

# Newsletter

Miami-Florida Jean Monnet European Center of Excellence -FIU

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## Jean Monnet Network Coordination Meeting Washington DC—Jan. 28-29, 2016

This year, Markus Thiel, Director, Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence and European & Eurasian Studies, FIU; and Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director, Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, and European & Eurasian Studies at Florida International University, had the great honor and privilege to participate in the Jean Monnet Network Coordination meeting which took place in Washington DC. Organized by our fellow European Union Center of Excellence at Georgia Institute of Technology, and the European Union Studies Association at the University of Pittsburgh, the directors and associate directors' meeting took place on January 28-29. Over these two days, directors and associate directors from the eleven Jean Monnet Centers of Excellence, Jean Monnet Project, and Modules around the nation (Miami, Atlanta, NY, Berkeley, Denver, Illinois, Chapel Hill, Pittsburgh, Seattle, Madison), gathered together to discuss their

activities and successes, share advice, and plan future collaborative events.

The series of events began on Thursday, January 28th, with a luncheon at

the Washington Court Hotel. Members of the various European Union Centers of Excellence networked with members of Washington DC diplomatic community, and representatives from the European Commission. This informal setting allowed members to communicate and get to know each other in a way that would contribute greatly to the sense of camaraderie and common mission of building greater ties between the United States and Europe.



Amb. David O'Sullivan, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United States, with the EU Jean Monnet Network —Washington DC—Jan.28-29, 2016

Following the luncheon, Milvia van Rij-Brizzi, Head of Unit, European Commission (EACEA.), presented the context and achievements of the Jean Monnet Activities within Erasmus+. Each Jean Monnet Projects, Centers, and Module directors and associate directors had the opportunity to introduce themselves and talk about their programs and best practices.



## Jean Monnet Centers of Excellence Network meeting—Washington DC



Co-funded by the  
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of the European Union



Delegation of the European Union to the United States - Press & Communication  
Department colleagues with Christine I. Caly-Sanchez



Pietro de Matteis, Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Allyson Dellnore,  
Katie Linder, Markus Thiel



Alasdair Young, Jeffrey Pennington, Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Markus Thiel

The next day, Friday March 29th, EU directors met for a full day of work and collaboration. The day began with remarks by Pietro de Matteis at the FPI, and Luis Pereira da Costa, EEAS, who pointed out how important these centers are in promoting EU-US ties through teaching, research, and community outreach.

Mr. de Matteis presented the Jean Monnet Actions and Erasmus+ - Planning for the Long Term: Present and Future Opportunities for North American Universities.

The audience was lucky to listen to high level representatives from the Delegation of the European Union to the United States. Damien Levie, Minister Counselor of Trade and Agriculture, informed the audience about the latest news on the TTIP.

James Babour, Spokesperson and Head of Press and Public Diplomacy Section, discussed the refugee issue, climate change, euro crisis, digital market, terrorism, and security.

Ambassador David O'Sullivan made remarks on the latest issues in Europe: migration and terrorism.

EUSA members discussed joint network activities, the role of EUSA and the Jean Monnet Website.

This networking meeting allowed all members to discuss future common projects and contribute to a common mission of building greater ties between the United States and Europe.

*By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*

► To view pictures, [click here](#)



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of the European Union

### EU Jean Monnet Network in the United-States

- Boston University
- Florida International University
- Georgia Institute of Technology
- Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis
- SUNY Cortland
- SUNY Buffalo
- Temple University
- University of California - Berkeley
- University of California—San Diego
- University of Denver
- University of Florida
- University of Illinois
- University of Miami
- University of New Mexico
- University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill
- University of Pittsburgh
- University of Washington - Seattle
- University of Wisconsin





## Kick-off Meeting PICASSO—Feb. 3-4, 2016 "ICT Policy, Research and Innovation for a Smart Society:"



Starting from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016, the new project PICASSO "ICT Policy, Research and Innovation for a Smart Society: towards new avenues in EU-US ICT collaboration", funded under the European Union Horizon 2020 programme, will bring together EU and US prominent specialists with the aim of reinforcing EU-US ICT collaboration in pre-competitive research in key enabling technologies related to societal challenges of common interest – 5G Networks, Big Data, Internet of Things and Cyber Physical Systems - and to support the EU-US ICT policy dialogue.

Tackling societal concerns through collaboration in key technology areas is today's challenge for both the EU and the USA. It is at the same time a generator of business opportunities and a source for wealth creation and growth.

Over the next 30 months, the PICASSO project will provide an exchange platform for EU and US experts through dedicated technology-oriented working groups in order to propose solutions for a smart society (smart cities, smart transport, smart energy...). In addition, a policy working group will aim at supporting the EU-US policy dialogue by contributions related to topics such as privacy, security, internet governance, interoperability, and ethics.

Based on an in-depth analysis of policy gaps in the three technology domains 5G Networks, Big Data, Internet of Things/Cyber Physical Systems, the analysis of industrial drivers, societal needs, and priorities for EU-US ICT collaboration, the working groups will propose measures to stimulate the policy dialogue in these areas. This synergy between experts in ICT policies and in ICT technologies is a unique feature of PICASSO with benefit to both the policy and the technology



Kick-Off Meeting PICASSO—France—Feb.3-4, 2016

communities in the EU and the USA.

The PICASSO working group experts will meet regularly in order to prepare an Opportunity Report for EU-US ICT collaboration dedicated to large and small industries, academia and networks that will point out new avenues for EU-US research, innovation and policy collaboration. An "ICT Industry Toolkit" will be made available online and as a mobile application, providing information on funding programmes and collaboration opportunities (Horizon 2020 and US ICT programmes) in order to support company and academia exchange, and to provide access to reciprocal programmes.

The PICASSO consortium is combining academic, industrial and policy support experience and includes the EU-based partners Technische Universität Dortmund and Technische Universität Dresden, Germany, THHINK Wireless Technologies, UK, Athens Technol-

ogy Center, Greece, Agenzia per la Promozione delle Ricerche Europea, Italy, GNKS Consult, The Netherlands, and the US-based partners Honeywell International, Miami-Florida Jean Monnet European Union Center of Excellence at Florida International University, and the Technological Leadership Institute, University of Minnesota, USA. The project is supported by NIST – the National Institute of Standard and Technology, USA. The PICASSO partnership is led by inno TSD, France.

The Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence is very proud to be part of this programme of excellence.

On Feb. 3-4, 2016, Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director, Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, attended the kick-off meeting PICASSO in Nice, France



For more information on PICASSO Project, visit the website:  
<http://www.picasso-project.eu/>



## Kick-off Meeting PICASSO—Feb. 3-4, 2016

### "ICT Policy, Research and Innovation for a Smart Society: towards new avenues in the EU-US ICT collaboration"



Kick-Off Meeting PICASSO—France—Feb.3-4, 2016

where she met all our partners and experts in ICT, IoT/CPS, Big Data, 5G.

*"This first meeting was a great success, said Svetlana Klessova, Inno TSD, France, and coordinator of the project; the fruitful discussions proved that all members of the team are highly motivated to support the EU-US ICT collaboration over the next 30 months, by bringing together EU and US prominent specialists with the aim of reinforcing EU-US ICT collaboration in pre-competitive research in*

*key enabling technologies related to societal challenges of common interest and to support the EU-US ICT policy dialogue".*

Kudos to all the team of Inno TSD, France, that organized an outstanding two-day kick-off meeting.

Congratulations to Svetlana Klessova, Eva Fadil, and Dagmar Marron for a great event.

At the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, we look forward to working with all of you!

