



Newsletter



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Two-Day EU Conference: "Comparative Regional Perspectives on Innovation in Single/Common Markets"



Once again, The Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence (MEUCE) provided students, researchers, and members of the wider European and scholarly community a rich public space for knowledge and the exchange of ideas on issues facing the European Union. This year's topic, "Comparative Regional Perspectives on Innovation in Single/Common Markets", focused on the issue of innovation in the Single Market in a global comparative perspective and critically analyzed the concept from a variety of disciplinary perspectives (including business/

economy, politics & international relations and sociology) and regional blocs. Each of the panels examines three policy areas from a regionally comparative perspective.

The conference was held in the Florida International University MARC International Pavilion on March 21-22, and was co-sponsored by the Politics and International Relations, College of Arts & Sciences, the School of International and Public Affairs, and in collaboration with

Gediz University, Izmir, Turkey.

The two-day conference began on Thursday evening with the Keynote Speaker, Valérie Rouxel-Laxton, Head of the Economic and Financial Affairs Section, Delegation of the European Union to the United States of America, who lectured on "Innovation and Competitiveness in Europe".

The distinguished EU guest began her lecture by noticing that in a very short period of time, a globalized economy has changed the world economic order, bringing new opportunities but also new challenges for both the EU and the U.S.



Valérie Rouxel-Laxton, Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, and Dr. Rebecca Friedman

In this context, a major question that the EU faces is: how will a single market that brings together 27 countries, become an innovative Union? Rouxel-Laxton argued that the way out of the current recession in Europe and slow growth in the U.S is through innovation and continuous investment in research and development. It is through innovation in particular that the both sides of the Atlantic, by working together, will increase their competitiveness.

Two-Day EU Conference: “Comparative Regional Perspectives on Innovation in Single/Common Markets” (cont’d)



Conference keynote address Valérie Rouxel-Laxton
Head of the Economic and Financial Affairs, Delegation of the EU to the USA



From left to right: Dr. Jane Parpart, Palina Prysmakova,
Dr. Mariely Lopez-Santana, Dylan Roberts (Panel I)

The keynote speaker also pointed out some concrete innovative measures, in both the public and private sectors, through which both the EU and the U.S can build a prosperous future for their societies. The measures include: providing incentives for innovation in a very financially constrained environment, adopting new education and trade policies, rewarding higher and specific skills, and transferring those skills to niche markets. Both the EU and the US are already putting into place common innovative tools, including the initial decision to begin the negotiations for the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). Long term projects in the fields of healthcare, communication and information technology, access to affordable and secure supply of energy, or climate change, are also of major importance.

In addition, the circulation of knowledge, shared experience and the exchange of ideas between the researchers and the community at large can help business gain an edge and boost economic growth. In Europe, structural funds play an important role and the amount invested in R&D have more than doubled, reaching approximately 17 billion euros in the last budgeting period. The new framework program for research – “Horizon 2020”- will increase the budget for research and innovation and will simplify the process of applying for EU research funding. The EU is also developing an “European research area,” with the purpose of creating a single market of knowledge. The conference continued early Friday morning

beginning with a discussion on Labor & Economic Development: initiatives & programs aiming to increase economic competitiveness and job creation.

Professor of Comparative Politics, European Politics at George Mason University, Dr. Mariely Lopez-Santana gave a perspective on equity and flexibility, and the tensions surrounding the decentralization of social policy powers.

FIU PhD Graduate Student and Research Assistant in Public Administration, Palina Prysmakova, discussed how the public service motivation in Europe can be tested and its attitudes toward works motives.

FIU Graduate Student in International Studies, Dylan Roberts compared Europe’s EIT and the future of innovation in South America.

By C. Caly-Sanchez



From left to right: Dr. Markus Thiel, Dr. Gaye Gungor, Dr. Nursel Aydinler Aysar,
Dr. Muharrem Burak Onemli, Dr. Funda Yercan (Panel II)



Two-Day EU Conference: "Comparative Regional Perspectives on Innovation in Single/Common Markets" (cont'd)



From left to right: Dr. Joaquín Roy, Jean Monnet Professor and Director of Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence, University of Miami; Mario Buisán, Trade Commissioner, Embassy of Spain in Miami; Sophie Delporte, Head of the Public Affairs Department, Consulate General of France in Miami (Panel III)

The second panel focused on innovation and emerging markets. Four professors from the Departments of Economics, and Management at Gediz University, Izmir, Turkey, Dr. Gaye Gungor, Dr. Nursel Aydinler Avşar, Dr. Muharrem Burak Önemli, Dr. Funda Yercan gave their expertise on the subject. The four following Issues were covered:

- "The Institutional basis of the research based innovation: Industry, Government and University";
- "The Politics of Innovation: A case study on EU's H2020 and Turkey's Vision 2023";
- "Drivers of Innovation in an Emerging Market Context: Evidence from Turkey";
- "Innovative and Energy Saving Tools: Sustainable Green Buildings"

Mario Buisán, Trade Commissioner, Embassy of Spain in Miami; and Sophie Delporte, Head of the Public Affairs Department, Consulate General of France in Miami, concluded the third panel by discussing their own point view on innovation in their respective countries, Spain and France.

