



# Newsletter

Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence - FIU

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- "Charlie Hebdo: Le Choc en France", Hon. Consul General of France Philippe Létrilliart.....1
- TTIP: "A New Atlantic Community: The EU, the US and Latin America" .....2
- "Scandinavia During the Holocaust Years", Dr. Cami Hofstadter.. 3
- Dr. Diego Acosta Arcarazo: Challenges of the Construction of a South American Citizenship.....4
- Dr. Kate Brown, Plutopia: The Great American and Russian Plutonium Disasters...5
- Wolfsonian Events.....6
- Christopher Columbus: Mystery Debunked.....7
- Conversations on Europe Spring 2015: Collaboration with EU Centers Nationwide...8
- Two Day EU Conference: European Civil Society.....9-10
- European films with Eurochannel.....11
- Announcements.....12
- Contact information..13

[miamieuc.fiu.edu](http://miamieuc.fiu.edu)

## "Charlie Hebdo: Le Choc en France" Hon. Consul General of France Philippe Létrilliart



Hon. Philippe Létrilliart, Consul General of France in Miami with FIU students, Dr. Friedman, and Christine I. Caly-Sanchez

On Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, the Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence had the honor of hosting the Consul General of France, Phillippe Létrilliart. The Consul gave a talk which discussed the current situation in France following the terrorist attack on the offices of Charlie Hebdo. Hon. Philippe Létrilliart also discussed the security measures and procedures which will be implemented following the terrorist attack. In addition to being a horrific human tragedy, the attack was also a challenge to French national unity and values. The consul's lecture "Charlie Hebdo: Le Choc en France" was attended by Dr. Rebecca Friedman's, the co-director of the MEUCE center, course on European Identities. The students, which

were a mix of both undergraduate and graduate students of various disciplines, were able to ask Hon. Philippe Létrilliart questions pertaining to the aftermath of the terrorist attack and what it would mean for the various minority groups in France as well as the country as a whole.

This event was sponsored by the Consulate General of France in Miami, the Miami Florida European Union Center of Excellence, the European Studies Program, Middle East Studies-Program, Initiative for Muslim World Studies and the Jewish Studies Initiatives.

Hon. Philippe Létrilliart assumed office of Consul General of France in Miami on September, 3, 2013. He was previously Head of the Department in charge of Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean at the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He has held the position of First secretary at the Embassy of France in Havana and has also served as the senior Advisor to the Embassy of France in La Paz. He also has handled multilateral affairs as Deputy Representative of France to the economic and social UN Commission for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok. He graduated from the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris and holds a Master of Contemporary History.

By Isabel Brador



Hon. Philippe Létrilliart  
Consul General of France in Miami

JE SUIS  
CHARLIE

To watch the video, please click on the link below  
<http://mediaweb.fiu.edu/Mediasite/Play/66b2fucca3f429596045d78baa168c61d>



## TTIP: "A New Atlantic Community: The EU, the US and Latin America"



Dr. Rebecca Friedman and Dr. Joaquin Roy, Co-directors of the Miami-Florida EU Center of Excellence, among panelists and leading members of the community

The University of Miami, under the directorship of Dr. Joaquín Roy, Jean Monnet Chair ad personam, held an all-day symposium on the *Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)* on Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup>. The symposium, entitled "A New Atlantic Community: The EU, the US and Latin America" discussed the partnership between the European Union and the United States. The symposium also had segments dedicated to the discussion of the partnership's impact on Latin America and the Caribbean

and what it could mean for trade between Latin America and the EU. Another topic highlighted at the symposium was regional integration and economic cooperation in the Western Hemisphere.

The panels at the conference discussed "the basic tenants of the partnership and contextualized the agreement for conference goers, the benefits and drawbacks of such an agreement and the effects the agreement would have on the various economies of Latin America.

Closing comments were given by



H.E. David Prodger  
British Consul General in Miami



Audience members during the panels  
at the conference

Dr. Joaquín Roy, professor at the University of Miami and Co-Director of the EU Center at the university.



In an email-interview Dr. Roy discussed the importance of the event for the center and how it fit in with future events.

*"The main topics and themes of this seminar were the TTIP itself, its impact on Latin America, the overall relations between the EU and Latin America, and the general issues of regional integration and economic cooperation in the Western Hemisphere.*

*The year 2015 is destined to be remembered for a series of events that deal directly with the background, the current state and future shape of what can be called a New Atlantic Community. Several important gatherings and processes involving the European Union, the United States and the Latin America-Caribbean region take place this year. On April 10 and 11, 2015, the Seventh Summit of the Americas, with a focus on "Prosperity with Equity: The Challenge of Cooperation in the Americas", will be held in Panama City, Panama. It will be attended by the leadership of the Western Hemisphere. Later in the year, on June 4-5, 2015, the highest representatives of 61 European, Latin American and Caribbean countries are scheduled to meet in Brussels in the biannual summit of the EU and the CELAC organization. They comprise one third of the United Nations membership. Throughout all this year, the economic and political scene will reveal the evolution of a trend-setting project announced in 2003: the planned Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) between the United States and the European Union."*

This event was co-sponsored by the Jean Monnet Program, the Delegation of the European Union in the United States, Latin American Studies Association, the Center for Latin American Studies and the International Business Education and Research.

