



EU Caribbean Relations Revisited

A Conference of the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence

Florida International University – Modesto A. Maidique Campus
11200 SW 8th Street – Miami, FL 33199 – MARC 290

Conference Participants: Biographical Notes

February 17-18, 2020

CONSULAR PANELISTS



Hon. Linda Diane Mackey

Consul General of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas in Miami

Linda Diane Mackey was appointed Consul-General of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas in Miami on October 01st, 2017 by Bahamian Prime Minister The Honourable Hubert A. Minnis.

Consul-General Mackey received her primary and secondary education at the Ridgeland Primary School and St. Anne's High School in Nassau. She continued her post-secondary educational studies in Business Administration at Meritus University in New Brunswick, Canada. The Consul-General served most recently as the President of a boutique real estate firm in Nassau. Her career has also seen her in prior managerial roles in the insurance and luxury clothing industries.

The Consul-General has a long history of involvement in the political spectrum of the Bahamas, first having joined the governing Free National Movement (FNM) Party in 1985 as a campaign worker. The Consul-General has worked every election since, including in 2012 as the Campaign Manager for the constituency of Killarney. She has risen through the ranks of the party having served as an Executive on the FNM Council, and as Deputy Treasurer.

The Consul-General is actively involved in both civic and religious organizations. She is passionate about assisting and mentoring youth and troubled teens. As an active member of New Providence Community Church, she is involved in numerous community assistance ventures. Mrs. Mackey is married Stephen Mackey, the Chief Executive Officer of MIP Bahamas, and is the mother to four adult children, and four grandchildren.



Hon. R. Oliver Mair
Consul General of Jamaica, Miami

Roderick Oliver Mair was appointed Consul General of Jamaica in Miami on 3rd October 2018, with consular responsibility for Florida and twelve (12) other States located in the southern region of the United States of America. He also has consular jurisdiction for The Bahamas and The Cayman Islands. Described as a dynamic, energetic and visionary leader, Mr. Mair has spent some 20 years in Jamaica's private sector working in the travel/tourism, entertainment, agro-processing and real estate industries. He has also had extensive involvement in sales and marketing, strategic planning, project management, public relations and government corporate relations. This is his first appointment as a career diplomat.

He is assiduously working with the Jamaican community to address issues related to education, health, youth and business investment in Jamaica. In this regard, the Consul General has started a **series of Community forums partnering with other corporate Jamaican entities**, on matters of interest relating to Jamaica and the Diaspora including investment opportunities in the Jamaican Stock Market, real estate, health, education, agriculture, tourism, crime prevention, charities/non-profits and Customs regulations. Several forums have already taken place in Miramar, FLA; Atlanta, GA; and Houston, TX. Mr. Mair has expressed strong interest in mobilizing the Jamaican Diaspora to organize itself to facilitate and support the Jamaica Health Ministry's initiative, "Adopt-A-Clinic" (AAC) programme, to adopt and develop one or more health clinics across the island. This programme has already received commitments from Diaspora groups in the Southern region. One such was the successful launch of the **Jamaica Hi-5 5K Run/Walk**, hosted by the Consul General last year. Mr. Mair holds a Master of Arts (MA) in Business Administration from Nova South Eastern University, Fort Lauderdale, and a Bachelor of Arts (BA) from the University of the West Indies and is a graduate of Campion College in Kingston. He is married to Tanya, and the couple are proud parents of a teenage daughter.

ACADEMIC PANELISTS



Alexander Bruno

*Ph.D. Student in Political Science
Florida International University*

Alex Bruno is a native of the Anglo-Caribbean island of Dominica and a Florida resident. He earned a Bachelor's degree in Philosophy and a Master's degree in Political Science from Florida Atlantic University (FAU) in 2015 and 2016 respectively, and is a member of Eta Delta Chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science honorary society. Bruno is currently a Ph.D. student in Political Science at Florida International University (FIU) since the fall of 2017, and is an Adjunct Instructor of Political Science and Government at Palm Beach State College in Florida. Bruno has taught Intro. to Political Science and Government at to undergrads from the fall semester of 2017. Bruno is specializing in American Government and his area of research is on Anglo-Caribbean identities.



Eric Dubesset, Ph.D.

*Professor of Universities
University of Bordeaux, and Science Po Bordeaux, France*

Master in Geography and Doctor in Iberian and Ibero-American Studies, Eric DUBESSET is Professor of Universities.

He teaches contemporary Hispanic and Latin American Civilization at the Faculty of Law and Political Science at the University of Bordeaux.

He also teaches at the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Bordeaux (Science Po).

As part of international professional mobility contracts, he has been invited, since 1994, as Visiting Professor, in some twenty universities in Europe and the Americas.