In the final panel, scholars focused their discussion on Administration, Research & Development and Education, initiatives and programs focusing on the modernization of public administration, improvements in research & development and education.

Dr. Timothy Shaw, Research Professor; Department of Conflict Resolution, Human Security, University of Massachusetts Boston, focused on



Beverly Barrett, PhD Candidate International Relations, University of Miami

"Innovation for Regional Development in the Global South: Theory & Policy in the 21st Century" Dr. Konstantinos Kourtikakis, Lecturer & Research Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Illinois, discussed on "Networks and Innovation in European Union External Relations: The Spread of Practices in the European Neighborhood".

Beverly Barrett, PhD Candidate International Relations, University of Miami, concluded the final panel with a talk on "Successes and Challenges in Policy Implementation of the Bologna Process: The Political Economy Context in the EHEA"

For more information including program details, abstracts, bios, PPT and more please visit the website: <http://casgroup.fiu.edu/miamieuc/events.php?id=2841>

By C. Caly-Sanchez



Conference panelists



MEUCE interview with Valérie Rouxel-Laxton Head of the Economic and Financial Affairs Section Delegation of the European Union to the United States



MEUCE: In 2010, the European Commission proposed a new political strategy - "Europe 2020"- for achieving what has been called by the EU officials "smart, sustainable, and inclusive growth." *Can you tell me more about this strategy: what does it represent for the member states, what are its main strength?*

Valérie Rouxel-Laxton: During my presentation, I mentioned the role of the structural funds, where certain regions are reaping real benefits from them. This is a very positive development because the aim of the structural funds is to help the regions that are behind to converge and thus, to initiate the process of catching up as fast as possible. In the past, this strategy has proved very successful for some of the EU members. To give you one example: the case of Ireland. I know that country very well because my grandparents were from there. I visited Ireland at the end of the 1980s - early 1990s, and I noticed that people were really struggling to make ends meet. I returned to Ireland in the late 1990s, and I found a completely transformed country: more modern, much more innovative and very dynamic. The atmosphere was lighter, and one could feel that the country has changed a lot, in a positive way. So these strategies adopted by the EU bear fruit, as the case of Ireland, and other member states, demonstrates. The current EU 2020 strategy looks like a big policy planning tool but it really is a way of envisioning our common future; it is a road-map for the Union's future development. The member states implement it more forcefully, more or less quickly – and there is variation and different degrees to which the targets are met or not – but overall, it offers a sense of direction. For me, this is really the main strength of the EU 2020 Strategy.



MEUCE: *How would you evaluate the state of the EU-U.S partnership in the field of innovation? What are the concrete steps taken by the two actors to keep this transatlantic partnership strong?*

Valérie Rouxel-Laxton: Potentially, the newly envisaged transatlantic trade and investment partnership (TTIP) is a very powerful tool for both partners to gain, to innovate more, and to put in common the strength that they both have. In addition, there are also high-level exchanges between American national science foundations and their equivalent in Europe. This area is very important because that is where the agenda for future research is framed. The collaboration in the area of fundamental research – the natural science research but also in the field of economics, for example - will continue and most probable will get stronger in the future. These research institutes make it possible for scientists on either side of the Atlantic to know about each other research. They collaborate on common projects, exchange ideas and knowledge and this is how new research is stimulated. I do not think one needs to create more bureaucratic process to it. The scientists and researchers are perfectly aware that they need to reach out to each other in order to make a difference and to discover further in their fields.

MEUCE: *How would you assess the relationship between the EU and other major actors in the world? China, Latin America, to give some examples.*

Valérie Rouxel-Laxton: The EU tries to reach out and to engage other partners as much as possible. The EU relationship with China, for example, is growing. China is already a huge trade partner and our exchanges are progressing, but this is a gradual process. The relationship between the EU and the U.S is just much more established and, therefore, easier because we have this common history and set of shared values. In the case of China and other countries, it will take additional effort compared to the U.S. However, the EU engages very frequently with our partners in China - and so does the U.S.- and we will continue to engage this country with great potential into a relationship that is beneficial for both partners. In the case of Latin America, this region is part of the Atlantic basin and it benefits from the fact that it also has historical ties with Europe, notably with Spain and Portugal. As a result, a lot of things are happening there between Portugal and Brazil, for example, or between Spain and other Latin American countries. Financial links are very dense and the banks have ramifications across the Atlantic. However, I think that there is a lot of potential we have not touched yet. I like the idea that is being developed by some research institutions regarding the potential of the "Atlantic basin." It is about bringing together historical partners but on an even footing. The EU really has the potential to do more with Latin America – to innovate, to trade, to collaborate more – and this is currently on our radar screen.

