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Newsletter

Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence-FIU

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Annual Conference debates on Culture: Building Block or Obstacle for Transnational European Identity?

CONFERENCE
February 25-26, 2010
European Identity

Can culture be a building block or an obstacle in forging unity in the EU? "Can we build the EU without culture? How is culture an Agent? How

are we socialized to become European, American?" These were some of the questions Dr. Michael Kennedy posed during his keynote address at the 2010 Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence (MEUCE) annual conference.

This past February, the FIU- MEUCE invited scholars from all over the US and Europe to examine the problems/questions of 'creating' EU identity within a "conglomeration" of different cultures and nationalities. The

scholars ranged in their disciplinary expertise and panels included experts in History, Economics, Political Science, Communications, Anthropology, Literary Theory and Sociology.

Held in the Florida International University MARC International Pavilion on February 25-26, the two-day conference was supported, in part by The Ruth K. Shepard Broad Distinguished Lecture Series, the Arts and Sciences Dean's Office and the Department of History.

Before his lecture, Dr. Kennedy played Beethoven's *Ode to Joy* in order to demonstrate how the meaning of this world-famous piece, originally

from Germany, has been transformed its use and symbolism throughout history: today it is the anthem of the European Union, and in 1938 it was used to celebrate Hitler's birthday. According to Kennedy, this is powerful, because it shows that "symbols are not intrinsically meaningful in the way they are used... For culture to live it has

to be contradicting. Do we base [culture] on loyalty to principles? The political nation, the civic nation?" Kennedy explains that this issue is debated today in Europe as a whole and within each country or nation. Kennedy cautions that in order to solve these issues of European identities, we need to "get out of the trap of categorical thinking that "nation" puts us in. Instead of thinking about identity, which implies a unity let us think *about culture in terms of relationships.*"



Dr. Michael Kennedy

Howard R. Swearer Director of the Watson Institute
for International Studies at Brown University

By Loraine de la Fe



Dr. Michael Kennedy, Dr. Mishel Pavloski, Dr. Felice Lifshitz,
Dr. Joseph Patrouch, Dr. Rebecca Friedman

Panel I: "European Culture and the Uses of History"

Dr. Joseph Patrouch, Associate Professor, History Department at Florida International University, started the conference off with his historical comparison of the political structure of the Holy Roman Empire to the EU's. During the 200th anniversary of the fall of the Holy Roman Empire, scholars and politicians debated about several questions including "What can be understood as European inheritance from Holy Roman Empire? Can this empire-Reich be seen as model for institutions?" In analyzing these questions, Dr. Patrouch showed how history is used in debates on EU integration, by comparing both political entities' institutions, populations, and processes of "enlargement" or territorial expansion. Dr. Raymond Taras, Professor of Political Science at Tulane University focused on the phenomenon of "Islamaphobia" and xenophobia in Europe by tracing its historical roots. He explained how these irrational fears originated from medieval church literature and continued through 19th-century music, literature, and theatre and how it influenced 20th-century politics. Afterwards, Dr. Felice Lifshitz explored how films depicting Medieval subjects and events produced in 20th-century



Dr. Marion Demossier
discusses wine culture and European Identity

Europe reflect contemporary politics and "shape the new generation of viewers." She compared films from France, Germany, England and Russia to analyze how they sacrificed historical accuracy and gave way to anachronisms in order to depict or invent 'traditions' of a unified, homogenous past to project their nationalist ideologies. And how, Lifshitz argues, this cinematic medievalism works against the creation of a transnational European Identity. Dr. Michel Pavloski, Professor from the University of Skopje, Macedonia explored how Macedonians today struggle with their own European and nationalist identity and its process of EU integration. He highlighted how Macedonians, in an area with so much diversity uses past symbols such as the Middle Ages, language, nation, and historical struggle, in order to search for its nationalist identity among its diverse neighbors in the Balkans.