► To view pictures, [click here](#)

*By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*



Christine I. Caly-Sanchez and Massoud Amin



Kick-Off Meeting PICASSO—France—Feb.3-4, 2016



Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Svetlana Klessova, and Eva Fadil





## Jean Monnet Project Workshop "EU Research and Innovation Funding Horizon 2020"



### HORIZON 2020 THE FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

The Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence (MFJMCCE) has dedicated a significant amount of energy to ensuring that local researchers and professionals are aware of the Horizon 2020 Programs. These programs, that provide grant and research money to U.S. researchers and businesses that work with European partner organizations, were the subject of a recent workshop in Brickell Miami Downtown on Tuesday, January 19, 2016 morning. With more than 50 attendees from Miami-Dade community at large, this workshop entitled "EU Research and Innovation Funding Horizon 2020" provided the perfect opportunity to disseminate valuable information. This workshop was organized under the Jean Monnet Project framework, sponsored by the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence-ERASMUS+, and was co-sponsored by Gray Robinson, Attorneys at Law, Inc.

This meeting was held at the offices of Gray Robinson, Attorneys at Law, Inc. in Miami Downtown. At an incredibly unique location, this conference room was the ideal place to meet and discuss opportunities available for innovative researchers, SMEs CEOs, European Chambers of Commerce members, and governmental members.

Two experts on EU Research & Innovation Funding -

Horizon 2020, met Miami-Dade Community members at large and made presentations on Innovation & Research. Viktoria Bodnarova, Regional Representative, EUR-AXESS Links North America made a presentation on Horizon 2020 and EU Research and Inno-



Jean Monnet project Horizon 2020—Gray Robinson—January 19, 2016  
From left to right: Matthias Haury, Viktoria Bodnarova, Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, and Glenn Cooper

vation Funding; and Dr. Matthias Haury, Chief Operating Officer, The Max Planck Florida Institute for Neuroscience, made a presentation on a success story: The Max Planck Florida Institute for Neuroscience.

MFJMCCE had the opportunity to speak with one of the workshop presenter, Viktoria Bodnarova, a regional representative of Euraxess Links North America. Euraxess Links North America, Ms.

Bodnarova informed us, main goal was to "inform scientists of all nationalities based in North America about the job vacancies and funding opportunities available in 40 European countries." Euraxess, as part of the Horizon 2020 funding program, operates

as an "information center to spread the word of different funding opportunities" that are available through Horizon 2020. Unlike the EU delegation, Euraxess focuses less on collaborative projects and more on "individuals, individual mobility, individual fellowships." Instead of trying to form consortium, which involves different rules and procedures, Bodnarova makes individuals aware through "a website, social media, a newsletter that is sent to our community every month where we look through opportuni-

ties available in each of these 40 countries."

Bodnarova and her peers at Euraxess Links are busy as getting the word out on "6-8000 job vacancies that are available every day" means they must inform "the research organizations who publish the vacancies on their website." As part of this effort to disseminate information about opportunities available for individual researchers, Bodnarova

Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

## Jean Monnet Project Workshop

### "EU Research and Innovation Funding Horizon 2020"

THE EUROPEAN PROGRAMME OF RESEARCH AND INNOVATION HORIZON 2020



Dr. Matthias Haury



Viktoria Bodnarova



Audience at Gray Robinson

spoke to the assembled companies directors, consuls, and other community members at large, who had gathered at the workshop. The participants were made aware of the many opportunities available for researchers but also for SMEs, societal challenges and how these opportunities could be found.

On the afternoon of April 19th, The Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence organized another workshop on Horizon 2020 for Coral Gables community at large where eMerge Americas Vice-President of International Development Caroline Rendeiro, and eGov José Fuentes, European Consuls, and members of the community at large were in attendance.

On Jan. 21 and 22, MFJMCE organized two more workshops on Horizon 2020 for Universities faculty members, and researchers, one at Barry University and the other one at Florida International University. Both workshops were well attended.



At Barry University, Viktoria Bodnarova with Faculty members



At Florida International University, Viktoria Bodnarova with FIU Researchers



Viktoria Bodnarova and Dr. Matthias Haury with Coral Gables Community Members

By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez

- ▶ To view PPT presentations and bios, [click here](#)
- ▶ To view Breakfast Workshop pictures, [click here](#)
- ▶ To view Luncheon-Workshop pictures, [click here](#)
- ▶ For more information on Horizon 2020, [click here](#)





## Conversations on Europe Video Conference with the University of Pittsburgh : "The Rise of the Right"



As part of the ongoing series, "Conversations on Europe", on January 19<sup>th</sup> began the first lecture series focusing on 'The rise of the right comparing the American and European Political Landscapes'. In conjunction with the European Union Center of Excellence, University of Pittsburgh, a panel of four scholars:

- Lenka Bustikova, Associate Professor Political Science, Arizona State University
- Jae-Jae Spoon, Associate Professor of Political Science, University of North Texas
- Benjamin Haddad, Research Fellow, Hudson Institute
- Helga Druxes, Professor of German, Williams College
- Moderated by : Ronald Linden, University of Pittsburgh

gathered via Web to discuss the rise of the right-wing forces in Europe. The focus was on the explanation of the movement, whether this is caused by social changes or just a temporary reaction to migrant pressures. The four panel members focusing on France, Germany, and Poland expanded this question. They analyzed these developments and offered analyses as to the causes and significance. National assessments was complemented with comparisons across the region, over time and with the political spectrum in the United States. When asked how new this all is and whether this is just a media bubble, Prof. Jae-Jae Spoon responded, "In looking at this in a historical context, seeing this is something new and different.

Looking at the rhetoric heard from the past and reflecting on the economic crisis and migration, today you see a heightening in nationalism." When asked to compare the far right rise in Europe with Donald Trump's popularity, Helga Druxes stated that the far right is sexist claiming that women cannot speak for themselves and Donald Trump shares the same attitude. Jae-Jae Spoon added, "Trump is similar to the right wing European, he is anti-elitist and attacks the media. It is still the primaries not the general elections so there may not be much hope for Trump. He is focusing the election on himself to create attention and draw attention to himself."

*By Michelle Safi*

► To view video, [click here](#)



### Upcoming conversations

- **Feb. 16th:** Whose Legacy? Museums and National Heritage Debates
- **Mar 22nd:** Greece and the EU: A Way Forward
- **Apr 19th:** The Continent is Cut Off! British Referendum on the EU



## "The European and Spanish policy concerning the Mediterranean region"



Prof. Antonio Blanc Altemir  
University of Lleida



Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Prof. Antonio Blanc Altemir,  
Dr. Aurora Morcillo, Dr. Markus Thiel

On January 27, The Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence co-sponsored by the Spanish and Mediterranean Studies Program had the pleasure of welcoming Doctor Antonio Blanc Altemir, Chair of Public International Law and International Relations from the University of Lleida to give a lecture on the European and Spanish policies in the Mediterranean area. His lecture included a discussion on the refugee crisis and the impact on the recent Spanish elections. He focused on different issues between Europe and Mediterranean from a multilateral, sub-regional, and bilateral perspective.

The main idea is that there has been plenty of dialogue between Spain and countries like Portugal, France, Egypt, Tunisia, and Morocco, just to name a few. Regarding Greece, he stated that Greece has gone through being rescued twice from their debt crisis and being threatened to be kicked out of the EU. He remarked that Spain shares with Greece a common space and a comprehensive culture. His concluded remarks focused on being more proactive in promoting an economic model that can create growth and attract jobs that can lead to global investments on both sides of the Mediterranean.

