



# Newsletter



Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence - FIU

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 20

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2012

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## MEUCE Lecture: "France and the United States at the Core of Innovation" His Excellency François Delattre, Ambassador of France to the U.S.



The School of International and Public Affairs, the Broad Lecture Series and the MEUCE brought a very special guest to FIU on November 2<sup>nd</sup>: Mr. François Delattre, Ambassador of France to the U.S. At the FIU's Frost Art Museum, in a room packed with students, the French Ambassador spoke about the role of innovation, a topic that is very important to the EU, to France, and to the U.S. Also present at the event were Hon. Gaël de Maisonneuve, Consul General of France in Miami, Nicole Hirsh Conseiller à l'Assemblée des Français de l'Etranger, and Valerie Drake, Cultural Attaché, Consulate General of France in Miami.

Mr. Delattre opened his presentation by emphasizing that innovation is France's number one priority today. He then talked about France's strategy for innovation, the tools the French government has devised for it and the exchanges that currently exist between the U.S and France in this area and also for the future. Innovation "is a priority that France and the U.S share regardless of differences of public and private funding between the two countries," added Mr. Delattre.

According to the Ambassador Delattre, France's national strategy on research and innovation focuses on three key current technological revolutions. The first revolution refers to sustainable development, energy renewable, "green tech," urban transportation, etc. Here, French companies hold leading positions world-wide. Seventy five percent of French electricity today comes from nuclear power, which makes France the world leader in nuclear energy innovation and places her in a better position in the fight against global warming. The second revolution is in

the field of genomics and biotechnology, where world-renowned French pharmaceutical companies, such as SANOFI, are key players in innovation. In the third area – that of the digital revolution (information, communications, nanotechnology) – the major world player is the U.S., with companies like Google, Apple, Amazon, etc. But France too has a lot to offer, particularly in the field of software engineering.

The French government has taken many steps to encourage innovation, from significant tax credits for R&D expenses by a new company, to incubators (innovative business), to promotion of business by students, public-private partnerships, as well as the establishment of a national competition for promoting innovative enterprises and the "Investments for the Future" program. Since entrepreneurship and innovation "go together," more than 600,000 new businesses were created in France last year.

Ambassador Delattre highlighted that "innovation is at the core of French-American partnership," and expressed confidence in the future of French-American relations. The two countries "have never been closer than they are today," on all fronts: diplomatic, security, cultural, economic. Economic partnership, particularly through cross-investments, and emphasis on "high-tech jobs," is growing stronger. To illustrate Mr. Delattre mentioned that in the last three years, American investment in France grew by forty percent. Not in the last place, scientific and academic exchanges between the two countries have increased as well, through student exchange programs, co-masters, joint PhDs, fellowships, to name a few examples. "The transatlantic partnership remains the backbone of today's world economy, in terms of trade, GDP, cross-investments and, most importantly, innovation," added François Delattre.



French Ambassador to the US  
his excellency François Delattre



## French Week at FIU



### Lecture: France and the United States at the Core of Innovation His Excellency François Delattre, Ambassador of France to the U.S.



His excellency Francois Delattre,  
French Ambassador to the US



His excellency Francois Delattre French Ambassador to the US answering  
questions to the audience

The French Ambassador concluded his lecture with a message for the young generation: "Let's never forget that our countries owes each other their existence. It is upon you to preserve and promote our shared culture, the values of freedom and democracy, innovation, and the trans-Atlantic partnership."

During the questions and answers section that followed, Mr. Delattre answered numerous questions from the

students, who manifested a great interest in the French Ambassador's presentation.

To see François Delattre's lecture please click on the link below: <http://mediaweb.fiu.edu/Mediasite/Play/182ef888c1434722a49bb732a78113921d?duration=3865000>

*By Lavinia Bucsa*



His Excellency François Delattre, Ambassador of France to the USA (Center) among high school students; the Consul General of France in Miami, Hon. Gael de Maisonneuve (left); Nicole Hirsh, Conseiller à l'Assemblée des français de l'étranger (next to the Ambassador); and Valerie Drake, Cultural Attache, Consulate General of France in Miami (right)





## French Week at FIU



François Delattre, Ambassador of France to the United States



From left to right: Consul General Gaël de Maisonneuve, Students, Nicole Hirsh, Ambassador François Delattre



Novelists Rosecrans Baldwin and Mark Levy

"French Week Miami", a misnomer for a month-long series of events, is a unique event designed to emphasize and promote the French presence in South Florida. This "Week" is organized by the French-American Chamber of Commerce in collaboration with the Consulate General of France in Miami. During the entire month of November, the French cultural, economic and social worlds get together in South Florida. FIU and the Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence are part of this event.

This year "French Week", was an outstanding success. It began with the first Miami-Nice Jazz Festival, an event full of excitement which brought music lovers from all walks of life, including our University students, faculty, and staff members. Following this event, FIU hosted the Honorable François Delattre, Ambassador of France to the United States, whose lecture titled "France and the US at the core of Innovation" was well received by the entire audience and

ranked as one of the outstanding events in the "French Week" series.

In addition, a large number of French films were screened during the week, among them "Paris, je t'aime", and "Rives".

For the literature lovers, "French Week" hosted French best-selling author Mark Levy, who presented his works at the Miami International Bookfair, where he shared the stage in a conversation with American novelist and journalist Rosecrans Baldwin. Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director, Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence, FIU, was honored to introduce both writers at the fair.

Another highlight of the week was a visit to the Frost Art Museum. However, this was not just any tour. Dr. Maria-Antonieta Garcia, French Professor at FIU, conducted a tour in French of FIU's Frost Art Museum. The experience was a first for FIU students, who were exposed not only to art, but also to the French language in a different context.



