Dear ESC colleagues, students, and friends,

I am excited to share with you our spring newsletter, which is filled with examples of faculty and graduate student research and accomplishments. We feature three ESC-funded projects which explore important questions and tackle important problems across Europe and around the world. Müge Finkel and Melanie Hughes’ Gender Equality in Public Administration (GEPA) Working Group is working to support the United Nation’s efforts to combat gender inequality around the world. Kira Pronin’s dissertation project examines consensus decision-making in the Swedish legislature. Dan Holland’s dissertation research compares the development and use of social capital in marginalized communities in Lyon, France. I encourage you to take a closer look at their projects. Finally, please join me in congratulating our colleague, David Pettersen, an Associate Professor in the Department of French and Italian, who was inducted into the Ordre des Palmes Académiques in February, an honor from the French government recognizing his contributions to French culture and education.

Our spring series in collaboration with the other UCIS area study centers and programs on the Global Legacies of 1968 kicked off in February with our keynote speaker, Todd Gitlin, Professor of Sociology and Journalism at Columbia University. His talk “The Ambiguous Consequences of a Failed Revolution” offered a critical assessment of the legacies of 1968 to a packed room in the William Pitt Union. The ESC’s ’68 events in March examine the events of May 1968 in France and their legacies in France and across Europe. In addition, there are several more ’68 events to come this semester. These are listed on page 10.

Our final two events in our Participation and Democracy series are coming up at the end of March. On March 27th, we have a Conversation on Europe on the Italian elections. The virtual roundtable gathers our current and past Italian Fulbright scholars for a lively discussion (in Italian) of the recent parliamentary elections in Italy, in which the populist Five Star Movement won the most seats of any individual party. Stacy VanDeveer, Professor of Global Governance and Human Security at the University of Massachusetts, Boston will give our spring Jean Monnet Lecture on March 29th on the timely topic of “European Climate Politics and Activism: From Local to Global.”

I hope to see you at some of our events this spring. More information can be found on our website--https://www.ucis.pitt.edu/esc/.

Jae-Jae Spoon
Director, European Studies Center
Pitt Researchers Support UN Efforts to Combat Global Gender Inequality

by Müge Finkel and Melanie Hughes

The agenda of the United Nations, encapsulated by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Development Agenda, have challenged policymakers at all levels to refocus their energies on the most urgent and widely shared global problems and developmental gaps: poverty, hunger, climate change, and social justice. Efforts to combat gender inequalities feature prominently throughout the SDGs, not only as a stand-alone goal to “achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls,” but also appearing in 13 out of the other 16 goals. Of the 232 indicators that have been selected to assess progress towards these goals nearly one quarter, 53 indicators in total, have a gender component to them. A research team at the University of Pittsburgh, led by Assistant Professor of International Development, Müge Finkel and Associate Professor of Sociology, Melanie Hughes, and supported by the ESC’s Jean Monnet European Union Center of Excellence Faculty Research Grant, has been working to support the United Nation’s work to close gender gaps around the world.

Our Gender Equality in Public Administration (GEPA) Working Group – a multidisciplinary graduate student research group housed at the Ford Institute for Human Security in GSPIA – has been collaborating with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the UN agency trusted with the monitoring and implementation of the SDGs, particularly SDG 16. SDG 16 aspires to “peace, justice and strong institutions” through promotion of “responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.” GEPA’s work supporting SDG 16 has focused on public administration or civil service – the employees that work in the executive branch of the central, state, and local government, and in public departments, agencies, commissions, and boards. Since fall 2015, our team has logged thousands of hours to help UNDP map country-level tracking of existing data; to collect, visualize and analyze data on women’s participation in public administration; and to contribute to national policy recommendations for improved data tracking.

Our efforts were guided by an important truth—in many countries, public administration is the largest and sometimes the only acceptable employer of women. So, if we were to speak about gender equalities in employment, the public sector would be the first and perhaps most influential employer we would have to face. Furthermore, at least on paper, most governments and their agencies have committed themselves through their policies to gender equality in the societies they serve and represent. Ironically, a lack of women’s leadership would prevent half the population from exerting proportionate influence over the policy and administrative decisions towards equality. This focus on public administration becomes even more consequential considering its role as the employer of large numbers of government workers, in addition to its core function of public policymaking.

