



# European and Eurasian Studies Program

# NEWSLETTER

Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence

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## 2024-2025 Highlights



Dr. Markus Thiel, Director, MFJMCE; and Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director, MFJMCE & EESP

Dear friends,

We are delighted to present our annual newsletter, highlighting the vibrant year we had at the **European & Eurasian Studies Program** and the **Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence** during 2024–2025.

From September 2024 to June 2025, we hosted **38 events**—including **12 virtual** and **26 in-person gatherings**—bringing together students, faculty, diplomats, and experts from around the world. We were also honored to be recognized at the **35 Years of Jean Monnet Actions Anniversary Conference**, a proud moment for our team.

Highlights include our annual Jean Monnet EU conference on "Democratic Values & Civic Participation in Europe and Beyond" with keynote speaker Walter Goetz, Head of the European Parliament Liaison Office in Washington D.C.; the Midwest Model EU, the Schuman Challenge, the Euro Challenge competition; the Europe Day Celebration featuring European consuls general and diplomats in Miami, the Conversations on Europe Series with the University of Pittsburgh, the Distinguished Lecture Series with European diplomats, including the *Conversation on Diplomacy, Poland, and Ukraine* by Adrian Chrobot, Political Counselor, Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Washington D.C., Topical

presentations covering the EU-Mercosur Agreement; the US elections and transatlantic relations.

Through our **EU Jean Monnet in the USA network**, we connected with European experts via virtual roundtables on European sustainability, climate change, defense and security.

We stood in solidarity with Ukraine through a series of impactful events: we screened a documentary film on Ukraine: "Jamala: Song of Freedom"; we organized different discussions with faculty, experts in international security policy and military strategy, diplomats on the war in Ukraine, among them: "*Organizing Post-War Elections in Ukraine: Obstacles and Solutions*"; *Twenty Years after NATO's Big Bang Enlargement*"; "*Russia's War's against Ukraine*."

**Recorded videos** of these and other events are available inside this newsletter.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all of you—students, faculty, speakers, sponsors, and friends—for your continued support and participation. We look forward to welcoming you, virtually or in person, to our upcoming events this fall.

Warm regards,

**Christine I. Caly-Sanchez**

& The European & Eurasian Studies Program & Jean Monnet Center of Excellence Team

Follow us and for more information:





## Celebrating 35 Years of Jean Monnet Actions

### Anniversary Conference | October 9-10, 2024 | Brussels



Dr. Markus Thiel at the panel on “Shaping the Future: The European Union’s Influence on the Global Stage”

On October 9–10, 2024, the Directorate-General for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport of the European Commission hosted the **“35 Years of Jean Monnet Actions”** Anniversary Conference at the Square Brussels Convention Centre in Brussels, Belgium. This milestone event celebrated over three decades of [the Jean Monnet Actions](#), which have been part of the Erasmus+ programme since 1989. These initiatives support excellence in teaching and research in European Union studies, including the prestigious Jean Monnet Centers of Excellence.

**The Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence**, designated in 2015, proudly stands among only seven U.S. universities to have earned this honor through a highly competitive global selection process. This recognition underscores the Center’s commitment to advancing EU-related scholarship and fostering transatlantic dialogue.

Dr. Markus Thiel, Professor of Politics & International Relations and Director of the Center, was invited to speak on the panel **“Shaping the Future: The European Union’s Influence on the Global Stage.”** His contribution offered a valuable transatlantic perspective on the EU’s role in promoting democratic values, human rights, and global cooperation. Dr. Thiel shared insights into how these principles resonate across borders and emphasized the importance of continued collaboration between Europe and the United States.

Reflecting on the event, Dr. Thiel expressed appreciation for the opportunity to engage with fellow scholars and policymakers, noting the conference’s dynamic exchange of ideas and its reaffirmation of the EU’s enduring global relevance.

“When the invitation to the 35th anniversary Jean Monnet Conference in Brussels arrived in my inbox, there was no indication yet that I might be invited as speaker by the European Commission’s Education and Culture Executive Agency. But when asked if I would want to be part of a panel focusing on the EU’s influence in the world, together with other international EU experts, including the former EU High Representative for Foreign & Security Affairs, Federica Mogherini, the decision was an easy one.

So, in October 2024, I flew to Brussels to participate in this commemorative, international event. Over 300 participants from over 45 countries attended to reflect on European integration, the opportunities and challenges facing the EU, and how the Jean Monnet Actions can contribute to strengthening EU-related teaching and promoting excellence in EU studies.

In those two programmatic days, there were plenty of opportunities for networking with like-minded colleagues, for exchanges with EU policymakers about pressing issues, for learning about the newest research on key EU priorities, and even a festive evening program with an EU-inspired theatrical play.

My panel on the EU’s role in the world had representatives from India to Brazil on it, and common concerns about the EU’s visibility and legitimacy in the face of a more strongly pronounced geopolitical system were evident. One of the highlights was to meet one of the grandchildren of Jean Monnet (the co-founder of the nascent EU), Jean-Marc Lieberherr.

Overall, the Jean Monnet Conference was a reenergizing experience, and so I want to leave you with Jean Monnet’s own quote: ‘I have always believed that Europe would be built through crises, and that it would be the sum of their solutions’ (Memoirs, p. 417).”

► For more information on the two-day program, its speakers, and to watch the video, [click here](#)

By Markus Thiel & Christine I. Caly-Sanchez



## 35 Years of Jean Monnet Actions Anniversary Conference



Participants of the 35 Years of Jean Monnet Actions Anniversary Conference

(Sources: European Commission pictures)



Pia Ahrenkilde Hansen, Director-General, DG Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, European Commission



Left: Jean-Marc Lieberherr, Natalia Chaban, Ummu Salma Bava, Aline Beltrame de Moura, Federica Mogherini, Christopher Changwe Nshimbi, Markus Thiel, Jacki Davis



Right: Federica Mogherini, and Markus Thiel



## Virtual Conversations on Europe Fall 2024



September 3, 2024: The History of Environmentalism: Right, Left, Center

*Conversations on Europe* is a virtual roundtable series that connects experts from around the United States and Europe to discuss contemporary issues facing Europe and the Transatlantic relationship. The series is intended to present a broad range of views and opinions about topics relevant to Europe. Using personal and institutional video conference technology, panelists take questions and interact with audiences from both sides of the Atlantic. This year, the series of *Conversations on Europe* focused on European Sustainability.

As reported by the UN, 83% of the global population wants their governments to take stronger action on climate change. And in response to this desire, the European Union seeks to lead the way in fostering sustainability and climate responses. Hallmarks of initiatives like the European Green Deal, the EU Climate Law, and the Net-Zero Industry Act, are a commitment to becoming the first climate-neutral continent by 2050; cutting 55% of net greenhouse gas emissions by 2030; and planting 3 billion additional trees in the EU by 2030. Will Europe achieve its goals? Do these initiatives respond sufficiently to the European citizens' concerns? What lessons can we learn for our own considerations of sustainable development? To answer those questions, the European Studies Center at the University of Pittsburgh invited academics, activists, and policy makers.

During Fall 2024, the European Studies Center at the University of Pittsburgh hosted 3 conversations, which were co-sponsored by the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet

Center of Excellence at Florida International University; the European Union Center at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign; the Center for European Studies at University of Texas at Austin; the Center for European and Transatlantic Studies at Georgia Tech; and the Center for European Studies at the University of Florida. These events were possible through generous support from the European Commission and were co-funded by the Erasmus+ Program of the European Union.

You will find below a summary of the topics addressed in each conversation, the links to the panelists' bios, flyers, and videos.

### September 3, 2024:

#### The History of Environmentalism: Right, Left, Center?

This first installment of the *Conversations on Europe* took place on September 3 and was a discussion on [the history of environmentalism](#) as a way of thinking about the spectrum of political positions in climate response.

The Conversation was moderated by Dr. **Randall Halle**, Director, European Studies Center at the University of Pittsburgh. Three experts joined in the discussion:

- **Iza Ding**, Associate Professor of Political Science, Northwestern University
- **Patrick Manning**, Professor of World History, Emeritus, University of Pittsburgh
- **Stephen Milder**, Environmental Historian, Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, Munich



## Virtual Conversations on Europe Fall 2024



### October 8, 2024: Civil Society Initiatives and the Judicial System

#### Oct. 8 2024: Civil Society Initiatives and the Judicial System

On October 8, for the second *Conversations on Europe*, our experts' discussion revolved around the criminalization of climate activists and their day in court with legal scholar **Veronica Federico**, Attorney **Gaëlle Cognet**, and one of the successful Swiss Climate Activists, **Elsbeth Stern**. On April 9, 2024 the European Court of Human Rights decided in favor of the "Climate Grannies" that the Swiss Government had failed to meet its climate responsibilities and, therefore, violated their human rights. The case set global legal precedent. It will have impact for years to come. In a world where 80% of the people want more action from their governments on climate change, the case's success highlights how the courts increasingly play a central role in the sustainability movement. Our interdisciplinary panel was moderated by Dr. **Randall Halle**, Director, European Studies Center at the University of Pittsburgh;

#### December 10, 2024: Economics of Climate Change

The third *Conversations on Europe* of the semester was held on December 10. This panel explored economics of climate change, various European approaches to sustainability, including growth vs. degrowth and clean investment vs. circular consumption.

From a transatlantic perspective, our panelists presented the best economic practices for responding to climate change.

The conversation was moderated by Professor **Randall Halle**, Director of the European Studies Center, University of Pittsburgh. Three experts joined in the discussion:

- **Phoebe Koundouri**, University of Cambridge
- **Max Koch**, Professor of Social Policy and Sustainability at Lund University, Sweden
- **Maša Ocvirk**, Program Coordinator for the Global Europe Program, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

This year's virtual *conversations on Europe* were well attended by students and faculty from interdisciplinary programs. The MFJMCE at FIU is looking forward to participating again this Fall 2025.

*By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*

► To watch video recording of Fall 2024 *Conversations on Europe*, click on the following links:

- **September 3** – [The History of Environmentalism: Right, Left, Center?](#)
- **October 8** – [Civil Society Initiative and the Judicial System.](#)
- **December 10** – [Economics of Climate Change](#)



## JAMALA: SONGS OF FREEDOM

### Documentary Film Screening

A Conversation with Beth Mendelson, Voice of America (VOA)  
Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2024 | FIU



On October 22, 2024, the European and Eurasian Studies Program at FIU's Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs hosted a documentary film screening titled **JAMALA: Songs of Freedom**, which left its audience visibly moved, with many viewers openly wiping away tears.

The film was not just a documentary: it was a raw portrait of courage and survival, capturing the story of Ukrainian singer-songwriter Jamala as she faced the brutal realities of war with the Russians' full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, and profiled her activism of raising money and awareness for her homeland.

Co-sponsored by FIU's Department of Politics and International Relations, the Ruth K. & Shephard Broad Distinguished Lecture Series, and the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, the event drew attendees from across the university community and beyond.

The afternoon took on a unique resonance, amplifying Jamala's story of resilience as it resonated across the FIU campus.

The screening was hosted by Beth Mendelson, Senior Executive Producer of Special Programming and Documentaries at Voice of America (VOA), who took



Full audience at the documentary film screening



Beth Mendelson and Tatiana Kostadinova

the audience behind the scenes of this captivating production. Mendelson's career spans 30 years, marked by her work for giants like PBS, CNN, and MSNBC, as well as her transformative role at VOA's Afghanistan Service. She's a storyteller dedicated to giving a platform to voices often drowned out by the chaos of conflict. In this documentary, Mendelson's focus on Jamala—a celebrated artist and cultural icon—transcends borders, drawing attention to the personal toll of a geopolitical crisis.

The documentary captures a haunting moment in Jamala's life: a concert she performed in Kyiv's grand opera house as war loomed just outside. That night, Russian forces launched air strikes on Ukrainian cities, igniting a mass exodus from Kyiv. Mendelson's lens follows Jamala as she flees the city with her family, embarking on what should have been a five-hour drive to Ternopil—a journey that took two harrowing days amid widespread panic and blocked roads. Eventually, Jamala crossed the Romanian border, seeking refuge in Istanbul, while her husband, Bekir Suleimanov, stayed behind to join the Ukrainian military. The scenes of her escape, layered with both fear and determination, are a visceral reminder of the trauma that her family has endured across generations. In 1944, her ancestors—the Crimean Tatars—were given just 15 minutes to gather their belongings before being forcefully exiled by Russian forces. "Jamala's story," Mendelson explains, "echoes the historical suffering her grandmother faced, a profound parallel between the past and the present."

During the Q&A session that followed and was moderated by Dr. Tatiana Kostadinova, director of the European & Eurasian Studies Program and professor of Politics & International Relations at FIU, Mendelson discussed the emotional and logistical challenges of filming in a war zone. "It's a paradox," Mendelson said, describing her dual role as a war producer and an VOA producer. She filmed Jamala's performances while also chronicling her life amidst the devastation of her homeland. Filming during air raids and bomb threats became routine for Mendelson and her crew.

A shoot had to be halted just 20 minutes before a bomb threat. Mendelson, who filmed much of the project remotely, recounted the constant vigilance required to ensure everyone's safety. Still, the film captures tender moments, such as Jamala singing lullabies to her children. These intimate moments bring depth and humanity to the intense struggle she faces to preserve Ukrainian culture.

Jamala's determination, courage, and deep commitment to her heritage are at the heart of the film. Now splitting her time between Warsaw and Ukraine, she continues to perform, incorporating Crimean Tatar chants into her music and preparing a new album that honors her cultural roots. As Mendelson explains,



► To see flyer and bio, [click here](#)

► To see pictures, [click here](#)

Jamala believes in the spiritual significance of her work. After a poignant three-hour interview in Warsaw, Jamala's gratitude took on a personal dimension: she removed the ring from her finger and placed it in Mendelson's hand. It was a symbol of their shared journey, an emblem of strength and an unspoken bond born of a shared purpose.

As the credits rolled, a heavy silence fell over the room before the audience applauded, visibly touched by the raw emotion captured in the film. For those who wanted more, Mendelson invited viewers to discover other VOA documentaries on YouTube, each offering a deeper look at stories often overlooked. The FIU screening was more than just a documentary: it was a powerful tribute to resilience, a reminder of the unwavering human spirit in the face of unimaginable hardship, and a call to recognize the role of art in documenting survival. At a time when narratives of war can seem distant and desensitizing, Jamala's journey shone a light on reality, proving that art can serve as both a witness and a weapon in the fight for cultural preservation.

*By Maria Sanchez Avila and Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*



### **Beth Mendelson.**

*Senior Executive Producer of Special Programming and Documentaries at Voice of America (VOA)*

**Beth Mendelson** is the Senior Executive Producer of Special Programming and Documentaries at *Voice of America* (VOA). With a communications career spanning 30 years, Mendelson has served as an Executive Producer for major American and European networks such as PBS, CNN, ITN, ARD, and MSNBC. She was previously the Chief of VOA's Afghanistan Service, where she significantly enhanced VOA's programming in Dari and Pashto. Mendelson has produced documentaries for various prestigious organizations, including the World Bank, World Wildlife Fund, and the U.S. Department of State.



From left to right: Pedro Botta, Tatiana Kostadinova, Beth Mendelson, Christine Caly-Sanchez, and Markus Thiel



## MFJMCE-EESP Presentation



### A Conversation on Diplomacy, Poland, and Ukraine

By Dr. Adrian Chrobot, Political Counsellor, Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Washington D.C. | October 30, 2024 | FIU



Adrian Chrobot, Political Counsellor, Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Washington D.C.

On the morning of October 30, Florida International University had the distinct honor of hosting Adrian Chrobot, Political Counsellor at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Washington, D.C. Mr. Chrobot met with FIU faculty members and delivered an engaging presentation in Dr. Arrarás' Comparative Politics class, focusing on diplomacy, Poland's role in global affairs, and the ongoing conflict in Ukraine.

Christine I. Caly-Sanchez warmly welcomed and introduced Mr. Chrobot, highlighting his extensive career in foreign service. With over 15 years of experience in international missions, Mr. Chrobot has worked on initiatives related to human rights, European affairs, migration, and cultural diplomacy. His dedication and contributions have earned him the prestigious Bronze

Cross of Merit, awarded by President Andrzej Duda of Poland.