MEUCE: *Finally, in the context of the EU Conference that will begin tomorrow (March 22) on comparative regional perspectives on innovation, what is your message for the FIU students?*

Valérie Rouxel-Laxton: My message for the FIU students is this: go to Europe, and go work in Europe for a while because the way we work in companies and the way we teach in schools and in our graduate programs, is different. We function differently and this shapes the way we think about our present and future challenges. I think that in order for us to be able to communicate effectively about innovation, competitiveness and to engage to contribute to thriving economies, we have to understand the way we function. So, I would really encourage all these student exchanges that have been already taking place, but also having work experiences in one another's country. In my opinion, it is crucial to see and to experience how the economy works on both sides. Despite our similarities, there are cultural differences, which definitely shape the way we will see and envision our future. It is important to understand the differences in the way we do things, produce products, and offer services in various sectors of the economy. We do understand each other rather well but there is still this little gap. Better understanding will even out differences and will facilitate our future transactions with each other.

By Lavinia Bucsa



Visit of a Delegation of EU diplomats from 11 European Embassies in Washington D.C.—April 25-26



From left to right: Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Silvia Kofler, Dr. Rebecca Friedman, and Dr. Joaquín Roy



Dr. Joaquín Roy, Jean Monnet Professor "Ad Personam" and Co-Director, MEUCE, University of Miami, conducted the seminar



Dr. Leonardo Ferreira, Professor of Communications, University of Miami

The Miami Florida European Union Center of Excellence welcomed a Delegation from Washington, D.C. on behalf of the European Union. The group, led by Silvia Kofler, EU Delegation Head of Press and Public Diplomacy, represented the Press and Public Diplomacy Counselors of the European Union. Press and Public Diplomacy Counselors from 11 Embassies attended this trip: Austria, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Ireland, Netherlands, Romania, Spain, and the UK. During their very busy two-day agenda, the group visited Univision Network, met with The Miami Herald representatives, The Knight Foundation, Republica, the European Consuls General, European Chambers of Commerce, and Florida International University. During their visit, the Delegation was introduced to members of The Beacon Council's International Advisory Committee. This meeting was a follow-up to EU Ambassador to the United States, H.E., João Almeida's visit to Miami-Dade County last year.

An Economic Overview of Miami-Dade County, with highlights of the international commerce relationship between Miami-Dade County and Europe, was made to the Delegation. The Beacon Council thanked Carolina Rendeiro, Chair, International Advisory Committee and President and CEO, Right Space Management for hosting this meeting.

The Miami Florida European Union Center of Excellence organized two outreach events for the Delegation:

- A lecture on "The Way Forward for the EU-US Trade Talks" by Silvia Kofler, Spokesperson and Head of Press and Public Diplomacy at the Delegation of the European Union to the United States. Board members of the British American Business Council in Miami attended the lecture and were informed on the latest news about the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership between The European Union and the United States (TTIP).

- A luncheon-seminar with the Hispanic press was organized to answer questions on Hispanic Media.

Dr. Roy, Jean-Monnet Professor "Ad Personam", and Co-Director, MEUCE, UM, conducted the seminar.

Were covered in the agenda:

- What is the European Union? Same as Europe?
- How to report and comment? What citizens ask for and need?
- What are the major difficulties for media staff?
- Which are the countries and issues of special interest? Why?
- How understanding and reporting can be enriched?
- Special context: Hispanic Media. Is it different?

The Delegation was very happy with its two-day agenda, and participants were impressed by what they have learned.

By C. Caly-Sanchez



Luncheon-Seminar for Hispanic journalists and European diplomats from 11 European embassies organized by the Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence



Visit of a Delegation of EU diplomats from 11 European Embassies in Washington D.C. — April 25-26 (cont'd)



Meeting at Univision



Silvia Kofler lectured on TTIP at the BABC



Meeting with European Consuls General in Miami



Meeting with the Beacon Council members



Luncheon Seminar with the Hispanic Press

Blog of Hetty Crist, Deputy Press Secretary, British Embassy in Washington DC : "Bienvenido a Miami!"



Hetty Crist, Deputy Press Secretary, British Embassy in Washington DC., has kindly agreed for the Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence to edit the blog she wrote on her trip to Miami with the EU Delegation Head of Press and Public Diplomacy on April 25-26. Thank you very much Hetty!

April 30, 2013

Welcome to Miami!

There aren't many other US cities I could see myself living in. I was fortunate to land my job here in DC, New York would have been great – in my twenties, Chicago and Boston are too cold for me and although I love the West Coast, it feels very far from the UK. Miami, however, is somewhere I could get used to and yes, I'm writing this on a grey Tuesday in DC so that may have something to do with it.

I was with my fellow EU Press Counsellors in Miami, Florida last week for a whistle stop tour of the media and business environment down in the Sunshine State. Of course the weather was great and yes, I went to the beach at the weekend, but there is so much more to this growing city than meets the 'weekend hotspot' eye.

Hosted by the fabulous Christine from the EU Center of Excellence at Florida International University we were

treated, among other things, to a talk with the [Miami Herald](#), a meeting with members of the [Beacon Council](#) who drive forward Economic development in Miami, some digital media advice for the [Knight Foundation](#), a cup of Cafecito and a Pastelito (Cuban coffee and pastry) from the uber-cool [Republica](#) a cross-cultural PR, digital and Ad agency who specifically work with a Hispanic audience, (they have their own Barista!) think Mad Men Latino style, and a lunch with Hispanic Journalists in the Miami area.