By Isabel Brador



For more information, click here:

<http://www.as.miami.edu/miami-college-of-arts-and-sciences/content/assets/2015/02/20/150220.pdf>





## "Scandinavia During the Holocaust Years", Dr. Cami Hofstadter



Cami Hofstadter,  
former Honorary Consul of Finland in South Florida

The Miami-Florida European Union Center for Excellence (MEUCE) had the honor of hosting Dr. Cami Hofstadter, the former Honorary Consul of Finland in South Florida. On September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014, Hofstadter gave a lecture entitled "Scandinavia During the Holocaust Years" at the Jewish Museum-FIU, on Miami Beach. Her talk examined the role each Scandinavian country, Finland, Norway, Sweden and Denmark played during the Holocaust.

The event was opened by Dr. John Stack, the executive director of the School of International and Public Affairs and the associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Stack introduced the event as the first Ruth K. and Shepard Broad Distinguished Lecture Series of the academic year.

In an email-interview Hofstadter stated the difficulties of summarizing the roles of four Scandinavian countries in the allotted time. "It's an ongoing struggle to decide when to compact and compress the facts and anecdotes into a relatively brief presentation that does justice to the political circumstances during the

Holocaust years while honoring the human factor in all cases. Although the four countries have a common history and shared heritage, they reacted in four different ways to the fear of Nazi occupation. The difficulty with what information to include and what to omit without affecting the understanding of the audience never disappears."

She also expressed her desire that the audience would leave with a better understanding of what was occurring in Scandinavia during World War II. "The more I speak, the more I've discovered a tendency among people to see the countries in black or white. In one of them – so the thinking went – all Jews went underground overnight while another stood by ready and willing to save them. My goal is then to share the research that pokes a hole in these misconceptions. I do this through a combination of historical facts and anecdotes that add the human touch to a subject that may be too dry to some audiences. As members of the human race we like to learn through stories."

Throughout the lecture Hofstadter outlined each of the countries roles in World War II and also held a question and answer time with audience members. Hofstadter also emphasized the various lessons that could be learned from the actions of each country and did so in her interview as well. "Thanks to ongoing research, what we now know about the role of Scandinavia during this period of history offers us several timeless lessons. For instance, Denmark serves as an example of when the unified opposition by its people prevailed over their oppressors. Sweden, on the other hand, shows us that the claim of neutrality may be laudable in theory but non-alignment can also succumb to political considerations. The two other countries come with enduring lessons of their own, as Norway is

commonly known for its resistance movement, and Finland for falling squarely in the category of 'unique.'"

In addition to being the former Honorary Consul of Finland in South Florida, Hofstadter is also writer, educator and lawyer. Hofstadter makes a special effort to reach out to students whenever she can. "As an educator I take any opportunity I can to engage students in areas that I normally feel go beyond whatever the venue is. We're fortunate that Florida passed the Holocaust Education Bill as early as 1994 and that educators now teach the subject across the curriculum, rather than as an isolated component. The Holocaust was much more than a Jewish event and, likewise, the Scandinavian situation during that period. This creates endless occasions to share lessons learned from the four Nordic countries in a wide choice of subject areas. During my years as an adjunct at FIU (School of Education) I had a great opportunity to speak to my students – all of whom were teachers or administrators in our local schools – about anti-Semitism in the context of our class discussions on law and ethics, or when we compared our educational system with that of Scandinavia."

By Isabel Brador



Cami Hofstadter and Ann Bussel

# HOLOCAUST

For more information, and watch the video, please click on the link below: <https://miamiuec.fiu.edu/events/general/2014/meuce-lecture-scandinavia-during-the-holocaust-years-fiu/>

## Dr. Diego Acosta Arcarazo Challenges of the Construction of a South American Citizenship



Dr. Diego Acosta Arcarazo, Lecturer in European Law, Deputy Director of Impact, University of Bristol

Dr. Diego Acosta Arcarazo gave a lecture on Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup>. The lecture, co-sponsored by the Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence and the Latin-American and Caribbean Center, was titled "The Challenges of Constructing a Latin American Citizenship Based on the EU's Citizenship" and focused on the various organizations in Latin America that are trying to negotiate free-borders in regions of the continent.