Researcher at the Montesquieu Center for Political Research at the Montesquieu Research Institute (EA 7434 IRM-CMRP), he is a specialist in the Spanish-speaking Caribbean (Cuba, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, Colombia). His research in the fields of geopolitics and comparative politics focuses on the conditions, forms, dynamics, temporalities and challenges of change.

Three axes dominate its scientific production:

- anti-imperialist revolutions Hispano-Caribbean (20-21st centuries)
- the populisms of yesterday and today (20-21st centuries),
- the cultural and institutional processes of regional (AEC, ALBA) and bi-regional (EU-CELAC) construction.

To contribute to the enrichment of the scientific debate, it also manages the federative and multidisciplinary program 'Caribbean Horizons' focused on the study of innovations, circulations and connections in the Atlantic world from the time of independence to the digital age.



Eduardo Gamarra, Ph.D.

*Professor of Politics & International Relations
Florida International University*

Eduardo A. Gamarra is a tenured full professor of political science in the department of politics and international relations at Florida International University. He has been at FIU since 1986 where he also directed the Latin American and Caribbean Center (LACC) from 1994 to 2007. As director of LACC, Gamarra was involved in research and public policy issues, academic exchanges, fund raising, and other multiple activities in most countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Gamarra obtained his Ph.D. in political science from the University of Pittsburgh in 1987. He has since written, co-written or co edited twelve books and nearly one

hundred scholarly articles on the Latin American and Caribbean Affairs. His most recent book is co authored with Brian Fonseca, examines the development of strategic culture throughout the Americas.

Throughout his career, Gamarra's research, teaching and consulting focus has been on the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. He has conducted research and served as a consultant in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela, Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Mexico, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti and Trinidad and Tobago. The focus of his work includes security, democratization, drug trafficking and related illicit industries, political parties, campaigns/elections, public opinion, among other topics.

In addition to conducting research and teaching about Latin America and the Caribbean, Gamarra regularly lectures at leading universities, think tanks, and other organizations in Latin America, the United States, Europe and Asia.

Gamarra has also served as a consultant to other multilateral agencies such as the World Bank, the United Nations Development Program, the Inter American Development Bank, the Organization of American States, the European Union among others on Andean related projects that included Colombia. And, he has served as principal adviser on a range of policy issues to heads of state in countries such as Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, and most recently Haiti.



Percy C. Hintzen, Ph.D.

*Professor in the Department of Global and Sociocultural Studies
Director of the African and African Diaspora Studies Program
Florida International University*

Currently Professor in the Department of Global and Sociocultural Studies and Director of the African and African Diaspora Studies Program, Dr. Hintzen joined FIU in January 2011 after spending 32 years at the University of California, Berkeley where he served in a number of capacities including Director of the Center for African Studies, and Co-Director of the Multi Campus Research Group

on Africa (that serves all of the ten campuses of the University of California.) He also served in a number of administrative positions at Berkeley including Chair of African American Studies (a position he held for a period of eight years), Director of Peace and Conflict Studies, and Acting Director of the Center for Race and Gender. He was elected President of the Caribbean Studies Association, the international group of scholars working in and on the Caribbean, for the 2006-2007 academic year after serving as the Association's Vice President in 2006-2007. He was also member of the Advisory Board of the Cultural Studies Association, an organization of international scholars, between 2008-2010.

Professor Hintzen received his formal graduate training in comparative political sociology at Yale University with a particular focus on political economy and in international urbanization and public policy at Clark University. His research, scholarship, and scholarly practice is "trans-disciplinary" more than multi-disciplinary with a substantive focus on the Caribbean, Africa, and immigrants to the United States. His publications include *The Costs of Regime Survival: Racial Mobilization, Elite Domination, and Control of the State in Guyana and Trinidad*. Cambridge University Press, 1989, *West Indian in the West*, New York University Press, 2001, *Problematizing Blackness: Self Ethnographies by Black Immigrants to the United States* (edited with Jean Rahier), Routledge, 2003, and *Global Circuits of Blackness: Interrogating the African Diaspora* (edited with Jean Rahier and Felipe Smith) Univ. of Illinois Press 2011. He has also published numerous articles in journals and chapters in books on race, ethnicity, class, and political economy. His most recent published works have focused on issues related to regionalism, democracy, development and the new international order. He is currently working on projects on HIV/AIDS in the Anglophone Caribbean and on globalization, migration, and changing black identities in South Florida.



Tamanisha John

*Ph.D. Student in International Relations
Florida International University*

Tamanisha John is a Ph.D. candidate of International Relations at Florida International University (FIU) where she studies Caribbean development, economic imperialism, financial exclusion, and Canadian overseas banking. In 2017, she completed a Masters in Latin American and Caribbean Studies at FIU, with a thesis focused on the outsized dominance of Canadian banks in the Caribbean. Her research interests include Caribbean Sovereignty and Politics, Settler Colonialism, Island Economies, Transnational and Multinational Corporations, and International Political Economy.