Christine I. Caly-Sanchez and best-selling author Mark Levy



From left to right: students Yesse Yoder, Anne-Laure Henrie, Carolina Ulloa, and Diana Galban



### Miami Nice Jazz Festival October 26 - 28, 2012

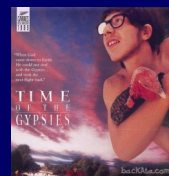
The first Miami Nice Jazz Festival is a partnership between Sister Cities Nice, France and Miami, Florida, joining forces under the leadership of the festival's founder and CEO, Philippe Pautesta-Herder. Thanks to the two mayors, Christian Estrosi, Mayor of Nice, and Tomas Regalado, Mayor of the City of Miami, the edition of France's celebrated Nice Jazz Festival comes to the US for the first time this fall - a weekend celebration of out-

standing jazz at Miami's historic gem, Gusman Theater. The lineup showcased an eclectic mix of straight-ahead and Latin jazz performances -- legendary artists like Dee Dee Bridgewater (Festival Ambassador), along with Florida debuts of bassist Kyle Eastwood, Eddie Palmieri & his Latin Jazz Band and French drummer Andre Ceccarelli featuring Alex Ligertwood (former lead singer of Santana), FIU Big Band featuring vocalist Sally Night, the South Florida Jazz Orchestra featuring Nicole Henry and much more.





## French Week at FIU (cont'd)



For French food lovers, "French Week" held a tasting of scrumptious desserts including "Mousse au Chocolat" and other delicacies. "French Week", however, would not have been complete without France's best known export: food! Therefore, a potluck was also held at the Graham Center where participants not only ate delicious food, but also sang French songs. All in all, a good time was had by all.

Students experiences played an important role in "French Week". A roundtable was conducted under the title "Transatlantic Experience". This roundtable brought together French and American students who had participated in study-abroad exchange programs to talk about their experiences abroad and especially in France. Both American and French students commented on their experiences in dealing with a new language and cultural differences, and they agreed that the experience

of studying and living abroad had given them a new insight into a global education and the meaning of being a global citizen.



Artist Esther Shalev-Gerv's exhibition

As the French Week came to a close, Lithuanian born French Israeli artist Esther Shalev-Gerv, presented her new exhibition, describing labour, at the Wolfsonian Museum. This exhibition analyzes the relationship of workers and labor, comprising of arte facts from 1885 through 1945 that inspire appreciation for the work of art throughout time.

By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez



From left to right, the panelists of the roundtable "Transatlantic Experience": Yesse Yoder, Diana Galban, and Anne-Laure Henrie

### French Week Oct. 26-Nov.20

Oct.26-28, 2012

Olympia Theater—Gusman Center for the Performing Arts—Downtown Miami

#### Miami Nice Jazz Festival

The first Miami Nice Jazz Festival is a partnership between Sister Cities Nice, France, and Miami, FL

Friday, Nov. 2 | 10:30am - 12:00pm

FIU, MMC - Frost Art Museum—Room 107

#### Conference on "France and the United States at the Core of Innovation"

By Ambassador of France to the United States, François Delattre

Wednesday, Nov. 7 | 1:30pm - 3:00pm

FIU, MMC - Graham Center—GC 150

#### French Film Series:

"Paris, Je t'aime"

Thursday, Nov. 8 | 12:00pm - 2:00pm

FIU, MMC - Graham Center—GC 150

#### European Film Screening

#### French Film Series:

"Nous nous sommes tant hais"

Tuesday, Nov. 13 | 5:00pm - 7:00pm

FIU, MMC - Graham Center—Faculty Club

#### Theater Performance: comedy—"Art"

Wednesday, Nov. 14 | 12:00pm—1:00 p.m.

FIU, MMC - Graham Center—Panther Suite

#### Patisserie Workshop: "A Taste of France"

Wednesday, Nov. 14 | 1:30–3:30pm

FIU, MMC - Graham Center—GC 140

#### French Film Series: "Rives"

Thursday, Nov. 15 | 11:00–12:30pm

FIU, MMC - Graham Center

#### Conference: "Love in the French Literature through the centuries" By Dr. Welch

Thursday, Nov. 15 | 2:00pm - 3:30pm

FIU, MMC - Green Library—GL 220

#### Roundtable: "Transatlantic Experience"

Thursday, Nov. 15 | 3:30pm - 4:30pm

FIU, MMC - Frost Art Museum

#### "A tour of the Frost Art Museum"

By Dr. Maria-Antonieta Garcia

Saturday, Nov. 17 | 1:30–3:00pm

Miami International Bookfair

#### Conversation with French best-selling author Mark Levy

Thursday, Nov. 20 | 12:00–2:00pm

FIU-MMC—Graham Center

#### Chansons Francophones & Potluck

To view detailed program, click:

<http://casgroup.fiu.edu/miamieuc/events.php?id=2720>





## Think Transatlantic Campus Weeks–Fall 2012

### MEUCE Hosts Recognition Award Ceremony for winners of the Think Transatlantic Contest Essay



Hon. Countess Eva Alexandra Kendeffy, Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany with the three winners of the Think Transatlantic Contest Essay 2012;  
From left to right: Derrick Mustelier (2nd place); Yuliet Llanes (1st place); Janio Arrowsmith (3rd place)

This Fall, the MEUCE, the European Studies Program, the FIU's Department of Politics and International Relations and the Modern Languages Department, in cooperation with the German Embassy in Washington D.C., and the Consulate General of Germany in Miami, announced its first contest essay on the German-US transatlantic relations. The Essay Contest was part of the program "Think Transatlantic Campus Week" organized by the German Embassy in Washington D.C., in which a total of thirty colleges and universities across the U.S. have participated.

During the Think Transatlantic Campus Week at FIU, the MEUCE organized various events. One of

them was the Recognition and Award Ceremony for the winners of the Think Transatlantic Essay contest. The ceremony was held on November 19, at the FIU Green Library, GL 220.

The contest was open to FIU undergraduate students, with majors in Political Science, International Relations, Economics, History, Social Sciences, Global and Sociocultural Studies, Honors College, International Business. A team of judges composed of FIU faculty and EU specialists determined the top three essays based on the quality of their writings, persuasiveness of the argument, clarity of key points and overall coherence.