Acosta is a lecturer in European Law and the Deputy Director for Impact at the University of Bristol. He is also the university's Ambassador for Colombia and holds a Ph.D. in European law with a specialization in EU Migration Law. He has co-edited various volumes and has appeared in academic journals



From left to right: Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Diego Acosta Arcarazo, and Markus Thiel

such as the *International Migration Review*, *European Law Review* and many others. Acosta's present research interests lie in the policies of South America. In an in-person interview following the lecture, the Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence was able to ask Acosta questions pertaining to his research interests.

### MEUCE: How did you become interested in law, specifically migration legislation?

Acosta: "I became interested when I moved to Miami in 2003 I came here to study for a year at FIU and I found the history of Miami to be very interesting and specially the migratory flows in the area. In terms of the law, I have always studied law so it was only logical to study the legal aspects."

### MEUCE: As you've been presenting have you encountered individuals who have strong feelings about this, since immigration can be such a controversial topic?

Acosta: "I think when you present at academic conferences people tend to have more liberal views on migration and mobility. It's only when you start perhaps trying to reach the more general public you may find people who feel really strongly about this and don't like the idea of free movement for example. In academic conferences I have never found someone who is strongly opposed to these ideas. In the more general public, I have just started writing more, for example in opinion columns in newspapers, and that may lead to stronger opinions and people disagreeing. So far I've been quite lucky, since I know it's a contentious subject."

### MEUCE: Are there any cultural or legal traditions that are similar in the EU and South America that make regional migration agreements more common?



**Diego Acosta Arcarazo** is a Lecturer in European Law at the University of Bristol. He was previously Lecturer in Law at the University of Sheffield and holds a PhD in European Law from Kings College London. His area of expertise is EU Migration Law and he is currently interested in migration law and policies in South America. He is

regularly invited to present his work at international conferences and has provided consultancy on the subject for the European Union, the International Centre on Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) or Brazil's Ministry of Labour among others.

He has published widely in the area of European Migration Law, including his book: *The Long-Term Residence Status as a Subsidiary Form of EU Citizenship. An Analysis of Directive 2003/109* (Martinus Nijhoff, 2011). He has also co-edited two other books: *EU Justice and Security Law: After Lisbon and Stockholm* (Hart, 2014, with Cian Murphy) and *EU Immigration and Asylum Text and Commentary* (Martinus Nijhoff, 2012, with Peers, Guild, Groenendijk and Moreno-Lax). His work has appeared in the most important journals in the area including the *International Migration Review*, *European Law Review*, *European Law Journal*, *Journal of Common Market Studies* or *European Journal of Migration and Law*.

Dr. Acosta is Deputy Director for Impact at the School of Law and teaches courses on European and Migration Law. He is also Bristol University's Ambassador for Colombia, and is member of the Project Prospects for International Migration Governance (MIGPROSP).

Dr. Acosta is also now working as co-supervisor and collaborator in a five years ERC research project entitled Prospects for International Migration Governance (MIGPROSP). See for more information <http://migrationgovernance.org>

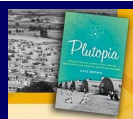
**Acosta:** "Well in terms of legislation, the legislation in South America is very much influenced by German and French legislation historically. The whole idea of regional integration has been there for many decades in South America It's only now become more and more important. It's an idea that's always been there because it was seen as something natural. We all speak the same language except Brazil, Surinam and Guyana... we have many things in common, our shared history, many challenges which are similar."

By Isabel Brador

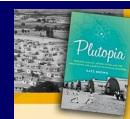
For more information and video of the event please visit:

<https://miamiuec.fiu.edu/events/general/2015/meuce-lecture-challenges-of-the-construction-of-south-american->





## Dr. Kate Brown, Plutopia: The Great American and Russian Plutonium Disasters



Dr. Kate Brown, Professor of History, University of Maryland, Baltimore County

On Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, the Department of History and the Miami-Florida European Union Center, hosted Dr. Kate Brown, a professor of History at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Brown's lecture, "Plutopia: The Great American and Soviet Plutonium Disasters", focused on her recent book *Plutopia: Nuclear Families, Atomic Cities, and the Great Soviet and American Plutonium Disasters*. Her book is a tandem history of two Russian and American plutonium factory towns and the individuals who lived there and in the surrounding areas. In her book Brown presents the similarities and differences between Russian and American production of Plutonium, as well as the methods they used to secure a stable labor force. Rather than compare the history of plutonium production in both countries, Brown presents both narratives simultaneously. This method facilitates Brown's deconstruction of traditional Cold War rhetoric. Her scholarship not only challenges any pre-

conceived notions of American production of nuclear weapons, but also **explores** Russia's reaction to this production during this era. Brown also mentions her own journey as she begins to interpret the events which took place in both countries and the stories told by the individuals who were part of these narratives.

