



WINTER 2021

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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear ESC colleagues, students, and friends,

As I look out my window on an early spring day, I have an opportunity to reflect on all that we have done in this most unusual year. I am very proud of all that we have accomplished and what we have learned. Moving forward, we will build on these experiences to continue our mission of engaging with the students, faculty, and the larger community on all things Europe and European Union related.

Our semester kicked off with some exciting programming. In early February, we welcomed Anand Menon from Kings College London and Director of the UK in a Changing Europe for an update on Brexit. He covered topics ranging from trade, student exchanges, Northern Ireland, a potential referendum in Scotland, and the implications of Brexit for citizens of both the UK and Europe. We then hosted Megan Brown, a historian from Swarthmore College for our Spring Jean Monnet Center of Excellence Lecture. She gave a fascinating talk on the relationship between France, Algeria and European integration in the 1960s and 1970s and how colonialism and European integration are inextricably interconnected.



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Competing with Model EU



by Brianna Howell

Our Model European Union (MEU) has been very busy in the last month with two virtual simulations, and an upcoming simulation this April. MEU operates under the umbrella of Pitt's brand-new Europe Club that is supervised by the European Studies Center.

This Spring, the Model EU team is participating in three simulations: one hosted by the University of Pittsburgh in February, one hosted by the University of Washington (in March), and one hosted by Indiana University (in April). Although the simulations are virtual this year due to COVID-19, students in future years will be able to travel to each location, including a potential fully-funded international MEU simulation in Mainz, Germany. The rules for each simulation vary, but in general, students are assigned to an EU country that they are then tasked with researching and representing that national government's interests.

At Pitt's 21st Annual Undergraduate Model European Union February 26-27, our team and teams from nine other universities negotiated on pressing international issues, including COVID-19 response and refugee policy. This year, the Pitt MEU team represented seven different countries: Romania, Poland, Cyprus, Estonia, Portugal, Austria, and Croatia. The students selected many of these countries with the intention of causing a stir at the simulation. For example, Kate Honan and her partner Ronald Rohlsen represented Cyprus. After receiving her assignment, Honan stated, "I am so excited about getting Cyprus, given that foreign policy with Turkey is on the agenda this year. This is probably the only time this small of a country will have any influence. I'm pumped!" Honan and Rohlsen took home an award for Best Delegation, and Danielle Obisie-Orlu, representing Estonia, earned an honorable mention.

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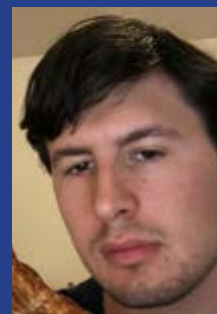
MEU Student Spotlight

Vivian Zauhar, Vice President
Professional Communications and
Digital Media Studies



I joined MEU initially because I was planning on majoring in Political Science and wanted to pursue a career in international relations. While I realized that that wasn't the career path for me, MEU allowed me to continue my interests in international affairs. It's really interesting because you have all these young minds in a room, battling it out but it's amicable and there's a sense of camaraderie. It makes me happy to know that our generation will be the future's leaders.

Benjamin Page
Political Science and Economics



I joined MEU because I enjoyed a class on the EU and its political structure, taught by Professor Howell. I have been in MEU for 2 years, and I am also President of the newly formed Europe Club. The EU is a unique, fascinating phenomenon in international politics. It can be challenging because of all the different institutions, treaties, organizations, and agencies, all of which are cobbled together into this strange entity we call the European Union. I'm hoping that this will give me more insight into diplomatic policy, which I can use after I graduate since I plan on going into a policy field.

New Year; New Partnerships and Grants

By Allyson Delnore

While staff of the European Studies Center (ESC) shifted to remote work this year, the work of promoting European and European Union studies at Pitt continued with no interruption. Case in point: the ESC was awarded two new grants to advance the mission of university-community engagement and continue conversations on our campus about the future and continued relevance of European studies for students in the 21st century.

ReThink

Funded through the Erasmus + Programme of the European Commission, the Center's new Jean Monnet Project grant "ReThink" aims to reimagine area studies and reconsider the changing nature of representation between citizens and political parties and between governments and their citizens in Europe and beyond. Among the proposed activities for the ReThink grant are two academic conferences, two speakers series, and a workshop. The first speaker series, on the long history of European integration, kicks off in Fall 2021 and will continue throughout the 2021-2022 academic year. In Spring 2022, ESC Director, Prof. Jae-Jae Spoon will lead the first academic conference, bringing together scholars from Europe and North America to consider recent realignments of voters and parties in Europe.