This year's contest was won by

**Yuliet Llanes** with an essay on "The U.S. and Germany through the NATO Scope." **Derrick Mustelier** placed second with an essay titled: "The political economy of recession: austerity vs. Keynesianism, while **Janio Arrowsmith** won the third place with the "Trans-Atlantic Relations: Germany and the U.S: A story of differences and parallels."

The winners in Florida received certificates and goodies from Hon. Countess Eva Kendeffy, Consul General of Germany in Miami. The organizers of the competition, Dr. Rebecca Friedman, MEUCE Co-Director, Dr. Markus Thiel, Assistant Professor in Department of Politics and International Relations, at FIU, and Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director, MEUCE were also present and warmly congratulated the winners and all other students who participated in the contest.

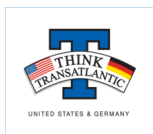
The national winner's essay will be featured on [www.germany.info](http://www.germany.info) and receive a financial reward.

**To view detailed program at FIU, click on the following link:** <http://casgroup.fiu.edu/miamieuc/events.php?id=2690>

**For more information on the Think transatlantic , go the Germany Embassy Website:**

[http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/02\\_GIC/GIC/05/06\\_Think\\_Transatlantic/05\\_CampusWeeks/CampusWeeksMain.html](http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/02_GIC/GIC/05/06_Think_Transatlantic/05_CampusWeeks/CampusWeeksMain.html)

*By Lavinia Bucsa*



## MEUCE Lecture: Transatlantic Relations in a Changing World—Shared values and a special relationship between Germany and the U.S.



Hon. Countess Eva Kendeffy,  
Consul General of Germany in Miami



Room SIPA 220 packed for the Consul General of Germany's lecture

On November 28, the Hon. Countess Eva Kendeffy, Consul General of Germany was invited to FIU by the Miami-Florida European Union Center for Excellence, to discuss the Transatlantic relations between the Germany and the USA. In a room packed with students, Countess Kendeffy began her lecture by emphasizing the challenges that face today's world: the emerging of new global powers, economic/financial crisis in the euro-zone and the U.S., the growing numbers of Muslim populations who seek to define their identity, and the stark realization that Americans and Europeans "have become a minority on this planet." In such a changing world, one may ask: "what brings Europeans and Americans together and keeps them close? Countess Kendeffy gave a clear answer: it is the common

basis of shared values, the notions of democracy and freedom as the ground rules for both societies, and a common understanding of human dignity and responsibility.

Throughout the lecture, Countess Kendeffy underlined that the special relationship between the governments of Germany and that of the U.S reflects "a turbulent history and many sacrifices to preserve the fundamental values at the foundation of both societies." From the Berlin Airlift in 1948, throughout the height of the Cold War and the building of the Berlin Wall in 1961, to its tearing down in 1989, German unification and European integration were possible only with unwavering support of the U.S. To put it simply: politics, economics, culture and military cooperation are all facets that make up

German-US relations.

The German Consul provided numerous examples to illustrate this partnership. The U.S investment in the EU is three times higher than in all of Asia and the EU investment in the U.S is around eight times the amount of EU investment in India and China together. The US is the largest foreign investor in Germany and the US is the number one investment destination for German companies investing abroad. The two countries have also a robust cooperative relationship on counter-terrorism, law enforcement and homeland security matters. Germany is home to largest permanent American force contingent outside the U.S and home to the largest overseas Department of Defense medical facility in the world. Equally important, a special relationship also exists between the citizens of the two countries, in their everyday exchanges or other forms of interactions.

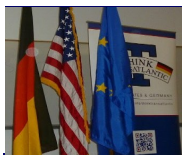
To master the new challenges of globalization, however, the two sides should continue to build on a trusted transatlantic partnership. The younger generations bear the responsibility to preserve this special relationship and to look after it because the transatlantic partnership "will guide us through the turbulence of the 21<sup>st</sup> century," stressed Countess Kendeffy at the conclusion of her lecture. The presentation was followed by the questions and answer section and then by an informal, relaxed interaction between the German Consul and the FIU students. The students enjoyed the lecture and the goodies provided by the German Embassy, photographed with the Consul, and learned a lot about the US-German relations.



Hon. Countess Eva Kendeffy (center) with FIU students and Christine I. Caly-Sanchez

*By Lavinia Bucsa*





## The Transatlantic Relations between Germany and the USA

### Interview with Hon. Countess Eva Kendeffy

#### Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Miami



**MEUCE:** You have served in many prestigious posts in the U.S., including Political Counselor of the German Embassy in Washington D.C during 1989-1994, when you were responsible for transatlantic relations.

**Was it during that period that you developed your devotion to the transatlantic partnership? What was the starting point?**

**German Consul:** I think it started earlier. I was born in 1948 in Bavaria, which, during the WWII was occupied by the U.S troops. Experiencing the Marshal Plan, the Berlin Airlift, the help the U.S gave to Germany during the Cold War and, later, the President Reagan's famous speech in front of the Berlin wall - "Mrs. Gorbachev tear down this wall" - had a profound impact on my views on the nature of the American-German relationship. Because I was in the U.S during the reunification of Germany in 1989, I was not able to see the people celebrating and to take part in that celebration. I was lucky, however, to experience political developments concerning reunification directly in the U.S and that was what really reinforced my strong conviction that without the support of the U.S., Germany would had not been able to achieve reunification. As we made our way to unity and freedom, America stood firmly at our side - and we are grateful for all these things.