Panel II "European Integration and Political Cultures"

Dr. Sophie Duchesne-Guilluy, Senior Researcher at Sciences Po in France, opened the panel with her argument that it is useful to use "identity in Europe as a concept." She argued that national identity is not an obstacle for countries to define themselves *vis à vis* the EU and used demography to analyze the types of peoples based on their lifestyles, to find who is more "European" or "Eurocentric" as opposed to those who are "nationalist." Dr. Milena Neshkova, Assistant Professor of Public Administration at FIU examined how in the past EU integration had been an elite-driven process that has excluded the public from making decisions. She looked at the EU Commission as a case study to find whether or not the increase of democratization and public opinion in EU politics have had an effect on the EU Commission's legislative decisions, which she concluded, it has. Following Dr. Neshkova, Dr. Tatiana Kostadinova, Associate Professor of Politics at FIU, examined corruption and popular attitudes towards national institutions, the EU, and democracy by primarily focusing on Eastern European nations. She concluded that the common peoples in the "Post-Communist- new EU member states hold more confidence in the EU than in their national institutions." Dr. Markus Thiel closed the panel with his discussion on "Xenophobia and Inclusion: The Status Quo of European Civil Society" and explored the EU's Fundamental Right Agency. He described how the nations have cooper-



Dr. Mishel Pavloski



Dr. Milena Neshkova

European Identities Conference



Hon. Kevin McGurgan, Hon Klaus Ranner, Honorary V.C. Beata Paszyc, Dean Dr. Nicol Rae, Dr. Rebecca Friedman

ated together in order to build a narrative of EU and human rights. Yet, he argued that while there has been progress made in terms of focusing on human rights in the EU, there is still a long way to go before the EU will effectively be able to enforce these principles evenly throughout the continent.

Roundtable III: “Roundtable on Transnational Identity: National Perspectives”- The Honorable Kevin McGurgan, British Consul General in Miami used his family history from post WWII England through today as a case study in the evolution of increasing ethnic diversity and merging of culture in the European Union. The Honorable Klaus Ranner, Consul General of Germany also began with family history in order to show how Germany itself is and has always been a nation made up of various ethnicities. He noted that while there are a lot of different political values among the European nations, that over the course the past few decades there has been a development of European identity that was initially based on common interests such as the economy. But today, he finds more cultural evidence of EU identity and uses the example of Polish composer Frederick Chopin’s 200th birthday anniversary and how it is celebrated in Germany, France, and “even here in Miami.” The final speaker in this panel, Mrs. Beata Paszyc, Honorary Vice Consul of the Republic of Poland explained how Poland, as part of the EU, “is currently reaffirming its European identity”. She argued that Poland is a special case because politically and religiously, it had always seen itself as ‘East’ and ‘West.’

Panel IV: “Cultural Practices in Everyday Life.” Dr. Marion Demossier Senior Lecturer in French and European Studies, in the University of Bath looked at wine culture as a lens to examine territorial and regional identities in France. She explained how the phenomenon of ‘terroir’ currently taking place among French wine-producers shows how the opposite of the process of “Europeanness” is taking place and is a form of regionalism and nation-building that was experienced in the 19th century. Following her discussion of the growth of regional identity, Dr. Homero

Gil-de Zuñiga Assistant Professor School of Journalism in University of Texas, explored the role of mass media and social networks in political participation and developing European identity. He found that the rise of new media (internet) versus traditional media (newspapers) translates into a difference in the political behavior of Europeans. Afterwards, Dr. Dario Gaggio, Associate Professor, Department of History, University of Michigan examined tourism in Europe and its role in shaping European identity. According to Gaggio, “travel is a major marker of the *before and after*, it is a powerful marker *between us and them*.” Using statistics, he concluded that the three most traveled nations in Europe by Europeans, France, Italy and Greece, reveal a sense of a modern pilgrimage and experience that all Europeans have to experience in order to undergo a “profound social process”. The final speaker, Dr. Matthias Kaelberer, Associate Professor, Political Science, University of Memphis, explored how the Euro and the discourse of democracy has aided in the development of a Europeanized public sphere among all the nations and has also helped the EU move towards a “national, and simultaneously, a supranational identity.”

For detailed program of the conference, including abstracts, and authors’ bios, please visit <http://www.miamieuc.org/calendar.php>.