During his presentation, Mr. Chrobot shared insights from his diplomatic career, discussed the evolving Polish-American relationship, and reaffirmed Poland's steadfast support for Ukraine. His remarks provided students with a deeper understanding of the complexities of international diplomacy and the importance of global cooperation.

Following the presentation, students engaged in a lively discussion with Mr. Chrobot, who generously offered guidance to those interested in pursuing careers in diplomacy and international affairs. His visit was both inspiring and informative, leaving a lasting impression on the FIU community.

By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez

► To view pictures, [click here](#)



Adrian Chrobot with FIU students, and Christine I. Caly-Sanchez (right picture)



## EESP Presentation

### Organizing Post-War Elections in Ukraine

By Oleh Didenko

Chairman of the Central Election Commission of Ukraine

Wednesday, October 30, 2024 | FIU



Oleh Didenko and Tatiana Kostadinova

On October 30, Florida International University (FIU) had the honor of hosting Oleh Didenko, Chairman of Ukraine's Central Election Commission. During his visit, Mr. Didenko met with Dr. Shlomi Dinar, Dean of the Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA), along with FIU faculty members. He also engaged directly with students, offering a compelling look into Ukraine's efforts to prepare for its first post-war elections.

The discussion, moderated by Dr. Tatiana Kostadinova, explored the complex realities of organizing democratic elections in a country still under martial law due to the ongoing Russian invasion. Mr. Didenko outlined the legal and logistical hurdles Ukraine faces, including:

- Constitutional restrictions on elections during martial law
- Ensuring safe and fair political campaigning
- Facilitating voting in Russian-occupied territories and for citizens abroad
- Protecting voter privacy and combating disinformation

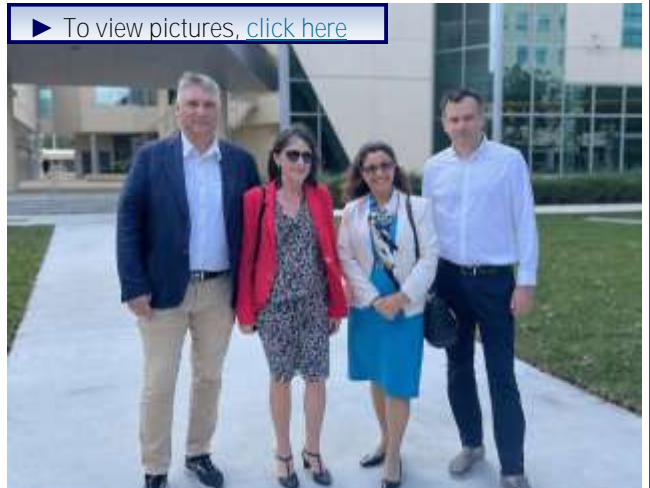
Following the presentation, students participated in a lively and thoughtful dialogue with Mr. Didenko, reflecting FIU's commitment to global engagement and democratic values.

*By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*

[▶ To view pictures, click here](#)



Full audience at SIPA



Tatiana Kostadinova, Christine Caly, and Oleh Didenko



## EESP Roundtable

### Twenty Years after NATO's Big Bang Enlargement Tuesday, November 19, 2024 | FIU



From left to right: Michael J. Williams, Zachary Selden, Admiral Andrew L. Lewis, and Tatiana Kostadinova

Twenty years ago, NATO experienced its largest expansion when seven nations—Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia—joined the defense alliance. This “Big Bang” enlargement was a strategic move to heal Cold War divisions and promote a shared vision of peace and security across Europe.

Today, as NATO marks its 75th anniversary, the alliance is larger, more capable, and more diverse than ever. Yet it faces a complex and volatile security environment, with Russia's war in Ukraine, rising tensions in the Indo-Pacific, and evolving hybrid threats testing its resilience and unity.

On November 19, the European & Eurasian Studies Program hosted a thought-provoking panel titled “Twenty Years after NATO's Big Bang Enlargement”, bringing together distinguished experts in international security and military strategy to explore the evolving dynamics of transatlantic defense.

We were honored to welcome:

- **Admiral Andrew L. Lewis**, Retired Vice Admiral in the United States Navy; Retired NATO Officer; Distinguished Fellow with the Transatlantic Defense and Security Program Center for European Policy Analysis (CEPA)

- **Zachary Selden**, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Florida; Former Director of the Defense and Security Committee NATO Parliamentary Assembly, Brussels.

- **Michael J. Williams**, Associate Professor, Public Administration and International Affairs Department Maxwell School of Citizenship & Public Affairs Syracuse University. His research and expertise include international law, political theory, war, NATO, and European security and defense politics. He has also held positions at the Royal United Services Institute in London and the University of London.

Tatiana Kostadinova, Professor, Department of Politics & International Relations, and Director of the European & Eurasian Studies Program at FIU, moderated the roundtable.



► To view flyer, [click here](#)

► To view bios, [click here](#)

► To view pictures, [click here](#)



## EESP Roundtable

### Twenty Years after NATO's Big Bang Enlargement



Zachary Selden and Admiral Andrew L. Lewis

The participants in this panel assessed the geopolitics of enlargement, the current challenge of Russia's return as NATO's main adversary, and the future of the Trans-Atlantic security cooperation.

- **Michael J. Williams** presented on *"International Security in the Europe-Russia-NATO Context,"* offering insights into the shifting balance of power and the strategic challenges facing the alliance.
- **Zachary Selden** explored *"NATO, EU Expansion, and U.S. National Security,"* emphasizing the importance of transatlantic alliances in maintaining global stability.
- **Admiral Andrew L. Lewis** addressed *"The U.S. National Defense Strategy and NATO's Military Posture,"* highlighting the strategic alignment between national and alliance-level defense priorities.

This timely and engaging panel provided valuable perspectives on NATO's evolution and the enduring

importance of transatlantic cooperation in a rapidly changing global landscape.

FIU students, faculty, and outside guests engaged in a stimulating conversation about the broader impacts of the war. We were honored by the presence of Sarah Kavanah, Consul General of Ireland; and Sudeshna Chatterjee, Senior Global Engagement Officer International Trade Consortium (ITC) Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners

The event was co-sponsored by the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, the Department of Politics and International Relations, the Dorothea Green Lecture Series, and the Václav Havel Program for Human Rights and Democracy.



## EESP Roundtable

### Twenty Years after NATO's Big Bang Enlargement



From left to right: Sudeshna Chatterjee, Michael J. Williams, Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Admiral Andrew Lewis, Hon. Sarah Kavanah, Tatiana Kostadinova, and Zachary Selden

**Below are some highlights from our panelists in response to the questions posed.**

#### 1. What led to the Big Bang enlargement of NATO? Why did it become possible in the early years of the new century?

Following the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, a growing number of Central and Eastern European states sought full NATO membership to address their security concerns. Paid for by the US, this strategy provided a path for integrating these states into European political and economic institutions like the EU. Some also expressed concerns about potential future Russian aggression.

#### Aspirations in the East:

- Many Eastern European states saw NATO membership as the only viable solution to their security dilemmas.

- Public and elite support for joining NATO was strong in the region, driven by historical experiences and a desire for real protection against potential threats.

These nations demonstrated their commitment to joining by showing democratic political systems, market economies, peaceful conflict resolution, and the ability to contribute militarily to NATO operations.

#### Foreign policy considerations in the West:

- NATO, grappling with an identity crisis after the Cold War, recognized that enlargement could revitalize the alliance and provide a new purpose.
- Advocates of enlargement believed it would promote democracy, multilateralism, and peace in Europe, thereby reinforcing confidence among states and fostering closer integration.



## EESP Roundtable

### Twenty Years after NATO's Big Bang Enlargement



Michael J. Williams, Zachary Selden, and Admiral Andrew L. Lewis

- They argued that expanding the alliance would strengthen NATO's ability to contribute to European and international security and solidify the transatlantic partnership.

The United States, under Presidents Clinton and Bush, actively championed NATO expansion, seeing it as crucial for maintaining influence in Europe, guaranteeing European security and prosperity, and satisfying Central European leaders' desire for closer ties with the West.

The "Big Bang" enlargement of 2004, which brought Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia into the Alliance, marked a significant step in the post-Cold War reshaping of European security.

#### 2. Assessment of the impact of NATO enlargement On new member states' security:

- NATO membership provided security assurances to the new member states, deterring potential aggression and solidifying their integration into the Euro-Atlantic community.
  - The deployment of NATO forces and military infrastructure in these countries, though viewed by Russia as aggressive, contributed to a sense of security and stability, particularly for countries like the Baltic states that had experienced Russian military presence in the past.
- However, Russia's aggression against Ukraine and its annexation of Crimea highlighted the vulnerability of

states outside the NATO umbrella, leading some, like Finland and Sweden, to abandon long-held neutrality and seek Alliance membership.

#### On the capacity of the Alliance:

- Enlargement has strengthened the Alliance's overall capacity by incorporating new members with their unique military capabilities and strategic geographical locations.
  - It has also provided an opportunity to foster closer cooperation and interoperability among the diverse military forces of the member states.
- However, enlargement also introduced challenges, such as the need to address the "free rider" problem of some members not meeting defense spending commitments, though recent events have prompted many to increase their contributions.

#### On zones of "frozen conflict":

- Russia has historically used "frozen conflicts" in countries like Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine to maintain military presence, support separatist states, and exert influence in the region.
  - NATO's hesitation in offering security guarantees to these countries, driven by concerns about provoking Russia, did not prevent conflict, as evidenced by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
- This has led to a reassessment of the role of "buffer zones" and a recognition that NATO expansion, far from being destabilizing, can be a necessary measure to deter future conflicts.

## EESP Roundtable

### Twenty Years after NATO's Big Bang Enlargement

#### 3. Contributions of newly admitted states to collective defense

The newly admitted states have made significant contributions to collective defense in Europe:

- **Joint Operations:** Participating in NATO-led operations, such as those in Afghanistan, has demonstrated their commitment to burden-sharing and collective security.
- **Exercises and Training:** Engaging in joint exercises and training with other NATO members has improved interoperability and strengthened their ability to operate effectively alongside other Alliance forces.
- **Military Modernization:** Several new members have invested significantly in modernizing their armed forces, showing a seriousness in their desire for membership and enhancing the Alliance's overall military capabilities.

#### Difficulties in fulfilling commitments:

- While significant progress has been made, some new members, along with older ones, have struggled to meet the NATO defense spending target of 2% of GDP. However, in response to the war in Ukraine, NATO has raised the defense spending target to 5% by 2035, with a focus on both core defense requirements and broader security-related investments like protecting critical infrastructure and enhancing cyber-security.

#### 4. New challenges faced by NATO since Russia's aggressive war in Ukraine

Russia's aggressive war in Ukraine has presented NATO with new and intensified challenges:

- **Hybrid Attacks:** Russia has employed hybrid attacks, including sabotage of infrastructure, interference in democratic processes, and cyberattacks, against NATO member states, particularly those in the former Soviet bloc.
- **Russian Propaganda:** Russia has utilized disinformation and propaganda campaigns to undermine NATO's credibility, influence public opinion in member states, and exacerbate domestic insecurities.
- **Domestic Insecurities and Radical Political Movements:** Economic hardship, coupled with the spread of disinformation and the rise of radical political movements, poses a threat to social and political cohesion within NATO member states.
- **Adaptation to a New Security Environment:** NATO faces the crucial task of adapting its deterrence and defense strategies to the evolving security

environment, including addressing the long-term threat posed by Russia and the persistent threat of terrorism.

- **Deterring Future Conflicts:** The war in Ukraine has highlighted the need for NATO to move beyond a policy of containment and actively deter future conflicts by offering clear security guarantees to potential members like Ukraine and by demonstrating a strong, unified front.
- **Political Cohesion:** The war has exposed some fault lines and disagreements within the Alliance regarding strategy and the level of support for Ukraine, highlighting the ongoing importance of maintaining political cohesion and developing a clear, shared vision for the future.

These challenges underscore the need for NATO to continue adapting and evolving to effectively safeguard the security and stability of its member states in a rapidly changing geopolitical landscape.

*By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*



Admiral Andrew L. Lewis, Zachary Selden, Tatiana Kostadinova, and Christine I. Caly-Sanchez



## EESP Lecture

### Russia's War Against Ukraine: Origins and Consequences By Dr. Mark Edele, University of Melbourne, Australia

Wednesday, November 20, 2024 | FIU



Dr. Mark Edele (center) with FIU students and faculty

On Wednesday, November 20, 2024, the European & Eurasian Studies Program and the Department of History at FIU were honored to receive the visit of Mark Edele, the inaugural Hansen Professor in History, and Deputy Dean in the Faculty of Art, at the University of Melbourne, Australia,

interpretation and reflect on the likely consequences and possible outcomes of the conflict.

Following the presentation, students engaged in a lively discussion with Dr. Edele.

*By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*

Presented in collaboration with the History Department, and co-sponsored by the European & Eurasian Studies Program, the Department of Politics & International Relations, the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, the Ruth K. & Shepard Broad Distinguished Lecture Series, and the Dorothea Green Lecture Series, we hosted the event at FIU Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs.

Mark Edele was joined by Rebecca Friedman, Professor of History; and Tatiana Kostadinova, Professor of Political Science in the Department of Political Science and International Relations, and Director, European & Eurasian Studies Program at FIU, to discuss **"The Russia's War Against Ukraine, its origins and consequences."**

Historian Mark Edele explored the major explanations for why Russia went to war with Ukraine in 2022. The presentation assessed the evidence for each



Tatiana Kostadinova, Mark Edele, and Rebecca Friedman

► To view pictures, [click here](#) ► To view bio, [click here](#)



## EESP Virtual Roundtable

### Transatlantic Relations in the Shadows of the U.S. Elections

Wednesday, November 27, 2024 | FIU Webinar



On November 27, 2024, the European & Eurasian Studies Program at Florida International University (FIU) hosted a timely and thought-provoking online panel examining how the U.S. elections were received across Europe and their potential impact on transatlantic relations. The event featured expert insights from Alana Mocerí of IE University in Madrid and was moderated by Dr. Markus Thiel, professor of Politics and International Relations at FIU.

Dr. Shlomi Dinar, Dean of the Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs, opened the event by welcoming attendees and panelists. He highlighted the significance of this panel as the inaugural event in a new partnership between FIU's Green School and IE University.

With numerous elections taking place globally in 2024, the U.S. presidential election stood out as particularly consequential—not only for Americans but also for Europe's security, economy, and international standing. Regardless of which candidate won, European nations and the EU would need to adapt to shifts in U.S. leadership and foreign policy.

Alana Mocerí, an international relations professor at IE School of Politics, Economics and Global Affairs, brought a unique perspective as an American living and teaching in Spain. She explored the implications of the U.S. elections on Spain, focusing on trade, defense, and NATO-related issues. Mocerí is also a featured

analyst at *World Politics Review*, a columnist for *El Español*, and a frequent commentator on Spanish TV and radio. Her work centers on public diplomacy, global governance, electoral campaigns, and transnational activism, with a focus on the U.S., EU, and Spain.

Dr. Markus Thiel provided insights into how the elections might affect Germany and the broader European Union. As director of FIU's Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, Dr. Thiel's research spans European identity politics, human rights, and the political sociology of the EU.

The event drew a strong turnout from both undergraduate and graduate students at FIU. Many engaged actively during the Q&A session, posing thoughtful questions and sharing reflections. Students enrolled in the *International Relations of Europe* course were invited to write short essays analyzing the election's impact and offering their perspectives on the future of transatlantic relations.

Following the presentations, a lively roundtable discussion unfolded. Audience members contributed provocative questions and comments, enriching the dialogue and making the event a dynamic and memorable experience.

By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez

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## Blanka Rosenstiel Lecture Series on Poland

### Closing Exhibition: The Uncaptive Mind

Friday, December 13, 2024 | FIU



"The Uncaptive Mind" exhibition remains at the SIPA' Gallery one year from Nov. 15, 2023 to Dec. 13, 2024

On the evening of December 13, the Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs at FIU, hosted a closing celebration reception for the art exhibition **"The Uncaptive Mind: The Pursuit of Freedom"**, a truly extraordinary exhibition featuring works from the Polish School of Posters (1950s to 1980s), created during the communist era.