**MEUCE:** *Where does the German-American partnership stand today and where should it go?*

**German Consul:** I think that German-American relations have been very good all the time and never changed through the years or with various governments that took office in both countries because we share the same values. Sure, like in a marriage, differences exist. And by the way, I forgot to mention that I am married to an American, so I am experiencing a very personal German-American partnership! It is normal to have some discussions and different views about things, but that just makes us stronger. We are constantly trying to intensify our transatlantic partnership and to work closer with each other in all areas. Germany and the U.S. have a robust cooperative relationship in the economic sphere, where more free trade agreements will certainly help. We are very close in the cultural sphere as well. To give you some concrete examples, many Americans are visiting Berlin and are fascinated by the scenes they see there. 600,000 jobs in the U.S come from direct German investments, which makes the U.S our number one investment location. We are also determined to tackle together the new challenges facing today's world. Germans stood together with Americans during the 9/11 terrorist attack and we are also cooperating in other troubled parts of the world. As the challenges are getting more numerous - in the security area, the economic area, with climate change, you name it - it is important to continue our cooperation. This is a very dynamic and trusted partnership, one that is constantly evolving.

**MEUCE:** *What is Germany doing to get young Americans more interested in the country and thus to ensure that transatlantic ties will remain strong?*

**German Consul:** First, we are working toward solving the language problem. Germany is now offering a series of courses at the master's level - more than 250 courses - and, in order to

avoid the difficulty of learning German, we are offering them in English. We have encouraged exchanges at other levels. For example, many German politicians came into U.S and some American politicians went to Germany to address the issue of governance and we hope their numbers will grow in the future. Other exchanges includes visit to Germany by American mayors, specialists in the area of new and green sources of energy, in the field of electronics, and American participation in many similar trade shows. The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) program and other private initiative between German and American universities are all example of our strong transatlantic tie.

**MEUCE:** *In your view, what is the main purpose of the Think Transatlantic Campaign?*

**German Consul:** It is very important that the younger generations take on the responsibility of the gift they have received and carry on the transatlantic relationship. Each generation will have to contribute to our value-based order and must be ready to defend it. The purpose of this contest is to highlight, especially in such a diversified world, the value of the transatlantic relationship and the importance of its continuation. I think that the students participating in the contest, who wrote essays on such diverse topics - from NATO, to religious differences, to emigration issues - were very well informed and I was impressed by the level of their knowledge on the topic. Students from twenty four American universities participated in this contest, including FIU, University of Tampa and University of Gainesville. And, as I mentioned, I was impressed by the quality of their essays. It is extremely important for the young people to carry on that beacon of hope and our partnership forward.

**MEUCE:** *How does Germany see the Euro-crisis and its impact on the future of European integration?*

**German Consul:** We are now in the process of preserving the Euro. In terms of both GDP and population, Germany is the biggest country in the eurozone and, as such, Germany is aware of its possible impact on the balance of the eurozone and on the financial stability of the euro as a currency. The eurozone countries have adopted a common approach to coordinate national policies in an effort adapt structures and move in the same direction. A euro-zone rescue fund (European Financial Stability Fund, or EFSF) has been set up to stabilize the euro and its instruments will also be applied to the permanent European Stability Mechanism (ESM). There is light at the end of the tunnel. We learn from our mistakes and, so far, things are going well and Europe is on a good track. I remain optimistic about its future.

**MEUCE:** *What is your message for the FIU students?*

**German Consul:** You are extremely lucky to live and study here, at this institution. Not only do you get a very good education, but you also have the chance to study in an extraordinary surrounding. The palm trees, the space, the sunshine - all make for an interesting environment, insofar this is a really multicultural environment. There are so many Latin American countries represented in Miami, and you can take advantage of the lectures offered, on campus and outside the university, by so many leaders, academics, heads of states and government who travel here. Finally, I would also like to call on you, the young students of FIU, to think of our special transatlantic relationship as a gift that history has given us and that we need to preserve.

*By Lavinia Bucsa*



Hon. Countess Eva  
Kendeffy, Consul  
General of Germany



## MEUCE: EU-ASIAN ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

### Linguistics Symposium: "A comparison of Foreign Language Teaching Methodologies and Policies in EU and Asia"



Dr. Chuanren Ke and Dr. Margaret E. Malone



Packed audience in Graham Center Panther Suite

On October 10, the MEUCE, in collaboration with Department of Modern Languages and Asian Studies Program, organized the Linguistic Symposium titled "A Comparison of Foreign Language Teaching Methodologies and Policies in EU and Asia." The event garnered an impressive turnout with an audience of fully engaged students and faculty.

The goal of the symposium was to critically examine language teaching policies, methodologies, and trends in two regions of the world - Asia and the European Union - while at the same time reflecting on domestic practices aimed at promoting second language acquisition in the US and at FIU. The Symposium was presented by two distinguished guests and top scholars in the field of applied linguistics and language learning: Dr. Chuanren Ke, Professor of Chinese language and Director of Confucius Institute at University of Iowa, and Dr. Margaret Malone, Associate Vice President, for World language and International Programs at the Center for Applied Linguistics, Washington, D.C.

In her insightful presentation, Dr. Margaret Malone synthesized the current situation in Europe in foreign language assessment. Dr. Malone directs research projects in English and foreign language testing and acquisition abroad as well as professional development workshops. Bringing the Asian perspective into discussion, Dr. Ke reviewed language methodologies and trends in China. He highlighted that, although during the first part of Cultural Revolution (1966 to 1976), teaching foreign

languages was literally banned, since 1977 English language education has been part of China's reform and open-door strategy. For a "typical Chinese pupil" today, English provision starts from year 3 in all primary school. Moreover, five to ten percent of the tertiary courses for undergraduate students are supposed to be conducted in English or another foreign language.

Dr. Ke also pointed out the existent divergences of policy and practice in China: there are many coastal-inland and urban-rural disparities, as well as variations in terms of access to English due to socioeconomic factors. Another interesting point referred to Chinese "culture of learning." Contrary to the

view that depicts Chinese students as reserved reticent and passive learners, recent survey findings indicate that Chinese learners are active learners, preferring a more interactive relationship with their teachers. However, communicative language teaching (CLT) is difficult if not impossible to implement in China for reasons that include: large class size, overloaded teachers, and teachers' lack of sufficient English language competencies.

