Euro Challenge Competition on April 1<sup>st</sup> in Miami, and participate in the national competition in New York and represent Florida. In total 17 students and 4 teachers from Florida. For some of the students, it was their first experience in New York, and for them, it was an unforgettable trip and experience, "a once in a lifetime opportunity."

Maclay School presented *What Role does Inflation Play in an Economy and Greece*; Benjamin High School presented *Climate Change and Going Green and Greece*; Archimedean Upper Conservatory presented *Managing Migration Flows and Ireland*; and PK Yonge HS presented *Latvia and Inequality, Social Mobility, and the Gender Gap*.

Students were impressed by the level of the competition and the opportunity to present their economic challenge and European country before a panel of prestigious judges from the European community: ambassadors, consuls, EU Delegation officials, financial and economic experts. Among them, Ben Carliner, Senior Economist at the Delegation of the European Union to the U.S., Bruce Kasman, Chief Economist and Head of Global Economic Research at JP Morgan Chase & Co, and Dana Peterson, Chief Economist at the Conference Board.

After a long day of competition, all the students were invited to the Recognition and Award Reception at the New York City Bar Association where Her Excellency Jovita Neliupšienė, Ambassador of the European Union to the United States, announced the finalists, and congratulated the five best teams and all Euro Challenge participants for their remarkable performances. Among them, two of our Florida schools proudly won 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> places at the final: Maclay School and The Benjamin School. Ambassador Neliupšienė also recognized the teachers' efforts and dedication in coaching their teams in extracurricular hours.

"Participating in my first Euro Challenge as a new Ambassador in the U.S. was a wonderful experience," said Ambassador of the European Union to the United States Jovita Neliupšienė. "I'm amazed that high school students are not shying away from proposing solutions for German labor force problems, delve into solving energy diversification problems and fostering Greek olive oil production. Even discussing European Central Bank policies is not too complicated a question for them. I hope they not only choose to study economics or international studies, but will become true believers in transatlantic cooperation and work to strengthen the EU-U.S. bond."

In Florida, we are looking forward to participating in next year competition!

By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez



Maclay School won 3<sup>rd</sup> place at the finals in NY

From left to right: Suhani Gawde, Amb. Neliupšienė, Nishi Bhandari, and Reid Roberts

# EURO CHALLENGE 2024

## National Euro Challenge Competition in New York | April 30, 2024



The Euro Challenge promotes economic literacy, introduces students to the European Union, and underscores the importance of transatlantic ties. The Euro Challenge is one of the EU Delegation's most important outreach programs for youth in the United States. Since its inception, more than 7,000 U.S. students across the United States have benefited from participating in the event, which also engaged over 1,000 teachers. This year's 78 teams collectively represented high schools from 20 U.S. states (Arkansas, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, North Carolina, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin). The five winning teams received awards and trophies. The first and second place teams will also enjoy a trip to Washington, DC, to present their recommendations to the embassy of the country they researched.

The Euro Challenge is a program launched and supported by the Delegation of the European Union to the United States, and is managed on the Delegation's behalf by W|se (Working in Support of Education). Partners are BNP Paribas, Florida International University, the University of Pittsburgh, the University of Illinois, the University of Texas at Austin, the University of Washington, the World Affairs Council of Charlotte, the World Affairs Council of Seattle, and the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta (Miami Branch).

*By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*

### Students from Okemos High School (MI) Won 2024 Euro Challenge

#### Five High School Teams Received Awards for their Knowledge of the Euro and Euro Area

- 1<sup>st</sup> place: Okemos High School in Michigan
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place: Marlboro High School in New Jersey
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place: Maclay School in Florida
- 4<sup>th</sup> place: The Benjamin School in Florida
- 5<sup>th</sup> place: Mt. Hebron High School in Maryland



#### The Benjamin School won 4<sup>th</sup> place at the finals in NY

From left to right: Madison Lambert, Isabella Pedroni Spinola, Amb. Jovita Neliupšienė, Anabelle Persson, and Sage Ponchock



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





## 2024 Schuman Challenge

### Delegation of the European Union to the US

#### Washington D.C. | April 4-5, 2024



Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Piero Bozzo, Lauren Delattibodier, and Noah Alves

The Schuman Challenge is the annual foreign affairs contest for undergraduate students in the United States and an opportunity to present and defend transatlantic policy recommendations on a specific theme in front of a panel of judges. The competition takes place in Washington, D.C., at the EU Delegation, which funds the competition. The competition takes place over two days in Spring and includes an evening reception with foreign policy professionals.

The competition comprises two rounds: a preliminary round for all teams to present their policy proposals, followed by the finals. Three teams from the first round proceed to the finals. During their 10-minute presentations, each team (3-4 students) highlight their actionable proposals and then participate in a 10-minute Q-and-A session with the judges.

The 2024 edition of the Schuman Challenge took place from April 4-5 at the offices of the EU Delegation in Washington, D.C. The assigned question focused on enhancing EU-U.S. engagement with the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region.

This year's competition featured a record of 29 participating universities from 18 U.S. states.

For the first time, Florida International University participated in the 2024 Schuman Challenge Competition. Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Associate

Director, Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, accompanied our team composed of Lauren Delattibodier, Noah Alves, and Piero Bozzo, Junior and Senior students in International Relations.

On April 4, our team who chose "The EU-US transatlantic coordination to combat Peruvian illegal mining" presented their policy and ideas in front of a high-level panel of judges comprised of diplomats from the embassies of Ireland, Germany, and the Delegation of the European Union to the U.S. Our team had an outstanding performance and were congratulated by its jury. The same day, they had the opportunity to attend a reception with diplomats and foreign policy professionals, and met all the other participating universities.

On April 5, they attended the finals and listened to the three finalists. This year's winners were American University, University of Utah, and Stanford University. American University won 1st place with an insightful presentation on how satellite collaboration is an opportunity to harness space for the betterment of the EU, U.S., and LAC region.

In Florida, we are looking forward to participating in next year competition!

