



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

## **PROGRAM**

Social inclusion & societal diversity are some of the key challenges in the EU in a post-pandemic age and thus they have been highlighted as important issues for political action, including in the special 'European Year of Youth 2022' & the European Diversity Month initiative. Yet there are a lot of competing exclusions (based on poverty, ethnicity/race, sexuality/gender etc.) that need to be addressed, and the question of best legal, political and activist practices looms large. This virtual conference aims to highlight and debate the complexities surrounding social inclusion and diversity in two 90min panels with international experts from politics, academia and civil society.

- **10:00 – 11:30 am: What do we talk about if we talk about inclusion & diversity in Europe?**

*Panel I focuses on the conceptualization of social inclusion and societal diversity in the EU, how it manifests in societal and political exclusions of ethnic, social and gender & sexual minorities, and how these can be addressed through activism and politics.*

- **1:00 pm – 2:30 pm: Politics & Policies Surrounding Inclusion and Diversity in the EU**

*Panel II focuses on ways to rectify multiple, intersectional inequalities in the EU and how to best create new strategies and policies to promote socio-political access, diminish discrimination and encourage active citizenship*

## Conference Participants: Biographical Notes



### **Barbara Sgouraki Kinsey, Ph.D.**

*Associate Professor*

*School of Politics Security, and International Affairs*

*University of Central Florida*

Barbara Sgouraki Kinsey received her PhD from Washington University in Saint Louis in 2000, and joined the Department of Political Science, currently the School of Politics, Security, and International Affairs, at the University of Central Florida in 2002. Her research interests include comparative political behavior of mass publics and political elites, political parties, electoral mobilization, political participation and representation of immigrant-origin minority groups, far-right political parties, and new electorates. She has published in academic journals such as *Journal of Theoretical Politics*, *Social Science Quarterly*, *Party Politics*, and others. Her latest publication co-authored with Alper Yuksel Ecevit appears in *Acta Politica* and is titled “Minority Candidates on Party Lists: Evidence from Belgium.”



### **Mariely López-Santana, Ph.D.**

*Associate Professor*

*Director, Political Graduate Program*

*Schar School of Policy and Government*

*George Mason University*

Dr. López-Santana’s research and teaching interests are threefold: (1) the politics and governance of welfare states, and employment and social policy in Western Europe and the United States, (2) States’ reactions to a variety of social problems, including labor market exclusion, economic crises, and gang activity, and (3) the politics, policies and governance of multilevel systems, including her current research project on financial oversight boards in the US (including the Puerto Rican *junta*). She has also worked on the topic of Europeanization, as well as on new modes of governance (including soft law).

Her book entitled [\*The New Governance of Welfare States in the United States and Europe: Between Decentralization and Centralization in the Activation Era\*](#) (SUNY Press, 2015) explores contemporary changes in the organization of welfare states in Italy, Germany, Spain, the UK, and the United States. She continues to explore issues related to welfare states and inequality, as well as multilevel governance, federalism, and decentralization.

Dr. López-Santana received her PhD in Political Science from the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor). Prior to joining George Mason University, she was Max Weber Post-Doctoral Fellow at the European University Institute (Florence, Italy). In addition, in 2010 she received a grant to be an Erasmus Mundus MAPP Visiting Scholar at the Institut Barcelona D' Estudis Internacionals (IBEI). She has also been a visiting scholar at the Center for Political and Constitutional Studies (Madrid), SCORE (Stockholm), Juan March Foundation (Madrid), and the Free University of Brussels.

She is the co-director of the "Minority Graduate Placement Program" (MIGAP). She is also a member of the Executive Board Member of the Comparative Federalism and Multilevel Governance Section (Research Committee 28) from the International Political Science Association.



**Silja Markkula**  
*President*  
*European Youth Forum*

Silja is the president of European South Forum. She is a passionate advocate for youth rights and supporting youth civil society to thrive across Europe and has for the past decade engaged in various youth organizations to advance the rights of young people both in the EU, Council of Europe as well as the UN. She has a background in the Finnish National Youth Council Allianssi and the World Organization of the Scout Movement. She has a master's degree in social and cultural anthropology from the University of Helsinki.



**Joyce Marie Mushaben, Ph.D.**  
*Adjunct Faculty member in the BMW Center of German & European Studies,*  
*Georgetown University*  
*Curators' Distinguished Professor of Comparative Politics (Emerita)*  
*University of Missouri-St. Louis*  
*International Advisor Board of Gender5Plus*

**Joyce Marie Mushaben** (PRONOUNCE: **MUS** (like bus) – **HAY** (what horses eat)– **BEN** (big clock in London)

received her Ph. D. from Indiana University in 1981. A Curators' Distinguished Professor of Comparative Politics (*Emerita*) at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, she is now an Adjunct Faculty member in the BMW Center for German & European Studies at Georgetown University and serves on the International Advisory Board of Gender5 Plus, an EU feminist think-tank.