This exhibition presented by Blanka Rosenstiel Lectures Series in Poland, the European & Eurasian Studies Program, in collaboration with American Institute of Polish Culture, Inc, the Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Poland in Miami, and curated by Rodrigo Butori, was on view at the Steven J. Green School Gallery (SIPA 1, 1st floor) during one year from November 15, 2023 to December 13, 2024.

At this special event, Natalia Olbinski, daughter of renowned Polish artist Rafal Olbinski, was invited to speak about the poster her father created for this exhibition.

Natalia Olbinski explained that her father created this powerful poster depicting a swallow symbolizing independence and freedom, the colors of the Ukrainian flag, and a bleeding heart. She added that "this poignant work was painted in response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, and the blue in support of Ukraine."



Polish artist Rafal Olbinski's poster featuring a swallow symbolizing independence and freedom



**Natalia Olbinski** is a book cover designer and illustrator based in Brooklyn. She is an associate art director for Simon & Schuster and previously worked for the Walter Bernard Design Consultancy and Mirko Ilić Corp., as well as several independent magazines in Poland. Originally from New York, she graduated from Carnegie Mellon University with a BFA in industrial design and from the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw, Poland, with an MFA in product design and illustration. Her work has been recognized by AIGA (50 Books/50 Covers) and the Society of Illustrators.



## Blanka Rosenstiel Lecture Series on Poland



### Closing Exhibition: The Uncaptive Mind "Nie zniewolony umysł"

Wednesday, December 13, 2024 | FIU



Polish Circus Poster Bear in Tuxedo CYRK on a bicycle - Edition from 1974 Poster (left)

The closing reception was an evening of reflection, discussion, and connection as the audience explored the power of art in challenging authoritarianism.

Featuring everything from circus to film posters, this collection exemplifies how art can serve as both a form of cultural expression and a subtle form of political communication.

We extend our sincere thanks to Beata Paszic, Vice Consul of the Republic of Poland and Executive Director of the American Institute of Polish Culture, Inc., Lady Blanka Rosentiel, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland in Miami, and curator Rodrigo Butori for the opportunity to host this incredible exhibition at FIU for a year.

*By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*



To watch video recording from the American Institute of Polish Culture, click on the following link:

► Opening Art Exhibition: "UNCAPTIVE MIND", [click here](#)

► To see opening reception pictures, [click here](#)



Blanka Rosenstiel Lecture Series on Poland  
**The Uncaptive Mind**  
Exhibition Closing Celebration



On this occasion, renowned Polish artist Rafał Olbiński created a powerful poster featuring a swallow symbolizing independence and freedom, with the colors of the Ukrainian flag and a bleeding heart. This poignant artwork was painted as a response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022 and blue in support of Ukraine



"The Uncaptive Mind in the Pursuit of Freedom" remained at the Steven J. Green School Gallery (SIPA 1, 1st floor) during one year from Nov. 15, 2023 to Dec. 13, 2024



## Blanka Rosenstiel Lecture Series on Poland "Spies in My Blood"



A Conversation with Alex Storozyński, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist  
Tuesday, April 8, 2025 | FIU



Alex Storozyński with FIU students

On Tuesday, April 8, the Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs was honored to receive the visit of **Alex Storozyński**, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, award-winning author, filmmaker and former President & Chairman of The Kosciuszko Foundation, to Florida International University.

As part of Blanka Rosenstiel Lecture Series on Poland, and the European & Eurasian Studies Program, the Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs hosted Alex Storozyński for a presentation on his powerful memoir, *"Spies In My Blood, A Polish Family's secret Fight Against Nazis & Communists"*.

In the morning of Tuesday, April 8, Tatiana Kostadinova, Professor of Politics & International Relations, and Director of the European & Eurasian Studies Program at FIU, welcomed the audience and recognized Lady Blanka Rosenstiel, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland in Miami, and the founder and president of the American Institute of Polish Culture Inc; and Beata Paszyc, Honorary Vice Consul of the Republic of Poland in Miami, and Executive Director of the American Institute of Polish Culture Inc., for their support and collaboration on this and many other events that they have worked together.

After being introduced by Tatiana Kostadinova and Beata Paszyc, Alex Storozyński shared his testimony on his powerful memoir, *Spies In My Blood*. This true story follows two brothers raised in New York by World War II exiles, each on a different mission to infiltrate the Communist secret police in Poland and uncover their family's legacy of soldiers, spies, and assassins. Storozyński shared his own journey behind the Iron Curtain, where his work on Polish dissidents led to him

being declared an "enemy of the state."

*Spies In My Blood* offers an engaging look at the hidden atrocities of World War II and the Cold War, and the urgent lessons history offers to prevent repeating its darkest moments.

More than 50 people attended the event, including members of the Polish community, the Miami community at large, faculty, students, and Dr. Arraras' International Relations class. After his presentation, students had the chance to speak with the author. The event also featured a book signing.

The event was organized in collaboration with the Honorary Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Miami, the American Institute of Polish Culture, Inc. the European and Eurasian Studies program at FIU, the Václav Havel Program for Human Rights, the Dorothea Green Lecture Series, and the Department of Politics & International Relations.

We sincerely thank Alex Storozyński for his visit to FIU and his testimony on his own journey.

By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez



Alex Storozyński



**To watch Alex Storozyński's video**  
recording from the American Institute  
of Polish Culture, [click here](#)

► To see flyer and bio, [click here](#)

► To see pictures, [click here](#)





## MFJMCE Presentation

### Combating Antisemitism in the European Union

by Dr. Carolyn D. Dudek, Hofstra University

Tuesday, January 28, 2025 | FIU



Dr. Carolyn Dudek presenting

During Holocaust & Genocide Awareness Week Jan. 23-30, 2025, the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, invited Dr. Carolyn D. Dudek, Professor and Chair of the Department of Political Science and Director of European Studies at Hofstra University in New York, to make a presentation on **"Combating Antisemitism in the European Union: Opportunities, Tools, and Challenges"** to Dr. Markus Thiel's Politics & International Relations class, faculty, and guests.

Dr. Carolyn M. Dudek is Professor and Chair of the Department of Political Science and Director of European Studies at Hofstra University in New York. She received her Master's and Ph.D. degrees at the University of Pittsburgh. She has written extensively on the EU across various policy sectors. Her current work is focused on EU antidiscrimination policy with a particular focus on antisemitism. She is currently the grant writer and coordinator for an ERASMUS+ Jean Monnet Module at Hofstra University, which is focused on EU anti-discrimination and hate crime policy, and she was recently awarded a Jean Monnet Chair to further her research. She is currently writing a monograph about the EU's antisemitism policy.

On January 28, Dr. Carolyn Dudek examined why and how the EU created a policy focusing on antisemitism and some of the policy tools the EU possesses to address it. She explored specific policies such as the EU's strategy to combat antisemitism and foster Jewish life as well as other mechanisms not explicitly for antisemitism, but that the EU can utilize to address it.

An engaging discussion between Dr. Dudek and the students followed the presentation.

Dr. Thiel, Professor, Politics & International Relations, and Director of the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence was the moderator.

This event was part of the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence activities. We were able to count on the continued support of our partners, including the European & Eurasian Studies Program, the Holocaust and Genocide Studies, the Global Jewish Studies Program, Hillel FIU, the Politics & International Relations Department, the Dorothea Green Lecture Series, and the Václav Havel Program for Human Rights & Democracy.

By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez

## Combating Antisemitism in the European Union



FIU students, faculty, and guests, listening to Dr. Dudek's presentation

### Carolyn M. Dudek, Ph.D.

**Professor and Chair of the Department of Political Science and Director of European Studies, Hofstra University, New York**

Carolyn M. Dudek, Ph.D. is Professor and Chair of the Department of Political Science and Director of European Studies. She specializes in comparative politics with regional focuses in Europe and Latin America. She is the author of *EU Accession and Spanish Regional Development: winners and losers*, P.I.E., Peter Lang Press, which explores the domestic impact of European Union policies, including agricultural and cohesion policies. In addition, she has published several articles and book chapters on trans-Atlantic agricultural trade and regulatory disparities, Spanish politics, regional nationalism in Europe, European Union regional development policy and EU-Latin American relations.

Professor Dudek has been awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to Spain and spent a year doing field research in Galicia, Valencia and Madrid. In addition, she was awarded a post-doctoral summer fellowship at Columbia University's European Studies Institute, and prior to coming to Hofstra University, Professor Dudek was a Jean Monnet Fellow in the European Forum research group at the European University Institute in Florence, Italy. She has also been a Fellow at Harris Manchester College, Oxford University.

Dudek was again awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to teach a graduate seminar in Spanish on comparative regional integration at the University of Buenos Aires, Argentina. In addition, she was invited to give lectures in Spanish on EU-Latin American relations at other universities in Argentina. During her six-month stay she conducted research concerning EU policies and their impact on EU-Latin American relations.

In addition to Professor Dudek's research she has also engaged in teaching an array of courses such as: Comparative Politics, European Politics, Politics of the European Union, and she has also taught in the interdisciplinary Honor's College Culture and Expression course. In addition to teaching on Hofstra's campus she has also been the director and accompanying faculty for the Hofstra Australia and Prague and Central Europe programs, and an instructor in the Hofstra Venice, Spain and Australia programs. She was also selected twice to teach in the Semester at Sea program, which is a floating university that circumnavigates the globe. In 2021, Dudek was named Mentor of the Year.

Professor Dudek's current research focuses on the European Union's combating antisemitism policy. She is also the grant writer and primary coordinator for an ERASMUS+ Jean Monnet module on EU anti-discrimination and hate crime policy.



Markus Thiel and Carolyn Dudek

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## MFJMCE Lecture

# The EU-Mercosur Agreement A Win-Win for Markets to the Detriment of Amazonia?

Tuesday, February 18, 2025 | FIU



**Manuela Picq**  
Senior Lecturer at Amherst College

### Manuela Picq, Ph.D.

*Senior Lecturer in the Department of Political Science and Sexuality, Women's and Gender Studies at Amherst College*

Manuela Picq, a French-Brazilian University of Miami alumna from the School of International Studies, is the Karl Loewenstein Senior Lecturer in the Department of Political Science and Sexuality, Women's and Gender Studies at Amherst College. She is the author of several scholarly books and articles, including *Savages and Citizens: How Indigeneity Shapes the States* (University of Arizona Press 2024) and *Vernacular Sovereignities: Indigenous Women Challenging World Politics* (University of Arizona Press 2018). She is also the Editor of *Public Humanities* and contributes to international media outlets. Her work at the intersection of scholarship, journalism, and activism led her to her nomination as part of the New Generation of Public Intellectuals (2018), inclusion in the Femi List 100 (2021) and receiving the 2024 Outstanding Scholar Activist Award by the International Studies Association.

On Tuesday, February 18, 2025, the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence was honored to receive the visit of Manuela Picq, French-Brazilian Scholar and Activist, Karl Loewenstein Senior Lecturer in the Department of Political Science and Sexuality, Women's and Gender Studies at Amherst College.

Presented in collaboration with the Kimberley Green Latin American & Caribbean Center, and co-sponsored by the European & Eurasian Studies Program, the Department of Politics & International Relations, and the Global Indigenous Forum, we hosted the event at FIU Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs.

Manuela Picq was joined by Markus Thiel, Professor of Political Science in the Department of Political Science and International Relations, and Director, Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence; and Anthony Pereira, Director, Kimberley Green Latin American & Caribbean Center, Professor Department of Politics & International Relations at FIU, to discuss **"The EU-Mercosur Agreement: A Win-Win for Markets to the Detriment of Amazonia"**

Markus Thiel, welcomed the large audience, and before giving the floor to Manuela Picq, provided some information on the [EU-MERCOSUR Partnership Agreement](#); On June 29, 2019, the European Union and Mercosur (including Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay), concluded negotiations for a trade agreement. On December 6, 2024, the two sides took their

agreement to the next level by agreeing on new commitments towards sustainability such as incorporating the [Paris Agreement](#) and addressing the deforestation. The agreement, finalized on December 6, 2024, covers trade, political dialogue, and cooperation. Markus Thiel also highlighted what the EU expects from this agreement. He commented on key facts from the European Commission, including that the EU-Mercosur Partnership Agreement will increase the competitiveness of EU companies by eliminating tariffs on a wide range of products and will benefit EU companies.

Manuela Picq continued and pointed out that even the EU and Mercosur are celebrating their latest trade



Full audience at FIU

## The EU-Mercosur Agreement: A Win-Win for Markets to the detriment of Amazonia?



Anthony Pereira, Manuela Picq, and Markus Thiel

agreement as a win-win, indigenous and climate activists see it as a major threat against biodiversity with irreversible risks to Amazonia and the future of the planet. While the agreement claims to operate under a value-based trade agenda that protects labor rights and the environment, Latin American nature defenders warn that it will expand the agribusiness frontier in Amazonia, driving deforestation, land grabs, greenhouse gas emissions and biodiversity loss.

Anthony Pereira asked Manuela Picq what mechanisms the EU has proposed to ensure that labor rights and environmental protections are implemented in the trade agreement.

He also highlighted how Indigenous communities and climate activists have organized to oppose the proposed trade deal.

The next steps are the following:

The agreement is now subject to legal revision and translation before it can be signed and ratified.

The European Parliament and national parliaments of EU member states will need to ratify the agreement before it can enter into force.

The European Commission will play a key role in the ratification process, working with other EU institutions and member states given the strong objections to it in countries such as Austria, France, and Ireland.

After her presentation, Manuela Picq engaged in a conversation with the large audience gathered in the Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs.

We want to thank Manuela Picq for her insightful and

fantastic presentation, our speakers for their contributions, and everyone who attended the event, including students, faculty, the community, and distinguished guests.

*By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*



Anthony Pereira, Manuela Picq, and Markus Thiel

- ▶ To view pictures, [click here](#)
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## MFJMCE ANNUAL CONFERENCE



# Democratic Values & Civic Participation in Europe & Beyond March 10-11, 2025



Keynote speaker: Walter Goetz, Head of the European Parliament Liaison Office in Washington D.C.

As part of our European Union grant focusing on social inclusion and societal diversity, we organized a two-day conference on “Democratic Values and Civic Participation in Europe and Beyond” this year. It took place at Florida International University on March 10-11, 2025.

The year 2024 was a “super election” year. In many European elections, including those for the European Parliament, as well as in the United States, governments changed, sparking a broader debate about democratic values and civic participation. This conference explores issues of inclusion and diversity, with a focus on democratic governance and resilience, and political participation by individuals and civic groups. What challenges do established democracies face in this regard, and how can they be addressed collectively? What can be done to combat apathy and polarization, which are fueled by misinformation and slow consensus-building in increasingly diverse societies? These questions have emerged prominently in both the U.S. and the EU, but they also require reflection on the broader geopolitical contexts in which democratic backsliding and polarization are taking place.

### Keynote Address: Walter Goetz

**Head of the European Parliament Liaison Office  
In Washington D.C.**

On Monday, March 10, 2025, Dr. Markus Thiel opened the conference. He thanked our sponsors and co-sponsors, welcomed the expert panelists, and gave the opening remarks. He introduced our keynote speaker, Walter Goetz, Head of European Parliament Liaison Office in Washington D.C.

Before starting his speech, Walter Goetz thanked Markus Thiel and Christine I. Caly-Sanchez for inviting him to deliver the opening speech of our conference “Democratic Values and Civic Participation in Europe and Beyond” and address ***The European Parliament's role in upholding transatlantic democratic values***. He also congratulated Florida International University and SIPA for being the focal point for EU studies and hosting the European Center of Excellence for over two decades since 2001.

In his speech, he began by giving an overview of the role and composition of the European Parliament. He highlighted that the European Parliament is an important forum for political debate and decision-



## MFJMCE ANNUAL CONFERENCE



## Keynote speaker Walter Goetz—March 10, 2025



Walter Goetz, Head of the European Parliament Liaison Office in Washington D.C.  
and Dr. Markus Thiel, Professor, Politics & International Relations, FIU

making at the EU level. The Members of the European Parliament are directly elected by voters in all Member States to represent people's interests with regard to EU law-making and to make sure other EU institutions are working democratically.

He then described the composition of the European Parliament. It has 720 members elected from the 27 member states of the enlarged European Union. Since 1979, MEPs have been elected by direct universal suffrage for five-year terms. Roberta Metsola, President of the European Parliament, represents Parliament to other EU institutions and the outside world and gives the final go-ahead to the EU budget. The role of the European Parliament encompasses legislative functions, supervisory duties, and budgetary oversight, working alongside the Council of the European Union to shape EU laws, scrutinize other EU institutions, and approve the EU budget.