*By Michelle Safi*



Prof. Antonio Blanc Altemir with FIU students and faculty

Professor Altemir has a Doctor of Law with Honors from the University of Barcelona. He is currently teaching Public International Law and International Relations and he is the Director of the Department of Public Law at the University of Lleida. He has been a visiting professor at several universities, business school, and centers in parts of Latin America, Europe, and the U.S.



- ▶ To view video, [click here](#)
- ▶ To view pictures, [click here](#)
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## Interview with Professor Antonio Blanc Altemir



MFJMCE had the pleasure of sitting down with Dr. Altemir in discussing Spanish-Mediterranean relations after his lecture. The following questions were asked in Spanish and has been translated in English.

**MFJMCE: How important is it to have these kinds of lectures?**

**Altemir:** For me it's of much importance because they are exchanges of experiences of teachers and academics and university students. All who live in different countries, with different problems, and realities. In this global community, we share many of these concerns. As director of the Jean Monnet I stay interested not only in Europe but also beyond.

**MFJMCE: How are Spanish and Greek relations, especially during the Greek debt crises?**

**Altemir:** We share with Greece. We are two Mediterranean countries, countries that share this comprehensive and global culture. Greece suffered a major crisis. Greece was rescued twice. This threatened their status in the EU and the euro. Many were advocating for Greece's exit. The bubble burst, threatening the stability of the euro. It seems that this more stabilized but Greece is facing the flow of immigrants as main gateway to the European Union. Greece has been overwhelmed. They are not capable of handling the flood of refugees that are reaching them at round sixteen hundred a day. Greece has had to stabilize the financial problem as well as the problem of refugees.

**MFJMCE: Have there been any recent changes after the implementation of the different programs discussed?**

**Altemir:** Basically what the European Union has done is to establish a change in European politics that affects the Mediterranean countries. In addition to opening a new funding program, a little over fifteen billion euros, methodolo-



Prof. Antonio Blanc Altemir

gies are being established to approach the issue of relations with the Mediterranean countries. For example, the democratization of the countries that are trying to in some way walk towards a better economic and political scenario. That is what we must promote the European Union. This can only be achieved with financial assistance and specific programs that help integrate these countries. The level is very low in these countries, we are talking about 5%. For example, the NAFTA are trading as four times as much. The European Union is trading at a rate of 75%. They need better relationships between them, favoring the exchange infrastruc-

ture. There is much to be done to establish the basis for development in these countries.

**MFJMCE: Concerning the migration crises, Do you agree that there should be stricter border controls. What are your views? When will it be enough before it begins to affect economically the countries?**

**Altemir:** Eliminating it would be terrible. The Schengen area was created to facilitate the right to free circulation through the agreements between member states. Eliminating it would not be a good idea because it would undermine one of the pillars. Establishing controls that allow us to manage all the problems would probably be in the direction that we would go in. Increased border controls for example. In fact, several countries fear a wave of refugees. But we must be supportive. Our duty is to set an example of solidarity to the populations. Some countries are very reluctant to take in immigrants, for instance Hungary. The limit to the wave of immigrants is difficult to establish. The union has established quotas to distribute refugees among member countries. Quotas of a total of 160,000 refugees are to be distributed among member countries. This has been difficult to compromise; in the end there has been an agreement. In practice this has not yet been implemented. At the rate we're going, we're going too slowly. Problems of internal bureaucracy, of control, and of decision-making affect the process.

*By Anabel Guevara*



To view bio in Spanish, [Click here](#)

## “Response to the Paris Terrorist Attacks” Lecture by Hon. Philippe L  trilliart



Hon. Philippe L  trilliart, Consul General of France in Miami

On January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016, the Hon. Philippe L  trilliart, Consul General of France in Miami came to FIU to hold a lecture on the “Response to the Terrorist Attacks in Paris”. Speaking to a packed house; Consul General L  trilliart discussed the aftermath of the horrific terrorist attacks in Paris on November 13, 2015. He stated that it was a big shock for France and there is lot of support received from all around the world. France is still in a state of emergency

to reinforce and protect its citizens, making security policy changes at the highest level.

His message to the students was: “This is about politics and not about madness. The terrorist did attack by receiving orders.” His lecture ensured the attendees that France is working diligently in many aspects to protect the country and prepare for further measures, including intensifying the fight in Syria and gathering intelligence information from Muslim countries like Morocco. When asked how much is too much in the war against terrorism, L  trilliart, responded, “War is about politics but it is an instrument, we shouldn’t use those kinds of instrument. I am still very optimistic, cultural difference is a very big debate about universality and values. It should be handled through dialogue but sometimes you don’t have a choice.”

Regardless of the shock that is seen all around the world, Consul General L  trilliart is very optimistic for the future and confident that France is doing everything they can to protect and secure the country.

*By Michelle Safi*



- To view video, [click here](#)
- To view pictures, [click here](#)





## Interview with Hon. Philippe Létrilliart Consul General of France in Miami

The Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence had the pleasure of speaking with the Consul General of France in Miami, Hon. Philippe Létrilliart. The following conversation was in discussion to the "Response to Paris terrorist attacks".

**MFJMCE: How important is it to have these kinds of lectures for students?**

**Létrilliart:** It is important to reach the youth because they are the future rulers. What happened in Paris was an attempt to target the young people and make them leave. The youth in France are outgoing, they went to the café and a concert and this attack was targeting the youth and targeting their freedom. Addressing the youth is bringing meaning to the response.

**MFJMCE: With all this talk on the Rise of the Right, will there be an influx of the youth leaning more towards the Right?**

**Létrilliart:** Not necessarily, if anything it will be mostly in response to the economic crisis. Regardless of political division, there is a sense of unity. There is a party fight against terrorism and trying to protect democracy.

**MFJMCE: There are critics who say that what happened in France is nothing compared to what could happen in the future. What are some of France's preparation in response to the attack?**



Hon. Philippe Létrilliart,  
Consul General of France in Miami

**Létrilliart:** There should not be too much reliance on data and computers. There is an increase of human intelligence and human security all over France.

**MFJMCE: Experts are stating that there needs to be more sharing of information and that multilateral information is poor. Your response?**

**Létrilliart:** We are actually doing a lot of information sharing including multilateral sharing with our allies. One of our partners is Morocco.

**MFJMCE: Thoughts about the future of France after the terrorist attacks?**

**Létrilliart:** I am very hopeful; there is a sense of European Union unity no doubt. There needs to be more force and focus on the Middle East on how they can deal with the situation. We need to be able to cooperate and though dialogue deal with the situation.

*By Michelle Safi*



### Brief Biography

#### 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 (2010-2013).

Being assigned multiple times in Latin America, he began his professional stay abroad as a "coopérant" in Guatemala (1989-1990), before joining the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

He subsequently held the position of First secretary at the Embassy of France in Havana (1996-2000).



**For more information visit:**

<http://www.consulfrance-miami.org/>





## Roundtable "Labor Politics in the EU"



Dr. Maria Lorca-Susino, Dr. Markus Thiel, and Dr. Kerstin Hamann

On February 2<sup>nd</sup>, a roundtable with faculty experts was brought in to discuss labor politics in the European Union. The roundtable focused on the performance of the labor unions in countries that have been heavily affected by the crisis and labor groups attempting to contest the prevailing policy agenda. The panelist included:

- Dr. Kerstin Hamann, Pegasus Professor & Chair, Editor-in-Chief, Journal of Political Science Education Department of Political Science, University of Central Florida.
- Dr. Maria Lorca-Susino, Professor of Economics, Department of Economics and International Studies, University of Miami
- Moderator: Dr. Markus Thiel, Associate Professor, Politics & International Relations, Director, Jean Monnet Center of Excellence and European & Eurasian studies

Dr. Susino started out the discussion on the per-

formance on labor unions in maintaining the European Social model and social rights across the EU member states during the Euro crisis. Her focus was on unions as a response to the labor market. In addition, the strength of labor unions will be affected by the unemployment rate. Without unemployment, the purpose of these labor unions will be questioned.