By Loraine de la Fe



European Identity Conference Panelists



Hon Klaus Ranner, Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Dr. Nicol Rae, Hon. Kevin McGurgan



Dr. Homero Gil-de-Zuniga
Discusses the role of mass media in the EU

European Union Milestones

Reflections on the Spanish Presidency



Hon. Santiago Cabanas
Consul General of Spain



Dr. Pereira Menaut
University of Santiago
de Compostela, Spain

Last December/January the Swedish government passed the torch of the EU presidency to Spain. With this new year, the economic recession, global terrorism and the passing of the Lisbon Treaty, Spain faces a mountain of challenges for the next sixth months. On February 11, FIU-MEUCE held a roundtable/lecture entitled "Reflections on The Spanish Presidency, and the Treaty of Lisbon". The two speakers included the Hon. Santiago Cabanas, Consul General of Spain in Miami and Dr. Antonio-Carlos Pereira Menaut Titular de Derecho Constitucional - Jean Monet Chairholder of EU Professor Titular Constitutional Law, University of Santiago de Compostela, Galicia, Spain.

The Hon. Cabanas opened the talk by explaining how Spain is holding the Presidency of the EU for the 5th time and that it is looking forward to its role. During his discussion he introduced the four factors or goals of the Spanish presidency, which include instrumentalizing the Treaty of Lisbon, coordinating economic policies, reinforcing Europe's role as a global player by speaking in a single voice (as opposed to plural nations), strengthening the rights and freedoms in the EU with the Charter of Fundamental Rights. He also added additional goals for Spain which include the fight against poverty, the fight against gender-based violence, and the fight for immigration rights.

Being an expert on European Constitutional Law, Dr. Pereira followed with a discussion on the Treaty of Lisbon. He gave a brief biography on the origins and development of the treaty which began in the 1990s when the EU found itself limited in terms of proper integration for new member states, and thus in 1993, the German Constitutional Court introduced the Maastricht Treaty. The EU recognized it needed to be updated and resulted in the Lisbon Treaty. For Pereira, the Treaty has both its advantages and limitations, but he reminded us that we need to give it more time in order to properly critique it.

After the discussion, the Hon. Consul General Cabanas generously donated some of his time to meet with the FIU MEUCE to further give his thoughts on Spain's role in the EU.

1. What does the transition from the EU Swedish Presidency to Spanish mean for Spain?

It is the fulfillment of our responsibility as a member state of the EU. We've done it before: all the members of the EU contribute to this process of governance. For us it is just a more intense period in our efforts of trying to institute the policies of the EU and to continue with the process of integration in the EU, for the whole of Europe, and Spain.

For the EU?- This is a very special situation because we just approved the Treaty of Lisbon. It has introduced important reforms and instituted the positions of the president of the council and the president and vice president of the commission who are now responsible for security. For the whole of Europe, the Spanish Presidency will set a precedent of how to work with the new institution. That's why we have an added responsibility to do things well, since we are the first presidency to tackle on the Treaty of Lisbon.

2. What are Spain's top priorities during

its Presidency?

We have 4 main priorities 1. Full implementation of the Treaty of Lisbon; 2. is the coordination of economic policies to promote recovery and sustainable growth throughout Europe; 3. is the task of reinforcing Europe as a global power in the world; 4. The reinforcement of the idea of "Europe of the citizens"— that is, a Europe based on rights for all of its citizens.



Hon. Santiago Cabanas, Christine I Caly-Sanchez,
Dr. Antonio Pereira Menaut



Dr. David Cook, Dr. Aurora Morcillo,
Dr. Ana Roca



Hon. Santiago Cabanas, Consul General of Spain
and FIU graduate student



European Union Milestones Reflections on the Spanish Presidency



4. What are the most urgent problems in Spain?

The most important challenge we are facing is the economic situation. We have a high rate of unemployment— too high. We also have a high deficit and a high debt and we have to work closely with members of the EU to face these problems. The challenges impact not only Spain, but also the other EU nations; together we have to start creating jobs in an environment of sustainable economy.

5. American media have not announced or have given very little attention to the transition of presidency in the EU. Do you find this appropriate? Do you believe that what happens in Europe is not necessarily important for American citizens?