In Spring 2022, the second speaker series, "Rethinking Area Studies: The Future of Work" invites guest speakers to present on the skills needed in the future of labor force, and the value of global competencies and area expertise in those jobs. In Fall 2022, a workshop, "Rethinking Area Studies: Career Diversity Through Area Studies" will more explicitly connect themes raised throughout the speaker series and will invite experts from diverse career backgrounds to engage with Pitt students about the value of area studies in STEM and business-related careers. As the ESC reimagines area studies, it is important to think through the value for students, and to help students to see its value directly.

MEET EU

Together with the Center for European Studies at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and the Jean

Monnet Center of Excellence at Florida International University, the ESC's second grant, "MEET EU: Making Encounters, Engaging Transatlanticists," will introduce the EU to young US citizens. Activities include a new Model EU Circuit for college-aged people (including Pitt students), expert panels on preparing for careers in and related to Europe, an expanded Brussels-Luxembourg Study Tour for K-16 educators, regional EU101 workshops, and a virtual residency for an EU-based filmmaker who will coordinate a short film competition and help curate an EU film festival.

Continuing Pitt's commitment to engagement as exemplified in this Year of Engagement, the ESC and its MEET EU partners will collaborate with community groups such as public libraries, youth organizations, and student groups to provide training sessions. These sessions will focus on producing multimedia educational materials, such as short films, 360 presentations, and lesson plans. In addition, each partner institution will purchase and maintain two classroom sets of loanable and fully-sanitizable 360-viewers that will be available to schools and community organizations to view a growing library of Pitt Global 360 resources that bring the world to individuals who might otherwise be unable to travel.

The ESC believes that it is imperative that U.S. universities reimagine and recommit to European Studies. While the transatlantic relationship has historically been a close one, it has become increasingly clear that mutual understanding cannot be assumed. Understanding comes from collaboration, scholarly research, and effective teaching. But to include Europe in the curriculum, students need to be convinced of the value of understanding it: how European studies can inform the kinds of careers—in science, technology, and engineering fields—that many have targeted as the most valuable given the "future of work." At Pitt, the European Studies Center is working with faculty from schools and disciplines throughout the campus and with partners at other schools across the U.S. to rethink Europe and European Studies on a number of dimensions and through a number of different activities.

Foreign Language Across the Curriculum: Haixia Wang



This summer, you were hired as the coordinator for the Foreign Language Across the Curriculum (FLAC) initiative, which the European Studies Center supports through our Title VI grant. How would you describe the goals of FLAC, and what is your role in supporting those goals?

The University Center for International Studies (UCIS), with funding from Pitt's Title VI National Resource Centers, has embarked on a four-year initiative to increase the number of FLAC courses offered on campus. The goal of FLAC is to develop students' language expertise beyond the boundaries of the traditional language curricula.

As the FLAC Program Coordinator, I work across departments, schools, and programs within the University to facilitate opportunities for students and to develop courses with support from faculty and departments. I help to promote different FLAC models and provide support for developing and incorporating FLAC experiences in designing new courses, or in adding FLAC trailers as an ancillary to already-existing courses.

Can you explain what a FLAC course would look like in a department such as, for example, History of Art and Architecture or Political Science?

There are different models of FLAC courses. The most common model that we implement is the 1-credit add-on language trailer attached to a 3-credit content course taught in English (3+1 model). The ESC has worked with the French and Italian Department on language trailers that are attached to courses, such as a French trailer for courses like History of French Cinema (FR0016, Fall 2020) and Paris, Urbanism Past and Present (FR0017, Spring 2021), as well as an Italian trailer for the Spring 2021 History of Italian Film course (DITAL008). The second model takes the form of an already existing course taught in the target language, such as an advanced level course taught in a target language related to cultural content. For example, the Asia Studies Center (ASC) supported East Asian Languages and Literatures course Advanced Chinese across Genres (CHIN 1033), taught exclusively in Chinese.

In past years, 1-credit world language trailers have been added to courses in History and Political Science, as well. Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies (REEES) supported Slavic Languages and Literatures Department courses on: 20th Century Masterpieces of Russian Literature (Russ 0810, Spring 2021), and Reading Historical Russian, Directed Study (Hist 1910, Spring 2021), jointly taught with the History Department. Really, anything is possible using this model. These are just the courses that have been supported by the ESC or other academic centers at UCIS. Other FLAC courses (French for business, Spanish for nursing, Chinese for lawyers) provide FLAC opportunities to Pitt students in a broad range of schools and departments. These are popular with students who want to develop their language proficiency while developing a vocabulary that is specific to their professional goals.

You are organizing a FLAC workshop this Spring. Can you tell us more about it?