He then explored the vital role the European Parliament plays in promoting and safeguarding transatlantic democratic values.

Drawing on his extensive experience within the European Parliament, he discussed the challenges and opportunities in strengthening EU-US relations, with a focus on cooperation, shared democratic principles, and the importance of upholding these values in an increasingly complex global context.

He finally stressed that the [European Parliament Liaison Office \(EPLO\)](#) in Washington, D.C. serves as a point of contact and communication between the European Parliament and the U.S. Congress. Its primary role is to foster cooperation and dialogue between legislators in the US and the European Union. The office also provides information to the public in the United States about the European Parliament and its activities.

***During the question and answer session, he answered the following questions:***

With the 'shift to the right' in the most recent elections to the EP, how do you think this will affect the EP's changing role in maintaining democratic politics within



Full audience of distinguished guests, students, and faculty

## MFJMCE ANNUAL CONFERENCE Keynote speaker Walter Goetz



Walter Goetz, Head of the European Parliament Liaison Office in Washington D.C. with distinguished panelists

the EU, and promoting democracy in the world?

To what extent do the different EU member state relations to the US administration (Hungary, Italy vs Rest) impact on the EP/EPLO's 'bridge-building' work in DC?

The drastic changes under the Trump administration, with a Republican-dominated Congress, pose new challenges for EU & EP influence in DC. What approaches or strategies has your office pursued to remain relevant in this 'EU/Europe adverse' context?

Among the many difficult/contentious issues between the US and the EU, such as Climate Change agreements, free trade/tariff discussions, US 'big tech' regulation or solutions to the Ukraine invasion or the Gaza War, which ones are in your opinion easier or harder to negotiate and find consensus?

In your longstanding career within the EP, what has been the most challenging, as well as the most satisfying or successful moment for you (professionally and/or personally)?

After his presentation, the audience engaged in an exciting conversation with Mr. Goetz during the Q&A session. Our MFJMCE was honored to have hosted this prestigious diplomat.

*By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*



Walter Goetz, Head of the EPLO

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



## MFJMCE CONFERENCE

### Keynote speaker Walter Goetz



**Walter Goetz, and Mayor of Coral Gables Vince C. Lago**

On the morning of Monday, March 10, the MFJMCE facilitated a meeting with Coral Gables Mayor Vince C. Lago, during which Dr. Goetz had the opportunity to highlight the role of the European Parliament and discuss transatlantic relations.

Earlier in the afternoon, prior to the keynote address, the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence hosted a coffee chat featuring Dr. Walter Goetz, joined by students and

#### Walter Goetz

**Head of the European Parliament Liaison Office  
In Washington D.C.**

Walter Goetz was appointed as the Head of the European Parliament Liaison Office in Washington DC on September 1, 2023. He previously served as the Head of Cabinet of Transport Commissioner Adina Vălean. Goetz also worked as a civil servant in the Secretary General of the European Parliament in Brussels. From April to November 2019, he was Head of the Secretariat of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE), and from April 2012 to March 2019 he was the Head of the Secretariat of the Committee on Transport and Tourism (TRAN). From October 2009 to July 2011, he was the Head of the Secretariat of the Special Committee on the Financial, Economic and Social Crisis (CRIS). Walter Goetz joined the European Parliament's administration as an Administrator in the ITRE Secretariat in 2006 and later served in the Transatlantic Relations Unit of the European Parliament. From April 2003 to December 2005, he worked as an Administrator in the European Commission, where he was in charge of financial services in the Securities Market and Investment Services Provides Unit of DG MARKT. His career began in the German Federal Ministry of Finance in Bonn and Berlin in the years 1998 to 2003, where he held various positions as a desk officer in customs, fiscal policy and legal departments. He studied Law and Administrative Science in Konstanz and Speyer, Germany, and holds a PhD from the Faculty of Law of the University of Konstanz, Germany.

faculty from FIU's School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA). Moderated by Dr. Markus Thiel, the discussion centered on *"The European Parliament: Its Goals and Challenges."* The event drew a strong turnout from both students and faculty, reflecting keen interest in the topic. Following the dialogue between Dr. Thiel and Dr. Goetz, attendees engaged in a dynamic Q&A session, exploring a range of pressing issues related to the European Union's role in global affairs—including the impact of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, climate change, and debates surrounding free trade and tariffs.



**Walter Goetz with FIU faculty and students**



## MFJMCE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

### Democratic Values & Civic Participation in Europe & Beyond



Panel I—From left to right: Drs. Markus Thiel, Kirsten E. Wood, Alicia Steinmetz, and Kathleen McInnis

#### Panel I: Concepts and Contexts

On the morning of **Tuesday, March 11, 2025**, students, faculty, and members of the public gathered at **FIU's SIPA II** for the inaugural panel discussion titled **"Democratic Values and Civic Participation: Contexts and Issues."** The event served as a thought-provoking introduction to the principles of democratic engagement and their significance in pluralistic, liberal societies. Moderated by **Dr. Markus Thiel**, the panel featured three distinguished experts:

- **Dr. Kirsten E. Wood**, Professor of History at FIU
- **Dr. Alicia Steinmetz**, Assistant Professor of Politics and International Relations at FIU
- **Dr. Kathleen McInnis**, Director of the Smart Women, Smart Power Initiative and Senior Fellow in Defense & Security at the Center for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS)

Together, they explored foundational questions such as: *What historical, normative, and contextual elements contribute to vibrant democratic political cultures?*

#### Historical Roots of Civic Engagement

Dr. Kirsten Wood offered a compelling historical perspective with her presentation, *"American Civic Participation and Democratic Possibilities as Seen from the Early Republic's Taverns."* Drawing from her 2023 book, *Accommodating the Republic: Taverns in the Early United States*, Dr. Wood illustrated how taverns—once viewed as problematic spaces—played a crucial role in shaping civic life. These establishments became hubs for political discourse, transportation innovation, and the evolution of citizenship in the young republic.

#### Democracy and the Power of Argumentation

Dr. Alicia Steinmetz delved into the philosophical underpinnings of democratic discourse in her talk, *"Democracy and the Art of Argumentation."* A scholar of early modern political thought with interests in ancient Greek rhetoric and contemporary liberalism, Dr. Steinmetz emphasized the importance of imagination and freedom in democratic societies. She explored how argumentation fosters civic engagement and resilience, while also addressing the challenges posed by polarization and misinformation.

#### Narratives of Democracy and Gender Perspectives

Dr. Kathleen McInnis concluded the panel with her presentation, *"The Story of a Democracy."* She highlighted the intersection of gender and public policy, drawing from her work at CSIS and her leadership of the Smart Women, Smart Power Initiative. Dr. McInnis discussed how inclusive narratives and smart power strategies contribute to democratic vitality, particularly in the realms of national and transatlantic security.

This panel marked a meaningful step in fostering dialogue around democratic values and civic participation, offering attendees a rich blend of historical insight, theoretical depth, and policy relevance.



- **Detailed program** , [click here](#)
- To view bios panelists, [click here](#)
- To view flyer, [click here](#)



## MFJMCE CONFERENCE

### Democratic Values & Civic Participation in Europe & Beyond



From left to right: Dr. Agatha Caraballo; Sylvia Cesaratto, Consul General of Canada; Raphaël Trapp, Consul General of France; Christofer Burger, Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany

#### Consular roundtable: National Views on Gender Equality Policies & Democracy

The experts in the panel were Hon. Sylvia Cesaratto, Consul General of Canada in Miami; Hon. Christofer Burger, Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany; and Hon. Raphaël Trapp, Consul General of France in Miami. Agatha Caraballo, Founding Director of the Maurice A. Ferré Institute for Civic Leadership, Teaching Professor in the Department of Public Policy and Administration, Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs, moderated the panel. Each of the Consul General gave each of the consuls general spoke about his/her national priorities and shared his/her reflections and perspectives on gender equality policies and democracy.

Sylvia Cesaratto, Consul General of Canada in Miami, was the first panelist. She highlighted that in Canada, gender equality policies are closely linked to the country's democratic principles, with the government actively working to advance women's rights and address gender-based inequalities. This includes legislative efforts, funding for gender-based violence prevention, and promoting women's participation in leadership and decision-making roles. She confirmed that Canada has established laws like the Canadian Human Rights Act and the Department for Women and

Gender Equality Act to protect against discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity. Raphaël Trapp, Consul General of France, confirmed that France prioritizes gender equality, integrating it into both domestic and foreign policy. France's approach includes legal frameworks, international initiatives, and a focus on women's rights, including reproductive rights and combating gender-based violence. While France has made significant strides, particularly in legislative measures, challenges remain in areas like political representation and the gender pay gap.

That is why France launched its 2025-2030 international strategy on March 7, 2025. At the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a network of equality officers works daily to:

- Integrate gender issues into all actions (diplomatic, consular, internal);
- Train officials to combat discrimination and stereotypes;
- Promote professional equality and diversity and prevent violence;
- Encourage innovative and inclusive practices,

He pointed out that France has a strong record on reproductive rights, including the right to safe abortion, which is a cornerstone of France's feminist foreign



## MFJMCE CONFERENCE

### Democratic Values & Civic Participation in Europe & Beyond



From left to right: Agatha Caraballo, Sylvia Cesaratto, Raphaël Trapp, and Christofer Burger

policy. France has a long history of gender equality legislation, including laws on equal pay, professional equality, and reproductive rights. Consul General Trapp reminded the audience that France was the fourth country to adopt feminist diplomacy in 2019, after Sweden, Canada, and Luxembourg.

Christofer Burger, Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany was the third panelist and presented *Germany's Feminist Foreign Policy guidelines* and what they entailed.

Germany's new Feminist Foreign Policy guidelines which were published by the German government in 2022, seek to anchor gender equality in different areas of German foreign policy. But they also raise hard questions about what it means to put these feminist principles into practice—particularly in light of security concerns raised by the war in Ukraine.

Consul General Burger explained that the guidelines focus on three overarching objectives: equal *rights* for women and girls, the equitable *representation* of women in all areas of society, and equal access to *resources* for women and girls (in short: rights, representation, and resources).

To advance these objectives, the [guidelines](#) highlight three main areas of action: gender mainstreaming, gender budgeting, and internal diversity. First, in terms of mainstreaming, the guidelines note that Germany will integrate a focus on gender equality and women's rights across different areas of external engagement, international engagement.

To sum it up, he believes that Feminist Foreign Policy does not pretend to have audiences, but he hopes that it will bring questions such as: "Can Feminist Foreign Policy decenter Foreign Policy?"

At the end of the presentation, our students were honored and grateful to engage in conversations with our diplomats.



Walter Goetz and Raphael Trapp

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



## MFJMC CONFERENCE

## Democratic Values &amp; Civic Participation in Europe &amp; Beyond



From left to right: Tatiana Kostadinova, Mauro Barisione, Regis Dandoy, and Ekaterina Rashkova

### Panel II: Democratic Resilience and Participation in a Transatlantic Comparison

The second panel of the conference delved into the pressing challenges facing established democracies on both sides of the Atlantic. Topics included political polarization, populism, diversity, and inequality—issues that continue to test the resilience of democratic institutions. The discussion centered on whether and how democratic resilience can be achieved or sustained in the face of these evolving pressures.

Moderated by Dr. Tatiana Kostadinova, Professor of Politics & International Relations at Florida International University (FIU) and Director of the European & Eurasian Studies Program, the panel featured three distinguished scholars:

- **Dr. Mauro Barisione**, Professor in the Department of Sociology and Political Science at the University of Milano, Italy
- **Dr. Regis Dandoy**, Professor at the Center for European Studies, Universidad San Francisco de Quito, Ecuador
- **Dr. Ekaterina R. Rashkova**, Associate Professor of Comparative Politics and Director of the PPE Program at Utrecht University School of Governance, the Netherlands

Dr. Barisione opened the panel with his presentation, *Transatlantic Lessons in Political Polarization*. Drawing on his expertise in political ideologies and digital

politics, he explored the shared experience of rising polarization in both Europe and the United States. His talk emphasized the value of comparative analysis in understanding and addressing political division, suggesting that democracies on both sides of the Atlantic can learn from each other's responses to these challenges.

Next, Dr. Dandoy presented *Transatlantic Democratic Support? The European Missions of Election Observation in the Americas*. With a research focus on digital democracy, electoral processes, and federalism, Dr. Dandoy discussed the role of European Union electoral observation missions in supporting democratic practices in the Americas. As a Jean Monnet Chair, he highlighted the impact and limitations of these missions in fostering democratic norms beyond Europe.

The final presentation came from Dr. Rashkova, who addressed the topic of minority political representation in her talk, *Exclusive Democracy? The Role of Political Parties in Mobilizing the Migrant Vote*. She examined how political parties engage—or fail to engage—migrant communities, raising critical questions about inclusivity and representation in democratic systems.

Together, the panelists offered a rich and nuanced exploration of the transatlantic democratic landscape, underscoring the importance of collaboration, comparative research, and inclusive practices in strengthening democratic resilience.

## MFJMCE CONFERENCE

## Democratic Values &amp; Civic Participation in Europe &amp; Beyond



Panel III—From left to right: Rebecca Friedman, Carl-Philippe Juste, and Tameka Bradley Hobbs

### Panel III: From Local to Global, from Miami to the World: Possibilities and Linkages

On a vibrant afternoon, the third panel of the day convened to explore the dynamic interplay between local and global forces that shape democratic political cultures—particularly as reflected in Miami, Florida, and beyond.

Moderated by Dr. Rebecca Friedman, Professor of History and Founding Director of the Wolfsonian Public Humanities Lab at FIU, the panel featured two distinguished voices: Carl-Philippe Juste, acclaimed photojournalist and community activist with the *Miami Herald*, and Dr. Tameka Bradley Hobbs, historian, author, educator, and Regional Library Manager at the Broward County African American Research & Cultural Center.

The conversation began with a presentation of Carl-Philippe Juste's evocative artwork focused on Haiti and Cuba, setting the stage for a rich dialogue on Miami's identity as a global city. Dr. Friedman then invited the panelists to reflect on how local experiences in South Florida intersect with broader global narratives.

Juste spoke passionately about Caribbean immigration and its influence on South Florida's democratic culture, emphasizing the lived experiences of immigrant communities and their contributions to civic life. Dr. Hobbs expanded the discussion by situating South Florida's story of democracy and civic engagement within national and international contexts, highlighting the region's unique role in shaping inclusive political discourse.

Each of the day's three panels concluded with interactive Q&A sessions, allowing students, faculty, and community members to engage directly with the speakers—adding depth and diversity to the conversation.

The MFJMCE is proud to have hosted such a thought-provoking event, featuring expert voices and a lively audience whose questions and insights enriched the dialogue.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our co-sponsors for their generous support:

- The Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs
- The Dorothea Green Lecture Series
- The Ruth K. and Shepard Broad Distinguished Lecture Series
- The European & Eurasian Studies Program
- The Vaclav Havel Program for Human Rights and Diplomacy
- The Department of Politics and International Relations
- The Department of History

By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez



► To see pictures, panel III, [click here](#)

# 

## Local Florida Euro Challenge Competition 2025

Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025 | 8:00 a.m.—5:30 p.m. | FIU



From left to right: Markus Thiel, Maria Lorca-Susino, and Gloria Guzman

### Florida High School Students Compete in Prestigious Euro Challenge at FIU

On March 14, 2025, the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence proudly hosted the Florida Preliminary Round of the Euro Challenge Competition—one of the European Union Delegation's most impactful youth outreach programs in the United States. Held at Florida International University (FIU), this marks the 19th year of the competition at FIU and the 18th year of partnership with the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta's Miami Branch.

This year, nine high schools from across Florida participated. Seven schools from Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties competed in person at FIU, while two schools from Alachua,

Orange, and Palm Beach counties joined via video conference on March 13.

The Euro Challenge invites 9th and 10th grade students with interests in law, international relations, economics, and the humanities to form teams of three to five members. These teams research economic challenges faced by Eurozone countries, propose policy solutions, and present their findings to a panel of judges. This year's topics included:

- Climate Change and Going Green
- Managing Migration Flows
- Inequality, Social Mobility and the Gender Gap
- Boosting Growth, Competitiveness, and Prosperity
- High Government Deficits and Debt

Students focused on six EU countries: Croatia, France, Greece, Italy, Latvia, and Spain.