► To view pictures, [click here](#)

► Photos courtesy of the EU Delegation, to the USA, [click here](#)





THE  
SCHUMAN  
CHALLENGE

## 2024 Schuman Challenge Delegation of the European Union to the US Washington D.C. | April 4-5, 2024



American University team presenting their policies under a distinguished judges panel

Created by the EU Delegation to the United States in 2017, the Schuman Challenge brings together scholarly and talented undergraduate students to participate in a competition that reinforces an understanding of global affairs as well as the vitality and strength of the transatlantic partnership between the European Union and the United States.

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



Ambassador Jovita Neliupšienė



At the Schuman Challenge final on April 5: judges with the 29 participating universities  
From left to right: Javier Sanchez Velazquez, Celia A. Prince, Amb. Jovita Neliupšienė, Javier Sancho Velazquez





## 2024 Schuman Challenge | TESTIMONIALS



The members of the team shared their experiences with us during the competition and the significance of their participation in the Schuman Challenge in their personal and professional life.



**Noah Alves**

Florida International University  
BA in International Relations (2025)

This was FIU's very first time participating in the Schuman Challenge, besides being my inaugural competition with the school. Hosted at the EU Delegation to the U.S. in Washington D.C., the 2024 Schuman Challenge was an inherently enriching experience that equipped me with a glimpse into the inner workings of European policymaking and transatlantic affairs. Our trip lasted three days in the capital, the centerpiece that bubbles all of the primary political officials from international consulates and embassies together.

I volunteered to take part in the Schuman Challenge with FIU through a class with Dr. Thiel, who recommended the competition to me as an effective means to hone my public speaking and engage with the field headfirst. While I had already been studying and pursuing my interests in the field from an academic standpoint, I still had never tested my potential in a time-pressured environment, through oral presentations and policy proposals. This domain of international relations was still foreign to me, and I decided to join the team to gain whatever experience I could to improve my delivery and bolster my confidence.

It turned out to be a very rewarding decision. The work behind the scenes with my other group members was my favorite part of the process, especially when we drafted the components of our written policy and formatting the proposal for the competition. However, when it came to convince official judges at the delegation of the viability of our pitch, nerves suddenly started kicking in due to the weight of this presentation and how much we believed in our work. And yet, we succeeded. We delivered on the most important stage and managed to win the favor of our judges through our time together as a team creating this policy, which made for an extremely gratifying performance.

In this regard, the Schuman Challenge invites me to return again next year, possibly to go one step further

and make the final panel and a chance to win the entire competition. Once I discovered how natural I felt publicly speaking and policy making, I am feeling compelled to continue exploring the academic fulfillment these areas of international relations inspire within me. Meeting some officials during the ceremonies and being able to compare presentations with those of other students was also an insightful portion of the event that instilled a confidence in me to raise my ambitions for a second time around. And I could finally tap into a close look at the life and career of a diplomat and aspiring politicians, as well. For these reasons, I would definitely partake again in the Schuman Challenge and recommend it as an eye-opening experience that exposes you to the underlying demands of composing and advocating for your policy, especially in a vibrant political sphere with other competitive students. Forgot to mention, the food was also pretty delicious (and it's free).



**Piero Bozzo**

Florida International University  
BA in Psychology (2025)

The Schuman Challenge was something new for me, and I am glad I had the chance to be part of it.

Just from the fact that it was my first time in Washington, D.C., to the dynamics of the competition, it was incredible. I experienced it with two other classmates I now consider good friends and Ms. Christine Caly-Sanchez, the Associate Director of the Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence. We arrived there on April 3 and had some time to enjoy a bit of the city and prepare for our presentation. This year, the focus was on how to improve the EU-US engagement with the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region. Our proposal was based on transatlantic cooperation to combat illegal mining in Peru, which we presented to the judges the following day. Finally, on April 5, all the teams from the 29 universities that attended the competition were reunited at the Delegation of the European Union, where they gave the results regarding which three teams had been selected to go through the second round. I and everybody else had the chance to listen to the three finalist teams, and after that, the judges chose a winner and there was a short award ceremony. Overall, everything was really nice, I had an incredible time and got to listen to numerous ideas and proposals, as well as the chance to meet people from various backgrounds.



## 2024 Schuman Challenge | TESTIMONIALS



### Lauren Delattibodier

Florida International University  
BA in International Relations & Political  
Science (Spring 2024)  
Certificate in European & Eurasian Studies

I had the honor of attending the Schuman Challenge 2024 in Washington, DC, representing FIU in its inaugural participation. Alongside my colleagues, Noah and Piero, we crafted a promising proposal addressing the prompt of enhancing EU-U.S. engagement with the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region. Our focus was on combating illegal mining in Peru, creating a structured plan for joint cooperation between the EU, U.S., and Peru.

This experience was immensely rewarding and eye-opening. I extend my heartfelt thanks to the Jean Monnet Center of Excellence for trusting and believing in me to undertake such an important task. Preparing for this proposal took several months, and it was no easy feat given the instability in the Latin American region, the changing political landscapes in the EU and U.S., and emerging foreign and security issues. Nevertheless, we managed to deliver a well-planned proposal, broken down into three parts, which was clear, comprehensible, and left little room for questions.

During our stay in DC, I had the invaluable opportunity to network with other students, exchanging diverse perspectives on global issues from various impressive backgrounds. This engagement was enriching and broadened my understanding of international affairs. Having traveled last summer to visit all the EU institutions, the honor of visiting the European Union Delegation in DC felt like a full-circle moment for me. Witnessing how EU affairs are managed so close to home was truly impressive and further fueled my passion for international relations.

Overall, the Schuman Challenge 2024 was a transformative experience. It reinforced the importance of collaborative efforts in addressing global challenges and highlighted the critical role of international diplomacy in fostering such cooperation.



Lauren Delattibodier at the entrance of the Delegation of the European Union to the United States, Washington D.C.