The FLAC Workshop is co-sponsored by the Asian Studies Center, the European Studies Center, and the Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies. On April 2nd, 3-5 PM, Dr. Deborah Reisinger, Associate Professor of the Practice in French, at Duke University will give a presentation, titled "Exploring Cultures and Languages Across the Curriculum:

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History, Pedagogy, and Practice." The presentation will help prospective instructors and students understand what FLAC is and why it is important. After the presentation, information about current FLAC courses at Pitt and successful strategies for developing new courses (including language "trailers") will be shared. Find more information and register [here](#).

Are there any upcoming courses that students should be looking for in the Summer or Fall?

Thanks to the great support from three centers, the faculty members in different departments, we have many FLAC courses moving forward smoothly. One highlight for Fall 2021 is that the Geology and Environmental Science Department agreed to have a French trailer, working closely with French and Italian Department. There will be a French language trailer attached to Dr. Kyle Ann Whittinghill's Environmental Science (GEOL 0840) course in the Fall. We are also working with Asia Studies Center and the History of Art and Architecture to add a 1-credit Chinese language trailer to the class Art of China (HAA 0620). "Asia Now" is another course we are working on with the Anthropology department, and with REEES, we are planning to add a 1-credit Russian trailer for the course Russian Fairy Tales (RUSS 0090).

Haixia Wang is the Program Coordinator for Foreign Languages Across the Curriculum (FLAC). She works with the Asian Studies Center, European Studies Center, and Center for Russian, East European & Eurasian at University Center for International Studies. She earned her Ph.D. in language, literacy and culture from the School of Education at the University of Pittsburgh. Anyone interested in developing FLAC opportunities in their department or school and who wants to learn about how UCIS can support the effort, can contact her at haw27@pitt.edu.

Summer Application Opportunity

This summer, the Summer Institute for Global Educators, a UCIS-wide program, will provide sessions and opportunities for educators in all subject areas to develop syllabi and lesson plans with enhanced global and regional studies content. The six-day workshop will cover a range of material ideas and resources which enhance global learning and teaching, including film and media, simulations, games, and other technologies. Each day will have a different focus, such as local-global connections, resources and opportunities available at Pitt, and incorporating interdisciplinary perspectives. Submit an [application](#) before April 2nd.

Who can Apply?

Preservice and in-service high school educators in the U.S. and Pitt College in High School teachers.

Act 48:

PA teachers can earn ACT 48 credits.

Email [Susan Dawkins](#), Engagement Coordinator with any questions.

Summer Institute for Global Educators

July 26-31, 2021

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

Friday, April 2, 2021

▶ APPLY NOW
FOR THIS FREE ONLINE PROGRAM

African Studies Center
Asian Studies Center
Center for Latin American Studies
Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies
European Studies Center
Global Studies Center
University Center for International Studies

College in High School

Institute for International Studies in Education

Longview Foundation

National Resource Center Program
U.S. Department of Education

Larry Neal Prize Awarded to Dir. Spoon and Nils Ringe

Director Jae-Jae Spoon's co-edited volume *The European Union and Beyond: Multi-Level Governance, Institutions, and Policy-Making* has received the Larry Neal Prize for Excellence in EU Scholarship this year. The Larry Neal Prize, awarded by the European Union Center at the University of Illinois, honors scholarship written by faculty affiliated with Jean Monnet Centers and which address current issues faced by the EU or transatlantic relations. *The European Union and Beyond* examines current debates and issues in regional integration, multilevel governance, and EU studies, and pays particular attention to the contributions Alberta Sbragia made to the field of EU studies. Prof. Spoon and her co-editor Nils Ringe (Director of the University of Wisconsin Center for European Studies) will speak together as special guests at Illinois' EU Studies Conference this April.



Sustainable, Just, Inclusive Cities: A Virtual, Place-Based Conference

By Emilee Ruhland

On January 21-22, the ESC and Newcastle University in England hosted a conference on place-based, academically-based and globally-minded community engagement. The conference featured varied members of Pitt, Newcastle University, Carnegie Mellon University and the University of Glasgow, as well as from local organizations like the Pittsburgh Regional Alliance, Newcastle City Council, UPMC Children's and Children's Neighbourhoods Scotland.

In Thursday's Welcoming Remarks, Pitt's Senior Vice Chancellor for Engagement Kathy Humphrey began by asking participants to "imagine a place or a space where the 'town and gown' relationship is just that—a true, symbiotic, and mutually advantageous relationship that need not be developed, but is already well-established and only needs to be enhanced and cultivated in a way that goodness routinely springs from it." Humphrey also asked participants to consider the physical place of Pitt, as they worked towards defining a place-based approach, even as they inhabited a virtual space, and to "acknowledge that these lands are historically the home of indigenous peoples. In the cases of the University of Pittsburgh, the Osage and Shawnee—stewards of this land, and its abundance before colonization, before industrialization, and before urbanization. And still today, present, and here with us now, rooted in this very

place." The conference thus began already place-based and moved forward to discuss place-based strategies and best practices for creating additional opportunities "to be more than ivory towers." Panelists from Pittsburgh, Newcastle, Glasgow, São Paulo and more set about to discuss issues as varied as community health disparities, archival research, and commitments to the UN's sustainable development goals.