Archimedean Upper Conservatory presenting "Spain and Boosting Growth, Competitiveness, and Prosperity"

# EURO CHALLENGE 2025

## Local Florida Euro Challenge Competition 2025



**Gulliver Preparatory School: 1<sup>st</sup> place in Florida**

"We've been preparing for the competition for about a year, and are thrilled to present our project on *France and Managing Migration Flows*," said one enthusiastic student.

The competition also welcomed distinguished judges from the community, including Gloria Guzman, Senior Economic & Financial Education Specialist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta Miami Branch. Judges evaluated not only the students' grasp of economic concepts and indicators but also their teamwork, presentation flow, and public speaking skills.

"Each year, the presentations improve. We look for students' understanding of their country's economic challenges and their ability to communicate effectively as a team," said Guzman.

Three Florida schools advanced to the national competition in New York City on April 28, 2025:

1. **Gulliver Preparatory School** – 1st Place
2. **Archimedean Upper Conservatory** – 2nd Place
3. **Florida Atlantic University High School** – 3rd Place

Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director of the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, has been a driving force behind the Florida competition

since its inception. She is the recruiter and organizer of the preliminary competition in Florida.

"Since 2008, we've recruited 130 high schools from across Florida (Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, St. Lucie, Lee, Alachua, Orange and Leon counties), and sent 32 teams to compete nationally in New York. A total of 161 students have represented Florida schools at the national level," she shared.

"This competition has become a showcase for Florida schools and a transformative experience for students, contributing significantly to their academic and personal growth. We are extremely proud of our schools."

*By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*



► More Information on the Euro Challenge, [click here](#)  
► To view pictures, [click here](#)



**Markus Thiel, Maria Lorca Susino, Christine Caly-Sanchez, and Gloria Guzman**

# CHALLENGE 2025

## Local Florida Euro Challenge Competition 2025 | FIU



Archimedean Upper Conservatory School — Teams 1 & 2



Gulliver Preparatory School



Florida Atlantic University High School

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## Local Florida Euro Challenge Competition 2025 | Testimonials

The members of the teams shared with us their experiences during the competition and the significance of their participation in the Euro Challenge Competition for their personal and professional life.

### FAU HIGH SCHOOL



**Gabriel Sharipov**  
Florida Atlantic University  
High School  
10th grade

"Participating in the Euro Challenge for two years has truly been one of the most amazing experiences of my high school journey. In 9th grade, I had the opportunity to explore Portugal's transition toward a greener economy, and in 10th grade, I focused on migration flows in France; both topics gave me a deeper understanding of the Euro Area and how real-world economic challenges are addressed. Not only did I strengthen my research and public speaking skills, but I also developed friendships and a passion for international economics. The Euro Challenge helped me grow both academically and personally, and I am incredibly grateful to have been a part of it."



FAU High School team

### ARCHIMEDEAN UPPER CONSERVATORY



**Sofia Lopez**  
Archimedean Upper Conservatory  
9th grade

This competition was an amazing experience for me, and I think I can say the same on behalf of the rest of the team. We learned more about the European Union, how it functions, and the purpose it serves to its member nations. Furthermore, we had the opportunity to engage with real-world problems, including "Boosting Growth, Competitiveness, and Prosperity" in the country we chose, Spain. Overall, it was a rewarding experience that I hope to participate in again next year.



**Olivia Solorzano**  
Archimedean Upper Conservatory  
9th grade

I'm grateful to say I have participated in the Euro Challenge. This year, my team and I represented Spain and tackled a real-world issue needing to be addressed. It has been a rewarding experience, allowing me to build new friendships and learn about the European economy that I never would have learned otherwise. Thanks to this amazing extracurricular activity and experience, I have become a more well-rounded person, hoping to expand my knowledge by participating next year!



Launched in the US in 2006, the Euro Challenge competition on European economic and monetary policy provides high school students the opportunity to learn about the euro, the single market, and other concepts central to the European Union and economics.

► More Information on the Euro Challenge, [click here](#)

# EURO CHALLENGE 2025

## National Euro Challenge Competition in New York | April 28, 2025



25 high schools from 13 states participated in the national Euro Challenge semi-finals in NY.

Ambassador Jovita Neliupšienė

### Florida High School Teams Shine at National Euro Challenge in New York City

Following a series of regional competitions, 25 high school teams from 13 states traveled to New York City to compete in the national semi-finals of the Euro Challenge, hosted at TD Bank, with the final round held on April 28. Among them were three outstanding teams from Florida, proudly representing the state after earning their spots at the Florida Euro Challenge Competition on March 14 in Miami.

In total, 15 students and 3 dedicated teachers from Florida made the journey. For many students, it was their first time in New York City—an unforgettable experience they described as “a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.”

#### Florida Teams and Their Presentations:

- **Gulliver Preparatory School** presented *Boosting Growth, Competitiveness, & Prosperity in Croatia*. Their proposal focused on strengthening Croatia's economy through improvements in education, business, and government. The team showcased their ability to apply complex economic theories to real-world challenges—demonstrating critical thinking, collaboration, and strategic insight, all core to their International Business and Entrepreneurship program.
- **Archimedean Upper Conservatory** also tackled *Boosting Growth Competitiveness & Prosperity*, focusing on Spain.
- **Florida Atlantic University High School** addressed *Managing Migration Flows*, with a focus on France.

Students were inspired by the high level of competition and the opportunity to present their economic analyses to a distinguished panel of judges, including ambassadors, consuls, EU Delegation officials, and financial experts. Notable judges included Ben Carliner, Senior Economist at the Delegation of the European Union to the U.S.; Marco Antonio Achon, Global Head of Corporate Banking at Santander; and Bruce Kasman, Chief Economist and Global Head of Economic Research at JP Morgan Chase.

After a full day of presentations, participants attended the Recognition and Award Ceremony at TD Bank, where Jovita Neliupšienė, Ambassador of the European Union to the United States, congratulated all teams and announced the finalists. She also commended the teachers for their dedication and mentorship during extracurricular hours.

**“One of the fun things about this program is that it lets students put themselves in the shoes of policymakers,” said Ben Carliner, final round judge and Senior Economist at the EU Delegation to the U.S.**

The Euro Challenge offers students a unique opportunity to grow, learn, and deepen their understanding of global economics. Florida is already looking forward to next year's competition!

By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez



FAU High School team at the semi-final in NY

# EURO CHALLENGE 2025

## National Euro Challenge Competition in New York | April 28, 2025

The Euro Challenge is a program of the Delegation of the European Union to the United States in partnership with the Moody's Foundation, Working in Support of Education (W!se), and the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. It is funded by the European Union. Euro Challenge is also supported by BNP Paribas, Florida International University, the University of Pittsburgh, the University of Illinois, the University of Texas at Austin, the University of Washington, the World Affairs Council of Charlotte, the World Affairs Council of Seattle, and the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta (Miami Branch).

### Students from Saint Peter's Preparatory (NJ) Won 2025 Euro Challenge in NY

#### Five High School Teams Received Awards for their Knowledge of the Euro and Euro Area

- 1<sup>st</sup> place: Saint Peter's Preparatory (NJ)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place: Greenwich High School (CT)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place: International Academy OKMA (MI)

### 2025 PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

**Archimedean Upper Conservatory (FL)**  
 Bergen County Academy (NJ)  
 Brighton High School (NY)  
 British International School of Houston (TX)  
 Cedarburg High School (WI)  
 Delbarton School (NJ)  
 Farmington High School CT  
**Florida Atlantic University High School (FL)**  
 Garden City High School (NY)  
 George W. Hewlett High School (NY)  
 Greenwich High School (CT)  
**Gulliver Preparatory School (FL)**  
 High Technology High School (NJ)  
 Hunter College High School (NY)  
 Ingraham High School (WA)  
 International Academy OKMA (MI)  
 Lexington High School (MA)  
 Northgate High School (PA)  
 Oakland Catholic High School (PA)  
 Ocean Lakes High School (VA)  
 Princeton High School (NJ)  
 Providence Day School (NC)  
 Saint Joseph High School (IN)  
 Saint Peter's Preparatory (NJ)  
 The Bronx High School of Science (NY)



Our Florida students arrived in New York one day before the Euro Challenge competition and enjoyed visiting New York.



*Pictures shared by Florida Atlantic University HS Team*



► More Information on the Euro Challenge, [click here](#)



## 2025 Midwest Model EU Indiana University, Bloomington April 4-6, 2025



Hon. Brian Cahalane, Consul General of Ireland in Chicago, keynote speaker at the Midwest Model EU, Indiana University

The Midwest Model European Union (MMEU) is the second oldest and largest intercollegiate simulation of the European Union in North America. Annually held at Indiana University Bloomington, it simulates the EU decision-making process and brings together undergraduate students from across the United States. Participants replicate the work of the European institutions in the European Parliament, discussing controversial, real-life issues. During the conference, students play the roles of representatives of EU Member State delegations, and negotiate diverse issues of concern for their country in order to achieve consensus on significant resolutions for the Union.

Colleges send delegations of 4-7 members each, representing the 27 EU member states. Over a period of 48 hours, they meet in formal and informal sessions as the European Council, the European Commission, and several different councils of ministers.

This year, 27 teams from 21 institutions, including FIU, with over 150 students, gathered in Bloomington, for the simulation event and met during 3 days from April 4 to 6, 2025.

The 2025 edition included the presence of Brian Cahalane, Consul General of Ireland in Chicago, who was the keynote speaker, and Niklas Goerlitz from the European Parliament Liaison Office in Washington D.C. Who gave remarks at the closing ceremony. They shared valuable perspectives on diplomacy and transatlantic relations.

Florida International University was proud to take part in this prestigious competition. Our Midwest Model team was composed of four undergraduate students: from FIU, Marianna Filgueiras Banchero, Alexandria Cerini, Camila Sandia, and Carlos Ricaurte Orozco.

They were accompanied by Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director of the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence.



**Christine Caly-Sanchez with FIU team:**  
Alexandria Cerini, Carlos Ricaurte Orozco, Camila Sandia,  
and Marianna Filgueiras Banchero



## 2025 Midwest Model EU Indiana University, Bloomington April 4-6, 2025



**Camila Sandia represented Finland and was the** Minister of Foreign Affairs at the Foreign Affairs

From Friday afternoon through Sunday afternoon, students introduced, discussed, and reached decisions on EU policy. National leaders provided overall direction, ministers huddle to work out the details of policy, commissioners and their directors-general tried to give new direction to foreign and security policy, the single market, eastward enlargement, and the development of the euro, and emergency joint meetings are held to break impasses.

On this occasion, the FIU delegation represented Finland. Alexandria Cerini was assigned a position of Prime Minister from Finland; Marianna Banchemo Filgueiras, a position of Minister of Justice & Home Affairs from Finland; Camila Sandia, a position of Minister of Foreign Affairs; and Carlos Ricaurte Orozco, a position of Minister of Economic & Financial Affairs;

The students who prepared for months for this prestigious simulation competition had an outstanding performance when they presented their resolutions and directives. They used bargaining, negotiation, public speaking and diplomacy skills to pass legislation. They were given the chance to debate policy, resolve disputes, build compromises, and chart the course of a strong, unified Europe.

Our sincere thanks go to the organizer for their kindness and hospitality. We are looking forward to participating in the 2026 edition.

*By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*

- ▶ More Information on the Midwest Model EU, [click here](#)
- ▶ To view pictures, [click here](#)



**Alexandria Cerini was assigned a position of Prime Minister from Finland at the European Council**



**Marianna Filgueiras Banchemo represented Finland and was the Minister of Justice & Home Affairs**



## 2025 Midwest Model EU Indiana University, Bloomington April 4-6, 2025 | TESTIMONIALS



Carlos Ricaurte Orozco, a member of the MMEU team shared his experience with us during the competition and the importance of his participation in the Midwest Model EU for his personal and professional life.



### Carlos Ricaurte Orozco

Florida International University  
BA in International Relations and  
Political Science (Spring 2025)

There are many ways to describe the great experiences gained from this year's Midwest Model EU Simulation. I have had the privilege of traveling to represent FIU as part of the Model United Nations Program before, and therefore, the MMEU Experience in Indiana didn't feel too unfamiliar. The logistical aspects of early flights, staying at a hotel, and in-depth policy research had become common practice for me. Nonetheless, despite these similarities, the MMEU Experience didn't cease to grant me many unique benefits.

I was part of a four-person team representing the Republic of Finland within this iteration of the Midwest MEU. During our time in Bloomington, we were accompanied by Mrs. Christine Caly-Sanchez, the Associate Director at the Jean Monnet Center of Excellence. My fellow team members from FIU were each sent to differing committees inspired by the ones present within the actual European Union, while I was granted a seat as Finland in the Economic and Financial Council. My time there was nothing short of amazing. I had the privilege of meeting a great many others like me, interested in debate, policy, and negotiation within the framework of the EU. Adapting to the procedural nature of debate within MEU proved to be an initial challenge, but the amicable atmosphere and intriguing nature of the policies pushed forth by all delegates made it all feel practically like smooth



Carlos Ricaurte Orozco represented Finland and was the Minister of Economic & Financial Affairs

sailing. The enrichment of the event not only came from these aforementioned things, but also from the networking and getting to meet an array of like-minded people from over 25 universities across the Midwest. The experience in Bloomington proved to be a friendly and fun challenge for one's skills when it comes to negotiation and diplomacy. This being something that'll always be particularly useful across many, many fields of work. I am certainly glad that I decided to join this iteration of MMEU during my Senior Year. It was a great way to finish off my final undergraduate semester!

By Carlos Ricaurte Orozco



FIU Team at the MMEU Bloomington: Carlos Ricaurte Orozco, Alexandria Cerini, Marianna Filgueiras Banchero, Camila Sandia



## 2025 Schuman Challenge

### Delegation of the European Union to the US

#### Washington D.C. | April 10-11, 2025



At the Delegation of the European Union to the United States in Washington D.C. — Photo Courtesy of the EU Delegation

The Schuman Challenge is the annual foreign affairs contest for undergraduate students in the United States and an opportunity to present and defend transatlantic policy recommendations on a specific theme in front of a panel of judges. The competition takes place in Washington, D.C., at the EU Delegation, which funds the competition. The competition takes place over two days in Spring and includes an evening reception with foreign policy professionals.

The competition comprises two rounds: a preliminary round for all teams to present their policy proposals, followed by the finals. Three teams from the first round proceed to the finals. During their 10-minute presentations, each team (3-4 students) highlight their actionable proposals and then participate in a 10-minute Q-and-A session with the judges.

The 2025 edition of the Schuman Challenge took place from April 10-11 at the offices of the EU Delegation in Washington, D.C. The assigned question focused on **Artificial Intelligence as a Key Technology: A Shared Initiative for the EU and U.S. vis-à-vis China.**

This year's competition featured a record of 28 participating universities from 17 U.S. states.

For the second time, Florida International University participated in the 2025 Schuman Challenge Competition. Markus Thiel, Professor of Political Science and International Relations; and Director, Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, accompanied our team composed of Marianna Filgueiras Banchemo, Alexandria Cerini, Camila Sandia, and Carlos Ricaurte Orozco, Junior and Senior students in International Relations.

On April 10, our team who chose "The Great Transatlantic AI Firewall" presented their policy and ideas in front of a high-level panel of judges comprised

of diplomats from European embassies and the Delegation of the European Union to the U.S. Our team had an outstanding performance and were congratulated by its jury. The same day, they had the opportunity to attend a reception with diplomats and foreign policy professionals, and met all the other participating universities.

On April 11, they attended the finals and listened to the three finalists. This year's winners were American University, Columbia University, and the University of Texas, Austin. American University won 1st place with an insightful presentation on "Precursor Chemical Identification and Supply-Chain Evaluation (PRECISE)".

In Florida, we are looking forward to participating in next year competition!