Piero Bozzo, Noah Alves, and Lauren Delattibodier





## 2024 Midwest Model EU Indiana University, Bloomington April 12-14, 2024



Dr. Markus Thiel, Noah Alves, and Piero Bozzo at Indiana University, Bloomington, for the Midwest Model EU



The Midwest Model European Union (MEU) is a simulation of the EU decision-making process that takes place every year at Indiana University, Bloomington, 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.

Colleges send delegations of 7 members each, representing the 27 EU member states. Over a period of 48 hours, they meet in formal and informal sessions as the European Council, the European Commission, and several different councils of ministers.

This year was special since it marked the 30th Anniversary of the Midwest Conference; 17 Universities, including FIU, with over 140 students gathered in Bloomington, for the simulation event and met during 3 days from April 12 to 14, 2024.

The 2024 edition included the presence of Walter Goetz, Director of European Parliament Liaison Office in Washington D.C. who was the keynote speaker.

Florida International University was proud to take part in this prestigious competition. Our Midwest Model team was composed of six undergraduate students: 2 from FIU, Noah Alves and Piero Bozzo; and 4 from the College of Charleston, including Laurel Craft, Jacob Graf, Anna Tridico, and Jack Watson. They were accompanied by their advisors, Dr Markus Thiel, Professor of Politics and International Relations and

Director of the Miami-Florida International University at FIU; and Aimee Arias, Professor of International Studies and Dean, School of Languages, Cultures, and World Affairs, College of Charleston.

The event was hosted and organized by the Institute for European Studies at the Hamilton Lugar School of Global & International Studies at Indiana University Bloomington, IN.

From Friday afternoon through Sunday afternoon, students introduced, discussed, and reached decisions on EU policy. National leaders provided overall direction, ministers huddle to work out the details of policy, commissioners and their directors-general tried to give new direction to foreign and security policy, the single market, eastward enlargement, and the development of the euro, and emergency joint meetings are held to break impasses.

On this occasion, the FIU delegation represented Estonia. Piero Bozzo was assigned a position of Minister of Economic & Financial Affairs, and Noah Alves, a position of European Commissioner. The students who prepared for months for this prestigious simulation competition had an outstanding performance when they presented their resolutions and directives.

We are looking forward to participating in the 2025 edition.

*By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*

- More Information on the Midwest Model EU, [click here](#)
- To view pictures, [click here](#)





## 2024 Midwest Model EU Indiana University, Bloomington April 12-14, 2024



Hamilton Lugar School of Global & International Studies



Noah Alves and Piero Bozzo



Markus Thiel, Noah Alves, Piero Bozzo



Noah Alves at the European Commissioner committee



Piero Bozzo at the Minister of Economic & Financial Affairs



30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Midwest Model EU at Indiana University



Colton Ames, Associate Director  
Indiana University Institute for European Studies





## 2024 Midwest Model EU Indiana University, Bloomington April 12-14, 2024 | TESTIMONIALS



The members of the team shared with us their experiences during the competition and the significance of their participation in the Midwest Model EU for their personal and professional life.



**Noah Alves**

Florida International University  
BA in International Relations (2025)

"Suffice to say, taking part in two competitions this spring alongside the Schuman Challenge, which took place the week prior to the Model European Union Summit, made for an extremely taxing semester. The weeks of preparation anticipating the event demanded a fair amount of research, as I'd never taken part in competitions of this sort before. The buildup towards the trip was definitely one of uncertainty, though participating in the Schuman Challenge before a group of official judges definitely bolstered my confidence coming into the Midwest Model EU competition, where I felt my presentation skills and room-reading ability were sufficiently honed to join the competition with all the other students.

I definitely recommend the Model EU summit as an eye-opening simulation to the innerworkings of bureaucratic government, as well as the arduous process of negotiation. Anyone interested in pursuing a career in politics - understanding the stakes at hand which include deliberating with people who potentially disagree with you - should consider the benefits that the MMEU event presents in terms of professional opportunities. Along with the Schuman Challenge, both competitions were substantial educational programs that reflected contrasting skills and complimentary experiences into the worlds of politics, through writing policies for esteemed judges and debating with like-minded individuals on the viability of these directives.

As for my personal thoughts, the MMEU summit further justified my intentions to never pursue a career in politics (nothing to do with the event itself!). However, I am grateful for the fact I could travel with FIU and meet with students my age to learn more about their attitudes towards the entire process of grueling gridlock and political jargon, the mere existence of Robert's Rules (I didn't even know that was a thing) and the importance of a strong first impression and leadership in a room full of warring opinions. To successfully meet the needs of conflicted individuals around you, address these concerns and

maintain an authoritative and flexible tone was the decisive factor that separated those that were capable of commanding a room and those that remained in the sidelines. In this regard, the MMEU experience was one of the most enriching educational opportunities I took advantage of this year. Sometimes it's less about knowing what you want to do, and learning more about what isn't for you that can help you to find the appropriate academic pathway. Reality checks are also priceless gateways into finding your true professional calling. I think I will stick to writing instead."

**Piero Bozzo**

Florida International University  
BA in Psychology (2025)



The Model EU in Bloomington, Indiana was an amazing experience. I had participated in similar events in the past, but none were as professional, well-organized, and as complete as this one. I spent 3 days at Indiana University, along with people from more than 25 universities, to participate in a simulation of the decision-making process that takes place at the core of the European Union. In this opportunity, we, the FIU delegation, got together with students from the College of Charleston to represent Estonia. I was assigned a position in the Economics and Finance area, where all the other members of my committee put a lot of effort into it, were very friendly, and took their roles seriously. Everything went smoothly, and all of us had the opportunity to learn a lot during the event. This experience was one of a kind, and most importantly, it was very enriching, as now I can confidently say that I have a better understanding of all the steps and procedures that happen all the time within the EU and of all the difficulties and challenges that each member state representative faces.



## EESP Roundtable

### (Un)expected Effects of the War in Ukraine on Wider Europe

Tuesday, March 26, 2024 | FIU



From left to right: Shota Gvineria, Zana Rudi, Tatiana Kostadinova, and Olesea Stamate

On the morning of March 26, the European & Eurasian Studies Program organized a panel discussion shifting the attention to the expected and unexpected effect of the war in Ukraine on neighboring countries, and how Russia's war in Ukraine affects the politics and security of European countries seeking EU and NATO membership.