Traditionally it is true that the American public opinion has not been interested in the inner workings of the EU. I think we've seen more attention recently, especially everything connected with the global economic situation. Today the first page of the *New York Times* had articles of the economic situation, including the European summit to help Greece why in Germany or France take a leading role in aiding Greece. There is a growing attention on the part of the media, but I do not think that we should

expect too much attention. The inner procedures of the EU are complex; that is asking a little bit too much of Americans to follow.

6. How is Spain equipped or ready to face its new role in the EU?

Presidency, the rotating presidency is something we are accustomed to— we did it in 2002, 1995, and in 1989. We've done it before and have done it well. We have very good teams in Madrid and Brussels and we also bring to Europe a certain enthusiasm for the idea of *Europe*. All the Spanish polls have been consistently showing support for the integration

of more members even during this moment which we know that enlargement is going to cost us money. We know that by enlarging Europe we are in fact benefitting Spain and promoting economic and political stability for the continent.

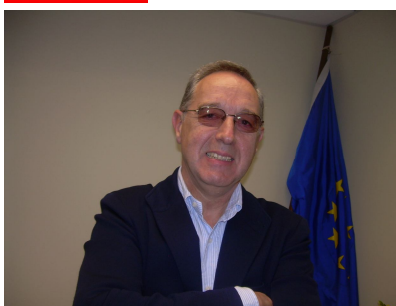


Hon. Santiago Cabanas
Consul General of Spain

By Loraine de la Fe



Spanish Scholar Researches at FIU



Dr. Antonio-Carlos Pereira Menaut

During the first two weeks of February, the FIU-MEUCE was honored with the presence of Antonio-Carlos Pereira Menaut Titular de Derecho Constitucional, Jean Monet Chairholder of EU Professor Titular Constitutional Law, University of Santiago de Compostela, Galicia, Spain. While here, Dr. Pereira conducted research on EU constitutional law: "I want to compare the American and European approaches to supranational integration." Dr. Pereira chose to come to FIU because of its EU Center consortium with the University of Miami. He was invited to FIU by colleagues. "I am quite happy here, enjoying FIU hospitality—everyone has been so helpful with me, traditional American style. I've been in the states several times before doing research and the traditional American style is very helpful and open to foreigners."

Despite his extremely busy schedule, Dr. Pereira generously spent a moment with us to answer his thoughts on education, EU law, and the Spanish presidency:

What differences do you see in the American system of education compared to Spain or the EU in general?

It's an interesting question because the EU currently implementing the Bologna system of Education. After it's implemented we are going to be more like the American system or to put it more vaguely more like the Anglo-Saxon world. It will make a greater emphasis on practical knowledge and prepare students for the marketplace. I am an admirer of British and American universities but at the same time I think our educational traditions have several interesting achievements and should

not be entirely abandoned.

How do you see Spain's new role as the Presidency of the EU?

We have to wait until July because the rotating presidency is so short it only has a chance to start programs and then its rotation is over. Secondly, there is something wrong with the presidency rotating every 6 months— nothing can get done. Sweden's rotation was quite good, why? Because they did things orderly and they didn't initiate any new programs. From economic point of view, Spain is not in a good situation now to "conduct the orchestra" – not like a political leader with capacity to command. How good a "conductor" can a country be if its economy is faulty?

How does the ratification of the Lisbon Treaty change/affect the Spanish presidency's approach to leading the EU? Does it bring out more challenges?

The Treaty of Lisbon is a messy document especially for EU tradition. It is good for US professors because we have to teach it. If everything was so plain like the American Constitution, we would not be in need of instructors. *Los profesornes no estaran necesarios.* (Professors wouldn't be necessary). But one of the points that is far from clear in the Treaty is what to do with the rotating presidencies, because the Treaty doesn't speak clearly about it. I suppose that the rotating presidency will be withering away. For now, the problem for the Spanish presidency, theoretically Zapatero and Bolatino have to do their job exactly as always, but at the same time, have two new figure heads who are going to have increasing roles. The more significant challenge for the Spanish presidency is how to arrange the coexistence between the old system and the new. After Spain, the country that is going to be in charge of rotating presidency is Belgium. In other words, in order to answer your question properly, we need to wait for Belgium's presidency.