To review Dr. Ke's presentation, please click on the link below:

<http://asian.fiu.edu/news/2012/recent-events-iwami-kagura-and-linguistics-symposium/english-in-china.pdf>

*By Lavinia Bucsa*



From left to right: Dr. Chuanren Ke, Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Dr. Margaret E. Malone, Dr. Rebecca Friedman, Dr. Steven Heine, Dr. Pascale Becel



## MEUCE Roundtable: Social Movements in the European Union and Beyond



From left to right: Dr. Markus Thiel, Assistant Professor, Politics & International Relations Dept, FIU; Dr. Ruth Reitan, Assistant Professor, International Studies Dept., UM; Dr. Peter Funke, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Government & International Affairs, UF

The MEUCE, in collaboration with the European Studies Program and the FIU's Department of Politics and International Relations, hosted a Roundtable on "Social Movements in the European Union and Beyond." Two distinguished guests were invited at FIU to participate in Dr. Markus Thiel's "Approaches to Area Studies" graduate seminar meeting and to share with the FIU students the results of their research on the current state of social movements.

One guest was Dr. Peter N. Funke, Assistant Professor in the Department of Government and International Affairs at the University of South Florida, and a 2012 recipient of MEUCE faculty research grant award. Dr. Funke's research focuses on social movements, communications and globalizing capitalism. He is currently working on a book-length study on the "World Social Forum and the Rhizomatic Left," as well as on several articles or chapters on contemporary social movement-based politics, class formation and the role of (new) media in neoliberal capitalism.

The second guest was Dr. Ruth Reitan, Assistant Professor at the University of Miami's Department of International Studies. Her research interests include

globalization processes, transnational social movements, the World Social Forum, and international human rights. Dr. Reitan is the author of *Global Activism* (2007) and "The Rise and Decline of an Alliance: Cuba and African American Leaders in the 1960s." She has also conducted participatory research at several World and European Social forums and international protest events. The roundtable discussion was moderated by FIU's Assistant Professor and one of the MEUCE's research associates, Dr. Markus Thiel, whose current research focuses on the promotion of rights policies based on the EU's Fundamental Rights Charter.

In addressing the questions posed by the graduate students, Dr. Funke began by explaining the roots and the objectives of the World Social Forum (WSF). He highlighted that the WSF can be seen as a response to World Economic Forum; even its "greatest rival." The WSF is a decentralized, plural and diverse open space where various civil society organizations, advocacy groups and other social movements meet annually to create transnational alliances and promote solidarity among them. Beyond

its strong opposition to neoliberalism, the forum has no central actor, issue, strategy or ideology. Heterogeneity and multi-connectivity are its main characteristics. In his own research, Dr. Funke has developed a framework for mapping and understanding the social forum process, which advances the image of the "rhizome" as an analytical tool for studying it. He suggests that, while allowing for unprecedented connections among various groups, social forums are often unable to move beyond symbolic acts of resistances and towards a concrete movement building.

This observation triggered the question of "what is to be done"? No definitive answers can be offered yet but one point stressed by both guests was that it is important to recognize the role world social forum plays in creating awareness about various local and transnational issues and in mobilizing otherwise disconnected groups. As a scholar-activist, Dr. Reitan also offered many insightful comments on the questions regarding the Anti-/Alter-Globalization Movement and the current state of the "global left." Both guests reached the conclusion that, in the last decade, the internet has shifted the nature of protest movements towards networking and more horizontal, cooperative and collaborative efforts.

*By Lavinia Bucsa*



Dr. Peter Funke, Dr. Markus Thiel,  
Dr. Ruth Reitan





## Social Movements in the European Union and Beyond

### Interview with Dr. Peter H. Funke



Dr. Peter Funke,  
Assistant Professor, Dept. of  
Government & International  
Affairs, UF

**MEUCE:** *Tell me about the social movements you studied or participated in.*

**Dr. Funke:** My interest is the Anti-/Alter-Globalization Movement and how movements and groups come together at the transnational level. Especially the World Social Forum (WSF) is a venue where I look at what brings together these diverse movements – from indigenous groups, feminist, labor groups, etc. My focus is less on one particular group than on how these various groups come together to create synergies. In terms of participating, I have been somewhat involved in a

group in Philadelphia called “The Media Mobilizing Project.”

**MEUCE:** *How do you think the nature of protests movements has changed in the last decade?*

**Dr. Funke:** The idea of groups meeting without having to come together with ONE unified position, in an open space, and to learn from each other is what motivate the social forums. This idea was then globalized. The protest has changed in a way that the global level (globalization, neoliberalism) has become inscribed into the local in a way that we now see particular issues in the local trying to make a link to the global. This is a big shift in terms of protest venues and strategies.

**MEUCE:** *This idea of a decentralized movement, one that lacks a core strategy, has it worked so far in terms of social forums achieving concrete results?*

**Dr. Funke:** I will give you a broad example in which something has been achieved. Let me say first that the social forum idea is young and, therefore, bringing all these various groups together is already an accomplishment. For example, knowing more about the indigenous Amazon groups creates awareness. To give another example, one social forum was instrumental in the big anti-Iraq war protest that spread all over the world. Second, what social forums also do well is bringing together groups that have the same “enemy” or opponent, that otherwise would not come together. Coming together in one common space is the biggest accomplishment of WSF, but indeed, this cannot be the only answer. Like everything else, it will have to evolve, and I believe it will.

**MEUCE:** *How does the multilevel governance context of the European Union influence European social movements? Do you see signs regarding the formation of a real transnational movement at the EU-level?*

**Dr. Funke:** With the European integration many social movements begun to organize at the European level. However, in the multilevel governance structure, there will always be movements at the national level. Take for example the EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP): there are protests in the front of the European parliament almost every week. I suggest that the more Europeanized the policies, the more European-based organizing one will see, which makes European-level arena a very important space for protests. At the same time, one should not forget that the nation states and governments are still key players, if not the most important actors. So, in a way, it would be too much of asking protester to organize at a level where they cannot achieve that much. At the end of the day, it is in London, Paris, Berlin, etc., where decisions are made. After national leaders reach decisions in Brussels, they came home and tell protesters that they cannot do much about their grievances because a particular European-law applies. At the same time, these leaders are the ones who pass the EU laws. Another element that my field research showed is the lack of solidarity among social movements in Europe, especially during times of austerity and crisis.