Our research demonstrates that complex questions involving gender parity in public administration are vastly underexplored. Data on women in decision-making is available only in 43 countries, of which 25 fall below the
globally-agreed upon target of 30 percent women in these positions, a modest goal in comparison to the more ambitious SDG commitment of 50-50 representation and access to decision-making levels. But countries define and measure “decision-making positions” in different ways, making it difficult to clearly identify ‘glass ceilings’ that prevent women from reaching higher levels of decision-making. Additionally, the sectors and agencies included as part of public administration differ from country to country, making it hard to study where ‘glass walls’ might exist. All of these factors obscure how systems for recruitment, promotion, and grading in different countries might create ‘leaky pipes’ that inhibit women’s access to leadership posts. As we have come to understand the gaps in existing data and knowledge, we realized we needed to know a lot more about each of these factors before we could begin to understand and assess gender equality in public administrations cross-nationally.

In an effort to start unpacking these unknowns, last summer we helped to organize and participate in a workshop at the UNDP Oslo Governance Center in Norway—a country well known for gender equality in politics, the private sector, and public policymaking. Our participation in the workshop was made possible with the Jean Monnet European Union Center of Excellence Faculty Research Grant. The workshop, titled “Data to Policymaking on Diversity in Public Institutions,” was planned as a roundtable discussion bringing together a small group of academics, policymakers and development practitioners to discuss how best to locate and collect sex-disaggregated data, exchange ideas and experiences and forge future collaborations.

Continued on page 7
This semester, the ESC has held numerous events for Pitt students, staff, faculty, and the broader Pittsburgh community.

In January, Maarja Luhiste presented a lecture on women political candidates in Europe. The lecture, titled "Consistently Invisible? Women's News Media Coverage during the European Elections, 1999-2014," explored the ways in which women candidates are covered by the media, or not. One of our most popular events in January was an EUSA Roundtable on the topic "Will the EU Fall Apart?" 51 students attended, and it was standing-room only for the lecture which was co-sponsored by European Horizons and the German American Chamber of Commerce.

On February 8, we kicked off our semester-long series, "The Global Legacies of 1968." The series is run in conjunction with all six centers of UCIS, and the University Honors College. The series began with a lecture on "The Ambiguous Consequences of a Failed Revolution," from Todd Gitlin, Professor of Journalism and Sociology at Columbia University. Prof. Gitlin delivered a lecture to a packed house in the William Pitt Union, and afterward, a panel, including Alberta Sbragia, Jackie Smith, and Waverly Duck, took questions from the audience. We are continuing these events focusing on the 50th anniversary of 1968. Check page 10 for a full list of events.

Thirty-four undergraduate students participated in our Model EU at Pitt's Bradford campus over two days in February. So far, we have held two Conversations on Europe this semester: in February we discussed "European Cities in the 21st Century," and in January our topic was Wind, Water, Sun: Clean Energy in Europe. Our clean energy roundtable featured Dr. Shanti Gamper-Rabindran, an affiliated faculty member, whose new book, The Shale Dilemma, will be launched on March 21. We're helping to launch her book with a panel and lunch that is open to the public. RSVP here.

The ESC also co-sponsored a number of lectures, symposia, and screenings in conjunction with other UCIS Centers and The Humanities Center. These included: The Place of the Baltic in the Early Modern French Colonial Empire; Modern Rivers of Eurasia Symposium: Potential, Control, Change; "Conversion Stories: Turning Communists into Nazis"; and "Love Affair, or the Case of the Missing Switchboard Operator."

Our next Conversations on Europe installment is March 14 at noon, and also intersects our Global '6: "May 1968 and Legacies of Protest in France."
Faculty Spotlight: Dr. David Pettersen

David Pettersen’s research and teaching focuses on transnational and transatlantic aspects of 20th and 21st century French literature, film, and culture, examining the ways in which texts, images, and ideas circulate across borders with particular emphasis on the long-standing cultural exchanges between France and the United States. He has been principally interested in the role that transnational forms of mass culture can play in articulating and reimagining national belonging in France. His first book, Americanism, Media, and the Politics of Culture in 1930s France, University of Wales Press, 2016, shows how a deep and systemic engagement with American mass culture allowed a new generation of French writers, filmmakers, and intellectuals to re-imagine modernism for a mass public during the politically divided 1930s. He also recently co-edited a special journal issue of Écrans entitled Politique des auteurs / Auteur theory: Lectures contemporaines that was published in fall 2017 and that grew out of the first Pitt-Lyon 2 colloquium in April 2016.