For example, in a panel on Post Industrial Cities and the SDGs, panelists included Fred Brown (The Forbes Funds), Grant Ervin (City of Pittsburgh), Aurora Sharrard (Pitt), and Graham Long (Newcastle University). In response to the question "What would you ask of the Biden administration?" Brown laid out a plan for the next three decades, including a focus on civil unrest in 2021, pivoting from COVID-19 in 2022, and working towards a climate change dashboard in 2030. Sharrard emphasized that Biden's administration needs to be about performance rather than prescriptive, and Ervin wants support for the Marshall Plan for Middle America, an endeavor with support from many partners, including the City of Pittsburgh and the University of Pittsburgh. This conference was only the first in a series of conferences aimed at developing place-based strategies and university-community relationships.

European Commission Executive Vice President Frans Timmermans Visits Pitt



Pitt grad student Anthony Ocepek poses a question to Mr. Timmermans

On Tuesday, March 2nd, the European Studies Center hosted Frans Timmermans, European Commission Executive Vice President of the European Green Deal, for a conversation on Europe's green recovery. There were over 350 audience members, and students from various universities including the University of Pittsburgh were able to ask Timmermans questions. Anthony Ocepek, a Pitt graduate student in Political Science, asked Timmermans about how the EU can shepherd rapidly growing economies and populations toward more environmentally friendly methods and systems. Timmermans replied that one of the most important things the EU needs to do is "be true to [their] word" in their promise of funding for climate change adaptation in the developing world. Other questions ranged from addressing inequity in disadvantaged communities, political challenges of implementing the green deal with so many countries at different starting positions, to considering climate change as interlinked with the EU's circular economy. A recording of the talk will be available on our website, along with other video resources.

Model EU, cont.

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Pitt MEU also competed in the West Coast Model EU March 6-7, hosted by the University of Washington. Twelve universities participated in the simulation, representing one of the EU member states or the European Commission. Six Pitt students participated, representing Romania, Estonia, and Poland. Obisie-Orlu (Estonia) earned another honorable mention at this simulation. Pitt will compete in one more simulation this April, hosted by Indiana University, in which they will represent the entire delegation of Croatia, focusing on home affairs, environment, foreign, and economic policies.

Brianna Howell is a PhD candidate in Political Science at Pitt and advisor of Pitt MEU for the second year in a row. Her dissertation focuses on the domestic politics of globalization in the European Union. Check out our [Model EU](#) page for more information. If students are interested in joining MEU or the Europe Club, contact [Robert Lynn](#), the Europe Club Student Ambassador.

Director's Message, cont.

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As part of our Year of Creating Europe, our Conversations on Europe series has focused this semester on "Creating Europe through..." To date, we have held two roundtables on creating Europe through crisis and creating Europe through the built environment. The first was co-sponsored by the European Union Studies Association and featured members of the EUSA Executive Board discussing the various crises which have arguably created Europe—from Brexit to security and immigration to the pandemic. The second brought together a diverse group including an architectural historian, a public policy scholar, and an architect to discuss how the built environment has shaped European identity. Upcoming roundtables will focus on creating Europe through multilingualism and creating Europe through creative Europe. In case you missed any of these, recordings of all of the Conversations are available on our website. We have also listed additional resources under each Conversation. These make for great class resources!

Our signature Creating Europe event for the semester was a talk by European Union Executive Vice President for the Green Deal, Frans Timmermans. On March 2nd, we, along with our Jean Monnet in the USA partners, had the pleasure of virtually welcoming Mr. Timmermans to discuss Europe's green recovery and the Green Deal. Our audience of over 350 students, faculty, and community members from across the US and beyond were treated to the perspective of a true European who believes the importance of creating a sustainable and just economy for the next generation is one of, if not the most, central issues of our time. Mr. Timmermans openly engaged with students from Pitt and our partner institutions in a stimulating exchange (read more on pg. 7).

We have continued to adapt and expand our programs to the virtual world. We hosted a virtual undergraduate Model European Union simulation with 10 schools participating. Pitt's team did quite well and also competed in the West Coast Model EU hosted by the University of Washington (read more on pg. 2). We also started a virtual book club which has attracted students, faculty and community members for lively discussions.

Our Year of Creating Europe continues with programs over the next two months and we hope to see you (virtually) there! Please follow our programming and updates on our [website](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).

As the days grow longer and more hopefulness fills the air, I wish you a healthy, safe and productive spring!

Jae-Jae Spoon
Director, European Studies Center

ESC NEWSLETTER

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