**MEUCE:** *You mentioned that European social forums are declining. Why is so?*

**Dr. Funke:** By comparison with what is going on in other regions of the world, for example in Latin America, the European Social Forums are “dying.” There are multiple reasons for that. One reason has to do with the fact that individual European forums were taken over by different groups/ individuals, even political parties. Greece is a good example. European Social forum in Athens in 2006 or 2007 was dominated by the Greek communist party – and this is not the idea of a social forum. As a result, many groups will avoid joining a forum that has been “highjacked.” however, there are still attempts of convergence of various European social forums; individuals that are organizing movements still believe in the need to come together. However, the model of social forum – as social forum – is, I believe, something that has passed in Europe. This is certainly not the case globally There is World Social Forum that will take place in Tunis, in April 2013. After that, we will know a little bit more about how the process looks globally. In Europe though, it is on “the death bed.”

**MEUCE:** *In terms of research methods, how do you study social movements?*

**Dr. Funke:** The challenge is how to grab a movement that is so fluid – and this is the key part of my research. I have done a lot of field work and used participant observation, ethnography, “virtual ethnography,” interviews with organizers. I think it is important to emerge yourself in the organizer's work and to gain their trust. I attend social forums and talk with organizers. Networking is also important.





## MEUCE Polish Series: From Solidarity to Freedom Showing of Film: "Interrogation" by Ryszard Bugajski



Beata Paszyc, Vice Honorary Consul of Poland; and  
Dr. Rebecca Friedman, Co-Director, MEUCE

As part of the Blanka Rosenstiel Polish Lecture Series: "From Solidarity to Freedom," on November 29<sup>th</sup> the Miami-Florida European Center of Excellence in collaboration with the American Institute of Polish Culture and the Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Poland in Miami, screened the film "Interrogation" by Ryszard Bugajski.

This 1982 Polish film tells the story of false imprisonment under the pro-Soviet

regime in Poland in the early 1950. Due to its anti-communist themes, the film was banned from public viewing by the Polish communist government until the 1989 dissolution of the Eastern Bloc. The film had its first theatrical release in December 1989 in Poland, and was entered into the 1990 Cannes Film Festival as a nomination for the Palme d'Or. Krystyna Janda won the award for Best Actress.

At the event, Ms. Beata Paczyc,

Honorary Vice Consul of the Republic of Poland in Miami and Executive Director of The American Institute of Polish Culture, introduced the film and told of her own personal relationship to its showing in Poland in the underground in the 1980s. This was a nice framing for its showing to our students at FIU.

*By Lavinia Bucsa*

**SOLIDARNOSC**



### Showing of Film: "Interrogation"



In-

**Interrogation** (Polish: *Przesłuchanie*), a 1982 Polish film directed by Ryszard Bugajski, is about false imprisonment under the pro-Soviet regime in Poland in the early 1950s. Due to its anti-communist themes, the Polish communist government banned the film from public viewing for over seven years until the 1989 dissolution of the Eastern Bloc. The film had its first theatrical release in December 1989 in its native Poland, and was entered into the 1990 Cannes Film Festival as a nomination for the Palme d'Or. Actor Krystyna Janda won the award for Best Actress.

For more information on the film,  
click on the following link:

<http://www.socialistfilms.org/2006/05/interrogation-poland-1982.html>



## Blanka Rosenstiel: Lecture Series on Poland



### "From Solidarity to Freedom"

Talk on "Work and the Human Person: John Paul II, Solidarity and Social Justice"



Dr. Piotr Kosicki; and Hon. Lady Blanka Rosenstiel, Honorary Consul of Poland

On December 4, MEUCE, in collaboration with the American Institute of Polish Culture, the Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Poland in Miami, and European Studies Program, organized a talk – as part of the Blanka Rosenstiel Polish Lecture Series – with Dr. Piotr H. Kosicki on "Work and the Human Person: John Paul II, Solidarity, and Social Justice." The Associate Director of the Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies at University of Virginia, Dr. Kosicki specializes in the transnational history of the 20<sup>th</sup> century Europe, focusing particularly on Poland, and on religion, politics and the role of history of ideas.

The event organized at FIU began with a showing of a documentary with rare archival materials *"From Solidarity to Freedom."* The film located Polish Solidarity movement in the chronology of the 1988-89 events and illustrated the economic and social hardships that Polish

people experienced under the communist regime. To this historical perspective, Dr. Kosicki added the "Catholic element" to the conversation on the Solidarity movement, as a unique national phenomena. During an insightful presentation that took place in the second part of the event, Kosicki focused on the interconnections between the elections of Pope John Paul II as the head of the Catholic Church, his 1978 pilgrimage to Poland that "awakened the nation," and the creation of Solidarity.

How did the connections between the Pope and the Solidarity movement emerge? Dr. Kosicki suggested to think of Pope John Paul II not only as a symbol, but also as a very concrete person, whose ideas inspired and mobilized the movement, and who believed that the Polish experience and the Solidarity ideals can serve as a lesson for the rest of the world.

In his message to the Polish people, the Pope conveyed the ideas of peaceful change, human solidarity, and of God as the only standard of conduct. His theology was centered around the theological significance of work, as the only way the human beings can achieve both communion with God and *dignity*. As Pope describes in one of his 1981 encyclicals (*"On Human Work"*), work is the essential key to the social question. It is through work that people, as human beings created "in the image of God" achieve fulfillment. People must cooperate and work together for the common good. Works creates community, and workers have the right to work, to earn living wages



John Paul II inspired Solidarity during its freedom struggle

and to form unions to protect their interests. These ideas expressed by the Pope informed the Solidarity movement and mobilized the Polish people. It is this aspect of the work and influence of the Pope John Paul II that is less known by the public, and which Dr. Kosicki wanted to highlight.