*By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*



FIU team: Carlos Ricaurte Orozco, Alexandria Cerini, Camila Sandia, and Marianna Filgueiras Banchemo,

► To view pictures, [click here](#)

► Photos courtesy of the EU Delegation, to the USA, [click here](#)



## 2025 Schuman Challenge

### Delegation of the European Union to the US

Washington D.C. | April 10-11, 2025



American University team presenting their policies to a distinguished judges panel—*Photo Courtesy of the EU Delegation*

Created by the EU Delegation to the United States in 2017, the Schuman Challenge brings together scholarly and talented undergraduate students to participate in a competition that reinforces an understanding of global affairs as well as the vitality and strength of the transatlantic partnership between the European Union and the United States.

► More Information on the Schuman Challenge, [click here](#)



At the Schuman Challenge final on April 11: judges and EU Delegation members with the 28 participating universities — *Photo Courtesy of the EU Delegation*



## 2025 Schuman Challenge | TESTIMONIALS



The members of the team shared their experiences with us during the competition and the significance of their participation in the Schuman Challenge in their personal and professional life.



### Carlos Ricaurte Orozco

Florida International University  
BA in International Relations and  
Political Science (Spring 2025)

The 2024-25 Schuman Challenge represented quite the intricate and organized event, of which I had the privilege of participating in. Throughout this experience and our stay in DC, we were supported and accompanied by Dr Markus Thiel, the Director of the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, and Professor of Politics and International Relations at FIU. I served as a part of a four-person team, the same one that joined me in Bloomington, Indiana, for the MMEU Simulation. The challenge consisted of a specific policy presentation before a panel of judges, around the topic of conjoined AI Policy between the United States and the European Union vis-à-vis the rise of Chinese AI models. Through this, we had the opportunity to craft an interesting set of policies aimed at fostering trans-Atlantic cooperation between the two regions, for both parts to work in cohesion against the growing threat of foreign and malicious AI models.

Our team prepared intensely for several weeks, conducting key research and bringing in case studies from previous US and EU legislation in order to propose our ideas to the panel of judges. Through the Schuman Challenge, I had the unique opportunity to meet many professionals working within the European Union, policymakers who volunteered to listen to us and our ideas. These policymakers chose to be our judges and opted to offer us their advice throughout



Delegation of the European Union to the United States

their lengthy careers within the European Union. By the time it was our turn to present, we were part of the other 20+ teams that participated in the Challenge and got the opportunity to meet many of them. The Schuman Challenge represented a great exchange of ideas, experiences, and all-around individual and professional growth. Certainly, something extremely valuable.

*By Carlos Ricaurte Orozco*



Delegation of the European Union to the United States



## 2025 Midwest Model EU & Schuman Challenge

### Indiana University, Bloomington & Washington DC

#### April 4-6, 2025 & April 10-11, 2025 | TESTIMONIAL



**Camila Sandia, a member of the MMEU team and the Schuman Challenge shared with us her experience during the competitions and the importance of her participation in the Midwest Model EU and Schuman Challenge for her personal and professional life.**



### Camila Sandia

Florida International University  
BA in International Relations and  
Political Science (Spring 2026)

This year, I had the incredible opportunity to participate in the Midwest Model EU and the Schuman Challenge. Both experiences have undeniably shaped not only my outlook on European and global studies but also my attitude toward action. I am now more motivated than ever to make a difference in the world!

For the Midwest Model EU, our team represented Finland. It was my first time participating in a simulation, but I had thoroughly enjoyed Dr. Thiel's class on the European Union, which sparked my excitement to dive deeper into this subject despite my initial nerves. And dive we did!

After weeks of preparation and immersion into all things Finland, I felt ready to step into my role as its Foreign Affairs Minister in Indiana. It was so rewarding not only to gain an "insider's look" at a foreign affairs meeting but also to actively take part in promoting the interests of a state and its people. I learned so much about compromise and persuasion – and I discovered that there's nothing like the feeling of getting a proposal passed after intense debate!

As for the Schuman Challenge, this year's topic focused on AI, specifically how the US and EU can cooperate on AI concerning China. My team and I developed a proposal to strengthen existing complimentary frameworks between the US and the EU with new principles aimed at improving AI governance transparency. Our plan detailed a

collaborative approach to track critical hardware, ensuring transparency about where data originates and who owns it. This would allow for more ethical AI use while minimizing China's influence on hardware supply chains. In turn, this would enable the EU to become a hardware hub, while the US would have greater flexibility in its innovative software.

The Schuman Challenge involved a lot of behind-the-scenes work, analyzing the interactions between the three states in question and understanding their individual priorities to find a way for the US and EU to align their values on the global stage despite the rift between them today. The competition's name is no lie; it was indeed a challenge, but our trip to Washington, D.C., made it all worthwhile! It was incredibly insightful to receive feedback from our judges – officials actively involved in policymaking – and their advice will stay with me forever. After connecting with students from across the country and hearing the different ways people interpreted the prompt, I left feeling enriched by the spectrum of thought I was exposed to!

I'm immensely grateful to Dr. Thiel and Dr. Caly for trusting me and providing me with such a fantastic opportunity to collaborate on a scale I had never experienced before! They've been extraordinary mentors, and I feel that I've grown both personally and professionally thanks to their kindness and guidance. Now that I've gotten a taste of the real world of international relations, I'm looking forward to even bigger and better things ahead!

*By Camila Sandia*



Carlos Ricaurte Orozco, Alexandria Cerini, and Camila Sandia



## MFJMCE Roundtable

**Friday, May 9, 2025 : Europe Day Celebration**  
**EU recognition Awards Ceremony for FIU students**



Tatiana Kostadinova, Lisette den Breems, Raphaël Trapp, Christofer Burger, Giacomo Montrasio, and Dara Mac Gabhann

On the occasion of Europe Day, May 9, the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence invited Lisette den Breems, Consul General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands; Raphaël Trapp, Consul General of France; Christofer Burger, Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany; Giacomo Montrasio, Vice Consul General of Italy; and Dara Mac Gabhann, Vice Consul of Ireland, to engage with FIU students about the significance of a strong and united European Union and the fundamental values that underpin its success.

Together, during a panel discussion moderated by Dr. Tatiana Kostadinova, they championed their shared values: democracy, freedom, equality, human rights, environmental protection, and transatlantic relations between the EU and the United States, not to mention the solidarity of all EU Member States with Ukraine.

After listening to the European anthem, *Ode to Joy*, Tatiana Kostadinova and Christine I. Caly-Sanchez welcomed the audience and thanked the panelists.

Among the students who attended the event, the ones who graduated this Fall 2024, and Spring 2025 and had fulfilled all the requirements for the Certificate in European & Eurasian Studies, were proud and honored to receive their certificates from the European consuls general at the recognition award ceremony.

Students who participated in the Midwest Model EU

and the Schuman Challenge this year were honored and received certificates of recognition. High school students who participated in the Euro Challenge competition were also recognized for their hard work and dedication, and their teachers for their leadership and guidance. This year, Professor Jose Morcillo and graduate student Jing Ge, who received a Faculty Curriculum Development grant, and a European Research grant from the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, were also recognized for their research on the EU.

Christine I. Caly-Sanchez had the honor and pleasure of serving as the MC for the event this year, and was proud to emphasize that there is nothing more rewarding than recognizing our students. "Your success is our success." "We are so proud of you and all you've accomplished," she proudly said.

After the ceremony, students, faculty and consuls general networked at a reception hosted by the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence.

We would like to sincerely thank Consuls General Lisette den Breems, Christofer Burger, Raphaël Trapp, and Vice Consuls General Giacomo Montrasio, and Dara Mac Gabhann for their participation in this event, and congratulate our students.

*By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*

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





## May 9th, 2025: Europe Day Celebration EU recognition Awards Ceremony



Hon. Lisette den Breems & Christine Caly



Noah Alves & Hon. Raphaël Trapp



Tatiana Kostadinova & Delano Kethe Cicconi



European Consuls General and Diplomats with 2025 awardees, Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, and Tatiana Kostadinova



Lizaveta Aparina & Giacomo Montrasio



Hon. Christofer Burger & Eduardo Agustin Aljure



Dara Mac Gabhann



Nicole Martinez & Hon. Christofer Burger



## 2025 MFJMCE FACULTY and GRADUATE STUDENTS EU RESEARCH GRANTS



Each year, FIU-MFJMCE hosts an annual competition that awards research and curriculum development grants to prospective faculty members from FIU and its partner institutions: University of Central Florida, University of North Florida, University of South Florida, and Florida Atlantic University. Award recipients are provided with financial support for travel, research/archival work, implementation of new curriculum, and other associated costs. These grants are designed to stimulate new research on the European Union (EU) and the role it plays in global affairs.

This year, the jury committee awarded two EU research grants: one EU Faculty Curriculum Development Grant to a faculty member from Florida International University (FIU), **Dr. Jose Morcillo Gomez**; and one Graduate Student EU Research Award to FIU doctoral student, **Jing Ge**. Congratulations to the two recipients for their great proposals.



- For more information on the Faculty Curriculum Development Grant, [click here](#)
- For more information on the EU Faculty & Graduate Students Research Grants, [click here](#)

### FACULTY EU RESEARCH AWARD 2025 GRANTEE



#### **Dr. Jose Morcillo Gomez**

Associate Teaching Professor of Spanish; Undergraduate Program Director of Spanish, Department of Modern Languages Florida International University.

**Research:** “Creating Educational Materials on Spanish Culture and History of the Spanish Language as State Member of the EU”

### GRADUATE EU RESEARCH AWARD 2025 GRANTEE



#### **Jing Ge**

Ph.D. Candidate in International Relations, Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs, Florida International University

**Research:** “Under what conditions are Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs) able to effectively manage regulatory competition among the EU, the US and the PRC?”



## Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence FACULTY CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT GRANT Interview with grantee Dr. Jose Morcillo Gomez



*Dr. Jose Morcillo Gomez is an Associate Teaching Professor of Spanish and Undergraduate Program Director of Spanish in the Department of Modern Languages at Florida International University. This year, he received the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center*

*of Excellence Faculty Curriculum Development grant for "Creating Educational Materials on Spanish Culture and History of the Spanish Language as State Member of the EU"*

*He was kind enough to answer a few questions about his project.*

### **MFJMCE: Can you tell us a little bit about yourself?**

I'm an Associate Teaching Professor of Spanish in the Department of Modern Languages. I currently serve as the Undergraduate Program Director and previously coordinated a Dual Degree Program in Spanish in Qingdao, China, for seven years. I deeply believe in the power of education as the most effective tool to improve people's quality of life and to better understand how our world works. Languages are essential to that process—this is why I love teaching Spanish and being part of a department that offers over ten different languages. In my case, I teach one of the official languages of the **European Union and one of the four most spoken languages in the world.**

### **MFJMCE: In a few words, can you tell us what the focus of your Faculty Curriculum Development research project is?**

The focus is on creating educational materials—including videos, virtual hangouts, and interviews—for courses on Spanish culture and the history of the Spanish language. These resources will emphasize the importance and key role of European Union (EU) policies in Spain's history as a member state, and how EU linguistic policies and the protection of cultural legacies shape educational programs for teaching Spanish.

### **MFJMCE: How did the idea for this research come up?**

I've always believed in finding common ground and building consensus to pursue shared goals. As a Spaniard, I remember how meaningful it was for Spain to become part of the most ambitious economic, political, and social project in modern European history. I vividly recall the moment when former President Felipe González and King Juan Carlos signed the agreement to join the EU. That moment was part of my inspiration for this grant proposal.

I teach courses on Spanish culture and Spanish for business. While I would mention in class that Spain is an EU member and briefly touch on how EU institutions influence national decisions, I hadn't developed this content in a structured or in-depth way. I realized there was a lack of meaningful integration of this important topic in my curriculum. That's why, through this grant, I will develop high-quality materials to use in my classes next semester. As a European teaching outside the EU (both in the U.S. and China), I believe this is essential to understanding Spain's evolving role in today's globalized world.

### **MFJMCE: Your grant proposal says that you will use this research and pedagogical materials in the classroom. What do you hope student will gain from the course?**

I hope students will gain a deeper understanding of how supranational institutions like the EU can transform countries that were previously isolated into active players in a globalized world. Spain is a



Signing of the Accession Treaty of Spain (June 12, 1985)  
Photo European Commission



## Interview with grantee Dr. Jose Morcillo Gomez



Alhambra, Granada, Spain

great example for a case study, showing how joining the EU in the early 1980s positively impacted its international standing and development across economic, political, and social spheres.

### **MFJMCE: Why do you think the focus of your course is especially relevant for students in the U.S.?**

It's important for U.S. students to understand how the European Union has become one of the most successful international collaborations in recent history. Studying the EU helps illustrate the significance of strong international partnerships, particularly the strategic relationship between the U.S. and the EU across global policy, trade, and diplomacy.

### **MFJMCE: Where will your research take you in the future? Do you plan to continue developing this project, or do you have others in mind?**

Since learning about this grant, I've become more aware of the importance of including supranational contexts when discussing countries or languages—especially Spanish, which is an official EU language. From a linguistic perspective, highlighting the EU as a multilingual community can showcase the value and impact of cultural and linguistic cooperation in shaping international agreements and alliances. I plan to continue incorporating these ideas into my course design and content development to provide more informed and globally aware instruction.

### **MFJMCE: Do you have any last thoughts to share?**

I'd like to thank the Jean Monnet Center of Excellence for this initiative and for giving FIU faculty the opportunity to reflect on, plan, and create new materials that help our university community better understand the significance of the EU. The EU is already a key ally of the U.S. and plays a vital role on the world stage. Creating well-designed, engaging teaching materials is essential for spreading knowledge and building understanding of the EU and its institutions.

*By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*

### **SPAIN & the EU**

- **EU Member State:** since 1 January 1986
- **Currency:** euro (€)
- **Euro area:** member since [1 January 1999](#)
- **Schengen:** member since [26 March 1995](#)
- **Capital:** Madrid





## MFJMCE

## GRADUATE STUDENT EU RESEARCH GRANT

## Interview with grantee Jing Ge



*Jing Ge is a Ph.D. Candidate in International Relations at the Department of Politics and International Relations, Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs, Florida International University. This year, she received the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence Graduate Student*

*EU Research grant for her research "Under what conditions are Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs) able to effectively manage regulatory competition among the EU, the US and the PRC?" She sat down with Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, to answer a few questions about her research.*



### MFJMCE: Can you tell us a little bit about yourself and what studies you pursued at FIU?

My name is Jing Ge. I am a PhD Candidate majoring in International Relations at FIU. My research interests include International Organizations, global technological governance, and social constructivism. I am currently working on the role of non-state actors in reshaping global norms. Prior to this, I earned my MA degree in Global Affairs (2021), and BA degree in Translation and Interpretation; Japanese minor, cum laude and with distinction (2018).

I worked as a research assistant at the Jack D Gordon Institute for Public Policy (2024), focusing on global cybersecurity governance and AI policy analysis. I also dedicate myself to advancing civic engagement. I served as a communications specialist at Maurice A. Ferré Institute for Civic Leadership (2021-2022).

### MFJMCE: Can you tell us in a few words what the focus of your EU research project is?

My research project examines how intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) manage regulatory disputes and facilitate international regulatory coordination, focusing on the EU's role as a major regulatory power in shaping global standards. Although the EU actively participates in international standard-setting and

regulatory harmonization efforts, existing literature lacks a comprehensive theory explaining how IGOs support regulatory alignment involving the EU. Therefore, the goal of the research is to fill the gap by analyzing the EU's engagement with three key IGOs, such as the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), and the World Trade Organization (WTO). The research seeks to explore how IGOs promote regulatory compatibility and manage conflicts by promoting a structured Neutrality- Incrementalism- Flexibility (NIF) mechanism. Also, it aims to develop a new theoretical framework for understanding international regulatory governance and provide practical insights into how the EU can enhance its influence and effectiveness in global regulatory policymaking.

### MFJMCE: What are your plans for the research you are conducting?

I plan to develop a comprehensive theoretical framework for understanding how IGOs facilitate international regulatory coordination, with particular emphasis on the EU's role.

To achieve this, I will conduct in-depth case studies of the EU's participation in three major IGOs: the ITU in telecommunications regulation, the IMO in maritime and energy regulation, and the WTO in trade regulation. These cases will allow me to examine how the EU navigates regulatory competition and cooperation within different institutional settings.



## GRADUATE STUDENT EU RESEARCH GRANT

## Interview with grantee Jing Ge



Source: <https://archives.un.org/>

Methodologically, I will employ archival research to analyze historical documents, institutional records, and key policy developments within these IGOs. This will enable me to trace how institutional structures, negotiation dynamics, and technical standards have evolved over time to facilitate or hinder regulatory coordination.