Dr. Hamann's lecture focused on the power of the labor unions in Europe to explain that these unions are powerful in setting an agenda especially when embedded in left wing politics. Yet her concluding remarks stated that in this struggle there are no winners between government exchanges and the standstill of the unions. This struggle is leading towards inflicting political penalties on each other, but neither sides seems able to achieve substantial political gains in the current climate marked by austerity politics.

Dr. Markus Thiel also weighed in on thoughts about the discussion saying, "I am no expert on labor politics, but thought that both presenters made good, contrasting cases for the relevance of Labor Unions in the political process. My own opinion is that unions are still important agenda setters in that they frame topics surrounding labor rights, even if their overall numbers have gone down and they may not have the same leverage in political negotiations they once had."

*By Michelle Safi*



Dr. Markus Thiel, Dr. Maria Lorca-Susino, and Dr. Kerstin Hamann



- ▶ To view video, [click here](#)
- ▶ To view pictures, [click here](#)





## Interview with Dr. Kerstin Hamann and Dr. Maria Lorca-Susino



The following interview with Dr. Hamann and Dr. Susino is regarding the Labor Politics in the EU. The questions were asked to both lecturers.

**MFJMCE:** Are Labor Unions getting weaker especially with the recent economic crisis?

**Susino:** Yes, seeing the economic situation it is getting tough. Citizens feel that labor unions have not helped and to recover their employment they have to fight for themselves. Different tendencies when it comes to the European Union but the general trend, despite of the recession, the trend is down.

**Hamann:** Yes, but there is a maintenance of a political clout through strikes, which effects governmental elections.

**MFJMCE:** Do these labor unions still have a voice in setting the political agenda?

**Hamann:** Yes.

**Susino:** It depends on the country. You will see countries that are labor unions working with the government and in others, their voice are not part of the political agenda.

**MFJMCE:** In your opinion, is there a need for reform of the European Social Model?

**Hamann:** If I knew the right answer, I would be famous. Probably, but I am not sure how it should be reformed. This model can be based on the success of the European economy and it is



Dr. Maria Lorca-Susino  
University of Miami

quite expensive. The question is how to balance a sustaining type of social model without the cost being prohibitive. Many demographics issues have to be resolved.

**Susino:** There is big problem with unemployment. This is a quote "Your boss is not your enemy, unemployment is your enemy." You should be willing to compromise and be ready for challenges.

**MFJMCE:** With the ongoing migration crisis, are labor unions afraid or anxious of the migrants possibly taking away jobs in certain parts of Europe?

**Hamann:** In many countries, because of the demographic trends, reinforcing the labor market through immigrants is not a bad idea that the unions can be opposed too. But at the same time, these migrants could have



Dr. Kerstin Hamann  
University of Central Florida

the same kind of training that would be required by the EU and national regulation to work certain types of jobs. Often times, they do not speak the language well which leads them to be employed by sub-contractors and markets in an unregulated employment relationships. This is something the labor unions don't want. The question is what do these employment patterns look like.

**Susino:** No, I think they want to feed on them. They can accept them as new members since they are losing members, which have been moving from manufacturing to service. These people coming in are going to become the ones who vote for them.

*By Michelle Safi*



For Dr. Hamann's profile , [Click here](#)  
For Dr. Susino's profile. [Click here](#)



## World War II veterans honored by French Consul General



On Friday, February 12, The Consulate General of France in Miami and Philippe Létrilliart Consul General, in partnership with The Honors College and the Frost Art Museum at Florida International University present "A Tribute to America's WWII Veterans". Having such a ceremony is yet a small gratitude compared to those brave men and women who fought during World War II to prevent the spread of Nazism. The award is to honor those who fought alongside France during World War II. Six veterans received the Chevalier dans l'Ordre National de la Légion d'Honneur (Knight in the National Order of the Legion of Honor): Patsy Capasso, Kenneth Elkins, George Greenberg, Frank Feeley, Julian Wohlfeld and John Gellick, whose son Michael Gellick accepted the medal on his behalf, since he passed away recently.

The Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, students and guests, had the pleasure of being present at such honorable ceremony. Students from Professor John Bailly's study abroad program had an hour-long meet and greet session with WWII veterans. More than thirty of ISPA joined them at FIU for this very touching session. These students participated in a study abroad program, which included a visit to the WWII battle sites.

The ceremony began with Dr. Lesley A. Norhtup, Dean and Fellow of FIU Honors College followed by the US and French National anthem. Professor John Bailly and Admiral Kurt Tidd, USN Commander, United States Southern Command both spoke in honor of the veterans and wanted to inspire the students and guests to continue to appreciate and learn about the sacrifices made by countless veterans.

Philippe Létrilliart honored each veteran, as Karina Asvolinsque (intern for the Consulate of France in Miami) read each of their biographies. In the midst of each veteran, there was a proud applause. During the closing remarks, Philippe Létrilliart reminded all to al-

ways remember such great men and women and that it is up to the future generation to continue to honor and appreciate such sacrifices. He later spoke with Jenise Fernandez local 10 news reporter saying, "It's a very small token of appreciation for what they did," "When they were young, they went to the shores of France, combated. Many young soldiers died there." One of the honorees also commented on the award ceremony saying, "I am very glad to see that these students are interested and will remember what happened, and the men who sacrificed their lives, to participate in the liberation," said Walter Lambert, one of the honored veterans." After a humble and warming award ceremony, reception followed with guests, students, and the veterans coming together as one bridging the gap of the old and new generation.

*By Michelle Safi*

► To view video, [click here](#)



### The highest French distinction :

Created to reward eminent military and civil merits in the service of France, the "Légion d'Honneur" (Legion of Honour) is the highest distinction that can be conferred in France on a French citizen as well as on a foreigner.

**Origin:** Founded in 1802 by Napoléon Bonaparte, First Consul (a position he occupied from 1799 to 1804), the Legion of Honour is one of his most important creations with the Napoleonic Code.

**Grades and Ranks:** This distinction is divided into five degrees: three ranks (Knight, Officer, and Commander) and two dignities (Grand Officer, and Grand Cross)

**Description of the insignia:** Since its inception, the medal consists of a five double-cornered star enamelled in white, joined with branches of laurel and oak. At the centre of the star, there is a medallion representing • in the front side, the symbol of the Republic with the inscription "République Française" On the other side, a flag and a banner intertwining one another with the circular inscription "Honneur et Patrie – 29 Floréal an X". The ribbon has always been in red moire silk.





## Conversations on Europe Video Conference with the University of Pittsburgh : "Whose Legacy? Museums and National Heritage Debates"



The Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence with the University of Pittsburgh had their continuing lecture series "The Conversations of Europe". On February 16th, the topic for discussion was "Whose Legacy? Museum and National Heritage Debates". The panel included:

- Erin Peters, Joint Lecturer in Curatorial Studies in History of Art and architecture at the University of Pittsburgh and Assistant Curator in the Carnegie Museum of Pittsburgh
- Neil Brodie, Trafficking Culture and write of the blog [www.marketmassdestruction.com](http://www.marketmassdestruction.com)
- Susan R. Frankenberg, Program Coordinator, Museum Studies of Anthropology, University of Illinois at Urbana- Champaign
- Sophie Vigneron, Senior Lecturer, Kent Law School, University of Kent
- Moderator: Ronald Linden, Director of the European Union Center of Excellence/European Studies Center, University of Pittsburgh.