In later years, Pope John Paul II was poised to relate the Catholicism in Poland to Catholicism in the world, and thus to move beyond the Polish and European borders by promoting a universal set of values, among which the notion of social justice in the world was of utmost importance. Solidarity was an opportunity for the Pope to start thinking about what comes after communism. The presentation then led to an interesting discussion during the question and answers segment that concluded this memorable event.

By Lavinia Bucsa







## Blanka Rosenstiel: Lecture Series on Poland



### "From Solidarity to Freedom" Interview with Dr. Piotr H. Kosicki



**MEUCE:** *Can you talk about your major research interests and ongoing projects?*

**Dr. KOSICKI:** I am finishing a book manuscript based on my PhD thesis that tells the story of how the Catholic Church understood the "social question" and how this idea has been transformed between 1891 – when the Catholic Church had a serious talk about the need for Catholic social teaching – and 1991, the year that celebrated the Centennial of the Encyclicals and the collapse of the Soviet Union.

I am interested in Poland in a broader perspective: I look at the question of what being in contact and creating active partnership with organizations across the Iron Curtain meant in terms of Catholics being able to respond effectively to communist campaigns. As I mentioned during my lecture today, the Pope's response to the social question was inspired in part by a close reading and studying of Marxism, but his ideas were deeply Catholic and anti-materialist. These ideas of work and human person are at the very center of my book.

Other ongoing projects include: a co-edited book on the revolutions of the 1989 as a global history, and a second book project on what I call "blank spots" on historical narrative of Central and Eastern Europe. By "blank spots" I refer to important historical narratives that were either revised or entirely suppressed, and what the consequences of that suppression had been after 1989.

**MEUCE:** *What is the most overlooked aspect in the public perception of the role and work of Pope John Paul II?*

**Dr. KOSICKI:** I think the temptation in talking about the Pope John Paul II is most often to highlight his symbolic significance or his almost mythical role. I understand that and I believe, in some ways, it is important to highlight the symbol that

he constituted. This being said, there are very real things that the Pope did and very real ideas that he spread, both with tangible consequences. From my standpoint, one of the most important thing about European and Polish history, that does not get a lot of attention is that, even communist Poland, in the space that opened up for Solidarity and which the workers ended up taking, can be an example for the rest of the world. It is important, in other words, to think about the lessons that Polish case can offer to the world. By the same token, it is important to think about the Pope John Paul II not only in terms of his relationship with the Solidarity movement, but also to think about how the lessons he took from the Polish example allowed him to conduct the rest of his Papacy. Europe was always at the center of his interests until the rest of his living days; however, the Polish experience made him think beyond Europe. Pope John Paul II wanted Europe to be a part of a larger world and it is important for us to understand what kind of relationship he was seeking to form between the regions of the world. Exactly the way that Solidarity demonstrated to us.

**MEUCE:** *How do you see the role of the intellectual dissidents in both Poland and in other communist countries from Eastern Europe, in terms of similarities or specific differences?*

**Dr. KOSICKI:** All of the other communist bloc countries had very bright *exile* communities. By contrast, a lot of dissident Poles stayed in Poland. True, some Poles went into exile but the fact that many stayed in the country provided for a unique kind of cooperation between these groups, which was very difficult to achieve elsewhere. If you only have exile communities it is easy for the regime to portray them as "counter-revolutionary," or in the pay of the Americans, or whatever the communist regime wanted to say about them. But when a real tie exists between people from inside the country and those from exile, there are different consequences.

*By Lavinia Bucsa*



## MEUCE Lecture: The Czech Republic Between the Past and the Future Reflections on International Politics in the Beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century



Ambassador Martin Palouš, Director of Václav Havel Library in Prague and Senior Fellow at the School of International and Public Affairs, Florida International University

The School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA), MEUCE, the European Studies Program and the European Student Association, invited another honored guest to lecture at FIU: the former Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the U.S and the former Czech Ambassador to the UN, Dr. Martin Palous. On November 28<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Palous spoke about the processes of European integration and of Eastern Europe's liberation two decades ago. The Director of Vaclav Havel Library in Prague and Senior Fellow at SIPA, Dr. Palous gave a lecture titled: "The Czech Republic Between the Past and the Future: Reflections on International Politics in the Beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century from the Perspective of a Small State."

Talking about the "Velvet Revolution" which peacefully ousted the Communist government of Czechoslovakia in 1989, Dr. Palous mentioned that he perceived this moment in history as "miraculous:" after more than forty years of suppression by the communist regimes, the nations of Eastern Europe reemerged as liberated societies, many of them after an astonishingly short period of quiet revolution. At the same time, this moment also handed a tremendous challenge to those societies as they were struggling with multiple transitions and

thus complex transformations. Martin Palous explained that after the period of democratization and liberalization of the market, the next step was the replacement of existing states by newly formed nation states. As an example, Dr. Palous's own native country split into the Czech Republic and Slovakia in 1993. The former Ambassador pointed out that, ultimately, such new nation states have to be integrated into alliances in order to prepare for potential new international conflicts.

Martin Palous emphasized that, especially from the perspective of "small states," alliances matter greatly at present time as economic crises seriously impacted the Western world and new global actors emerge. Solidarity and partnership among "those countries that really do care about democratic values," he argued, were vital for the stability of Western values of freedom and liberty. From the perspective of a small state, such as the Czech Republic, EU membership is seen as an instrument of national interests. According to Dr. Palous, it is particularly the small states that have to form asymmetrical partnerships and changing coalitions.