By Loraine de la Fe

Italian Immigration Issues at FIU



**Dr. Rebecca Friedman, Magda Pearson,
Dr. John Kneski, Hon. Marco Rocca**

On January 26th, FIU MEUCE held a discussion based on Italy's pressing problem: immigration and the issue of European identity. The discussion consisted of a panel that provided different perspectives on the issue and included The Honorable Marco Rocca, Consul General of Italy in Miami, FIU Italian Instructor Magda Pearson, and Dr. John Kneski, Associate Dean and Senior Fellow, The Honors College at FIU.

The Honorable Rocca began the discussion with a general overview of Italy's illegal immigration problem. He explained how Italy is especially vulnerable to illegal immigration coming in large waves because of its geographical position, "it is a natural destination for illegal immigrants, because it is easy to reach", Spain is only second in place because of its proximity to Morocco, divided only by the Strait of Gibraltar. In addition, to providing the geographical reasons, he provided statistics in order to illuminate the severity of the problem. According to The Honorable Rocca, illegal immigration is not just Italy's problem, but affects the entire EU: since Italy is really a transient country where the illegal immigrants stop before they make their way to other parts of the European Union.

Professor John Kneski provided an American perspective on Italy's illegal immigration problem. Having studied in Italy as an undergraduate, and continuously visiting it, Kneski discusses how "immigration becomes a topic when you go to Italy, because you are literally stepping over immigrants—they come in waves." He explains how Italy was historically a country of immigrants itself, something that Americans would not think of, because of the waves of Italian immigrants that came over to America in the late nineteenth and early 20th centuries. Nevertheless, he stresses the point that Italy has very tolerant policies regarding its illegal immigration.

While Kneski provided an outsider's perspective, Magda Pearson told her side, from the perspective of a native Italian from the small town of Perugia: "it is not the biggest city there. It is not Naples, not Rome, or Milan. We are talking about a closed-minded, small region. Having been born and raised in the center of the peninsula in the region of Umbria, she stresses how it is in these small towns where one can see the greatest effects that immigration has

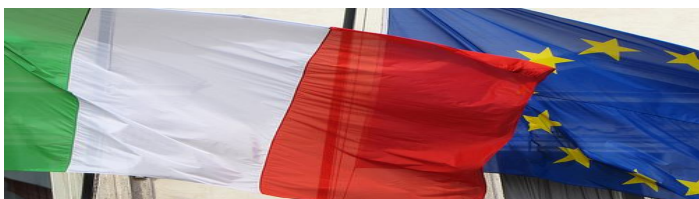


FIU Students and Faculty



**Dr. John Kneski, Dr. Rebecca Friedman, Magda Pearson,
Hon. Marco Rocca, Christine I. Caly-Sanchez**

Italian Immigration (con't)



had in Italy. She paints a concrete picture of how the central Italian landscape has changed from the small pizzerias in the town square having given way to the kebab kiosks. "I'm telling you from my perspective, not an expert of immigration sciences. My experience as an Italian who left her country and now coming back it is different. Is it a bad thing or a good thing? I don't know — all I know that it is changing."

After the event, The Honorable Marco Rocca generously gave us more of his time to answer a few questions on his personal views on the Immigration problem.

Having served in Madrid, Lima, Panama, and Miami, do you feel that in each location immigration was a major problem, like in Italy? Or, is Italy a special case and why?

The cities do compare in drastic ways. Madrid has no immigrants as a city, immigrants came on the shore. I have been stationed in Madrid at two different periods. The first time I was there in the 1980s, immigration was still not a problem—the problem practically didn't exist. The second time was around 12 years ago, it was still not as serious as today. In Peru, immigration is not problem; they have migrants going out of Peru-- no one is coming in. While I was in Panama, the government was concerned about Columbians entering Panama illegally. And they were and still are afraid that with the influx of Columbians that some criminals might come. There was a debate as to whether or not to introduce the visa for Columbians to enter (currently there is no visa requirement for Columbians to enter Panama). The Panamanian government has recently noted an increase in petty crime, but the figures remain pretty low. Panamanians don't leave panama. They don't have a need—it is a poor country especially in the province, but still the average income is probably the highest in Central America, there's no significant flow of Panamanians going away from their country to migrate.