Throughout her presentation Brown discussed both narratives and highlighted the overwhelmingly similar processes used by both the American and Russian governments in order to entice nuclear families to move into the plutonium factory towns. Brown also discussed the stark living conditions and long-term health problems experienced by residents of these towns and individuals who resided in and lived off the surrounding areas. Perhaps one of the most interesting findings discussed in the book and lecture was the middle-class status which was assigned to these working-class residents. During the lecture Brown shared excerpts, historical and per-

sonal photographs as well examples from her book with audience members.

Prior to her lecture, Brown visited Dr. Rebecca Friedman's, director of the Miami-Florida European Union Center for Excellence, graduate course in Museum History. During her visit, Public History students were able to ask Brown about the research process used to write her book. Students were also able to ask Brown about the experience of interviewing both Russian and American individuals as well as the difficulty of finding sources.

This event was part of the Department of History's Atlantic Colloquium Series and the Ruth K. and Shepard Broad Series and was held in conjunction with the European Studies program.

By Isabel Brador

For more information and video of the event please visit:

<https://miamieuc.fiu.edu/events/general/2015/meuce-lecture-plutopia-the-great-american-and-soviet-plutonium>



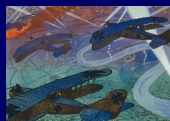
Dr. Friedman's Museum History class and FIU community members during Q & A time



From left to right: Drs. Friedman, Brown, and Uribe

# WOLFSONIANFIU

## EU and WWI Events



The exhibition “Myth and Machine: The First World War in Visual Culture” opened at the Wolfsonian-FIU museum on Miami Beach, on November 11<sup>th</sup>. The exhibit, which is in commemoration of the World War I centennial, opened on Armistice Day. The holiday coincides with Veteran’s Day and marks the signing of the armistice between the Allies and Germany. During an email interview with Dr. Jon Mogul, the curator of the exhibit, the Miami European Union Center for Excellence had the opportunity to ask Mogul questions concerning the focus and importance of the exhibition.\*

### MEUCE: What do you hope museum guests will take away from this exhibit?

**Mogul:** “I think the exhibition is really about how people deal with traumatic events. The First World War was a cataclysm – it killed millions of people, left economies in ruin, destroyed empires, and produced hatreds that led to the Second World War. The artworks we are presenting show how artists, poster designers, and others who lived through the war tried to make sense of it. And it shows how they did that largely by leaving out the most horrific elements – there are dead people but not mutilated bodies, for example, in these images – and by mythologizing the war. So I hope people will understand these as normal human responses to overwhelming events, and maybe look a little differently at images of war and conflict that surround them today.”

### MEUCE: Why focus on the relationship between man and machine during the war?

**Mogul:** “The degree of technological innovation in the First World War is astounding. Tanks were invented during the war, and it was the first time airplanes and submarines were used extensively in combat; the same was true for telephones, wireless radio, and motion pictures.. The outcome of the war depended heavily on the capacity of the different sides to produce these machines and use them effectively. So how people are represented in relationship to machines emerges as a key theme – are they shown as makers and masters of the machines, as victims, or left out of the picture entirely?”

### MEUCE: What is unique about this exhibit when compared to previous exhibits which commemorate World War I?

**Mogul:** “Part of what makes it unique is the material we’re showing. In what other museum’s exhibition are you going to see photographs taken by Hungarian soldiers at the front, a painting in which Joan of Arc, Napoleon and General Lafayette appear out of the mist behind a French infantryman, and a print showing death (with a pipe in his mouth) riding on a tank? But I think it’s also unique because of the approach that it takes, which I think is characteristic of The Wolfsonian in general, in that it’s not an “art exhibition” or a “propaganda exhibition,” but instead looks at both together as expressions of particular cultures.”

### MEUCE: Is the museum observing any other commemorations this year?

**Mogul:** “We will have a whole series of programs that will commemorate the war, related to the exhibition. That will include a film series, lectures, musical performance, and other events also. Not all of this has been scheduled yet, but it will be on our website soon.”

### The following are events were hosted by the Wolfsonian.\*\*

#### • January 30th | 7pm | WWI Film, *Heart of Humanity*,

The first of a three-part series of First World War era films. Curated and introduced by Frank Luca, the Wolfsonian’s Chief Librarian, this series explored the comedy, tragedy, and horror of the Great War through the actors and filmmakers who lived through it.

#### • February 27 | 7pm | *Wings*

The second film in the WWI film series won the very first Academy Award for Best Picture in 1927. Chief Librarian Frank Luca introduced this romantic action-war picture in which two young men, one rich and one middle class, both become fighter pilots and fall in love with the same woman played by Clara Bow, the original “it girl” and leading sex symbol of the roaring twenties.

#### • March 6th | 7pm | Poetry of War

FIU’s creative writing department read poems from World War I and presented their own original works inspired by the war.