*(Please see the next issue of the MEUCE Newsletter for an interview with Ambassador Palous)*

*By Lavinia Bucsa*





## Preparations for the 2013 Euro Challenge Competition have already begun!



Valérie Rouxel-Laxton and Christine I. Caly-Sanchez

The 2013 Euro Challenge Competition is right around the corner (March 14, 2013), and students and teachers are getting ready to participate in this fascinating and ever-growing contest, where 9th and 10th grade students from different schools in Florida compete to represent our state in the national competition held in New York City on April 12, 2013. The most challenging aspect of the competition is that these bright high school students, in their teams composed of three to five students, will suggest solutions to Europe's most pressing economic problems. A jury of experts ranks the teams on the basis of their presentation, knowledge, and the ability to answer questions.

To that end, students representing 10 schools met at FIU for an all-day student workshop to hear from experts on Eu-

rope in order to hone their skills for the competition. This year, two schools from Florida's west coast, Canterbury High School, and Oasis High School, were present as well as schools from Dade county, including Archimedean Upper conservatory, Felix Varela Senior High School, Miami Palmetto Senior High School, and Broward county, International School of Broward, and Western High School.

Students heard lectures from FIU Assistant Professor, Politics & International Relations Dept, Dr. Markus Thiel ("From Europe to the Euro"); Delegation of the European Union to the United States, Head of Economics and Financial Affairs, Valérie Rouxel-Laxton ("The Crisis and its Impact on the Euro Area Economy"; "Key Economics Concepts"); and Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director, MEUCE. ("Competition Overview"; "Resources on the website and interactive exercise on the ten challenges").

After the workshop, students gave growing evaluations to the presenters for their ability to easily explain complex issues, and to Christine I. Caly-Sanchez for her logistical skills in the successful organization of the workshop.

For more information on the competition, go the the official Euro Challenge Website: <http://www.euro-challenge.org/wordpress/>

*By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*



Valérie Rouxel-Laxton presenting the Euro Crisis



Archimedean Upper Conservatory



Dr. Markus Thiel presenting "From Europe to the Euro"



**Valérie Rouxel-Laxton** is an Economist and heads Economic and Financial Affairs at the Delegation of the European Union to the United States in Washington, DC. She is responsible for analyzing and reporting on macroeconomic developments in the US and European economies, and representing the European Union on economic matters in the US.

Before coming to Washington, she worked for the European Commission's economic service in Brussels, specializing in international economic issues, forecasting, and European integration. In this capacity she has written and delivered presentations on a number of economic issues, including the current economic situation, global imbalances, and labour market developments. She holds a PhD in international economics from the Graduate Institute in Geneva, and a Master of Science degree in Political Science and International Relations from the Institut d'Etudes Politiques, Lyon.

Originally from France, Valérie Rouxel-Laxton has served as a judge for the semifinal and final rounds in the Euro Challenge Competition in New York.



Florida teams 2013 at the Student Orientation





## Book Presentation

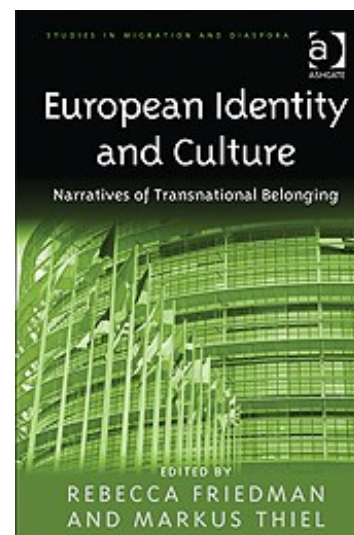


Dr. Markus Thiel, Assistant professor, Politics & International Relations, FIU; and Dr. Rebecca Friedman, Co-Director, MEUCE, FIU

On Sept. 12, 2012, Dr. Friedman, Co-Director of the MEUCE; and Dr. Markus Thiel, Assistant Professor, Politics & International Relations, FIU, presented their latest book titled *European Identity and Culture: Narratives of Transnational Belonging*.

This anthology provides an interdisciplinary collection of works that explore definitions, implications, and the construction of European identity and culture. As the European Union continues to push for integration, this book offers a comprehensive examination of the ever important question of what it means to be European.

Imprint: Ashgate - Published: May 2012  
Extent: 204 pages - Binding: Hardback  
ISBN: 978-1-4094-3714-7



For more information on the book please visit the website :

<http://www.ashgate.com/isbn/9781409437147>

## Christine I. Caly-Sanchez awarded "Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques"



Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director, MEUCE, FIU

**Christine I. Caly-Sanchez**, Associate Director of the Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence, was awarded the Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques medal in May 2012. The honor was bestowed by the French government's Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, and represents recognition for Caly-Sanchez's unswerving dedication not only in building the EU Center at FIU, but also in working as a liaison between the French—and all European—diplomatic communities and the EUCEs.

A ceremony award was organized at the Consulate General of France's residence on Oct. 4th, 2012 to recognize and congratulate Christine. Hon. Gaël de Maisonneuve, Consul General of France in Miami, presented Christine with the award.



Hon. Gaël de Maisonneuve, Consul General of France ;  
and Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director, MEUCE, FIU





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*The Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence team wishes you and yours Happy Holidays and a great and prosperous New Year!*

## SOME OF OUR UPCOMING 2012 EVENTS



- Jan. 22 Polish Lecture Series**  
 by Dr. Anna Grzymala-Busse, Ronald and Eileen Weiser Professor of European and Eurasian Studies, Political Science, University of Michigan
- Jan. 28-29 Lectures on "EU's Energy Policy: Challenges & Opportunities"**  
 by Christian Burgsmüller, Counselor, head of the Energy, Transport and Environment Section, Delegation of the European Union to the USA.
- Jan. 29 EU Chambers of Commerce Breakfast Seminar on "The Latest trends in the EU Energy and Transport Policy"**  
 With Guest Speaker Christian Burgsmüller, Counselor, head of the Energy, Transport and Environment Section, Delegation of the European Union to the USA.
- March 14 Local Florida Euro Challenge Competition 2013**
- March 21-22 Two-day EU Conference: "International Political Economy and Innovation in a Single Market"**

For details please visit: [miamieuc.fiu.edu](http://miamieuc.fiu.edu) - Events  
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