This month's virtual roundtable, our panel of experts discussed the ethical and legal questions museums in North America and Europe encounter in the continuing debate of over conversation, art repatriation, and most debated national vs. universal heritage. The first question asked was how big is the debate in which Peters responded, "The debate is huge and it goes beyond just a few case studies. What we are talking about here is a much bigger picture of who gets to decide. What culture and heritage is in my mind still a Western influenced and media has influenced what art is." Time has changed from a period of looting during wartime and something that has changed is globalization. Brodie pointed that globalization is the cause of something new happening. He said, "We see these days that everything has a price. There are items on the internet that nobody would have ever looked at. Globalization is improving transportation and it is now easier to buy and trade small

objects". From a legal perspective Vigneron pointed out that, every state has its own rules in terms of claiming artwork. Specifically looking at French museum's legal perspective on artifacts, she mentioned that whether the object is sacred does not classify it as "special". The object is still an object under French law and, "If an object is in a French museum, it belongs to the French state and all objects found in the French museum belongs to them and there is a long process to access them". An interesting question arose among the guests at the lecture regarding technology. The question was on whether there is a technological fix for example, an object residing in one location, but the display could be a hologram or video. The panel agreed that having the original item would be best fit. Brodie responded, "Ownership is based on historical grievance. The Parthenon marbles misunderstood the grievances." To conclude, the real question asked is can museums really protect the art. Frankenberg responded, "Museums in the United States are easily blown up. Structuring museums as being a safe haven for objects is a bit idealist". Please stay tuned for the next lecture in the "Conversations on Europe" series on March 22 discussing Greece and the EU.

*By Michelle Safi*

► To view video, [click here](#)

### Upcoming conversations

- **Mar 22nd:** Greece and the EU: A Way Forward
- **Apr 19th:** The Continent is Cut Off! British Referendum on the EU

# FIU

## "Faculty Spotlight" Professor John Bailly

**FIU**  
Honors  
College

The Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence has the pleasure of featuring certain faculty from FIU to get to know more about their personal and academic background. FIU has so many great faculty and we are pleased to interview Professor John Bailly from the Honors College.

**MFJMCE: Briefly discuss your family background and your upbringing.**

I was born in the UK. My father is from the French Alps, and my mother grew up in Rochester, NY. I lived in the UK, Long Island, Paris, Lyon, before coming to Miami at the age of 10. I could only read and write the word "cat" in English at that age.

I earned a BFA in Painting from FIU. After that, I was working minimum wage at Pearl's art supply store. One day, I looked at US News & World report to see the #1 graduate school for painting. That was Yale. I said to myself that is where I am going. And I did. It was a huge shift to go from stock boy to the Ivy League.

I remember when I got accepted I went a cashier at Pearl's that did not speak much English. I shared with her, "I'm going to Yale!" She looked horrified. For a Spanish speaker "Yale and "jail" are quite similar.

**MFJMCE: Is there any person(s) that has inspired you to become who you are today?**

Several. Of particular importance are 2 people. The first is the painter John Walker, who was my professor at Yale. The second is Joseph Weismann, who welcomes my study abroad students every year is his home. Walker taught me dedication to the process of painting. Weismann teaches me every summer how to process life. Both of these men have inspired me to reevaluate my place in the universe.

**MFJMCE: Describe the moment when you finally realized what you wanted to pursue in your career. Was there any other pursuits before you decided on your current one?**

At some point I realized I was crap at European football. Painting became a necessity. There was no other way for me. I have always needed to paint what I paint.

I stumbled into teaching, as I really did not have the character for it. But I had



Prof. John Bailly

the great fortune of being presented with the opportunity to teach for Dean Lesley Northup in the Honors College. Thanks to the creative and inclusive interdisciplinary curriculum of Honors, I have been able to design courses that merge the cultural mélange central to contemporary identity with my absolute obsession with art.

The France, Italy, and Spain study abroad courses were a natural fit. As a young boy, my family travelled to Morocco, the Netherlands, Spain, Turkey, French Guinea...so many places. I was struck with wanderlust. I am thankful every day I am able to share my ability to coordinate travel, my desire to explore the unknown, and my interest in art, history and culture with students of FIU.

**MFJMCE: What is your biggest achievement and describe the moment?**

I designed the poster for the Miami Film Festival one year. I stood at the foot of the stage of the Gusman Theatre and saw every single person in the Theatre holding a reproduction of my painting. Some were even on shirts, bandanas, and other things. It felt great; my work was everywhere. A young couple approached me and asked to take a picture. I agreed and posed with my arm around the young girl. They looked at me awkwardly. They were not interested in a picture with me. They were asking me to take a picture of them. That night I went back to paint in my studio.

**MFJMCE: What are your predictions on the future of the field you are working in?**

Art will further rely on technology and be more influenced by a wealthy, uneducated collector class. The general quality of art will diminish but brilliant individual artists from all corners of the world will emerge.

**MFJMCE: Any future projects you are working on or would like to work on?**

I am currently Artist-in-Residence at the Deering Estate. I am working on a project entitled "10,000 Years of Miami." My project is to paint a cultural and biological history of Miami, with an emphasis on the intermingling of different civilizations and natural elements from different continents.

**MFJMCE: What do you want students to take from you and/or your classes?**

My hope is that my classes stimulate students to live reflective lives. The subjects of my courses entail difficult questions about where we are in relation to history and to the world. What is our place and purpose in this life? I want students to ask themselves these questions, in a sincere and profound manner. And then ask them again. And again. I don't want students to get the answers from their families, from their community, or from their professors (especially me). My courses are meant to ask questions about morality, culture, art, and history, but to never provide answers. That is the student's responsibility.

**MFJMCE: What is your desire to see for the future of FIU?**

My hope is that FIU can receive more state funding to lower costs for students. I would like every student to have the opportunity to study abroad with me in Europe. I have seen the transformation students undergo by spending a month backpacking with me through Spain, Italy, and France. They are completely different people at day 1 to day 30. I wish every student could experience that.

**MFJMCE: What is one piece of advice you would give to a student who want to be in your shoes one day?**

These shoes don't fit you. Your task is to find your own.

*By Michelle Safi*





## "Faculty Spotlight"

### Dr. Allan Rosenbaum

Department of Public  
Administration

The Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence has the pleasure of featuring certain faculty from FIU to get to know more about their personal and academic background. FIU has so many great faculty and we are pleased to interview Dr. Allan Rosenbaum Director of the Institute for Public Management and Community Service and Professor of Public Administration at Florida International University.

**MFJMCE: Briefly discuss your family background and your upbringing.**

I grew up in what at times were very impoverished circumstances, in what was then the poorest white neighborhood in South Florida and is now one of the poorest African American neighborhoods. For a number of years, while I was going through school, my mother and I ran a very small business together. I ended up graduating from Miami Edison Senior High School. This was before FIU existed, and in those days the State provided 50 scholarships a year for Miami-Dade County residents to go to the University of Miami. I won one of those scholarships and ultimately graduated from UM. I went on to get Masters Degrees from Southern Illinois University and the University of California, Berkeley and received my PhD from the University of Chicago.