#### • March 7th | 7 pm | Making Myth: World War I and American Culture

Three national scholars of film, memorials, visual art, and literature examined the impact of World War I on American culture during this welcoming reception, panel presentation and moderated discussion.

#### • March 27th | 7 pm | *Yankee Doodle in Berlin* (1919) and *She Goes to War* (1929)

The double feature and grand finale of our WWI film series curated and introduced by Wolfsonian Chief Librarian Frank Luca. *Yankee Doodle in Berlin* is the story of an army captain who disguises himself as a woman in order to fool the German High Command; while *She Goes to War* follows the tale of a curious young woman who dresses as a man and follows her fiancé into the trenches.

\* A longer version of this interview was featured in the September- October 2014 Newsletter.

\*\* Event schedule and there description have been taken from the Wolfsonian-FIU Calendar.

By Isabel Brador

For upcoming events visit the [Wolfsonian-FIU Calendar](#).





## Christopher Columbus: Mystery Debunked



Mr. Manuel Rosa, Historian , presenting his book "Kolomb"

Lady Blanka Rosenstiel,  
Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland  
with Manuel Rosa, Historian

On Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup> the Miami-Florida European Union Center for Excellence hosted historian and author Manuel Rosa. This event was part of the Blanka Rosenstiel Polish Lecture Series. Rosa, who has spent the last twenty-three years researching the story of the European discovery of America, has published four books which focus on the mystery of the identity of Christopher Columbus. The books have been published in Portugal, Lithuania, Poland and Spain and are awaiting English publication.

Rosa's lecture highlighted the ideas and theories which have resulted from his years of scholarship. His research has led him to conclude that Christopher Columbus was not Italian, but rather the descent of Polish royalty. By consulting and interpreting medieval documents, Rosa has also concluded that Columbus' last will and testament was a forgery. The document is often what most scholars use to verify Columbus' Italian heritage. His research also concludes that the Santa Maria never sank, but rather it was purposefully marooned.

Perhaps his most significant finding is that Columbus was always aware of his location throughout his voyage. Rather than mistakenly arriving in the New World, Rosa theorizes that Columbus was acutely aware that he was sailing in the opposite direction of India. Rosa stipulates that this was because of his secret ties to the Portuguese crown. After interpreting various documents, Rosa has determined that Columbus served as a double-agent for the Portuguese crown in order to safeguard the passage to India from Spain. Rosa hopes the scholarship he's conducted will not only popularize his theories, but generate enough interest in order to warrant additional genetic testing on Columbus' remains.

In an in-person interview after the lecture Rosa shared how else his work may impact current scholarship on Columbus. "I think the first impact is that we know the truth, we no longer feel confused when we hear the story of Columbus...The other thing is that we have to begin viewing Columbus as a genius of his time. We now understand what he was doing and

why he was doing it."

In the same interview he also challenged students to think critically when reading history, "If they read something that doesn't make sense they should question. They should find out more about the subject and not blindly follow what's written."

Rosa presented his lecture to Dr. Rebecca Friedman's, the director of the Miami-Florida European Union Center for Excellence, European Identities Colloquium. Students and community members were able to interact with Rosa and ask questions concerning his research method, sources and theories. This event was co-sponsored by Blanka Rosenstiel Lecture Series on Poland.

*By Isabel Brador*



For more information  
and video of the event  
please visit:

[https://miamieuc.fiu.edu/  
events/general/2015/  
meucepolish-lecture-  
series-book-presentation-  
on-columbus/](https://miamieuc.fiu.edu/events/general/2015/meucepolish-lecture-series-book-presentation-on-columbus/)



## Conversations on Europe Spring 2015: Collaboration with EU Centers Nationwide



Throughout the academic year the Miami-Florida European Union Center for Excellence (MEUCE) has had the opportunity to participate in numerous videoconferences with EU Centers nationwide. The videoconference series, *Conversations on Europe*, organized at the EU Center of Excellence at the University of Pittsburgh, enable the students and faculty members at various EU centers around the country to interact with one while debating current EU policies and issues of diplomacy. These discussions are often focused on topics pertaining to immigration, finances, and elections. Each conference is unique not only because of the material engaged, but also because of the diverse and insightful panelists invited to lead the discussions. So far this spring semester MEUCE has participated in two conversations.