To discuss this complex and multidimensional issue, we invited three exceptional European experts on national policy making and diplomacy from Georgia, Moldova, and Kosovo:

- Shota Gvineria, Lecturer at Baltic Defense College in Tartu, Estonia; Senior Fellow in Economic Policy Research Center; Former Ambassador to the Republic of Georgia to the Netherlands
- Zana Rudi, Former Ambassador of the Republic of Kosovo to Latin America
- Olesea Stamate, Member of the Parliament of Moldova; Vice President of the Party of Action and Solidarity

Each of our panelists spoke about the serious challenges facing their states and the opportunities to achieve energy independence from Russia and make

progress in integrating closer with the European Union and NATO.

Dr. Tatiana Kostadinova, Professor, Department of Politics & International Relations, and Director of the European & Eurasian Studies Program at FIU, moderated the roundtable.

The first speaker was Former Ambassador to the Republic of Georgia to the Netherlands, Shota Gvineria. He discussed the war in Ukraine as a logical consequence of Russia's coherent course of action since the breakup of the Soviet Union. "The cold war never ended for Russia, there was a pause...", he stressed. Then, in the second part of his presentation, he zoomed into the consequences of this hybrid war on Georgia. The differentiation between politics and public opinion was fascinating to learn. Georgia is a candidate for EU membership.

Secondly, Olesea Stamate, Member of the Parliament of Moldova, highlighted the impacts of the Russian war in the Republic of Moldova, its risks, challenges, and opportunities. She said prices for consumers are still high but have fallen slightly since 2022. On the contrary, defense spending has increased by 50% since 2022. To the question "Who do you think is right





## EESP Roundtable

### (Un)expected Effects of the War in Ukraine on Wider Europe

Tuesday, March 26, 2024 | FIU



From left to right: Zana Rudi, Olesea Stamate, Shota Gvineria, and Tatiana Kostadinova

in the military conflict between Russia and Ukraine?”, 33.90 % of the Moldovans chose Ukraine. To the question, “If you were to decide on a referendum, which of the options would you choose to join between the European Union and the European Eurasian Custom Unions? 47 % of the Moldovans chose the European Union. The accession of Moldova to the European Union is on the current agenda for future enlargement of the EU.

Following an application by Moldova in March 2022, Moldova was officially granted candidate status by EU on June 22, 2022. Moldova set a target date of 2030 for EU Accession.



Students & faculty were eager to listen to the panelists

Lastly, former Ambassador to the Republic of Kosovo to Latin America, Zana Rudi, addressed the impact of the war in Ukraine on Kosovo’s foreign and domestic policy dynamics. On December 15, 2022, Kosovo formally submitted an application for European Union membership.

FIU students, faculty, and outside guests engaged in a stimulating conversation about the broader impacts of the war.

The event was co-sponsored by the Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs, the Dorothea Green Lecture Series, the Václav Havel Program for Human Rights and Democracy, the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, and the Department of Politics and International Relations.

*By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*



*By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*

▶ To view flyer, [click here](#)

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## MFJMCE Roundtable

**May 9, 2024 : Europe Day Celebration  
EU recognition Award Ceremony for FIU students**



**Markus Thiel, Raphaël Trapp, Sarah Kavanagh, Bo-Joe Brans at the Roundtable**

To celebrate Europe Day, the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence invited Consul General of France, Raphaël Trapp; Consul General of Ireland, Sarah Kavanagh; and Deputy Consul General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Bo-Joe Brans, to discuss with FIU students about the importance of a strong and united European Union and the fundamental values that underpin the European Union's success. All together in a panel moderated by Dr. Markus Thiel, they defended their common values: democracy, freedom, equality, human rights, environmental protection, and the transatlantic relations between the EU and the United States, without forgetting that all EU members states are standing together with Ukraine.

After listening to the European anthem, *Ode to Joy*, Markus Thiel and Christine I. Caly-Sanchez welcomed the audience and thanked the panelists.

Among the students who attended the event, the ones who graduated this Fall 2023, and Spring 2024 and had fulfilled all the requirements for the Certificate in European & Eurasian Studies, were proud and honored to receive their certificates from the European consuls general at the recognition award ceremony.

The three students who participated in the Midwest model EU and the Schuman Challenge this year were honored and received a certificate of appreciation. The students who participated in the Euro Challenge competition were also recognized for their hard work

and dedication. After the ceremony, students, faculty and consuls general networked at a reception hosted by the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence.

We would like to sincerely thank consuls general Raphaël Trapp, Sarah Kavanagh and deputy consul general Bo-Joe Brans for their participation in this event, and congratulate our students.

*By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*



**From left to right: Markus Thiel, Raphaël Trapp, Sarah Kavanagh, Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, and Bo-Joe Brans**

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





## May 9th, 2024: Europe Day Celebration EU recognition Award Ceremony



Juan Matalana receiving his certificate from Sarah Kavanagh



Lauren Delattibodier receiving her certificate from Sarah Kavanagh



Isabella Martinez receiving her certificate from Raphaël Trapp



Jose de Castro receiving his certificate from Raphaël Trapp



Michelle Puentes receiving her certificate from Mr. Brans



European Consuls General and Diplomats, with Markus Thiel, Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, and 2024 awardees





## 2024 MFJMCE FACULTY and GRADUATE STUDENTS EU RESEARCH GRANTS



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 EU Research Faculty Grant to a faculty member from Florida Atlantic University (FAU), **Dr. Steven D. Roper**; and two Graduate Students EU Research Award to FIU doctoral student, **Ernesto Fiocchetto** and **Giovanna Violi**. Congratulations to the three recipients for their great proposals.

### GRADUATE EU RESEARCH AWARD 2024 GRANTEES



#### **Ernesto Fiocchetto**

Ph.D. Candidate in International Relations, Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs, Florida International University

Impact on Migrants"

#### **Research:** "LGBTIQ+Human

Trafficking: EU Policy and the South American LGBTIQ+forced



#### **Giovanna Violi**

Ph.D. Candidate in History, Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs, Florida International University

**Research:** "Black Martinican Girlhood across the Atlantic: Educational Migration from Martinique to France in the 20th Century ."