Italy is currently facing a population decrease crisis. It is known to have one of the lowest birth rates on the continent. Wouldn't immigration help solve the issue of depleting workers, ageing population and people to take care of the elderly in the future? How will Italy, if not through immigration, reconcile this problem?

It certainly it is one of the lowest in the world; in fact, we are the lowest level worldwide. The Italian population itself is definitely shrinking. The birthrate is not replacing the number of deaths. This is a European problem however, not just Italian.

Who is taking care of the ageing population?

There are 500,000 foreigners working in domestic jobs taking care of elderly people, or serving in the domestic sector. Keep in mind we only

know of the 500,000 that *registered* but there are probably more workers. Jobs are needed, you have an ageing population, you need persons to care of old people. Italians don't do this job anymore. For Italians, the pay doesn't matter, they prefer to stay jobless. Therefore, migrants are filling this void. Many years ago Italians went to Switzerland and Germany- they were the migrants, sent to do the jobs that the Swiss or Germans didn't want to do.

How does Italy collaborate with the EU in order to solve these issues? I understand that not all countries in the EU feel the same urgency in taking care of this problem.

Italy and Spain --we are the most exposed countries, we receive the first wave, because of our geography. We (Italy and Spain) feel that what we are doing is in the interest of the other European countries. Northern European countries are not so sensitive to these issues, because they are not being flooded with this incoming migrants. I understand if you are not hit everyday you are not sensitive to this. What we are doing is also in the interest of the Second and Third Line countries [countries that receive immigrants secondary or tertiary to Italy and

Spain after they illegal immigrants arrive], that is why we are insisting to share this burden.

We are not passing the ball to Brussels: the main burden is carried by the member states, maybe France even to some extent. Many member states do not accept that this is a European problem and not an Italian, or Spanish one. This is what we are insisting to be supported by the EU, because we are doing a job on behalf 26 countries. People enter Italy or Spain, these migrants go to somewhere else, to France or Germany or Austria.

What does the immigration problem mean for Italian identity? You describe what it means for the immigrants identity. But are Italians afraid of losing their own Identity or tradition? Or do they feel like it is eroding?

Eroding is the right word. There is some concern about losing Italian identity. This may be due to the fact that there is something that is perceived as "excessive tolerance" for the diversities of the migrants. For example, there have been cases where if a non-Christian student complains that there is a crucifix on the wall and the family complains to the school in question, they will take it down. These cases happen but they are not so widespread. Nevertheless, this annoys Italians, because this erodes the prevailing values and traditions. They believe 'if we are 99% Catholic, why should we take away the crucifix?' For them, they see it as an encroachment on Italian life. The concern for Italian government and people is that things might go out of hand if these types of episodes continue or grow too much. It is easy to unite a wave of anti-foreigner or xenophobia... Italians are not xenophobic, just the opposite — we've always been open to foreigners. Having been a country that historically trades with the world, we've never been isolated. Still there is a probably a limit or a threshold; even tolerant people can be driven to become less tolerant if this kind of problem persists. This is a concern that might get worse-- like the example of the African shantytown that occurred earlier this month, these are examples of what should not happen.



Hon. Marco Rocca
Consul General of Italy



20 YEARS AFTER THE FALL: A Look Back at the End of an Era

The Non-Sense of Walls: Border Politics around the world



Dr. Markus Thiel, Dr. Rebecca Friedman, Dr. Charles McDonald,
Dr. Troy Elder, Dr. Alex Stepick

"Walls are a paradox in our time," says Dr. Markus Thiel Assistant Professor of Political Science and International Relations at FIU during his introduction at the roundtable discussion "The Non-Sense of Walls." In continuation with the series "Twenty Years After the Fall", the FIU Miami EUCE held an interdisciplinary roundtable discussion on January 19 reflecting on the concepts of border politics around the world. The panelists included Dr. Alex Stepick, FIU Professor of Global and Socio Cultural Studies, Professor of International Relations Dr. Charles McDonald, and Clinical Assistant Professor of Law, Dr. Troy Elder. According to Dr. Thiel, the paradox lies in the fact that as current political discourse and trends overemphasize 'globalization', and the lowering of territorial border, that it seems that more walls are being built. Thiel paused for a moment asking what purposes do the walls serve in a 'globalized age', whether for territory, and what legal issues both domestic and international do they pose?