The first videoconference, entitled "High Representative: Tasks for EU Foreign Policy", took place on Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>. Panelists analyzed and discussed the demands on and capabilities of the European Union as a major global actor. The starting point for the conference was the "Memo to the European Union Foreign Policy Chief". Dr. Rebecca Friedman, Associate Professor of History and the co-director of MEUCE, hosted the videoconference during her course on European Identities, the Capstone course for all under-

graduate students earning a certificate in European Studies. Panelists for this videoconference included Sir Michael Leigh of the German Marshall Fund, Stefan Lehne, former Director General for political affairs at the Austrian Ministry for European and International Affairs, Ulrich Speck, Editor of the weekly Global Europe Brief

Panelists also discussed the Tenuous nature of EU and China ties as their interdependence deepens. The panel included Gemma Marolda, a faculty member of Political Science at the University of Pittsburgh, Isabel Hilton, editor at the non-profit London and Beijing organization Chinadialogue.net, David Scott, professor at Brunel University, and Jing Men, Chair of European Union-China Relations at the College of Europe.

Future Conversations on Europe include topics such as trade agreements and EU response to international crises. The next videoconference will be held on Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> and is titled "TTIP-Ping Point? The Present and Future of the Transatlantic Trade Agreement?". The last conversation of the semester, titled "Before there was Ebola: European Responses" will take place on Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup> and will discuss EU responses to international crises.

By Isabel Brador



Christine I. Caly-Sanchez (left) and Students at the "High Representative: Tasks for EU Foreign Policy" video conference on January 20<sup>th</sup>.

newsletter, Nathalie Tocci, Deputy Director of the Istituto Affari Internazionali and advisor to EU Foreign Policy Chief, and Kostas Kourtikakis, who is affiliated with the University of Illinois's European Union Center of Excellence.

The second videoconference, "Whose Pivot Now? Implications of Growing EU-China Ties", took place on Tuesday February 17<sup>th</sup>. The event focused on the potential meaning of growing Chinese investment in Europe for both China and the European Union. The discussion centered around the fact the China is the EU's second largest trading partner and the EU is China's first.

For videos and summaries of each event please visit:

- [Dear Madame High Representative: Tasks for EU Foreign Policy](#)
- [Whose Pivot Now? Implications of Growing EU-China Ties](#)
- [TTIP-Ping Point? The Present and Future of the Transatlantic Agreement](#)
- [Before There Was Ebola: European Responses to Diseases in Africa](#)





## Two Day EU Conference: European Civil Society



Keynote speaker: Dr. Justin Greenwood, Professor ,Gordon University, Aberdeen, UK

The Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence at Florida International University held a two-day conference titled "European Civil Society: Legitimacy through cooperation?" on Monday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> and Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>. The conference opened Monday afternoon with remarks from Dr. Markus Thiel and Dr. Rebecca Friedman, the co-director of the Miami-Florida European Union Center for Excellence.

Following the opening remarks, Dr. Justin Greenwood, Professor of European Public Policy at Robert Gordon University at Aberdeen, UK, gave the keynote address. His talk titled "Participation of European Civil Society in the EU political system: squaring the legitimacy conundrum with Representative Democracy," discussed the element of voter participation and representation in the EU. After his talk conference-goers were invited to attend a cock-tail hour and reception where they could meet Dr. Greenwood and other conference speakers. After his talk, the Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence had the opportunity to speak to Dr. Greenwood during the reception.

**MEUCE:** Can you give a brief overview of your presentation earlier today?

**Greenwood:** "The place of participatory democracy in an EU political system which has always provided for participation because representation counts for less than half of all European citizens. How can we get a public opinion into EU public debates when the citizen isn't really present? The answer is elite lobby groups which advocate for all possible clauses and together with their

debate and contestation between them you get a political system where all voices are heard and you get deliberation of policy issues despite the fact that the citizens isn't really present. I'm currently working on these questions of EU legitimacy and whether we can have a system of EU democracy which is based on participation of elite lobby groups."



From left to right: Dr. Markus Thiel, Dr. Christopher Pallas, Chrisitne I. Caly-Sanchez, Dr. Justin Greenwood, Dr. Philip Ayoub, Dr. Christine Mahoney, Dr. Rebecca Friedman, Fiacre Bienvenu



## Two Day EU Conference: European Civil Society



Dr. Noah Weisboard, Associate Professor of Law, FIU Law School



Sara Moats, Instructor, FIU



Fiacre Bienvenu, Graduate Student in Politics & International Relations

**MEUCE:** How did you first become interested in this topic?

**Greenwood:** "The EU is a magnet for lobby groups because the sort of issues in which it has competence- largely issues of regulation- tend to end up as an interest groups story because of the way in which regulation distributes benefits."

The second day of the conference opened with the panel "Theorizing the Emergence of Civil Society in the EU" and discussed various aspects of European civil society and emphasized the struggles of some minority groups. Dr. Phillip Ayoub, Assistant Professor in the Department of History and Politics at Drexel University focused his presentation on sexual minority groups and their rights in Europe. Afterwards, Dr. Barry Mowell, Professor in Department of History at Broward College, gave a presenta-

tion on the status of NGO and illusion of global civil society in the UN. The panel closed with Dr Noah Weisboard's, an Associate Professor of Law at FIU's Law School, talk on the civil society and the crime of aggression.