**MFJMCE: Is there any person(s) that has inspired you to become who you are today?**

There was a very wonderful southern gentleman who was the Dean of Students at the University of Miami. His name was Noble Hendrix and it was in large part through my interaction with him that I decided that I wanted to make a career in university life rather than become a lawyer.

**MFJMCE: Describe the moment when you finally realized what you wanted to pursue in your career. Was there any other pursuits before you decided on your current one?**

I am not sure that I have yet decided on what I want to do in my career. However, there have been a few key moments in my career that have helped shape it. When I left University of Miami, it was to do a two year graduate program in College Student Personnel which was designed to train one to be a Dean of Men or a Dean of Students in the days when universities took a much more paternalistic attitude towards their students. As it turned out, upon graduation, for family



Dr. Allan Rosenbaum

reasons, my wife and I had to return to Miami. She being more talented than me, wound up in a job in the field of education in which we had both done graduate work. I did not get a good job with the school, but wound up as a Budget Analyst (the very first one to be hired) at the City of Miami. After a month or so, the Budget Director resigned to become City Manager somewhere up in the middle of the State and I wound up as Acting Budget Director of the City for the next nine or so months until a new one was hired. Not wanting to go back to reporting to a new Budget Director, I decided to pursue graduate work, but in government (political science) rather than education.

When some years later I got my PhD, I wound up for quite a number of years teaching and doing research on American government and public policy, and especially state and local government. In the late 1980s, I was invited to come to FIU as Dean of its then School of Public Affairs and Services, which included five academic departments, one of which was public administration. Upon leaving the Deanship six years later, I thought to myself it is a lot more fun to do research in Kiev and Santiago than in Peoria and Des Moines. Consequently, I switched from specializing in American politics to specializing in democratic institution building and comparative public administration, which I have been doing since then.

**MFJMCE: What are your predictions on the future of the field you are working in?**

Despite the somewhat disappointing state of democratic institution building at this moment, both in our own country and abroad, I have no doubt that the process of the build-

ing and strengthening democratic institutions will continue to occur, and over the long haul, the quality of government and public services will improve. The current negativity towards government ultimately will turn around and people will realize that almost all of the important innovations of the past 75 years (computers, radar, new communications technologies, healthcare and medical breakthroughs) have begun with research and development that has either been conducted by national government scientists or funded and managed by national government administrators. Even more importantly, the citizenry will again realize that it is government that ultimately sets the rules by which society operates and, consequently, is the most important of all institutions in terms of enabling possibilities for the building of a good society.

**MFJMCE: Any future projects you are working on or would like to work on?**

There are far too many of those to be able to list and describe here. Many of them, however, focus on issues of building grass roots democracy and more responsive and more effective governmental institutions.

**MFJMCE: What do you want students to take from you and/or your classes?**

A fundamental optimism about the future of contemporary society. Despite all of the problems which seem to exist in contemporary society, the fact of the matter is that the world is a safer, more prosperous and better place to live than it has ever been before, and it is highly likely that this pattern of development will not change. I also would hope that students leaving classes that I have taught will have a better understanding both that the individual can have an impact on making the world a better place and will have some ideas about how to do so.

**MFJMCE: What is your desire to see for the future of FIU?**

Continued growth and movement towards ever greater excellence as an institution with an overriding concern for the promotion of fairness and equity.

**What is one piece of advice you would give to a student who wants to be in your shoes one day?**

Work hard, live life one day at a time and be open to new ideas.

*By Michelle Safi*

## EU Conference with key note speaker Dr. Renate Hahlen, Minister Counselor (Development), Delegation of the EU to the US



Dr. Renate Hahlen, Minister Counselor (Development), Delegation of the European Union to the United States—Washington DC

February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 kick started the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence's two day EU Conference on "The European Year of Development: approaches, issues & results" with Key note speaker Dr. Renate Hahlen Minister Counselor (Development) of the EU Delegation to the United States. Her topic of discussion—"Where is the European Union's Development policy heading?" - focused on EU development and its process. The reason for such a development policy is to give a boost to the global process and reach citizens and the youth. The policy themes go with the topic of the month related to the UN days (as they are in close ties with the UN) for example, during the month of March the UN focuses on women hence, the delegation follows. This development policy had a legacy, but Dr. Hahlen noted that surveys showed support for the policy, but many did not know about it. "The United States are better storytellers than we are, the EU is not so good at it", she said to the audience. The importance of the development policy is to establish educational material for all that is fact based.. Article 21 and Article 208 are the main points on the treaty and function of the EU members and states. Article 208 is a reference to the development process dealing with donor fragmentation. Dr. Hahlen noted that this part is the challenging part of the donor-recipient partnership in funding for certain countries. The objectives are reduction and eradication of poverty. Reducing poverty needs consistency in which the three D's: defense, diplomacy, and development are required. Dr. Hahlen believes that, "Policies should be made that it does not harm developing countries or make policies that has a positive impact". The common theme throughout



Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Dr. Renate Hahlen, and Dr. Markus Thiel

her lecture is creating a unity among partnerships that share common values and interest. Dr. Hahlen covered the current and future aspects of the development policy insisting that there is still a lot of work that is in need to be accomplished. For the future of the policy, the delegation is eager deciding on the nature of future partnership. The main objective of the EU is creating a political partnership based on common interest and shared principles. The goal is to steer away from just donor-recipient relationship. Dr. Hahlen is hopeful for building and rejuvenating principles with certain groups like the ACP (A = Sub-Sahara Africa, C = Caribbean, P = Pacific). This event was co-funded by the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence.

*By Michelle Safi*

► To view video, [click here](#)

► To view pictures, [click here](#)



At the reception: Karine Aumont, Alexandre Met-Domestici, Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Markus Thiel, Renate Hahlen





## Interview with Dr. Renate Hahlen, Minister Counselor (Development), Delegation of the EU to the US



Dr. Renate Hahlen

MFJMCE had the pleasure of sitting down with Dr. Renate Hahlen discussing her lecture on the EU development Policy.

**MFJMCE:** For those who may not know about the EU development policy, what are some of the key components of this development policy?

**Hahlen:** On one hand it is a developmental policy of the EU institutions and on the other hand it is the institution's global approach and partnership agreements with almost all countries. We have corresponding agencies that cover 140 countries which is more than our member states. We have a strong belief in implementation on the UN agenda whatever it is being decided like climate change or hard or soft law we all believe and contribute to it and we are set to implement it.

**MFJMCE:** During your lecture, you discussed providing funds is there a way to check up on how those funds are being used?

**Hahlen:** First, whatever we do we do with agreement with EU member states. We are accountable to the European parliament and the Counsel. We have a strict monitoring and evaluation system in place in project and policy level. We do evaluations on a entire country programs or sector and not just a single project. However, this is only afterwards. Not to get into any difficulties, we also have a strict preparation process.

**MFJMCE:** You also mentioned that there is a pull out process in terms of aiding a country, is there any other criteria that has to be fulfilled?

**Hahlen:** For us the technical term is the graduation of countries. I am not entirely sure of the methodology we use, but it is countries

where we no longer have impact with the money we put on the table. Where we just having a few funds and we cannot help with some of their issues. In addition, if they are able to tackle their issues themselves even if there is inequality. For example, Argentina, Peru, and Brazil these countries would be able to handle their issues on their own, but we know that we should probably stay in touch to see if they want to design policies if they wish. However, the relationship would no longer be donor-beneficial relationship but a partnership.