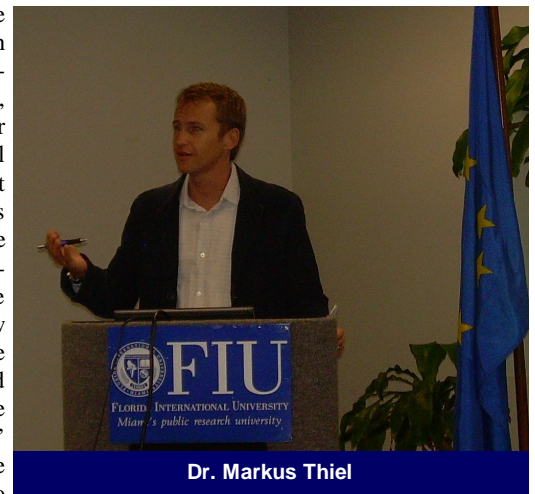


Dr. Charles McDonald discusses the concept of walls
in the context of the Middle East

The first speaker to address this issue was Dr. Stepick whose presentation "The Berlin Wall and the US Mexican Border", compares how the US-Mexican border resembles more the division of when the Berlin Wall was still erected versus today, a highly developed area, while the US -Mexico border, even 20 years later on the Mexican side, remains underdeveloped. Like Dr. Thiel, Dr. Stepick finds another paradoxical role of walls in that while they do create divisions, they also conversely create solidarities. Nevertheless, he stresses the point that no nation is monolithic and that there are variations within any national origin group and that in certain arenas such as food and arts, the global North seems to be turning towards a more 'cosmopolitan,' as opposed to the out-dated racist attitude toward national identities.

Following Dr. Stepick's presentation, Dr. Charles MacDonald opened his discussion on walls with Robert Frost's "Good Fences Make Good Neighbors". This was the leitmotif of his presentation as he argued that walls or borders are not necessarily problematic. He takes a different approach in his presentation of the Palestine-Israeli border and concludes that the issue of walls or borders raise serious questions for scholars to consider and over which politicians will continue to argue.

To conclude the discussion with yet another disciplinary approach, Dr. Troy Elder provided a legal discussion about the implications of walls in the context of immigration law. He explained how even today there is an imagined wall between the 'developed' countries of the global north to the 'undeveloped' countries of the global south that have the legacy of colonialism, and how location determines entry or accessibility to visas. Elder's discussion hit on current global issues including how US easement of immigration restriction would have a positive impact on the nation's economy by increasing the country's GDP to almost 1%.



Dr. Markus Thiel

In the context of the European Union and the notions of 'walls,' Dr. Thiel explained how in the context of immigration, the "border" lies between the EU states and the non-EU states. Currently, immigration is a major issue in discussions among EU states, but each member state in the EU has different priorities on immigration. He explained how for example, Italy and Spain, while they have relatively fair immigration laws they are currently overwhelmed, compared to the more northern member-states in the EU who do not face the same urgencies in terms of immigration and therefore do not wish to support this cause. Regardless of the tensions in EU politics in immigration, according to Dr. Stepick, "immigration" is nevertheless, "the topic in Europe", and there is increasing scholarly interest in the topic and even with working with American scholars to tackle immigration problems facing the EU.

By Loraine de la Fe

Book Announcements



Dr. Aurora Morcillo

received her PhD from the University of New Mexico.

Her first book *True Catholic Womanhood: Gender Ideology in Franco's Spain*, was published in 2000 with a second edition following in 2008.

She is Associate Professor of History and Women's Studies at Florida International University



Dr. Joseph Patrouch

received his PhD in History from the University of California, Berkeley and is Associate Professor of History at Florida International University.