The second panel of the day, "The Strengths and Weakness of Organized Civil Society" analyzed civil society as a whole. This section of the conference was attended by Dr. Rebecca Friedman's class which is open to both graduate and undergraduate students. Students were able to ask the panelists questions concerning the topic at hand. The first panelist, Dr. Christine Mahoney, Associate Professor of Politics and Public Policy at Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy at the University of Virginia spoke about using the prospect theory in real world situations. She also dis-

cussed the benefits and drawbacks of applying the theory to EU policy-making. The second panelist, Dr. Markus Thiel, Assistant Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Department of Politics and International Relations at Florida International University. Dr. Thiel discussed human rights and the input and output balance in EU civil society. The panel also featured Jeff Maslanik, a graduate student in the Department of International and Public Affairs at FIU.

The last panel of the day, "EU Civil Society: Looking beyond Europe or being Euro-centric?" featured the following panelists Fiacre Bienvenu, a graduate student in Department of Politics and International Relations at Florida International University. Bienvenu's talk assessed local conditions for democratic state society in Rwanda. Following Bienvenu, Dr. Sara Moats, an instructor at FIU, gave a presentation on the motivation, tactics and strategies of organized interests within a global framework. The last panelist was Dr. Christopher Pallas, an Assistant Professor of Conflict Management in the Department of Political Science and International Affairs at Kennesaw State University.

*By Isabel Brador*



2015 EU Conference European Civil Society participants

**For more information, pictures and videos please click on the link below:**

<https://miamieuc.fiu.edu/events/general/2015/meuce-two-day-eu-conference-european-civil-society-legitimacy-through-cooperation-fiu/>





## Discover European Films with Eurochannel



This semester, the Miami-Florida European Center of Excellence, and European Studies at FIU, partner with Eurochannel Inc., the European channel TV in Miami, to screen a series of European films and documentaries.

The series is created in order to foster interest in the European Union and stimulate conversations on European issues and tourism amongst the Florida International University community.

The first film in the series, *Kenjac*, (Donkey –2009) shown on Jan. 26, is a Croatian drama film directed by Antonio Nuić. It was released in 2009 and it was successful at the Pula Film Festival. Synopsis: It is 1995. The summer when the war operation Storm will take place. Boro, who is going to be forty in a year and a half, with his wife Jasna and son Luka goes to his home village Drinovci, Herzegovina, after

seven years. He wants to see his brother who managed to leave Sarajevo with his family. Boro knew that his brother was wounded, but when he sees him after many years, he discovers that the brother will spend the rest of his life in wheel chair. Boro constantly fights with Jasna, and he doesn't speak at all to his father Pako, whom he blames for his mother's death. In two weeks in August 1995, Boro will solve the years long dispute with his father, he will learn to be a better husband and a father. French journalist and avid traveler.

On Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>, the MEUCE showed the second documentary in the series, *Venice*. The film is about one hour and it focusses on the uniqueness of Italy's landscapes and cities and highlights the diversity in the Italian economic sectors. The film served as a launching point for discussing Italian culture and tourism.

This film series is co-sponsored by the European Student Association, the European Studies Program, as well as the MEUCE.

For more information on upcoming events and film-showings sponsored by MEUCE, visit <https://miamieuc.fiu.edu/events/general/>.



Europe Student Association: Jerome, Dayra, and Talia



**Venice** (2012) France (in French - with subtitles in English) Director: Jaques Vichet  
Presentation:

A unique city in the world, bathed by its canals, Venice has been a cradle of art and romanticism. Keeping alive its mysticism and magic for almost six centuries, its architecture still dazzles its visitors. Eurochannel and the MEUCE invite you to travel along its romantic "streets" and discover the secrets and history of the city in the documentary Venice.

Directed by Jacques Vichet—who has also directed documentaries about iconic landmarks such as Versailles—this documentary provides stunning views and interesting historical background. Gliding through Venice's canals, viewers are invited to discover its history and traditions, from the period of its commercial and military power to its current status as a major tourist attraction.

Venice is not only a city full of architectural works, such as the Doge's Palace, the famous Rialto Bridge and St. Mark's Place. It also has a romantic atmosphere, with its deserted canals, Jewish Ghetto and Florian coffee shop, a rendezvous for artists since 1720.

Eurochannel and MEUCE invite you to relax and enjoy one of the greatest cities in the world, listed as a World Heritage Site, in a first-class visual experience!





## Euro Challenge Competition Webinars

Jan.8 — Feb. 3, 25, 27, 2015



High School Teachers and students are invited to join us at valuable webinars on Europe and economic indicators.