Miami is 'Where Worlds Meet', home to some 2.5million people of whom more than half are Hispanics or Latinos, of these most have South American or Caribbean heritage, including many from Cuba and Venezuela it's a majority Spanish speaking city as well as ranking as the greenest and richest city in America.

It is nicknamed 'the Capital of Latin America', so it was a natural fit for Univision, the most watched Spanish Language

channel in the US, to set up down there. Plus, as they told us, it is cheaper to produce down in Miami than in LA!

I'd been to Miami before and I knew there were a lot of Spanish speakers but this trip really brought home to me just how diverse a city Miami was. Florida, as a state is set to become the third largest populated US State next year, overtaking New York, it is also running a budget surplus so it is a good state to invest in.

I was struck by the huge amount of optimism and can-do attitude, especially at the Beacon Council, I left feeling that there was nothing that Miami couldn't do and there were many young Entrepreneurs [young pop =?] here willing to do it. It felt very cutting edge, very now.

I was reminded of a quote from Miami Vice back in the 80s: 'If Miami hasn't got it, they haven't invented it yet.'

Miami remains a showcase for all that's great about America: opportunity and entrepreneurship, with its own cool Latin vibe.

Blog of Hetty Crist, Deputy Press Secretary, British Embassy in Washington DC : "Bienvenido a Miami!" (cont'd)



We were fortunate to get a tour of the Univision Studios, where they film their popular morning show '*Despierta America*' their most watched show, as well as a live evening show called '*El Gordo y la Flaca*' literally 'The Fat and the Skinny'.

The Skinny host is none other than Gloria Estefan's niece and a section of the show is hosted in a Jacuzzi. Couldn't we all learn something from this?! It reminds me of when the late Paula Yates used to interview people in bed as part of her spot on Channel 4's 'The Big Breakfast'.

Miami is also reflective of the US as a whole, the Hispanic population of the US is on the rise and Jose from the Univision Strategic Communications team helped put some figures to this growing group, namely that: 1 in 6 people in the US are Hispanic, they make up 19% of the adult population and are growing by 1 million each year, the fastest growing population in US they will make up 31% of the population by 2060.

They are young; with an average age of 28 and they make up 21% of the entire millennial US population. As they are younger they also have more spending power, buying more cars, mobile devices, movie tickets and even grooming

products than non-Hispanics.

In case you haven't realized they are the future leaders, decisions makers, and influential voices of the US. It will be vital to engage with this group if you are seeking brand awareness or a market share in anything- including winning the next election.

This trip came at a very pertinent time for me as we are working on a US Latino/ Hispanic outreach strategy here at the British Embassy, which of course incorporates communications and digital outreach. We already have a British Consulate down in Miami working hard to promote the UK in the USA to

their Hispanic audience and this strategy will help build on this across the whole country.

My trip really gave me a feel of this community and what's important to them. This will help me think of ways I can engage with them and show them how the UK/US relationship can benefit them whether through trade, security, education, culture or entertainment.

So, I'll need to re-learn my Spanish if I ever move to Miami, in fact I should re-learn it anyway and this was a good reminder of why. So thank you Miami and Hasta Luego!

By Hetty Crist



Hetty Crist, Deputy Press Secretary, British Embassy in Washington DC,
at Univision Studios



Euro Challenge Competition in Florida: First Round



From left to right— Judges 2013: Juan Jose Cogolludo Diaz, Sophie Delporte, Hon. Simone Filippini, Dr. Edward Glab, Dr. Volker Anding, Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Kasper Zeuthen, Dr. Rebecca Friedman



At the competition, Miami Palmetto Senior High School students waiting for their turn to present their project in front of the judges

For the seventh year, the Euro Challenge Competition provided high school students with an opportunity to learn about the European Union, the Euro, and the Euro crisis. A program of the Delegation of the European Union to the United States in Washington, D.C., in partnership with the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, and the Moody's Foundation, the Euro Challenge consisted of up to 100 competing teams from nine regions in the United States. The program is supported by Credit Suisse, the City University of New York, the University of North Carolina, Florida International University, the University of Pittsburgh, the University of Illinois, Rutgers University, the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh, the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland (Pittsburgh Branch), the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago (Detroit Branch), George Washington University, the DC World Affairs Council, the University of Texas at Austin and the Academy for Entrepreneurial Leadership.

In the Florida Region, ten high schools from four different counties—Miami-Dade, Broward, Lee, and Orange—who were selected by the Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence at FIU competed in the first round of the local Euro Challenge Competition at FIU on Tuesday, March 14, 2013. It has been 6 years that the Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence at FIU is the recruiter and organizer of the competition, and continue to extend. "This year, we were proud to count 3 schools from other counties than Miami-Dade, two from Fort Myers, and one from Orlando", said Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, the Associate Director of the MEUCE and the organizer and recruiter of the

competition in Florida. The competing schools were: Archimedean Upper Conservatory, Canterbury School, Coral Reef Senior High School, Felix Varela Senior High School, International School of Broward (ISB), International Studies Preparatory Academy (ISPA), Miami Palmetto Senior High School, Oasis School, Trinity Preparatory School, and Western High School.