**MFJMCE:** How will this development policy reach out to war stricken countries like Afghanistan, Iraq, or Syria? Will this policy extend to these countries?

**Hahlen:** We have our 7 year planning period for cooperation programs and I am not aware of us being anywhere close cutting off aid to Iraq or Afghanistan. Afghanistan is a least a developed country and Iraq is a fragile country. We are definitely going to stay there but the implementation of our aid programs is of course due the circumstance is difficult. Afghanistan is one of our main recipient countries.

**MFJMCE:** There is a ongoing debate on whether the spread of democracy is appropriate to countries who have never dealt with this type of government before. This aspect is part of a future goal in the EU development policy so, what is your opinion to those who believe that the spread of democracy is not effective to countries who have never experienced it?

**Hahlen:** Well, there are democratic structures probably in most countries however there might be some differences compared to Western countries. You have to take a broad approach and look at traditional participation of communities and decision-making process. If we look at democracy that way, I would imagine that all countries have these entities and that we can strengthen this to get their voices get heard. Therefore, they can influence bottom up decision making in the country. We would not impose our understanding of democracy understanding but when it comes to certain standards like fundamental and human rights almost all nations has signed up to international agreements and that is our entry point to have a policy dialogue. Many countries have signed up for these dialogues and have not been imposed.

By Michelle Safi

### Dr. Hahlen Biography

**Dr. Renate Hahlen** is Minister Counselor (Development) at the European Union Delegation to the United States Washington since fall 2014. She follows the EU relations in the area of development policy and international cooperation with the US, the World Bank, the IMF and the Inter-American Development Bank (IaDB). She has been a European Commission official since 1996 with extended experience in EU external action and development policy. In 2013-2014 she was Head of the Unit Aid and Development Effectiveness and Financing at the Directorate General International Cooperation and Development. For many years she steered the relations of the European Commission with EU Member States as development actors. As a specialist in development finance and aid and development effectiveness she also closely followed the UN work in view of the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on development finance and the Agenda 2030 on sustainable development, the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation and the Official Development Assistance (ODA) reform of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC). Previously she worked on the EU relations with Algeria, Jordan, Vietnam and Laos.

Prior to joining the European Commission she worked at the German federal ministry for international cooperation and development, on international debt issues, on the EU partnership with Sub-Saharan Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP) and on the Euro-Mediterranean partnership. Dr. Hahlen studied in Germany, Switzerland and Turkey, graduated in law and holds a PhD in international private and comparative law (Freiburg University).

## Panel I

# "Approaches towards development"



From Left to Right: Dr. Damman, Dr. Met-Domestici, Dr. Beringer, and Dr. Babarinde

Day two of the conference started on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February starting with Panel I having the floor first from 9 am to 10:45 am. Dr. Erin Damman professor of politics and international relations from FIU was the moderator during the first panel, which focused on approaches towards development. Panel I included:

- Dr. Alexandre Met-Domestici, Associate Professor - Maître de Conférences Jean Monnet Chair, "EU's Role in the Fight against Economic Crime" Science Po Aix en Provence
  - Dr. Olufemi Babarinde, Associate Professor, Global Studies Thunderbird University
  - Dr. Sarah Beringer, Lecturer Friedrichs-Alexander University Erlangen
- Dr. Domestici went first with his topic on "Fostering Development through the Fight against Corruption Money Laundering in the EU's Neighborhood Policy". He mentioned that his topic is a prospective one and acknowledged that the European Union is going through several crises and the budgetary crisis is one of them. There is a fight against corruption and money laundering specifically fighting in developing countries where there is no respect for the rule of law. This fight started in the 1980's receiving help from FATF (Financial action task force). This fight has continued forward until 2012 with future implementations for more political dialogue. He concluded that there is further development in this fight with a newer progress report which is reviewed by the ENP (European Neighborhood Policy) focusing more on individual countries in terms of funding.
- Dr. Babarinde's topic was "EU-Africa Development Initiatives". He stated that his topic is a work in progress with a

focus on the evolution of the EU- Africa development relationship and initiatives. EU-Africa relations started in 1958 with the Treaty of Rome. There were negotiations with ACP countries ((A = Sub-Saharan Africa, C = Caribbean, P = Pacific) from 1975 to 2000. These talks have gone on since then and will continue until 2020. In the midst of negotiations, Dr. Babarinde commented that these agreements for sub-Africa and South Africa might have conflicting terms and inconstancy that is detrimental to the African Union. The new EU initiative is to create a new relationship called "One Africa" desiring a better partnership with the EU and Africa. The relation itself between Africa and EU evolved since the 1990's. Dr. Babarinde concluded that no development is going to be perfect and he offered new factors that should be considered for the future of

EU and Africa reaction including more economic liberalism as an example.

Dr. Beringer talked about "Development, Energy and Climate Change: EU Third Country Programs for Energy Security and Renewable Energy". Her lecture focused on the importance of energy and the EU development policy process to improve and show the importance on this issue. According to Beringer, there are 1.3 billion people without electricity and 2.6 billion use wood charcoal and traditional biomass for their energy supply with negative impacts of climate change. Her argument for her research is that EU development policy traditionally focused on a number of specific sections of interventions only. The major change that happened was during 2011 when a more diverse agenda was introduced that led to cooperation development in 3 sectors per country. Her research question has the new approach to third country development aid affected its stance within the EU Development Agenda? In discussing the 2011 agenda, she mentioned the need at the time for more targeted and concentrated allocation. The agenda for change with energy being a prominent role happened post-2015. This new agenda on development emphasizes relationship between energy development and climate change. She concluded that there are signs that increased EU action in this context is, however, not without self-interest.

By Michelle Safi

- To view Panel I video [click here](#)
- To view Dr. Domestici's lecture [click here](#)
- To view Dr. Babarinde's lecture [click here](#)
- To view Dr. Beringer's lecture [click here](#)



Two-Day EU Conference, Panelists, keynote speaker, and organizer





## Panel II



### "EU Development Policies in the wider world"



From Left to Right: Dr. Rebecca Friedman, Bibek Chand, Lukas Danner, and Dr. Sylvia Maier

Panel II discussion was on "EU Development Policies in the wider world" This panel consisted of:

- Bibek Chand, PhD Student, Department of Politics & International Relations Florida International University.
- Lukas K. Danner, PhD Student, in Politics & International Relations Florida International University
- Dr. Sylvia Maier, Clinical Assistant Professor, Center for Global Affairs New York University.
- Panel discussion chaired by Dr. Rebecca Friedman, History (FIU).

Bibek Chand went first introducing his topic on "The EU in the Himalayas: Analyzing the European Union's Role in post-conflict Nepal". In his introduction he said that he chose this topic not just because he is from Nepal, but rather his interest in looking at development in the country. There has been diplomatic relations with Nepal and the EU from 1973 with certain states being a development partner like Britain and France. The fundamentals of this development are focused on human rights and representative democracy. The EU has been the biggest provider in Nepal in the midst of the country going through a civil war. By 2008, the monarchy was abolished and it was the EU who wanted to bring a basis for the populous to understand the change. This is a movement for capacity building and marginalized community in multilateral partnership with the EU and other countries like Japan. There is a continuing project from 2014-2020 for a post-war reconstruction through capacity building with the EU. He concluded that overall there is

an ongoing and continuing process of developing policies, promoting democratic values, conflict resolution, education, and marginalizing communities.