The goal is to identify the systemic factors and mechanisms that enhance regulatory compatibility between the EU and global frameworks, thereby offering theoretical insights for academic research and practical recommendations for policymakers involved in international regulatory governance.

### MFJMCE: How do you hope your research will contribute to the field of International Relations?

My research will contribute to the field of International Relations by developing a novel theoretical framework to explain how IGOs facilitate international regulatory coordination, particularly through the lens of the EU's engagement. Although existing scholarship recognizes the growing role of IGOs in global governance, it lacks a comprehensive explanation of the mechanisms through which IGOs manage regulatory competition and promote regulatory harmonization.

By examining case studies across telecommunications, maritime energy regulation, and trade, this project introduces the concept of a structured NIF mechanism as a new model of IGO-facilitated coordination. This concept highlights how IGOs can move beyond traditional negotiations to build self-regulating ecosystems that enhance compatibility among regulatory systems — a dynamic especially critical in the EU's external regulatory activities.

Through archival analysis, the project will identify systemic patterns, successes, and challenges in the EU's collaboration with IGOs, offering empirical insights that bridge theoretical gaps in understanding international regulatory cooperation. Above all, the research not only advances academic discussions about the developing role of IGOs but also provides practical policy implications for managing regulatory disputes and enhancing governance frameworks in an increasingly interconnected international system.

### MFJMCE: Why do you think this research is essential to conduct at the present time? Once completed, this project “will help foster...”

This research is essential to conduct at the present time because international regulatory competition is intensifying in an increasingly fragmented global order. Amid rising geopolitical tensions and divergent regulatory approaches, particularly between major actors like the EU, the U.S., and China, there is an urgent need to understand how IGOs can mediate disputes and promote regulatory compatibility. As a leading normative power, the EU faces growing challenges in aligning its regulatory standards with global frameworks while safeguarding its internal market and values. However, the absence of a comprehensive theory explaining how IGOs facilitate regulatory coordination leaves policymakers without clear guidance at a critical juncture.

Once completed, this project will help promote a deeper understanding of how IGOs can enhance international regulatory harmonization through structured mechanisms like a structured NIF mechanism. It will provide both theoretical and empirical foundations for strengthening the EU's strategic engagement with IGOs, offering actionable insights into managing regulatory disputes, promoting alignment, and building resilient global regulatory systems. The findings will contribute to more effective international governance, reduce regulatory fragmentation, and support the EU's role as a stabilizing force in global regulatory affairs.

### MFJMCE: Do you have any last thoughts to share?

I sincerely appreciate the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet European Center of Excellence for awarding me this grant. Special thanks go to Dr. Markus Thiel and Madame Christine Caly-Sanchez for their invaluable support throughout my application and doctoral research planning. Also, I am grateful for the support from my major advisor, Dr. Thomas A. Breslin, and my committee members, Dr. Alexander D. Barder, Dr. John G. Oates, and Dr. Kenneth James Lipartito, for their guidance and support of my research.

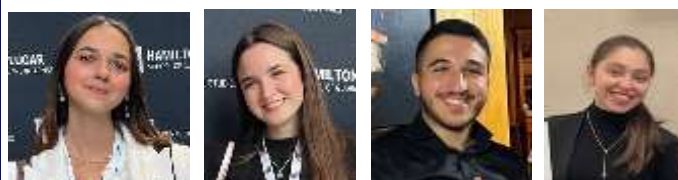
*By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*



## Congratulations to the recipients of Fall 2024 & Spring 2025 European & Eurasian Studies Certificates



Eduardo Agustin Aljure Noah Davud Alves Lizaveta Aparina Lara Cristina Briceno



Alexandra Cerini Mariana Filgueiras Banchemo Artashes Harutyunyan Nicole Martinez

### Congratulation Grads!

We would like to celebrate the accomplishments of our newest Panther Alumni who graduated this Fall 2024, Spring 2025, and Summer 2025, and obtained their European & Eurasian Studies Certificates.

#### CERTIFICATES IN EUROPEAN & EURASIAN STUDIES

##### Fall 2024 Undergraduate Awardee

###### • **Delano Kethe Cicconi**

Cum Laude—BA in Natural & Applied Sciences; Minor in Biology; BA in Political Science; Minor in International Relations; Minor in Spanish Language Culture; Minor in Asian Studies;

##### Spring 2025 Undergraduate Awardees

###### • **Eduardo Agustin Aljure**

BA in International Relations; Minor in Military Science

###### • **Noah David Alves**

BA in International Relations

###### • **Lizaveta Aparina**

BA in Economics; Minor in Computer Science

###### • **Lara Cristina Briceno Salomon**

BA in Political Science & International Relations

###### • **Oscard Bernard Bruneau**

BA in Political Science

###### • **Alexandria Lane Cerini**

BA in Public Relations Adv. & App. Communication  
Minor in Political Science

###### • **Marianna Filgueiras Banchemo**

BA in International Relations; Minor in Political Science

###### • **Artashes Harutyunyan**

BA in International Relations

###### • **Lyz Mayra Iribar**

BA in History; Minor in International Relations

###### • **Timur Khabibulin**

BA in International Relations & Political Science

###### • **Nicole Martinez**

BA in Chemistry; Minor in Biology;  
BA in Natural & App. Sciences



### UNDERGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN EUROPEAN & EURASIAN STUDIES

• The undergraduate European & Eurasian Studies Certificate program is open to all who have an interest in any aspect of European civilization, past or present.

- It is an interdisciplinary program that draws on a broad range of courses from throughout FIU to complement a student's own interests.
- Approved study-abroad courses, including those offered by the Honors College, may be accepted for certificate credit.
- The certificate program is only open to all degree-seeking students enrolled at FIU.
- Since Fall 2021, the certificate is also open to the students who are enrolled in an online degree-seeking.
- Since Spring 2001, 302 Students obtained their Certificates in European & Eurasian Studies.

### Requirements

The program requires **15 credits hours (5 courses)** from at least **3 departments**, distributed as follows:

#### ► **Language Requirements (3 credits)**

One course in a European language at the intermediate (2000) level or above.

#### ► **Breadth Requirement (12 credits)**

- **Three courses at 3000-level or above**, not all of which can be in either Social Science or in Humanities.
- Courses must be from an approved list published in the class schedule each term, or else contain substantial European content and approved by the Director. Such courses are offered by the Departments of:
  - Art and Art History,
  - Economics,
  - English, Environmental Studies,
  - History,
  - Humanities,
  - International Relations,
  - Modern Languages,
  - Philosophy,
  - Political Science,
  - and Religion, among others.

► For more information on the program, visit the following page:  
<http://europe.fiu.edu/certificate-programs/undergraduate-advising/>

### GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN EUROPEAN & EURASIAN STUDIES

► For more information on the requirements, visit the following page: <https://europe.fiu.edu/certificate-programs/graduate-certificate-program/requirements/>



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Bradley De Carvalho

### Internship at the French American Chamber of Commerce

#### Interview with Bradley De Carvalho



*The Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence and the European & Eurasian Studies Program had the pleasure of featuring one great student from FIU School of International and Public Affairs who graduated this Summer 2025 and*

*obtained a Bachelor's degree in Global Languages, Cultures and Literatures/Dual Language Major in French and Portuguese, and continues his studies with a Master in Global Affairs this Fall 2025.*

*We were pleased to interview Bradley De Carvalho and hear about his experience he had at the French American Chamber of Commerce Florida this Spring 2025.*

**MFJMCE: In a few words, could you tell us who you are and what studies you pursued at FIU?**

My name is Bradley De Carvalho and I am graduating Summer 2025 with a Bachelor of Arts in Global Languages, Cultures and Literatures/Dual Language Major in French and Portuguese. I grew up in Geneva, Switzerland, and moved to Florida when I started high school. I was interested in attending FIU because of its diversity and international ambiance. I will be continuing at FIU to pursue a masters degree in global affairs this Fall 2025.

**MFJMCE: Could you tell us about your experience as an intern at the French American Chamber of Commerce Florida (FACC) this Spring 2025?**

My experience as an intern at FACC was very positive. Their open and inclusive approach made it easy to feel like part of the team and created an environment where I felt valued. I worked on a project to support the launch of a new app for FACC members. The app helps French businesses in Miami connect with each other and to local resources. I also helped at FACC events with general organization and member check-in. It was my first time working in an office environment, and I gained experience with administrative processes and using Microsoft applications. I enjoyed connecting with the community and assisting FACC members. The experience helped me understand how FACC makes a real difference by supporting French companies in

Florida, building connections between France and the U.S., and supporting members with training, job services, and networking opportunities.

**MFJMCE: What advice would you give to future students who would like to pursue an internship at the French American Chamber of Commerce Florida?**

This internship is a great opportunity for students interested in French language and culture, non-profit organizations, business processes, event and project management, or building strong community connections. As FACC connects French businesses operating in Miami, I would recommend having some understanding of the French language although English is the main language of communication with external stakeholders.

**MFJMCE: Do you have any last thoughts to share?**

Thanks to Ms. Caly-Sanchez and the European & Eurasian Studies Program, I learned about this opportunity and felt encouraged to pursue it. This internship was meaningful to me not only because I learned new skills and worked with a great team, but the work had a strong community focus and an international connection.

*By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*



**French Tech Capital Days—April 7-8, 2025**

► For more information on the French-American Chamber of Commerce Florida, [click here](#)



## SPOTLIGHT: RACHEL STOWE & GIULIANO SCARSI

### New Program Managers at FIU Global Campus in Genoa, Italy



Genoa, Italy

#### FIU WELCOMES NEW PROGRAM MANAGERS TO ITS GLOBAL CAMPUS IN GENOA, ITALY

*Rachel Stowe and Giuliano Scarsi joined Florida International Global Campus in Genoa as the new Program Managers in August 2024. To know more about them and FIU's program in Genoa, Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director, Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, interviewed them.*

**Giuliano:** My name is Giuliano Scarsi, I am Italian, I grew up not too far away from Genoa in the north of Italy. The University of Genova is my Alma Mater; I have a degree and a master's degree in science. I lived here in Genoa ten years before I started travelling. Since 2007 I have served students of all ages as a science teacher, first in Italy, then in Nashville, US and finally in Lyon, France.

Since August of 2024 with my wife Rachel we manage the study abroad program in Genova. We love working for FIU so far and the students we've had this fall are a pleasure to work with.

#### MFJMCE: Can you tell us a little bit about yourself?

**Rachel:** I am originally from Nashville, Tennessee, but left at 22 to pursue work and travel abroad. I entered the field of International education soon thereafter, teaching English as a foreign language in both France and Italy for the following 8 years. I returned to Nashville where I began working with international students for a university there, earned my Master's degrees - an MBA and an MA in Conflict Management - then returned to Europe where I joined a small university in Lyon, France where I was responsible for all International Development: Admissions, Partnerships, International student services, and Study Abroad. It was during my 5 years there that I realized I wanted to dedicate my time and energy 100% to study abroad.

Giuliano and I are thrilled to have joined FIU and are loving being a part of the team. We have a great group in Genoa this fall and are just really excited to be working with them.



Rachel Stowe & Giuliano Scarsi



## FIU Global Campus in Genoa, Italy



View of Genoa and its port

### MFJMCE: What are your roles and responsibilities at FIU Genoa

**Rachel:** At FIU World Center, Genoa, Giuliano and I manage all operations. We take care of the students, manage the facilities, the onsite Italian faculty, the local partnerships, and anything involving the students, booking academic travel for incoming groups, helping someone if they need to go to the doctor or just want travel tips or tips around the city...and the list goes on.

**Giuliano:** I typically handle the "local work" - relationships with local partners, especially the one with the University of Genoa, and the relationships we are working to build within the city, in addition to our local vendor partners. I also manage the FIU Genoa Italy Instagram account.

**Rachel:** I handle the side of running the office, administrative work, recruitment plans for future groups, organizing for upcoming groups, helping the students resolve any issues, and keeping the website up to date. In our role, no two days are alike. Perhaps one day we are out in the city building collaborations and the next we are helping students with a broken lamp in their apartments.

- ▶ For more information on FIU World Center Genoa, [click here](#)
- ▶ For more information on Genoa, Italy, [click here](#)

### MFJMCE: Can you talk more about the programs you are managing?

**Rachel:** At the present moment, we have a group of students in the UCC program, meaning students generally earlier in their college careers who are here taking Core Curriculum courses, and we have a group of students who are seniors in the Architecture program. The two groups are quite different as the UCC students only have local, Italian faculty, so we are more involved in their day-to-day life. The Architecture students are led by a professor from FIU and therefore the professor is active in the experience.

We will be welcoming SIPA students in the spring who will be working with both FIU professors and local Italian professors to have a semester on the Renaissance in Italy.

For the summer term, there is a group from the School of Hospitality coming as well. We are currently working with a few other colleges to explore adding more groups in the future to fully take advantage of the facility here in Genoa.

### MFJMCE: What are your priorities

**Rachel:** Our priorities are first and foremost to take care of our students onsite, ensuring their well-being and that they are benefitting as much as possible from the program. Secondly, we would like to welcome more students from FIU to Genoa. This campus is the only physical campus abroad that FIU has, so spreading awareness in Miami is paramount. We are strong believers in the power of study abroad and know how much it contributes to student and university well-being, so we want to offer this chance to as many FIU students as possible.

**Giuliano:** Another goal is to grow the relationship with the city of Genoa; we want to see more and more FIU students meeting more and more local students and building those international relationships both personally and professionally. It is incredibly beneficial for students to learn from locals here and teach them something in the process. Intercultural exchanges help increase life skills, empathy, self-awareness....the benefits are endless!

### MFJMCE: What do you hope FIU students will gain by studying in Genoa?

**Rachel:** Firstly, the benefits of study abroad itself: self awareness, emotional intelligence, exposure to new things, cultural exchange, cultural diplomacy.



## FIU Global Campus in Genoa, Italy



**Santa Maria di Castello, Genoa**

**Giuliano:** FIU's space is within a convent that has been here for hundreds of years. It is a well-known historic place that everyone in Genoa knows. It is called Santa Maria di Castello and is located right in the Historic Center of the city, which really enriches the experience.

Another unique feature of this program is that our students are placed in apartments throughout the city. They are in residential buildings, giving them an authentic living experience. They are not in dorms or student housing, they are living like locals. This is another factor helping FIU students to be truly immersed in Italian life.

**"Genoa is a fantastic city with wonderful people,"**  
**Why would you encourage students to come to Genoa? What Genoa has to offer?**

**Giuliano and Rachel:** The reason we love doing this in Genoa is that Genoa is a unique city for study abroad. It is not necessarily a mainstream city like

Florence or Rome, and that is why it is special. Students are forced to learn some basic Italian (and hopefully more!!) because it is less touristic than other parts of the country. It has everything an Italian city has to offer: culture, history, art, FOOD, architecture...but without the same crowds. Genoa is a very complex city that famously holds secrets that require our students to dig in and explore, it is not a city that serves all the evident hot spots on a silver platter...students have to make an effort and that reaps a much bigger reward.

The Professors who lead faculty led opportunities as well as the local Italian professors we work with are also excellent at using the city as their classroom. They spend a lot of time taking students around the city so they are learning about their subjects in the context of everyday life - something Italy is so special for. Why look at art in a textbook when you can see the original within a short walk or train ride?

### What opportunities do you see?

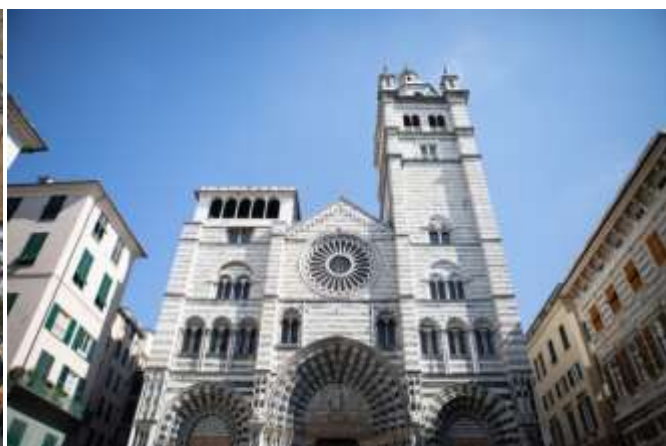
**Rachel:** FIU has a strong relationship already with the city thanks to our predecessor, Matthew Rice. Those relationships have potential to grow, enhancing both the student experience and FIU's international profile. For example, FIU and University of Genoa have a longstanding relationship that has great opportunities to grow, find new departments to collaborate, explore new research collaboration opportunities and so on. We could also increase the number of UniGe students on FIU's campus as our agreement allows for this kind of exchange.