### "Euro Challenge Competition Webinars"

- **Jan. 8, 2015 | 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.**  
For more information, [click here](#)
- **Feb. 3, 2015 | 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.**  
For more information, [click here](#)
- **Feb. 25, 2015 | 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.**  
For more information, [click here](#)
- **Feb. 27, 2015 | 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.**  
For more information, [click here](#)

The Delegation of the European Union to United States in partnership with WISE, and the MEUCE in partnership with the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, Miami Branch, are organizing a series of Webinars on economic indicators in order to prepare high schools teachers and students better for the Euro Challenge Competition 2015.

► **Jan. 8: Ben Carliner**, Senior Economist at the Delegation of the European Union to the United States, will discuss the history of the European Union and formation of the euro currency.

► **Feb.3: Gloria Guzman**, Senior Economic and Financial Education Specialist, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta-Miami Branch, will present a comparison between the Federal

Reserve System and the European Central Bank History, the Euro Crisis, the Economic Indicators.

► **Feb 25: Valerie Rouxel-Laxton**, Head of the Economic and Financial Affairs Section at the Delegation of the European Union to the United States, will discuss the relationship between the three Euro Challenge Economic Indicators, GDP Growth, Unemployment and Inflation. "Economic Indicators: Interactions and Policy Trade-Offs"

► **Feb 27: Galina Alexeenko**, Economic Expert and REIN Director, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta-Nashville Branch, will discuss the Eurozone Crisis in Europe.

For more information on the Euro Competition, [click here](#)

By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez



## BILAT Announcement

### Workshops on "Destination Europe Conference: Your Research & Innovation Opportunities"

Feb. 12, 2015: San Jose, CA— Feb. 20, 2015: Boston



You're invited to join us at valuable (and FREE) workshops in San Jose, CA, and Boston

### "Destination Europe Conference: Your Research & Innovation Opportunities"

- **San Jose, CA**  
Feb. 12, 2015 | 8:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.
- **Boston**  
Feb. 20, 2015 | 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

#### Venues:

#### San Jose, CA:

HYATT PLACE SAN JOSE DOWNTOWN - 282 S Almaden Blvd, San José, CA

#### Boston:

TAJ HOTEL - 15 Arlington Street, Boston

Destination Europe events showcase the vibrant and exciting research and innovation culture in Europe and the opportunities available to researchers, from anywhere in the world, interested in working there or cooperating with European researchers

#### Benefits and goals of the workshops include:

- Meet experts from European research organizations, universities, funding agencies and European Commission services who will present programmes, initiatives and opportunities to cooperate or to pursue a career in Research and Innovation in Europe
- Find information about the practical support available for moving to Europe (scientific visa, mobility centres etc.)

Destination Europe is a joint initiative of the European Union and its Member States.

#### What participants say about Destination Europe events:

*"Wonderful information presented. A great resource to take back to campus!"*

*"Very focused on the needs of the participants"*

*"Very lively and interactive"*

► For more information Boston, [click here](#)  
For detailed program, [click here](#)

► For more information San Jose, [click here](#)  
For detailed program, [click here](#)

*Horizon 2020 is the world's largest multinational research and innovation programme. It is the European Union's flagship research funding programme and is fully open to researchers from public and private organizations from across the world. For more information on Horizon 2020, [click here](#)*

By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez







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## SOME OF OUR UPCOMING 2015 EVENTS



- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Monday, March 2</b>    | <b>Polish Lecture Series</b><br><b>"Poland and the Ukrainian Crisis"</b> by Dr. Krzysztof Jasiewicz,<br>Washington and Lee University, Lexington, VA.  |
| <b>Wednesday, March 4</b> | <b>"Update on the Economic Situation in the Euro Area"</b> by Valerie<br>Rouxel-Laxton, Head of the Economic and Financial Affairs Section<br>at the Delegation of the European Union to the United States |
| <b>Thursday, March 12</b> | <b>Local Florida Euro Challenge Competition 2015</b>   |
| <b>Tuesday, March 17</b>  | <b>"The EU and the Ukraine Crisis: The end of the European<br/>         Model?"</b> by Dr. Beverly Crawford, and Dr. Jeff Pennington,<br>The University of California, Berkeley                            |
| <b>Tuesday, March 17</b>  | <b>Conversations on Europe</b><br><b>"TTIP-Ping Point? The Present and future of the Transatlantic Trade<br/>         Agreement"</b>   |
| <b>Thursday, March 26</b> | <b>"European Security and Foreign Policy"</b><br>by Maxime Larive, Research Associate, European Union Center/Jean<br>Monnet Chair, University of Miami   |
| <b>Sunday, Mar. 29</b>    | <b>"In endless waiting rooms: Our Stories"</b><br>The Miracle Theatre (Balcony Theatre), Coral Gables  |
| <b>Tuesday, March 31</b>  | <b>Euro Challenge Competition 2015 Recognition &amp; Awards</b><br>Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, Miami, Branch  |

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