*By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*

### FACULTY EU RESEARCH AWARD 2024 GRANTEE



#### **Dr. Steven D. Roper**

Professor, Department of Political Science, Florida Atlantic University.

**Research:** "The Spitzenkandidaten Process in 2024: Does the Lead Candidate Process Promote European Union Democratic Legitimacy?"

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







## Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence

### 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 “The Spitzenkandidaten Process in 2024: Does the Lead Candidate Process Promote European Union Democratic Legitimacy?”*

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

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

I am Professor of Political Science at Florida Atlantic University. My comparative work has focused on constitutional design, parliamentary development and elections. My initial country 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?**

This research project focuses on the democratic value of the *Spitzenkandidaten* process. A recent change in the way European parliamentary elections (EP) has occurred involved major political groups nominating a lead candidate or *Spitzenkandidaten* for Commission President. For some, the *Spitzenkandidaten* process transforms EP elections from second-order to primary election while for others, this process is still deeply embedded in elite party politics far removed from voters. My research project explores whether the



*Spitzenkandidaten* process influences voter perceptions of candidates and the European Union (EU), and whether the process influences the mode of governing of the Commission President?

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

I have always been interested in the so-called “democratic deficit” of the EU and attempts to democratize the EU electoral processes and institutions.

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

Elections to the EP represent an interesting counter-balance to the elite-led process within EU institutions and provide American students a different way to view elections, candidates and institutions.

#### **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?**

Ideally, I would like to travel to Brussels to interview members of the EP to understand how the political class views the *Spitzenkandidaten* process as well as the role of the EP within EU policy-making as well as within EU efforts to democratize the institution.

#### **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 such as representation and electoral politics facing the EU and member-states are incredibly relevant and important to south Florida.

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



## Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence GRADUATE STUDENT EU RESEARCH GRANT Interview with grantee Ernesto Fiocchetto



*Ernesto Fiocchetto is a Ph.D. Candidate in International Relations at the Department of Politics & International Relations, Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs, Florida International University. This year, he received the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence Graduate Student EU Research grant for his research "LGBTIQ+Human Trafficking: EU Policy and the Impact on South American LGBTIQ+forced Migrants."*

*He sat down with Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director of the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, to answer a few questions about his research.*

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

I am Ernesto Fiocchetto. I am a sociologist from Argentina. I arrived at FIU in 2017 and earned two Masters: Religious Studies in 2019 and International Relations in 2021, and a graduate certificate in Latin American studies. I am about to defend my dissertation to get a Ph.D. in International Relations. My research interests and publications center on forced migration of LGBTIQ+ Latin American individuals in the US and Spain and the role of non-state actors (especially faith-based organizations) in the reception and integration of these refugees and asylum seekers. During these years at FIU, I've focused on several issues related to the EU, and I co-authored a book with Dr. Markus Thiel on "The Politics of Social In/Exclusion in the EU." Recently, I started to explore the links between forced migration and the human trafficking of LGBTIQ+ individuals.

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

By considering the intersections of social, legal, and political aspects, this project aims to explore to what extent the evolution of the EU policy is beneficial for the growing number of South American LGBTIQ+

individuals who are victims of human trafficking for sexual exploitation in Spain, Italy, France, and Germany. I argue that the securitization dynamics in the EU borders regarding forced migration of South American LGBTIQ+ individuals result in a dyad—illegal migrants versus prostitutes and suffering bodies, or criminals versus victims—that instead of contributing to the fight against human trafficking, generates conditions to foster it. In this situation, the agency of civil society organizations (CSOs), and particularly faith-based actors, is critical for the security of the victims.

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

The project involves mixed qualitative techniques, including policy and legal analysis of the EU and the four case studies: Spain, Italy, France, and Germany. It also entails semi-structured in-depth interviews with CSOs in those countries. As part of the research, two venues of discussion and collaboration are included: a Workshop with the Chair of Refugees and Forced Migration at Comillas University in Spain and a Workshop with the Department Against Transnational Organized Crime (DTCO) of the Organization of American States (OAS) on Latin American and EU Policy on human trafficking.

### **MFJMCE: How do you hope your research will contribute to the field of International Relations?**

The study aims to produce two reports on EU policy and the four case studies. In addition, it seeks to examine the role of CSOs in detecting and assisting



Spanish NGO





## Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence GRADUATE STUDENT EU RESEARCH GRANT Interview with grantee Ernesto Fiocchetto



South American LGBTIQ+ victims of human trafficking. It will contribute to several understudied areas in International Politics, including the effects of EU policy on South American LGBTIQ+ forced migrants and victims of human trafficking and the contribution of CSOs and FAs in that context.

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

In the global report on human trafficking, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime indicated an 11% decrease in this crime worldwide by 2023. However, this does not necessarily mean that there are fewer victims. On the contrary, this decline is related to the lack of institutional capacities to identify the victims of this crime. In the case of LGBTIQ+ persons trafficked for sexual exploitation, the data are even more complex because laws, policies, research, and public opinion have typically identified trafficking victims as cisgender women and girls. However, the trans, gay, lesbian, and other queer migrant population are particularly vulnerable and hardly appear in official data. Meanwhile, CSOs constantly report a growing number of LGBTIQ+ persons trafficked for sexual exploitation that they aid. It is therefore critical to know to what extent the evolution of the EU policy is beneficial or not to solve this problem and how the work of the states with civil society may foster more effective solutions to this open wound in the body of contemporary society. I hope that this exploratory study will serve as a basis for future discussion and research on this topic.

**MFJMCE: Do you have any last thoughts to share?**

I want to thank the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence for this grant. I also extend my particular thanks to Dr. Markus Thiel and Madame Christine Caly. I've been part of the JMCE for four years, and it has been instrumental to my journey at FIU. I hope you can continue this work for many years because it largely contributes to academic excellence.