Each team, made up of 3-5 students, were asked to make presentations that answered specific questions about the European economy and the single currency, the euro. After having worked diligently for months, each team presented their country (one of the 17 in the euro zone) - Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Spain were chosen this year—and their issue to a distinguished panel of judges. This year, they chose: Aging Population, High Government Deficits and Debt, High Unemployment, Living with a Single Monetary Policy, Slow Growth, Sustaining the Social System (Welfare State)

These panels were made up of European Union scholars, diplomatic officers. 5 consulates were represented: France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Spain; and a representative from the Delegation of the European Union was part of the panel of judges.



Kasper Zeuthen is the Senior Press Officer in the Press & Public Diplomacy Section at the Delegation of the European Union to the United States, where he is responsible for the media strategy and analysis; the press inquiries and media outreach, the press briefing/conferences, articles, interviews and blogs; and the radio underwriting. Originally from Denmark, Kasper Zeuthen has served as a judge for the semifinal in the Euro Challenge Competition in New York. We had the privilege to have Kasper serving as a judge for the Euro Challenge Competition in Florida this year.



Euro Challenge Competition in Florida: First Round (Cont'd)



Miami Palmetto Senior High School at the competition, and one of the three winning teams

On the significance of the Euro Challenge, Simone Filippini, Consul General of The Kingdom of the Netherlands in Miami, and Euro Challenge judge, told MEUCE, “I think this is a wonderful Challenge. There is not enough attention for and knowledge of how the European Union works here in the U.S. I think that is a pity. Not only are we a very important trade block for the U.S., but we are also an important source for democracy and good governance as well as an important area in the world.”

Teachers from each high school commented on how beneficial the Euro Challenge has been for their students. “This has been a really exciting experience”, they stated. “The Euro Challenge has given the students an important introduction to economics, world affairs, current events, and economic history. They are young. They are only ninth and tenth graders. So this has been an especially growing experience for them.”

The three winning teams—Coral Reef Senior HS, Miami Palmetto Senior HS, and Western HS— moved forward, and, on April 12, they competed in the Euro Challenge Competition finals in New York City sponsored by the Moody’s Foundation. In addition to providing scholarships, the Moody’s Foundation also sponsored a one day trip to Washington DC for the two top winning teams to visit the Delegation of the European Union in Washington D.C., the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve Bank, and the International Monetary Fund.

A recognition ceremony for the three student team members who participated in the regional divisions of the 2013 Euro Challenge Competition was held at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta-Miami Branch on April 30th. Prestigious members of the European Community presented the participants with a certificate.

► For more information on this year’s Euro Challenge Competition in Florida please visit: <http://casgroup.fiu.edu/miamieuc/events.php?id=2836>

► For more information on the Euro Challenge Competition, please visit: <http://casgroup.fiu.edu/miamieuc/pages.php?id=548>

By C. Caly-Sanchez



Miami Palmetto Senior High School



Coral Reef Senior High School



1st round: FLORIDA EURO CHALLENGE COMPETITION WINNERS
Florida International University - March 14th, 2013



CORAL REEF SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL (1st place)

Sara Arevalo

Gabriela Fernandez

Annalie Garcia

Kshitij Kulkarni

Daniel Monteagudo

(Rafael Birriel, Teacher)



MIAMI PALMETTO SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL (2nd place)

Stephanie Levine

Angela Liu (Anqi)

George Liu

Orko Sarkar

Yuji Yang

(Beth Bagwell, Teacher)



WESTERN HIGH SCHOOL (3rd place)

Chandra Ananya

Alex Cooper

Richie Goos

Urszula Krekora

Andrew Zhang

(Kathryn Ramirez, Teacher)





MEUCE Interview with Dr. Georgio Tachiev, Program Manager, Water and Environment Division, Applied Research Center at FIU



The increasing need for new energy sources, secure and affordable water supplies, and climate protection, are among the most pressing issues that needs to be addressed at a global level. The Applied Research Center (ARC) at Florida International University (FIU) has the expertise, the cutting-edge technology, and modern facilities to contribute with innovative solutions to some of these real-world problems.

Recently, MEUCE spoke with Dr. Georgio Tachiev, originally from Bulgaria, and the Program Manager of Water and Environment division, one of the Center's five core research units.