His publications include *A Negotiated Settlement: The Counter-Reformation in Upper Austria under the Habsburgs* (Brill, 2000)

NEW from BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY PRESS

The Seduction of Modern Spain

The Female Body and the Francoist Body Politic

By Dr. Aurora Morcillo

Political language is impregnated with terms that metaphorically refer to the human body's functions or anatomy. Words such as regime, state, head, members, or arms, are so much a part of political discourse as to be commonplace, unexceptional, and virtually invisible. These metaphors, though, take what is a brick and mortar institution, government, and infuse it with bones and blood. Nowhere is this more evident than in the case of the oppressive, forty-year rule of the Franco Regime in Spain. The Nationalists, after the Spanish Civil War, reached back across centuries of Spanish history to create an amalgam of religious and political discourses that put the body at the center of its being. The Francoist body politic mirrored the male body. Its bio-power became ubiquitous by imposing a "culture of fear" through the glorification of the Caudillo, a tight state censorship with the aid of the Catholic Church, and the incarceration and repression of dissidents.

The consumerist economy that Spain gradually adopted with the United States financial and military aid in the 1950s and 1960s opened the way to the new modern, Western, woman. This woman of the magazine ads and movie screens seduced a new generation of Spaniards into thinking that life held more for them than the austerity of their recent past, the severity of their strict Catholic heritage, and the social straight-jacket of Francoist National-Catholic doctrine.

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Image: Francesc Catalá Roca, *Visita al barrio chino*, 1952.

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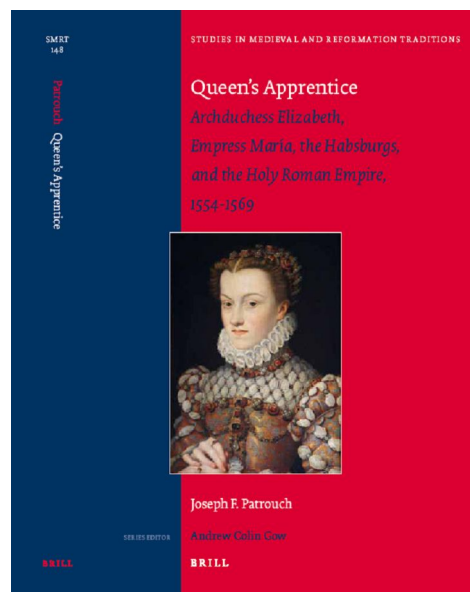
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NEW from BRILL PRESS

Queen's Apprentice: Archduchess Elizabeth, Empress Maria, the Habsburgs, and the Holy Roman Empire, 1554-1569

By Dr. Joseph Patrouch

This book recounts the first fifteen years, early education and marriage negotiations of the Habsburg Archduchess, Elizabeth, who grew up in the Royal Imperial Courts of Vienna and Wiener Neustadt in the latter half of the sixteenth century. It portrays life at the court of Elizabeth's mother, the Empress Maria, and describes tournaments, coronations, plays, medals, chivalric literature, music, art, sewing, and saints' lives, as well as urban contexts. Ideas of political space and travel are discussed against the settings of Prague, Frankfurt, Stuttgart, Bratislava, Munich and Augsburg. Elizabeth's story reveals specific structures of the Habsburg Courts, featuring Spanish, Austrian, Hungarian, Low Country, Italian, Bohemian courtiers, and sets her personal story against the background of larger international events, such as the Peace of Augsburg in 1555 and the Ottoman Wars.



For more information on the book please go to the following site:
<http://www.brill.nl/default.aspx?partid=210&pid=26084>



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SOME OF OUR UPCOMING 2010 EVENTS



- **March 23** Florida High Schools 1st Round Euro Challenge Competition at FIU
- **April 7** Euro Challenge Competition 2010 Recognition and Award
- **May 3** European Film Festival
- **May 9** Europe Day Celebration
- **May 20** Teacher Workshop - Broward

For more details, you may visit <http://www.miamieuc.org/calendar.php> or contact Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, the MEUCE-FIU assistant director at 305-348-5949 or calyc@fiu.edu.