Jean-Yves Lacascade

*Ph.D. Student in International Relations and
MA in African & African Diaspora Studies
Research Associate, MFJMCE
Florida International University*

Jean-Yves Lacascade, a research associate at the JMCE, is currently pursuing a Masters in African & African Diaspora Studies (AADS)/Ph.D. in International Relations Combined Degree program at FIU. He possesses extensive experience in the diplomatic practice of European non-independent territories in the Caribbean and in the Pacific regions, with over 20 years' experience at the policy and academic level. He is also a specialist in France/European Union external relations with the Caribbean.

He has worked in Brussels for over 10 years on EU-Caribbean matters, for the Association of Caribbean States in Trinidad as well as for the European Commission Delegations in the Caribbean and in Africa. He was foreign affairs advisor to the Presidents of the local assemblies of the French Overseas Territories of Martinique and French Guiana. In this capacity he negotiated the entry of Martinique and French Guiana as associated members of Caribbean regional organizations.

He is a graduate in International Studies with a BA from the American University in Washington DC and a Master's Degree in Law and Diplomacy (MALD) from the Fletcher School at Tufts University. He is also a visiting lecturer at the French Antilles University in Guadeloupe and a member of the Caribbean Studies Association.

He has lectured at graduate level in Foreign Affairs with a focus on EU-ACP, French Caribbean and the outermost regions and overseas territories of the European Union.

His latest publication on Caribbean Climate Paradiplomacy in the context of the EU-CELAC partnership with Dr Raymond Laureano, was published in *La Caraïbe dans le partenariat euro-latino-américain UE-CELAC* (Ed. *etudescaribéennes.org*).



Patsy Lewis, Ph.D.

*Visiting Professor, International and Public Affairs,
Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, Brown University
Interim Director, Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS)
at Brown University*

Patsy Lewis is Professor of Regional Integration and Small States Development at the University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica. She is currently a Visiting Professor and Faculty Fellow of the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, Brown University and Director of the Development Studies Program. She is a graduate of Cambridge University (Mphil, PhD.) and the University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica (BA).



Anthony Maingot, Ph.D.

*Professor Emeritus and Founding Professor, Sociology
Florida International University*

A native of Trinidad, Anthony Maingot has published numerous book chapters and journal articles placing Cuba in the context of the Caribbean. He is the coauthor of *The United States and the Caribbean: Transforming Hegemony and Sovereignty* (with Wilfredo Lozano, Routledge, 2005) and the author of *The United States and The Caribbean: Challenges of an Asymmetrical Relationship* (Macmillan, 1994; revised version published in

Spanish by the Editorial de la Universidad de Puerto Rico in 2005) and the *Historical Dictionary of U.S.-Caribbean Relations* (Scarecrow Press, 2006). His most recent publication is *Race and Ideology* (University Press of Florida, 2015)

He is the former president of the Caribbean Studies Association, and a former associate editor of *Caribbean Review*. He is the founder and former editor of [Hemisphere](#), the magazine of the Latin American and Caribbean Center at Florida International University. He is also the National Security Scholar in Residence of the Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy and Citizenship Studies in the School of International and Public Affairs at FIU. His research interests include political sociology, development, and Latin America/Caribbean. From 1985 to 1995, he was an adjunct professor of Mexican and Caribbean studies at the U.S. Air Force School of Special Operations and has held the post of Director of the Antilles Research Program at Yale University. He is a member of the Constitutional Reform Commission of Trinidad and Tobago.



Carlos Quenan, Ph.D.

*Economist – Professor at IHEAL (Institut des Hautes Etudes de l’Amérique Latine)
University Paris III, France
Vice-President of Institute des Amériques*

Carlos Quenan, of French and Argentine nationality, holder of a Doctorate in Economic Sciences from the University of Grenoble II (France), is Professor of Economics at the Institut des Hautes Etudes de l’Amérique latine (IHEAL)/University of Paris III Sorbonne Nouvelle, where he held numerous functions of scientific and administrative responsibilities. In particular, he created the Master "Relations Europe - Amérique latine" which he directed

between 1996 and 2007. He is also Vice President of the Institut des Amériques, created in March 2007. Since 2018 he is Senior Advisor for International Cooperation in Education at the direction of France Education International.

He is vice-president of the Permanent Academic Forum of Latin America and the Caribbean / European Union (FAP ALCUE) that organizes the bi-regional Academic Summits. He has performed or performs management and coordination functions in international research, expertise and teaching institutions and networks. Mainly, he has been president of the "Section of Europe and Latin America" (ELAS) of the Association of Latin American Studies (LASA, United States), from June 2009 to May 2012. Between 2013 and 2016 he was president of the European Council of Research on Latin America (CEISAL). He has also worked in the diplomatic field: between 2015 and September 2017, he has been Attaché of Cooperation for the Social Sciences at the French Embassy in Mexico.