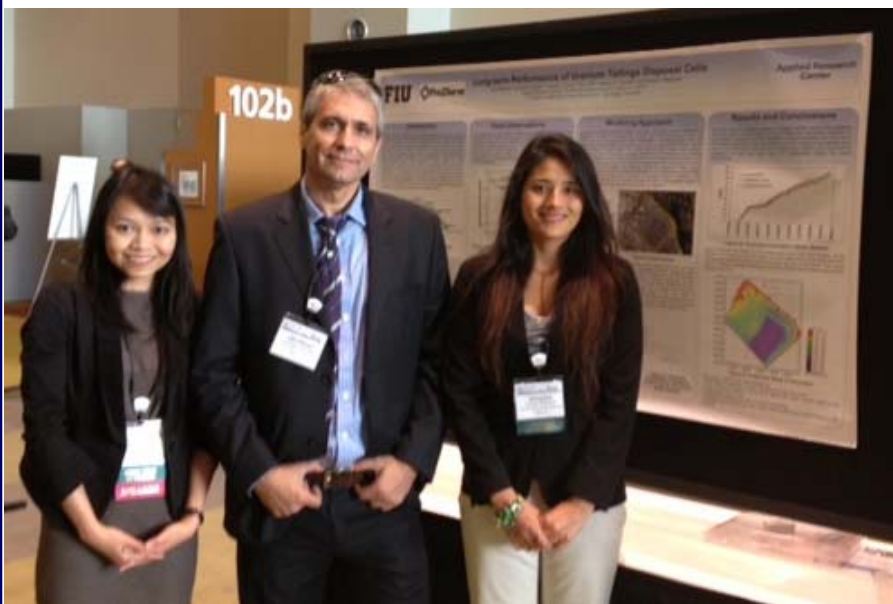
MEUCE: Tell me a little about your professional background: what are your research interests and areas of expertise?

Dr. Tachiev: I am currently the Program Manager of water resources and environmental engineering programs in the Applied Research Center at FIU. Previously, I worked in Tennessee, at Vanderbilt University's Department of Computer Science. My area of expertise involves several areas and they are all related to water: water resources (surface and sub-surface water), hydrology, and environmental engineering. I have been at FIU exactly 10

years and, since then (2003), I have been involved in numerous research projects through the ARC – all of them in the areas of water resources and engineering hydrology. I also serve as affiliate faculty teaching graduate and undergraduate classes in hydrological sciences at FIU. My academic background is in environmental engineering, – I hold a PhD from Vanderbilt University- as well as in chemical and civil engineering.

MEUCE: What kind of programs is the ARC involved with? What kind of expertise does it have?

Dr. Tachiev: The ARC is a research unit within FIU that has been established about 20 years ago with a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). The Center has developed a broad array of applied science and engineering programs and has significant expertise in Water Resources and Environmental Engineering. One of the Center's main purposes is to provide support for some of the nuclear sites at the DOE. As such, the ARC had projects in some of the major DOE Sites across the U.S including: Savannah River, the Oak Ridge, Hanford.



At the recent 2013 Waste Management Conference held in Phoenix, Arizona, Dr. Tachiev and his team of researchers won the Best Professional Poster Presentation award for the poster entitled "Transport of Organic Compounds in Old Savage Yard, Oak Ridge, Tennessee."



MEUCE Interview with Dr. Georgio Tachiev, Program Manager, Water and Environment Division, Applied Research Center at FIU (cont'd)

All of these sites have extensive nuclear contamination and we have been providing scientific support, data analysis, and the use of different technologies related to the transfer and disposition of radioactive waste. The Center has also executed work for other federal agencies, state and local governments and commercial entities, in large part through task-based contracts.

MEUCE: *Is there a major ongoing applied research project that your team is now involved with?*

Dr. Tachiev: Probable one of the most interesting projects that we have is the one involving the Everglades National Park. We have created a hydrological model of the Everglades that analyzes the full hydrological cycle of the Park. That includes sub-surface and surface water, flowing canals, rainfall, and provides understanding of how these waters fluxes cross the boundaries, are contained within the Park, and how they flow outside of the boundaries. This is very important information because maintaining water levels and proper hydrological balance of the Everglades National Park has been a challenge ever since the drainage modified the Park's natural ecosystem. So, recreating the original water balance, or at least making it as close as possible to what it was in its original state is a very important ecological task, to which we contribute. We have many projects, a lot of experience and cutting-edge technology in these areas. In addition, we are involved in partnerships with many agencies where we are

working on either developing their GIS ("geographic information systems" for analyzing water resources or the hydrology for environmental contamination), hydrological or water resources capabilities.

In all these works we involve students very intensively and also collaborate with the corresponding departments (e.g. Civil Engineering Environmental Science departments, etc) within the University.



Dr. Georgio Tachiev
Program Manager, Water and Environment Division,
ARC, FIU

MEUCE: *Have you established any international partnerships or other collaborative efforts with similar institutions/centers from abroad – for example, Europe, Latin America, or elsewhere?*

Dr. Tachiev: We are currently working with one of the largest environmental company on creating a partnership in Colombia. In addition, I have hosted at the Center four visiting professors from Iraq, through funding provided by the U.S. Department of State. They came here for two to six months and received training in our technologies and methodologies for doing environmental and water resources work. This was a very successful experience as these Iraqi scholars received exposure not only to scientific

advancements in the field but also to the U.S., more broadly. We have established a good relationship with the U.S. State Department and we are hopeful that we will receive more visiting scholars, from other regions, in the future.