He is currently completing a second book-length project, French B-Movies: Suburban Spaces, Universalism and the Challenge of Hollywood, about how 21st century postcolonial and suburban popular French cinema uses Hollywood cinema and American mass culture to visualize racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity in a country whose republican universalism tends to hide such differences. His articles have appeared in Cinema Journal, Modern & Contemporary France, Romance Studies, and Studies in French Cinema.

For his research around French literature and cinema, his contributions to the expansion of French culture, and his work establishing a faculty exchange between Pitt and Université Lumière Lyon 2, Professor Pettersen was inducted to the Ordre des Palmes Académiques, an honor bestowed by the French government, in February 2018.

Participation and Democracy

This year we are focusing our programming on the theme of participation and democracy. Below is the schedule of colloquia, roundtables, and lectures.

**Wednesday, March 14, 2018**
Virtual Roundtable: “May 1968 and the Legacies of Protest in France”

**Tuesday, March 27, 2018**
Virtual Roundtable: “Elections in Italy: A next Wave for Populists?” (In Italian)
Co-sponsored by Dept. of French and Italian

**Thursday, March 29, 2018**
Jean Monnet Lecture: “Climate Change and Protest”
Stacy VanDeveer, University of Massachusetts

These events are free and open to the public. Check our website for more information.

The Year That Changed the World

GLOBAL LEGACIES OF 1968

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*These events are also part of our UCIS-wide Spring semester series: Global Legacies of ’68.

This series of lectures, screenings, and events will explore how the spirit and events of 1968 echoed across the globe and through history.

See page 10 for a full list of the Global Legacies of ’68 events, or [click here](#).
ESC Student Profile: Stephen Manik

Stephen Manik is a graduate student at Sciences Po, finishing up his Master in International Security. As an undergraduate at Pitt, Stephen studied Political Science, History, and French, and participated in the Sciences Po exchange through the ESC. He told me about his experience studying abroad as an undergrad, and as a grad student, and what he recommends to students interested in graduate programs abroad.

Why did you choose the Sciences Po Exchange?
It was the first semester of my junior year, and I was debating whether or not to study abroad my spring semester. I decided to go to the study abroad office to see what options were available. It just so happened that the day I went to the office was the deadline to apply for the Sciences Po exchange. It matched my study abroad criteria perfectly since Sciences Po specializes in social sciences and it would help with my French studies. It also did not hurt that the school is in the heart of Paris.

What about the exchange did you find challenging? What did you find rewarding?
The most challenging aspect of the exchange was finding housing. There were not any student housing options like there would be at Pitt. So finding a place to live before arrival can be stressful. It is not unusual to land in Paris without having your lodging finalized, which was my case.

Regarding academic challenges, while the courses were admittedly challenging at times, I felt prepared for them. Sometimes international schools have some minor stylistic differences in how classes are graded, or how you are supposed to write papers, but it is easy to get the hang of it.

The sessions and interactions with other students were the most rewarding aspect of the program. Sciences Po is an international school, and at times I was the only American in the class. I was surrounded by people whose ideas and perspectives I had not considered before. Because of my studies at Sciences Po, I have a worldwide network of friends.

What surprised you the most?
Even while studying abroad, it is still easy to find ways to feel at home. You can communicate with friends and family back home so easily nowadays. Also, you create a little community amongst your classmates. My friends and I held Thanksgiving dinners where everyone brought a dish from their home country. I introduced the Super Bowl to friends who never watched American football before. Even though I am so far from home, a lot of other people are too, so you create your own celebrations and traditions.

What would you tell undergrad students interested in pursuing graduate studies abroad?
I would tell them first to make sure that the program matches their professional and academic aspirations. The allure of studying in a foreign place can potentially make you overlook other aspects of graduate studies that you should weigh more. For me, the graduate program at Sciences Po Paris School of International Affairs fit my criteria for graduate education. It is more professionally focused than academic—most of the professors are former practitioners rather than academics. That was very important for me.