He has been a consultant to several governments in Latin America, Europe and Africa, expert in private banks, and from various international economic and financial institutions. He is a member of the Editorial Board of numerous journals and specialized publications and several international research instances. He is the author or co-author of more than sixty books - last book : Dubesset, Eric et Carlos Quenan (sous la direction de), *La Caraïbe dans le partenariat stratégique UE-CELAC*, Institut de recherche Montesquieu-Université de Bordeaux/Institut des Amériques, 2019 - and book chapters and numerous articles in scientific journals on international economic and geostrategic relations, regional integration and the macroeconomics of emerging countries.



Her Excellency Dr. June Soomer, Ph.D.

Secretary General

Office of the Secretary General of the Association of Caribbean States

ACS Secretariat

Port of Spain, Trinidad

Dr. June Soomer received her Ph.D. in History from the University of the West Indies in 1994. She was the first female to graduate with a doctorate in History from the Cave Hill Campus of the University of the West Indies. Her thesis entitled “An Assessment of the Factors Affecting the Structure and Functioning of The British West Indies Federal Civil Service, 1947-1962”, commenced her deep passion for regional integration and has directed her career path. She served as Saint Lucia’s Ambassador to OECS and CARICOM with responsibility for Diaspora Affairs. A position she has held from 2008-2016. She currently serves as the Secretary General of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS).

Since completing her doctorate, she has pursued academic programmes in Human Resources Management, Organisation Development and Strategic Planning. She lectured at the University of the West Indies as well as other Universities in the United States. She also worked for ten (10) years at the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank in the Human Resources Department, the Research Department and the Strategic Policy Unit.

Described as a woman of firsts, she was the first woman to receive a PhD in History from the University of the West Indies Cave Hill Campus, the first woman to serve as Saint Lucian Ambassador to CARICOM and the OECS, the first woman to serve as an OECS Commissioner, the first woman to be ratified as the Secretary General of the Association of Caribbean States and the first woman to perform the role as Chair of the Open Campus Council of the University of the West Indies.



Markus Thiel, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Politics & International Relations

Director, Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence

Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs - Florida

International University

Markus Thiel is associate professor in the Department of Politics and International Relations at Florida International University, Miami and director of FIU’s Jean Monnet Center of Excellence. Dr. Thiel’s research interests are the political sociology of the EU and European (Union) Politics more generally, as well as Nationalism & Identity Politics. He graduated with a Ph.D. from the University of Miami in 2005 and has published several EU-related articles and book chapters in peer-reviewed journals. In addition, his research on the political sociology of the EU produced the monograph, ‘The Limits of Transnationalism’ (Palgrave, 2011), and 5 co-edited volumes on: ‘Diversity and the European Union’ (with Lisa Pruegl, Palgrave, 2009), ‘Identity Politics in the Age of Globalization’ (with Roger Coate, Lynne Rienner/First Forum Press, 2010), ‘European Identity & Culture: Narratives of Transnational Belonging’ (with Rebecca Friedman, Ashgate, 2012), ‘Sexualities in World Politics: How LGBTQ Claims Shape International Relations’ (with Manuela Picq, Routledge, 2015) and ‘EU Development Policies between Norms and Geopolitics’ (with Sarah Beringer & Sylvia Maier, Palgrave, 2019). Most recently, he published a book on the linkage of European transnational civil society groups with the EU Fundamental Rights Agency: ‘EU Civil Society and Human Rights Advocacy’ (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2017).

He teaches CPO 3103 Comparative (Western) European Politics, CPO 3104 EU Politics, INR 3214 International Relations of Europe, INR 3502 International Organizations, as well as graduate courses on European/EU Politics, International Organization and Research Design in IR. He supervises doctoral students in the areas of EU Politics and International Organizations.



Desmond Thomas, Ph.D.
University of Guyana

Dr. Desmond Thomas is an economist with academic and professional experience. He has taught economics at The University of the West Indies (Mona Campus), Trent University, Ontario, Canada, Florida International University and the University of Guyana. His positions have included Acting Economic Adviser to the President of Guyana, Lead Economics Specialist at the Inter-American Development Bank, Washington DC, and Statistician at the Caribbean Community Secretariat. While open economy macroeconomics has been his main research focus, he has researched and published on other areas of current social and economic relevance. His latest publication is a book entitled: *Electoral System Reform for a Diverse Nation – The Case of Guyana*, which was published in December 2019. He is a graduate of the University of Guyana, University of Manchester and McGill University. When he is not involved in research, teaching and writing, his favorite pastimes include photography and woodwork.