MEUCE: *What else does your agenda for the future include?*

Dr. Tachiev: We are trying to develop a joint Center for Water Resources between Iraq and Miami. However, the project is currently only in the "intention" phase (smiling). Our future plans also include further collaboration with Latin America and the Caribbean in the areas of water management, security, and energy issues. Not in the last place, we are very interested in developing partnerships with similar centers based in the European Union. Secure and affordable water supplies are the building blocks for economic growth and competitiveness, and the ARC has developed unique capabilities in conducting regional scale analysis of watersheds in terms of water flow, fate and transport of contaminants and nutrients. We hope that we can find interested partners on the other side of the Atlantic for successful collaboration in this field. Finally, one interesting fact about our programs is that we have students from more than 50 countries from around the world but none from Europe. We would be thrilled if this situation would change in the near future.

By Lavinia Bucsa

For further information on the Applied Research Center and Water & Environment Division, visit:
<http://www.arc.fiu.edu/research/water-and-environment/>

Spanish Colonial Art in the Frost Art Museum

MEUCE Interview with Dr. Carol Damian, Director of the Frost Art Museum



Dr. Carol Damian, Director and Chief Curator
The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum
Florida International University

One of Miami's most dynamic art institutions, The Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum, organized a year-long program dedicated to the commemoration of 500 years since Ponce de Leon's arrival on the shores of La Florida. The program, "Commemorating 500 Years: 1513-2013 *Spain-Florida-Caribbean*," includes a series of exhibitions celebrating the evolution of American culture and development since the time of Spanish colonists' arrival to Americas.

This commemorative effort represented a great opportunity for the Director and Chief Curator of The Frost, Dr. Carol Damian, to present a selection of art works that she long wanted to exhibit: Spanish Colonial Art. The Spanish colonial period from 1520s to 1830s created a culture and art that is a combination of European and indigenous traditions of unique sensibilities based on ritual, status, and the creation of luxury goods. The exhibition at the Frost Art Museum entitled "Spanish Colonial Art: The Beauty of Two Traditions," opened on April 13 and will be on view through August 25, 2013. It focuses on the most renowned centers of production such as Peru, Colombia and Mexico, and especially Cuzco (Peru) and Mexico City – the capital cities of the Inca and Aztec empires, respectively. *Spanish Colonial Art: The Beauty of Two Traditions* includes works from the Frost Art Museum's permanent collection, on loan from private collectors, and from the Museum of the Americas, Madrid.

MEUCE spoke with Dr. Carol Damian about the significance of this particular exhibition. Please read the interview below.

MEUCE: Why Spanish Colonial Art? What does this exhibition want to reveal and transmit to the public?

Dr. Damian: I long wished to do an exhibit of Spanish Colonial Art not only because it is my own area of academic expertise and research, but because I have realized how neglected these beautiful works are in the history of art, and how misunderstood. This small selection, from our collection and that of others, is meant to reveal their beauty, and their complexities. I wanted to show, through the beauty of these works and how different they are, that people often think of Spanish Colonial Art as being something that often happens in Spain and that is derivative, something not original. This perception is totally wrong. The exhibit gives me the opportunity, after many years, to explain these art works' meanings, and why I feel they are especially important for this year, commemorating the arrival of Ponce de Leon on the shores of Florida.

To view exhibition, click on:

<http://www.miamiherald.com/2013/05/19/3405411/the-beauty-of-two-traditions-spanish.html>



Angel with Silver Wings,
Peru, 18th century



St. Joseph and the Christ Child,
Cuzco Peru, 18th century



Mercedarian Virgin with Donors,
Peru, 18th century



Angel with Silver Wings,
Peru, 18th century

Spanish Colonial Art in the Frost Art Museum

MEUCE Interview with Dr. Carol Damian, Director of the Frost Art Museum (cont'd)



Dr. Carol Damian, Director and Chief Curator
The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum
Florida International University

MEUCE: *What then makes Spanish Colonial Art “special”? What is unique about it?*

Dr. Damian: Spanish Colonial Art is unique because it brings together at least two very significant styles of art appreciation. The first is the religious style. The second is from whichever country the art is produced. For instance, Mexican art is different from Peruvian art, which is different from Colombian art, and so on. Each country where Spaniards came contributed their cultural heritage. In places with high level of civilization (i.e. the Maya, the Aztecs), the artists working there were of the highest level and it was very easy for them to adapt what they knew – which is work in gold – to the Spanish style. By contrast, in cities under strong Spanish administration, Lima for example, the art produced there was very “Spanish,” it did not have all these indigenous influences. To put it simply, sometimes there is a very genuinely Spanish artwork; other times, it is Spanish art that had been taught to local artists. What I wanted to show with this exhibition is that there is such a tremendous variety within Spanish Colonial Art; it is not just a mere copy of the Spanish art. Look for example at

“The Virgin of Guadalupe” done by Mexican indigenous artists and you will notice that it does not look Spanish at all. In the case of the “Angel with Silver Wings” statues, the artists took a Spanish model and really embellished it.

MEUCE: *Is there a specific theme that predominates in these art works?*

Dr. Damian: This is a religious exhibition. However, the paintings in our exhibit are what I call “domestic paintings,” they are not church art. Church art is huge, and these are not altarpieces. They are small paintings somebody might have in their home, so they are more intimate. This is not to say that other subjects were completely absent (such as portraits), but the majority of works from this period has a religious character.