### What is worth to explore in Genoa?

**Giuliano:** Old town is a UNESCO World Heritage Site; Via Garibaldi, where you find the grandiose Palazzo Rosso, Palazzo Bianco, and Palazzo Doria Tursi; San Lorenzo Cathedral.



**Old Town of Genoa**



**San Lorenzo Cathedral, Genoa**



## FIU Global Campus in Genoa, Italy



Palazzo Rosso, Genoa

Genoa is famous for the *caruggi* or *vicoli*, tiny medieval streets that run throughout the city; There are many amazing shops, cafes, and piazzas hidden within these streets

The waterfront or *Porto Antico*, where you find the largest Aquarium in Europe as well as wonderful cafes and shops; Plus the Port of Genoa is deeply felt within the city, adding character to the city itself.

All around the city you can go up funicular trains to see incredible views - Genoa is squeezed between the sea and the mountains so you are quickly at high altitudes overlooking the city; then other small villages considered parts of Genoa are Boccadasse, Nervi, and within a short train or boat ride, you can reach the world famous Portofino and San Fruttuoso.

**MFJMCE: Do you have any last thoughts to share?**

**Rachel:** I believe strongly in the power of international education and that experiences abroad can be transformational. I have dedicated my career to it. FIU has a unique setup here in Genoa that is not available in typical Study Abroad programs. Students have a chance to be truly integrated in Italian culture with the support of Giuliano and me to help them navigate the culture shock, excitement, fun, challenges, changes they will undergo, growth and development, and so on. FIU has an invaluable experience here that I hope to see more and more students take advantage of. Our goal is that they take what they learn back to Florida - or whatever community they end up in - and it stays with them for the rest of their lives. I also hope it encourages them to continue to explore the world they live in.



Piazza De Ferrari, Genoa

**Giuliano:** When I was studying in Genoa, the Erasmus program had just started. At the time, I didn't take advantage of it, and I didn't fully understand the potential of this initiative to empower a new generation through study exchanges and travel. I was fortunate enough to participate in other programs that allowed me to work abroad, but I sometimes feel regret for missing that early opportunity. That's why I want our FIU students to have a great experience, and I will do everything I can to encourage them to study abroad, and support them while they are here living out this experience.

*By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*



Genoa, Italy

## Student Spotlight: Juanita Machuca

### My amazing trip to Genoa, Italy, last spring



Juanita Machuca

*Juanita Machuca, a student in Hospitality and International Relations at Florida International University, tells us a little bit about herself and the amazing experience she had participating in the “SIPA Semester in Italy Spring 2024: Global Italy and the European Union”, and discovering Genoa from Jan. 8 to April 27, 2024 last Spring.*

**MFJMCE: Could you tell us in a few words who you are and what studies you are pursuing at FIU?**

I was born in Colombia and raised in Brazil before relocating to Miami. From a young age, I have been passionate about travel and immersing myself in diverse cultures, which inspired me to enroll in a study abroad program. As a student of hospitality and international relations, I am particularly drawn to Italy due to its thriving tourism sector, making it the ideal location for my program!

**MFJMCE: What did you initially expect from the program in Genoa, Italy: “SIPA Semester in Italy Spring 2024: Global Italy and the European Union?” How did it meet or exceed these expectations?**

Initially, I envisioned my study abroad program in Italy as an opportunity to complete some of my UCC courses while exploring the city. However, I never anticipated how profoundly I would connect with the Genovese culture and fall in love with the region. This program far exceeded my expectations, allowing me to study with Italian professors while fully immersing myself in the authentic culture of Genoa. I had the chance to learn about its ancient art, history, and delicious cuisine.

**MFJMCE: Did you have a favorite part of the program? If so, what was it?**

My favorite part of the program was being able to experience life as a student in Italy and bring back home so much knowledge that each experience taught me. This program allowed me to grow completely out of my comfort zone, eventually shaping my career and personal goals.

**MFJMCE: What was the place you visited or the activities you did that impacted you the most (that stood out to you the most)?**

I thoroughly enjoyed exploring the city and visiting the authentic markets and weekly tents filled with local food, clothing, and art that truly embodied the essence of Genoa. This experience allowed me to immerse myself in the local lifestyle, deepening my appreciation for the rich culture and fostering a greater connection with the community. I found beauty in the simplicity of everyday life, which further intensified my love for the region!

**MFJMCE: Did this program change or impact your career goals?**

This program significantly transformed my career goals. Prior to my departure to Genoa, I had recently switched my major to hospitality but was uncertain if it was the right fit for me. Completing the program's courses while abroad allowed me to discover my true passion: connecting with people and learning about different cultures. This experience shaped my career path, leading me to specialize in travel and tourism within the hospitality industry. It also inspired me to pursue a minor in international relations, as I thoroughly enjoyed the courses offered in the program.

## Student Spotlight: Juanita Machuca

### My amazing trip to Genoa, Italy, last spring



Genoa, Italy

**MFJMCE:** “Genoa is a fantastic city with wonderful people.” Why would you encourage students to go to Genoa?

I highly recommend Genoa to students as it offers an ideal environment to enhance your education while immersing yourself in local Italian life. The city is rich in history and art, presenting numerous opportunities for academic growth. Unlike other cities in Italy that are often crowded with tourists and attractions, I consider Genoa to be a hidden gem. Its vibrant local community provides the perfect setting to learn Italian and engage in an authentically enriching semester. Life in Genoa is simple; the locals are content with little, embrace tourists warmly, demonstrate remarkable hospitality, and are truly present in the moment, which deepened my love for the city each day. I returned home with a phrase I will never forget: *Il dolce far niente*, which translates to the sweetness of doing nothing.

**MFJMCE:** Do you have any last thoughts to share?

I am extremely thankful I was blessed with the opportunity and support from my family to participate in a study abroad program. It is truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that will change you forever!

By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez



Juanita at the Palazzo Rosso, Genoa

- For more information on the program in Genoa, Italy, [click here](#)
- For Genoa, [click here](#) (Pictures courtesy of Juanita Machuca)

## Student Spotlight: Juanita Machuca

### My amazing trip to Genoa, Italy, last spring



At the port of Genoa with FIU students



Genoa, Italy

*Pictures: Courtesy of Juanita Machuca*



## THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF FRANCE IN MIAMI: Its goals, mission, and priorities for 2025

A Conversation with the Honorable Raphaël Trapp  
Consul General of France in Miami



Hon. Raphaël Trapp, Consul General of France in Miami;  
Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director,  
Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence

The Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence at FIU has the privilege of working with all the European consulates general in Miami and has the great honor of bringing diplomats to the University to better inform our students about the EU. In this article, the MFJMCE would like to focus on France and the achievement of the Consulate General of France in Miami.

Earlier this year, Raphaël Trapp, Consul General of France in Miami, sat down for an interview with Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director, Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence at FIU, and reflected on the goals, mission, and priorities for 2025 for the Consulate General of France in Miami.

### MFJMCE: What does your job as the Consul General of France entail and what are the goals of the Consulate?

All consuls general have two main missions and some of them may have other tasks, depending on the size of their teams.

First of all, a consul general has a representative role: she or he represents France to the local authorities in her or his constituency, which in my case is mainly Florida and Puerto Rico.

This means that I'm responsible for promoting what France does internationally and for keeping political relations between France and Florida and Puerto Rico alive.

For instance, we take part in many events, such as the ones set up by FIU, to explain French and EU's agendas on major global issues such as the protection of the environment, the promotion of Human Rights and our stance on Tech issues.

Secondly, a consul general's mission is to provide support to members of the French community in her or his constituency, as well as to French people passing through such as French tourists.

The consulate is a public service for French people, issuing passports and identity cards, paying school grants and social assistance under certain conditions, helping French people in difficulty, manning polling stations when they are called to the polls, providing consular protection for those who are arrested, and preparing and alerting them to the risks of natural disasters.

### MFJMCE: How many French citizens are in Florida?

As of December 2024, there are 12,300 French nationals on the consulate registered, which is an 8.5% increase over a year ago. Since the registration is not mandatory, we estimate that the local French community is much larger and is surely at around 30,000 people. They are mainly established in the Southeast Florida, from Miami-Dade to Palm Beach counties; however, they are also big French footprints in the region of Tampa Bay and Orlando.



► For more information on the Consulate General of France in Miami, [click here](#)

## The Consulate General of France in Miami and its Priorities



Roundtable on “Heading for the United Nations Ocean Conference in Nice” - Nov. 18, 2024

### MFJMCE: What else is the consulate in Miami involved in?

In addition to political and consular affairs, our mission is to foster economic, cultural, and educational partnerships between France and local communities. In a nutshell, our role is to animate the large network that France has deployed abroad to fulfill those missions and to implement the public policies decided by the French government.

In the economic field, our goal is twofold. On one hand, we work to ease the internationalization of French companies and help French entrepreneurs who found American businesses in our region. On the other hand, we encourage American investments in France. For that purpose, our consulate works closely with the local French American chambers of commerce, the French Trade Advisors, the French Tech Miami, our embassy, and the agency Business France.



**Hon. Raphaël Trapp, Consul General of France**  
with Mireille Guyader, Counselor for the Scientific and Technological Mission of the French Embassy to the US; professors and researchers

Florida is very attractive for entrepreneurs and France has many common assets with the region. It provides a perfect ecosystem for thriving trade relations, especially in aerospace, logistics, finance, and hospitality.

As far as culture is concerned, our cultural department, which is called the Villa Albertine, is responsible for creating links between Floridian and French cultural institutions. It also organizes residencies for French and French-speaking artists in all fields (visual arts, music, dance, design, architecture, etc.), who come to Florida to meet with local players on themes of importance to their communities.

Promoting teaching in French is also an important activity for the Villa Albertine, which enters into partnerships with American state schools to include courses taught in French in their curricula. At the university level, we're in the process of revitalizing our cooperation with FIU's department for French and Francophone studies.

### MFJMCE: What are your priorities for 2025?

Following a very active year in 2024 encompassing the promotion of the Paris Olympics and Paralympic Games, that were a great organizational and sporting success, we are in good shape to make the most of 2025.

We started early with a round table entitled “[Heading for the United Nations Ocean Conference in Nice](#)” held last November at the Miami Dade Beacon Council. Our aim was to promote an international conference to be organized by France in June 2025 on the protection of the Ocean. With local oceanographers, including Jeremy Kiszka, Associate professor at the [FIU Institute of Environment](#), we discussed possible cooperation

## The Consulate General of France in Miami and its Priorities



between universities and research centers, and opportunities related to Blue economy.

In 2025, we plan to work with FIU's Adam Smith Center for Economic Freedom on an event dedicated to GovTech and with FIU's Jean Monnet Center to celebrate Europe Day among other events.

In the coming weeks, the [French Tech Miami](#) and the [French American Chamber of Commerce in Miami](#) organize the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the [French Tech Capital Days](#) whose goal is to welcome in South Florida, French startups willing to scale up in the United-States. Startups and investors still have time to join this important moment on the Tech scene of Miami. It will take place on April 7-8, 2025 at Mana Tech. We count on FIU's Assistant Professor of Finance Florent Rouxelin to take part in this event as he's an expert on crypto assets and blockchain technologies.

In regards to culture, Villa Albertine's residents will lead a discussion with FIU's students from the College of Communication, Architecture + the Arts on architecture in the context of sea rising levels. Furthermore, we plan to organize the Night of Ideas, an event that offers free-for-all conferences and performances, in partnership with the Wolfsonian Museum.

**MFJMCE: Do you have any last thoughts you would like to share with us?**

I look forward to meeting again with FIU's students and faculty members to pursue our collaboration. On a more general level, I am here to help, connect, and keep the French spirit alive in Florida!

**MFJMCE: "MERCI" Mr. Consul!**

We are looking forward to continuing working with you.

*By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez*

*Associate Director, Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence & EESP, FIU*

### Raphaël Trapp Consul General of France in Miami

Raphaël Trapp took over as Consul general of France in Miami on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022.

An alumnus of the Faculty of Law at the University of Paris XII and the Institute of Administration, Mr. Trapp joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2003.

In 2004, he was assigned to the Budgetary Office at the General Administration Department before joining the Human Rights office of the Ministry (2006-2009). Starting from 2009, Mr. Trapp was appointed as Legal Advisor at the Human Rights unit of the Permanent mission of France to the United Nations in Geneva (Switzerland).

In 2012, he took over the unit as Head of the Human Rights department of the Mission. He participated in the establishment of the Commission of inquiry on Human Rights violations in Syria, worked more broadly on the universal protection of freedom of speech, and the fight against arbitrary detentions and death penalty.

In 2013, Mr. Trapp joined the French Embassy in Rabat (Morocco) as First secretary at the Political Affairs unit, a period during which he worked in close relationship with the Moroccan civil society.

Back in Paris, at the Secretary General department of the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, he served as a Policy officer to follow up management and general Consular affairs; the last year of his posting, he managed the policy officers' team of the Secretary General.

In 2019, he was appointed Deputy permanent Representative of France to the United Nations and the International Organizations in Vienna (Austria) and worked on the nuclear Iranian file, on space affairs and on combatting cybercrime.

## PUBLICATIONS

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS/VIDEO FROM OUR EXPERTS



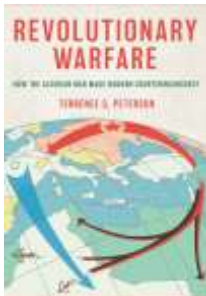
VIDEO: What's next for the U.S. and the EU?  
*World in Focus: Dr. Markus Thiel*  
 Professor, Politics & International Relations  
 Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs, FIU  
 Expert on European Union

## Video: What's next for the U.S. and the EU?

European Union expert Markus Thiel was featured on the Green School's World in Focus this year, where he addresses the shifting dynamics that are reshaping the global geopolitical order. He discusses Europe's rearmament, the future of NATO and the possibility of nuclear proliferation.

[Markus Thiel](#) is Professor of Politics & International Relations at Florida International University; and Director, MFJMC.

To watch video, [click here](#)



## Revolutionary Warfare: How the Algerian War Made Modern Counterinsurgency

(Battlegrounds: Cornell Studies in Military History)

Publisher: Cornell University Press

Author: [Dr. Terrence G. Peterson](#)

Terrence G. Peterson is Assistant Professor of History at Florida International University. He researches and teaches on France, modern Europe, and their connections to the wider world, with a particular focus on war, empire, and migration. 🇺🇸 To watch video, [click here](#)



Terrence Peterson



## Domesticating human rights: restricting child marriage in Spain

(The International Journal of Human Rights)

Published on line

Author: [Dr. Kerstin Hamann](#) and Dr. Gabriela Foerster

### ABSTRACT

Child marriage, considered a human rights violation, occurs not just in the Global South, but is also legal in wealthy western countries. Why did Spain legally restrict child marriage in 2015?



Kerstin Hamann



## 1/ Personalist Leadership and Corruption: Evidence From Third Wave Democracies

Published on line: Wiley—Online Library—Politics & Policy

Authors: [Dr. Tatiana Kostadinova](#) and [Dr. Milena I. Neshkova](#)

### ABSTRACT

This study investigates whether having parties with a dominant leader in the national government is associated with more corruption in political institutions.



Tatiana Kostadinova

## 2/ Introduction to the Special Issue: Personalism and Good Governance

Published on line: Wiley—Online Library—Politics & Policy

Authors: Dr. Tatiana Kostadinova and Dr. Milena I. Neshkova



Milena I. Neshkova



Steven J. Green  
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*All of us at the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence and the European & Eurasian Studies Program would like to thank all of our students, faculty, and friends for their support and participation in our virtual and in-person events.*



*The activities of the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence will continue in fall 2025.*

*In the meantime, all of the MFJMCE and European & Eurasian Studies Program team members wish you a safe and healthy summer and look forward to seeing all of you next fall!*



Co-funded by  
the European Union

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

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