*By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*



Spanish NGO: Diaconia España





## MFJMCE

## GRADUATE STUDENT EU RESEARCH GRANT

### Interview with grantee Giovanna Violi



*Giovanna Violi is a Ph.D. Candidate in Atlantic History at the Department of History, 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 "Black Martinican Girlhood across the Atlantic: Educational Migration from Martinique to France in the 20th Century."*

*She sat down with Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, to answer a few questions about her research.*

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

My name is Giovanna Violi and I am an international student from Italy. I am pursuing a Ph.D. in Atlantic History at FIU. I previously earned BA degrees in History and Art History at UCLA, as well as an MA degree in Caribbean and Latin American Studies at University College London.

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

My dissertation project is aimed at reconstructing the experiences of young Black Martinican women's educational migration to Europe in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The analysis will focus on how these young women navigated the complex relationship between Martinique and France and, later, between Martinique and the European Union in order to access higher educational institutions beyond the borders of their homeland. How did these macro relationships affect young Black Martinican women? How did young Black Martinican women influence those relationships in turn?



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

I aim to present excerpts of the manuscript at conferences in the US, Europe, and possibly the Caribbean during the 2024-2025 academic year as well as turn the manuscript into a book.

**MFJMCE: How do you hope your research will contribute to the field of History?**

The dissertation builds on existing historiography about Black girlhood, Caribbean migration, French and colonial education, French imperial practices, racial and class struggles on both sides of the Atlantic, transnational anti-imperialism movements and the role that the European Union has played more recently in the educational opportunities of Martinican youth given their French and, by extension, EU citizenship. The project aims to expand the confines of said historiographical fields by focusing the attention on a demographic, young Martinican Black women, that is understudied due to their intersectionality. Little has been written about the ways in which these young women accessed European educational institutions





## MFJMCE

## GRADUATE STUDENT EU RESEARCH GRANT

## Interview with grantee Giovanna Violi



throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century and the influence that they had on their home community, France, and Europe as a consequence of their educational migration. Additionally, the dissertation will provide a chance to expand a fast-growing historiographical field: Black girlhood. Mostly focused on the US context, despite a few exceptions, I believe this literature could benefit from contributions about the experience and nature of Black girlhood in other contexts, even more so if the project will showcase Black girlhood with a transnational framework.

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

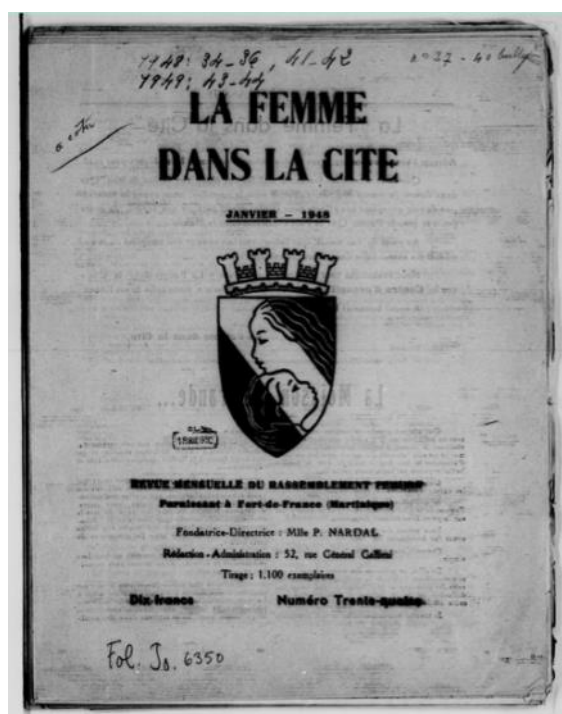
Traditional historical narratives had often silenced the importance that Black women and girls have had, and still have, in the world. I hope the project will foster a better understanding of how significant a role they had in contexts as small as their family dynamics and as wide as transnational phenomena, movements, intellectual exchanges,

feminist circles that affect all of us today. I also hope my dissertation will point out the importance of Martinique, often left out of historical narratives because of its exceptionalism in many areas. I believe there is a lot of potential in both questioning and delving deeper into Martinique’s exceptionalism. What can we learn by looking at the Martinican reality through the lens of the Caribbean region, France, the European Union? Is it really such an exception? If it is, then what can it reveal about the proverbial rule?

**MFJMCE: Do you have any last thoughts to share?**

I am grateful for the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet European Center of Excellence for awarding me the grant. In particular, I would like to thank Dr. Markus Thiel and Christine Caly-Sanchez, who were so supportive throughout the application and research-planning process. Their input, that of my advisor, Dr. Terrence Peterson, my dissertation committee, Dr. Okezi Otovo, Dr. Alexandra Cornelius, and Dr. Andrea Queeley, the Department of History and all my colleagues at DOHGSa have all been fundamental in my ability to conduct this research.

*By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*



Source: gallica.bnf.fr / BnF



Suzanne Césaire

Source: <https://repeatingislands.com/2021/01/28/the-work-of-suzanne-cesaire-deciphered-by-anny-dominique-curtius>



## 2024 SIPA SEMESTER IN GENOA, ITALY

### FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: Markus Thiel in Genoa



**Genoa, Italy**

**Dr. Markus Thiel, Professor, Politics & International relations, and Director, Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence at FIU, spent two weeks in Genoa, Italy, this spring and taught “International Relations of Europe” to a group of FIU students who were staying for the SIPA Semester in Italy: Global Italy and the European Union from January 8 to April 27.**

**He recounted his great experiences during his stay in Italy.**

Did you know that Genoa, together with Venice, ruled the Mediterranean for centuries through shipping and trade? That it had the world's first bank? That it is the widely assumed home town of Christopher Columbus? That it has the nickname 'la superba', the superb or proud one, because of its impressive wealth reflected in over 100 UNESCO World Heritage-recognized palaces? Finally, that FIU has an 'FIU in Genoa' hub?