Having spent over 18 years living and researching in Germany, her early work focused on new social movements (peace, ecology, feminism, anti-nuclear protests, and neo-Nazi activism), German national identity and generational change. She then moved on to European Union developments, citizenship and migration policies, women's leadership, Euro-Islam debates, and comparative welfare state reforms.

Her many publications include

- 1) *From Post-War to Post-Wall Generations: Changing Attitudes towards the National Question and NATO in the Federal Republic of Germany, 1949-1995;*
- 2) *Identity without a Hinterland? Continuity and Change in National Consciousness in the German Democratic Republic, 1949-1989;*
- 3) *The Changing Faces of Citizenship: Integration and Mobilization among Ethnic Minorities in Germany;*
- 4) *Gendering the European Union: New Responses to Old Democratic Deficits* (with Gabriele Abels);
- 5) *Becoming Madam Chancellor: Angela Merkel and the Berlin Republic* (Cambridge, 2017)
- 6) *What Remains? The Dialectical Identities of Eastern Germans* (forthcoming 2022)

She has just begun work on a new book tentatively titled, ***From Mutter der Kompanie to Madam Europe: Ursula von der Leyen and the Pursuit of Gender Equality*** (forthcoming 2023).

Prof. Mushaben has secured numerous international grants from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the German Marshall Fund, the Fulbright Foundation, the Ford Foundation, and the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. She has served as a visiting scholar at the Chinese Academy for Social Sciences, the GDR Academy for Social Sciences, and the Central Institute for Youth Research (East Germany), as well as at universities in Tübingen, Berlin, Stuttgart, Frankfurt/Main and Erfurt. She is commonly known as "Dr. J."



**Romain Pasquier, Ph.D.**

*Directeur de Recherche CNRS*

*CNRS Professor*

*Laboratoire Arènes – Chaire “Territoire et Mutation de l’action publique”*

*Science-Po Rennes / Direction de la Recherche*

Since 2011, Romain Pasquier has been a CNRS Research Professor (*Directeur de recherche*) at the “*Centre de recherche sur l’action politique en Europe*”, Institute of Political Studies, University of Rennes. Specialist of regional governance and decentralisation in Europe, he obtained in 2010 his “*Habilitation à diriger des recherches*” at the Centre d’études européennes in Sciences-Po Paris. In 2000-01 he was Jean Monnet Fellow, Robert Schumann Centre, European University Institute of Florence. He obtained his PhD in 2000 from the University of Rennes. In 2012, Pasquier has been an expert for the DG Regio of the European Commission. He supervised an evaluation of the implication of sub-state authorities in processes of continental or sub-continental integration.

From 2008 to 2010, he was a guest researcher and professor in several universities (Exeter, Aberystwyth, Montréal, Sevilla). He is chief scientific advisor of the Institute of territorial Governance and Decentralization (Paris) and teaches at Sciences-Po Rennes. He obtained funding from the European Science Foundation for his part in the 2008-10 *Citizenship after Nation State* programme. In 2005, he was recipient of the Brittany Region’s Prize ‘Young researcher’ in Social Sciences. In 2011, he obtained the CNRS “*Prime d’excellence scientifique*”. This last decade he has published and edited ten books and more than fifty articles and chapters in his fields of research.



**Nils Ringe, Ph.D.**

*Professor Comparative Politics*

*Department of Political Science*

*Director of the Jean Monnet EU Center for Comparative Politics*

*University of Wisconsin-Madison*

Nils Ringe is Professor of Political Science and Director of the Jean Monnet EU Center for Comparative Populism. His research and teaching interests center on democratic political institutions, European Union politics, populism, elections, legislative politics, political parties, policy making, and political networks.

Ringe’s new book, “[\*The Language\(s\) of Politics: Multilingual Policy-Making in the European Union\*](#)” (Michigan University Press), was published in early 2022. It investigates the impact of politicians’ reliance on shared foreign languages and translation services on EU politics and argues that it depoliticizes policy-making by reducing its political nature and potential for conflict. He also has an edited volume forthcoming titled “Populists and the Pandemic: How Populists Around the World Respond to COVID-19” (Routledge, Extremism & Democracy Series, with Lucio Renno, University of Brasilia), which is based on a year-long lecture series sponsored by the Jean Monnet EU Center for Comparative Populism.

Ringe previously published [\*The European Union and Beyond: Multi-Level Governance, Institutions, and Policy-Making\*](#) (ECPR Press/Rowman & Littlefield 2020; co-edited with Jae-Jae Spoon, University of Pittsburgh; winner of the 2021 Larry Neal Prize for Excellence in EU Scholarship), [\*Bridging the Information Gap: Legislative Member Organizations as Social Networks in the United States and the European Union\*](#) (University of Michigan Press 2013; with Jennifer N. Victor, George Mason University), and [\*Who Decides, and How? Preferences, Uncertainty, and Policy Choice in the European Parliament\*](#) (Oxford University Press 2010).





**Markus Thiel, Ph.D.**

*Director, Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence  
Associate Professor, Politics & International Relations  
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 supervises doctoral students in the areas of EU Politics and International Organizations.