Lukas Danner went second discussing his topic on "China and the EU: Development Competitors or Partners?" His research question was whether the EU and China are development partners or competitors. He first gave a brief history on the transition from the Cold War to post-Cold war with the changing ideologies since the transition. Post- Cold war meant for unipolarity and the United States arising as a superpower. While that was going on, there was the Rise of China in the past decade, making them today's second largest economy. The EU development policy, according to Danner is more neoliberal with specific aspects of achievement like spreading democracy and human rights. A sign of competition between the EU and China is China is trading a lot more with Africa as one single nation against one single nation of the EU. Danner noted that there are signs of cooperation between the two as China still being a recipient to European foreign aid. There is also EU-China Strategic Agenda 2020 to formulate and implement post- 2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals. He concluded that EU & China development policies in principle are incompatible, despite normative incompatibility, more and more cooperation is happening over recent years.

Last was Dr. Sylvia Maier discussing "Sustainable Empowerment: An As-

essment of EU Women's Capacity-Building Programs in Afghanistan". Her area of interest is gender equality and has always had a passion for Afghanistan and for gender equality in the country. She wanted to raise awareness on the issue and the overall status of Afghanistan being a nation that has experienced thirty years of civil war. She also presented a snapshot of the country with surprising numbers in terms of literacy rate for women being 12.6 percent and violence against women is 82%. There has been a global development assistance for Afghanistan with an overarching goal of creating a sustainable Afghan state. The EU has provided 610 million dollars from 2011-2013. In addition, in 2014, the EU has provided 310 million towards this development assistance. For the EU, equality between men and women is a fundamental value for them and gender equality is a crosscutting issue in 2005 Consensus on Development. As of this year, the EU has an agenda for Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020. Dr. Maier concluded that the EU as a comprehensive approach to this issue, but, there is still a lot of work that needs to be one.

*By Michelle Safi*

- To view Panel II video [click here](#)
- To view Bibek Chand's Lecture [click here](#)
- To view Lukas Danner's lecture [click here](#)
- To view Dr. Maier's lecture [click here](#)



## Panel III



### "EU Development pre/post-2015: the Caribbean "



From Left to Right: Dr. Thiel, Dr. Hintzen, Dr. Grenade, and Dr. Roy

Panel III was the final panel of the 1.5-day conference. This panel focused on EU Development pre/post-2015: the Caribbean. The panel consisted of:

- Dr. Percy Hintzen, Professor of Sociology, Global and Sociocultural Studies Florida International University
- Dr. Wendy Grenade, Lecturer in Political Science and Deputy Dean (Outreach) Faculty of Social Sciences University of West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados
- Dr. Joaquin Roy Jean, Monnet Chair "ad personam" Director, European Union Center of Excellence University of Miami
- Panel Discussion chaired by Dr. Markus Thiel, Politics & International Relations (FIU)

Dr. Hintzen went first with his topic, "The EU, CARIFORUM, AND CELAC: the new multilateral alliance". He introduced is topic with giving background on the ACP countries (African, Caribbean, and Pacific). This organization started in 1975 and it has 79 African, Caribbean and Pacific states with signatories to the "ACP-EC Partnership Agreement" that binds them to the European Union. This is the first sign of ACP and the EU partnership. One function of the group is to remove obstacles to trade and investment with the EU and EU countries. In the midst of such relations, Asia has a giant share of the world market, reflecting a convergence of population and power. This emergence has lead expelling and nationalizing of colonial firms. Within Asia, China has also risen using what Dr. Hintzen is "tricontinental" ties to the global south to penetrate regions and countries formerly colonized by Europe. This rise is lessening the U.S's power and this decline is affecting Latin America relations. This weakening is making Latin America depend on China for raw material. As much as there is a decline from the west, the EU still creates relations with Latin America and the Caribbean despite

an economic decline. Between the two, there is a bi-regional economic collaboration. Dr. Hintzen also mentioned CELAC as another partnership with the EU, Latin America, and the Caribbean is seeking to deepen their strategic bonds in the social, political and economic areas. He concluded that the EU has and will continue to be partnering with Latin American and the Caribbean, especially from 2014-2020 period assigning approximately €3.5 billion.

Dr. Grenade went second with her topic "North-South 'Partnerships' in a Complex World: The Caribbean and EU". Her research question was what does the current state of Caribbean-EU relations suggests about North-South 'partnerships' in a multiplex world? She first presented a conceptual guide of what the North-South development cooperation is. The North-South development cooperation was the center of the model with branches of world hegemony, new regionalism, and Caribbean radical tradition being branches. It followed by the EU ACP Development Cooperation Traditional Paradigm showing the relationship between the EU and the ACP countries with the legacy of dependency in the context of post-colonialism. The relationship includes aid, political dialogue, and preferential trade. Dr. Grenade pointed out that from 1959 onwards to 2020 million of Euros have been dispersed in European Development funds including for overseas countries and territories. Dr. Grenade mentioned that there are multiple poles of power now with multiple and competing interests across multiple levels. Regardless, there is a joint Caribbean-EU partnership strategy for 2010 focusing on areas like regional integration. She concluded that the inter-relationship between cooperation and resistance has historically shaped Caribbean EU relations. However, the cooperation-resistance has increased due to several factors.

Dr. Roy was last with his topic, "The EU's frustration over Cuba's insertion in the ACP development program". His lecture was an overall movement to show the interaction between the EU and Cuba throughout history. 1995 was when the European Union insists in crafting a cooperation agreement with Cuba. The EU has approved a "position" which links cooperation with reforms in Cuba. However, the EU does not interfere with the regime, but rather links full cooperation of aid to reforms in human rights, and justice. Dr. Roy discusses this common position (CP) interpretation by the EU as these commitments are aim-oriented not conditional. It contains offers of dialogue between the two countries. An interesting point Dr. Roy made was the comparison of approach to Cuba from the United States versus Cuba. Sanctions are not really a part of the EU's political culture and the compassion is whereas the US demonized Cuba as part of an "axis of evil", the EU's approach is "an access to evil". Through the 2000's, there has been a lot of interaction between the EU and Cuba, including European diplomats in Havana become isolated, with no access to high level of the Cuban government. Regardless of the ups and down, the EU's approach is more towards a political dialogue to facilitate transition to democracy. He concluded that in 2014, there have talks between the EU and Cuba and the important change is that Cuba has accepted these talks and rounds have started.

By Michelle Safi



- To view Dr. Hintzen's lecture [click here](#)
- To view Dr. Grenade's lecture [click here](#)
- To view Dr. Roy's lecture [click here](#)



- To view pictures [click here](#)



- To view detailed program [click here](#)
- To view panelist bio [click here](#)
- To view panelist's abstract [click here](#)



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## SOME OF OUR UPCOMING 2016 EVENTS



- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| March 10    | Local Florida Euro Challenge Competition  |
| March 16-17 | Kick-Off Meeting BILAT USA 4.0 –Bruxelles   |
| April 18-19 | eMerge Americas—Innovation & Research Conference<br>Smart Cities  |
| April 20    | Jean Monnet Project Workshop:<br>"Accelerating Smart Cities: environment, safety, transport, utilities & buildings" |
| April 21    | BILAT USA 4.0—Horizon 2020<br>U-US Research Collaboration and Funding Opportunities in Horizon 2020                 |
| April 29    | Jean Monnet Project Workshop:<br>Living with Water in an Interconnected World: A Roundtable Discussion              |
| May 2       | Jean Monnet Project Workshop:<br>"Water, Sustainability & Climate Change: The use and misuse of water resources"    |
| May 10      | European & Eurasian Studies Certificates<br>Recognition Award Ceremony  |
| May 20      | First EU-US Expert Group Meeting PICASSO—Washington DC  |