MEUCE: *You are the director and chief curator of the Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum, and also a professor of art history in the FIU's School of Art and Art History. How do you manage to do all of these activities with such great results?*

Dr. Damian: (Smiling) Well, I only teach one class now and I do it because I really love it! This spring semester I taught Spanish Art and I plan to offer the course online. I would never want to lose the contact with the students. We have about ten students who work here at the Museum and they are fantastic! We could not survive without them; some are interns, some work part-time, others are volunteers. For me, it is great to do both kinds of activities – it keeps me sharp and young! I like the challenge, but also I learned so much from the students, especially in this age of technology.

MEUCE: *What are your future plans for the Frost Art Museum? Is there room for growth?*

Dr. Damian: I would love it to continue to grow. I would like to create what I call a “Dirty Studio” which will allow us to be able to have art classes and camps here. The museum is too “clean” now.

MEUCE: *Is there a message you would like to convey to the FIU students & community?*

Dr. Damian: Come and visit us because this museum is a treasure, a jewel! I think that it is true that the majority of our students have never been here. Most likely some feel little intimidated, thinking “this is a museum, should I really go there?” Well, yes, absolutely! This is a student museum, the access is free and everybody sitting behind these desks are students. For many people the fact that one can just walk into a museum is a whole new concept. However, our museum is not intimidating, we have art classes in here; so, during the academic year we are “loaded” with students. In addition, to have a state of the art museum on campus, with first class exhibits; this is an experience that not many university students ever get. So, we encourage everybody to come visit us, enjoy the current exhibitions and...bring your friends too!

By Lavinia Bucsa



The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum
Florida International University

Announcement: Dr. Roy's latest Book:

"Despues de Santiago: Integración Regional Y Relaciones Unión Europea-América Latina"



Dr. Joaquín Roy

Dr. Joaquín Roy

is Jean Monnet

Professor "ad

personam" and

Director of Univer-

sity of Miami

European Union

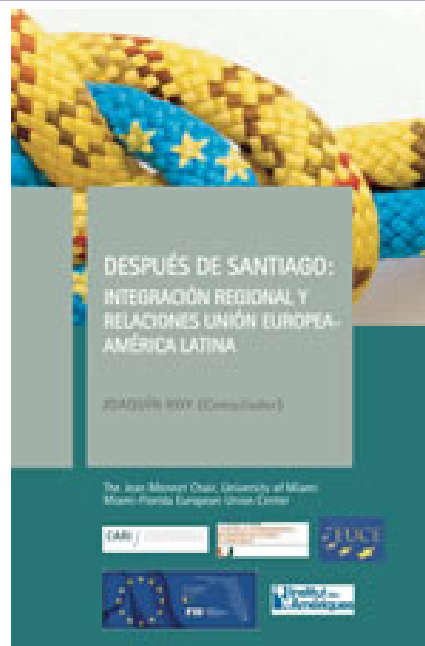
Center of Excellence. He has published over 200 academic articles and reviews, and he is the author or editor of 39 books. He has also published over 1,400 columns and essays. He was awarded the Encomienda of the Order of Merit by King Juan Carlos of Spain.

"Después de Santiago: Integración Regional Y Relaciones Unión Europea-América Latina"

is the latest book Dr. Joaquin Roy wrote as a result of the seminar held at the University of Miami on March 1st.

The first book will be launched at the European Union Studies Association (EUSA) conference in Baltimore on May 9 (Europe's Day).

Print copies will be distributed in Baltimore, at Latin American Studies Association (LASA) conference in Washington May 30. Subsequent presentations will take place in June/July in Barcelona, Brussels, and Bruges. Similar programs will be later organized in Paris and Buenos Aires where parallel European and Latin American editions are prepared by The Institut des Ameriques and the Argentine Council of Foreign Relations (CARI)



You will be able to access all the text in PDF:

<http://www.as.miami.edu/eucenter/books/santiago-roy%20130424%20cover+back+text+broch.pdf>

Announcement

Internship available at the European Parliament



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
Liaison Office with the US Congress

The European Parliament Liaison Office (EPLO) is pleased to announce the launch of its Fall round of internships designed for **US graduate students** and which will take place from **mid-September** to mid-December 2013 in its Washington

D.C. Office, with a possible extension in Brussels and Strasbourg. We are also pleased to inform you that a flat-rate allowance will be granted to the selected candidates.

Please note that the **deadline of application is May 31st**. **Two letters of recommendation** sent to us directly by a faculty member are also required.

For further information, please contact Christine I. Caly-Sanchez at calyc@fiu.edu





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SOME OF OUR UPCOMING 2013 EVENTS



- May 10** Lecture on “Italian Contribution to World Stability”
by His Excellency Claudio Bisogniero, Ambassador of Italy to the United States
- May 6-14** MEUCE celebrates Europe Day
- European Short Film Festival
- European Studies Recognition Award Ceremony
- May 20-30** Exhibition on the 50th Anniversary of the Elysée Treaty
- May 23** Euro Challenge Competition 2013—Trip to NY—Students Testimonials and Recognition Award Ceremony
- May** Summer Abroad in Europe

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