I would suggest that students should approach international schools the same way they would schools in the United States. But I would wholeheartedly recommend applying to some schools abroad. It is a worthwhile adventure, and international schools tend to be cheaper than American schools.

What did you end up doing with your degrees? Tell us where you are now.
After graduating from Pitt, I returned home to Baltimore and started working with a consulting firm for about a year. After considering some different options, I decided that I wanted to continue my studies at the graduate level. I enjoyed my study abroad experience at Sciences Po, and their graduate program checked all my boxes, so I applied for their Paris School of International Affairs.

During the third semester, students have to choose between completing an internship, writing a master’s thesis, or studying abroad. I went the internship path and interned at the U.S. Embassy in Algiers, Algeria.

I am currently in my last semester and will graduate in summer 2017 with a Master in International Security. I am now applying for jobs, but I am confident that program has given me the tools to transition smoothly into professional life.
The workshop gave us a chance to discuss our initial strides and hiccups with locating, distilling and analyzing sex-disaggregated public administration data with our Norwegian colleagues and policy experts. At this workshop we confirmed good data drives better informed policies and delivers desirable outcomes for all: case in point, the carefully crafted cross-national data sets that are driving and sustaining progress in women’s political participation. A similarly data-driven quest seems to be taking place in the private sector, assessing missed opportunities when women are not in leadership positions in their companies. The workshop confirmed that a similar exploration in public administration is missing, and that our less-than-perfect data set is what we need to take the discussion to the next step.

Our workshop took place on the summer solstice, a day with more than 19 hours of daylight in Norway, a coincidence we took as a positive sign. With the introductions we made and the connections we solidified, we launched and convened the first workshop of Gender Inequality Research Lab, GIRL, at Pitt in November 2017. We modeled GIRL after our Oslo experience and planned for an intense exchange of experiences on how data collection informs policymaking. This time, the experiences and expertise of academics and practitioners from South Africa, Colombia, Denmark, Tanzania, and Uganda came to Pittsburgh. At the end of an intense three days of non-stop work, our colleagues and new partners in this endeavor, complimented our energy and the commitment of GEPA.

With each workshop, first in Oslo and now in Pittsburgh, the ground shifted, a bit more dirt was uncovered, a few more questions were better asked. GIRL has already become part of an important conversation that promises to facilitate diverse policymaking and drive more gender equal outcomes globally. We have accomplished step one of building and sustaining collaboration between development partners, public institutions, and academia to advance the diversity agenda in public institutions with the support we received from the European Studies Center. Step two requires more research time and more resources to build a solid database made up of quality cross-national indicators. As we prepare to launch step two with 3 pilot countries, we keep reminding ourselves Rome was not built in one day. Plenty of times we wish it were otherwise because in the case of tackling gender inequalities, all of our efforts cannot help but feel a day too late.

Dr. Melanie M. Hughes is Associate Professor of Sociology and Co-Director of the Gender Inequality Research Lab (GIRL) at the University of Pittsburgh and is one of the world’s foremost experts on the political representation of women worldwide. She co-leads the Ford Institute for Human Security research group on Gender Equality in Public Administration (GEPA), a collaborative research effort with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). She is also working on a research monograph on the political dominance of men from majority racial, ethnic, and religious groups.

Dr. Müge König Finkel is Assistant Professor of International Development at the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA) at the University of Pittsburgh. She is the faculty co-lead of the Ford Institute for Human Security research group on Gender Equality in Public Administration (GEPA). In support of her GEPA research, the Global Studies Center at the University of Pittsburgh has named Dr. Finkel the Global Studies Faculty Fellow for the academic year 2017-2018. Dr. Finkel has a PhD in Political Science from the University of Virginia; an MA from the International University of Japan; and a BA from Bogazici University in Turkey.
I received the Klinzing Grant for Dissertation Research in spring 2017, along with a second grant from the American Scandinavian Foundation, for conducting fieldwork for my dissertation in Political Science. I have always been interested in consensus decision-making, and how certain institutional practices can help legislators and policy-makers resolve personal differences and work towards a common goal. Sweden, famous for its consensual and facts-based policymaking style, seemed like a natural choice. I am using these grants to conduct archival research in Sweden for eight months.