In order to find answers to these questions, I spent 2 weeks this spring in this fascinating city, co-teaching with other faculty members from our Green School of International & Public Affairs a group of FIU students.

In the first few days I got acclimated to this multilayered city and its magnificent but somewhat confusing historic old town, a cobweb of small, medieval alleyways that open up to grand renaissance piazzas and palazzos. There, FIU rents a few rooms in a 1000 year old monastery attached to the church of

Santa Maria di Castello (see <https://genoa.fiu.edu/>). These are equipped with modern technology including Wi-Fi, so that students can make the best use of these localities. These facilities, together with the resident FIU coordinator Prof. Matthew Rice, made the teaching abroad easy (see picture of us at the FIU in Genoa entrance).



**Markus Thiel and Matthew Rice in front of the FIU Genoa Entrance**





## 2024 SIPA SEMESTER IN GENOA, ITALY

### FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: Markus Thiel in Genoa



Markus Thiel and FIU students at the FIAT racetrack in Turin

But it was not all about teaching 'international relations of Europe' in Europe. The study abroad program also includes excursions, including to Rome, Venice, Turin,). The Wolfsonian Museum is the sister museum of FIU's Cinque Terre etc. As part of my stay there, I took the students one day to Turin, a majestic

city two hours north of Genoa. There, we took a stroll along the palaces of the Savoy monarchs, visited the local Cinema Museum and observation tower, and went up to the FIAT racetrack, built atop of Europe's largest car factory at the time it was built in the 1920s. Today, it is a roof top garden with art installations, but the race track and the 1.5km long building still exudes Italian industrialization at its best. Another excursion led us to the Wolfsonian Museum in nearby Nervi, on the Ligurian coast (see <https://palazzoducale.genova.it/en/the-wolfsonian/own> Wolfsonian museum in South Beach. Founded by Micky Wolfson, just like the Miami one the Wolfsonian focuses on the artistic representation of ideas of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century, and students were introduced to everything from works focused on technological progress to fascist art to design (see picture in the museum).

It was a great way to highlight the 'international' in FIU's name, and it a great opportunity for me to learn about FIU's presence in this important place.

*By Markus Thiel*

► For the SIPA Semester in Italy: Global Italy and European Union program, [click here](#)



Markus Thiel and FIU students at the Wolfsonian Museum



## Congratulations to the recipients of Fall 2023 & Spring 2024 European & Eurasian Studies Certificates



Jose de Castro Bianca Roman Lauren Delattibodier Salome Katsia



Isabella Martinez Juan Matallana Michelle Puentes Hector Rodriguez

### Congratulation Grads!

We would like to celebrate the accomplishments of our newest Panther Alumni who graduated this Fall 2023, Spring 2024, and Summer 2024, and obtained their European & Eurasian Studies Certificates.

### CERTIFICATES IN EUROPEAN & EURASIAN STUDIES

#### Fall 2023 Undergraduate Awardees

- **Jose de Castro**  
Cum Laude - BA in Political Science and Interdisciplinary Studies - Minor in Philosophy
- **Bianca Roman**  
Magda Cum Laude - BA in International Relations

#### Spring 2024 Undergraduate Awardees

- **Lauren Delattibodier**  
BA in International Relations & Political Science
- **Salome Katsia**  
BA in International Relations—Minor in Hospitality Studies
- **Isabella Martinez**  
Cum Laude - BA in International Relations
- **Juan Matallana**  
Magda Cum Laude - BA in International Relations
- **Michelle Puentes**  
Magda Cum Laude - BA in Art & Psychology – Minor in Art History
- **Hector Rodriguez**  
Summa Cum Laude - BA in Political Science & International Relations

#### Summer 2024 Undergraduate Awardees

- **Mariangel Alvarez Guerrero**  
Cum Laude - BA in International Relations & Political Science  
Cum Laude - Minor in Marketing
- **Sophia Napp**  
Magda Cum Laude - BA in International Relations
- **Dafne Ostermuenchner**  
Magda Cum Laude - BA in International Relations
- **Ana Karla Vazquez**  
BA in International Relations & Political Science



### 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, 302 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/>





**STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Juan Matallana****Spring 2024 Graduate – Certificate in European & Eurasian Studies****“My internships at the Consulate General of Spain and the GABC”****Juan Matallana**

*The Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence and the European & Eurasian Studies Program had the pleasure of featuring one great student from FIU School of International and Public Affairs who graduated with honors Magda Cum Laude this Spring 2024 and obtained a Bachelor's in International Relations and a Certificate in European & Eurasian Studies.*

*We were pleased to interview Juan Matallana and hear his amazing experience.*

**MFJMCE:** In a few words, could you tell us who you are and what studies you pursued at FIU?

My name is Juan Matallana I am a recent graduate of FIU. I graduated magna cum laude in Spring 2024 with a degree in International Relations and a Certificate in European and Eurasian Studies.

**MFJMCE:** Could you tell us about your experience as an intern at the Consulate General of Spain in Miami—Education Department, and the German American Business Chamber of Commerce of South Florida?

I began my internship at the Consulate General of Spain in Miami-Education Department in August 2022. This was my first internship and as such not only was I curious about how everything worked but I was also nervous. Throughout my experience there I became familiar with all the different procedures involving U.S.-Spanish interests mainly surrounding the process of educational documentation.

This was my first taste of international relations at work. I learned new skills and became proficient in all different types of administrative work while also acquiring a knowledge in promotional media such as creating digital posters and editing videos and posts.

My internship with the German American Business Chamber of South Florida (GABC) began in September 2023. While the internship had a strong tie to international relations given that the organization was built on U.S.-German relations my tasks were more in the marketing field which I was not an expert in. My taste of creating promotional media at my first internship helped me navigate this new world per se. I assisted in the preparation and the carrying out of

networking events which involved creating promotional media such as invitations and digital flyers, creating and updating the guest list, checking in the invitees, and taking photos of the events and then posting them on the monthly newsletter. My main project was helping coordinate the annual gala. This involved constantly promoting the event on all social media platforms, designing menus and invitations, getting donations for the silent and live auction, setting up the venue with decorations and gift bags, and assisting throughout the whole night in order to carry out the event smoothly. Both of my internships taught me invaluable lessons and it exposed me to not just the international relations field but to other fields such as marketing which helped me discover this new interest I would have never known if it wasn't for both internships.

**MFJMCE:** What advice would you give to future students who would like to pursue an internship at the Consulate General of Spain in Miami and the German American Business Chamber of South Florida?

My advice for any students applying to either internships would be to have a strong resume and cover letter and to be receptive and open to learning new things all the while demonstrating skills already acquired and to enjoy the work.

**MFJMCE:** Do you have any last thoughts to share?

My last thought is that doing internships is extremely important in order to build your professional career and to begin to forge connections in your respective field and even if the internships may be unpaid or pay very little, I say still do it because in the long run it will benefit you both professionally and personally.

Both internships at the Consulate General of Spain and the German American Business Chamber of South Florida really helped me navigate the professional world to a better extent and help me grow my network and it would not have been possible without the help of Mrs. Christine Caly.



► **More Information on the GABC, [click here](#)**

► **More Information on the Offices of Education in the USA, [here](#)**

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Ana Karla Vasquez

### Summer 2024 Graduate – Certificate in European & Eurasian Studies

#### "My internship at the Consulate General of Spain"



Ana Karla Vasquez

*The Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence and the European & Eurasian Studies Program had the pleasure of featuring one great student from FIU School of International and Public Affairs who will graduate this Summer 2024 and will obtain a Bachelor's in International Relations and a Certificate in European & Eurasian Studies.*

*We were pleased to interview Ana Karla Vasquez and hear her amazing experience.*

**MFJMCE:** In a few words, could you tell us who you are and what studies you pursued at FIU?

I was born in the US but lived in Mexico till I was fifteen, after I moved to Florida where I began my junior year and once I got my Associate degree at a community college I transferred to FIU where I pursued my studies in International relations and political science.

**MFJMCE:** Could you tell us about your experience as an intern at the Consulate General of Spain?

I really enjoyed this internship, everyone in the consulate was incredible, very nice and generous. What I mostly did on a day to day basis was everything they needed help with, sometimes they needed help doing inventory, other times I would help with the certificates to give them out to the graduates. One activity I enjoyed the most was creating a coloring book with history of Spain for the children to give out at the schools.

**MFJMCE:** What advice would you give to future students who would like to pursue an internship at the Consulate General of Spain?

This is definitely a must do, it will provide you with experience and connections, plus it is really fun and everyone is very flexible with the schedule.

**MFJMCE:** Do you have any last thoughts to share?

There is parking, for interns who have a car this is a great deal.



► More Information on the NALCAP program , [click here](#)



## PUBLICATIONS

RECENT PUBLICATIONS FROM  
OUR EXPERTS

## The Politics of Social In/Exclusion: Civic Europe in an Age of Uncertainty

*In Palgrave Studies in European Political Sociology, 2023*

**Authors:** Drs. Markus Thiel, Ernesto Fiochetto, Jeffrey D. Maslanik

This volume provides an updated analysis of the most significant constitutive aspects for the political sociology of the EU. It examines in detail how civic and political activism regarding the inclusion and integration of gender and sexual minorities, as well as migrants and refugees, have become substantial forces in Europe today. It exhibits a political sociology perspective that moves away from the predominant state-centrism and institutional focus in mainstream analyses of European politics. It brings to the fore the role of citizens, civil society and identity politics as well as transnational societal phenomena impacting on the ambivalent civic in/exclusion tendencies prevalent in the EU. The book highlights the linkage of EU institutions and policies to established and new societal actors in response to recent challenges of the EU.



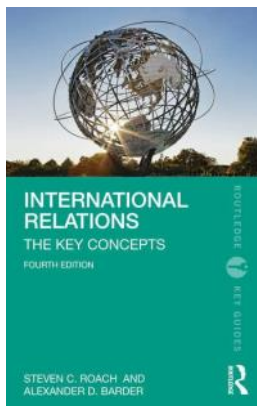
Markus Thiel



Ernesto Fiochetto



Jeff Maslanik



## International Relations: The Key Concepts

*In Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group, 4th edition Sept. 2023*

**Authors:** Drs. [Steven C. Roach](#), [Alexander D. Barder](#)

Dr. Alexander D. Barder is a co-author of *International Relations: The Key Concepts*, Featuring 16 new entries now in its fourth edition, and is the essential guide for anyone interested in international affairs. Comprehensive and up to date, it introduces the most important themes in international relations. New entries include the following: Anthropocene, Authoritarian populism, Borders, Brexit, Dignity, Hierarchy, Intersectionality, Pandemic, Postmodern warfare, Race war, Resilience. Featuring suggestions for further reading as well as a unique guide to websites on international relations, this accessible guide is an invaluable aid to understanding this expanding field, ideal for student and non-specialist alike. It will serve as a vital reference text for undergraduate IR courses.



Alexander Barder



## European Journal of Politics and Gender

**"Bridging contexts, reinforcing exclusions? Activism, agency, and acts of translating gendered belongings and concepts."**

*Bristol University Press, Volume 7 (2024): Issue 1 (Feb 2024)*

**Author:** Drs. Susanne Zwingel and Nicole Doerr

Dr. Susanne Zwingel has co-edited a section of the European Journal of Politics and Gender. The theme is "Bridging contexts, reinforcing exclusions? Activism, agency, and acts of translating gendered belongings and concepts."



Susanne Zwingel



## Politics & Gender

**Women's Rights Close to Home? The Miami-Dade County CEDAW Ordinance as Local Practice** - Published online by Cambridge University Press: 13 June 2023

**Author:** Dr. Susanne Zwingel

Dr. Susanne Zwingel edited a section of the *Politics and Gender*. The theme is "Women's Rights Close to Home? The Miami-Dade County CEDAW Ordinance as Local Practice."



Steven J. Green  
School of International  
& Public Affairs

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



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*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 2024.*

*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!*



Co-funded by  
the European Union

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

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