My dissertation deals with stakeholder inclusion in committees designed to advise a decision-making body, such as a legislature. I address two questions. First, what is the ideal combination of institutional rules, stakeholder inclusion, preferences of the decision-making body and committee members, and the nature of the policy issue that best help committee member make good policy based on facts, not ideology? Second, what do the stakeholders—diverse groups or individuals such as labor unions, employers’ associations, farmers and fishermen’s associations, civil society organizations, or township representatives—bring to the table in advisory committees, compared with subject matter experts?

These questions are important in light of the recent polarization and breakdown of consensual, facts-based policymaking in many democracies. I hope that, in some small way, my dissertation can contribute to finding practical solutions to this crisis.

I spent the fall of 2017 at the University of Gothenburg, which has two research centers that were of particular interest to me: the Quality of Governance institute and the Centre for European Research at University of Gothenburg. I collected data on almost 3,000 Swedish commissions of inquiry and their membership from 1990 and 2010. These commissions are set up by the government to evaluate the consequences of policy options and to suggest solutions to policy problems. They are similar to blue-ribbon committees in the United States, but are used much more extensively in Sweden. (They exist in other countries as well, such as Canada and New Zealand.) I selected this twenty-year period because I am also interested in seeing how Sweden’s entry into the European Union in 1995 affected their national policymaking: for example, are stakeholders still included in these commissions, and are different parties still able to reach consensus over policy? My preliminary analysis shows that things have changed quite a bit since then, although I am not sure yet whether this is due to joining the European Union or other causes.

During my fieldwork, I have also been able to work on the theoretical part of my dissertation and bounce ideas off Swedish colleagues. My basic claim is that stakeholder inclusion in policymaking pays off in many, though not all, cases. This is because people who have a stake in the outcome ultimately have a greater incentive to work hard at finding good solutions to policy problems. The inclusion, of course, is not without costs, which I also explore in my theoretical model.

The thing that has perhaps surprised me most about fieldwork was how many serendipitous encounters I have had. They seem to happen more frequently during fieldwork than at any other time during my Ph.D. studies. For example, I went to a very interesting conference on European Think Tanks, which had almost nothing to do with my research, but I ended up running into people who are collecting the same kind of data in other countries. One of my roommates is a computer programmer who helped me scrape the data from the government’s web page. I have also learned so much by reading original documents and discussing my ideas with people I meet during the course of my everyday life here. Everybody has been eager to help and to discuss my ideas. The library staff has been wonderful in helping me locate the best sources for my data. I have been able to access primary documents that would have been very difficult to order from United States. And I have eaten countless cinnamon buns at the local cafes during the traditional Swedish coffee breaks.

There has been a lot of excitement about my project, because the last large-scale study on Swedish commissions of inquiry was conducted in 1993. The data is of great interest to both researchers and policymakers because it provides a unique window to what has been happening in Swedish national policymaking. Most likely, the data will be used in various projects and posted online after I am done with my dissertation. This is not only great for me, but future researchers.

In sum, my fieldwork has been a great experience, and I can now see light at the end of the tunnel: I am hoping to defend my dissertation later this year.
By Dan Holland

If one only thinks of the banlieues—the suburban communities around Lyon, France—as the charred remains of violent riots, youth clashes with police, and burning cars, my research trip last summer proved these characterizations wrong. No doubt they have a troubled past. Some of the worst rioting in France in the 1980s and 1990s occurred on the outskirts Lyon for complicated reasons. Since then, the French government has spent billions of Euros to improve the building and transportation infrastructure of these communities, and it appears that it was worthwhile investment.

But while the state is often the focus of community regeneration efforts, the residents must be given credit, as well. Thanks to a generous Dissertation Research Grant from Pitt’s European Studies Center, I spent a month in Lyon sifting through archival documents, conducting site visits, and interviewing more than a dozen residents, planners, developers, and youth who live, work, and play in low-income communities just outside of Lyon’s central city. As a result, I can conclude that the banlieues, including Vaulx-en-Velin, Vénissieux, and Les Minguettes, are communities with a vastly improved image. The efforts of citizens to manage this change, from the bottom-up, was the focus of my research.

My dissertation examines how socially, economically, and spatially marginalized populations in Pittsburgh and in Lyon organized and deployed forms of power to resist the negative forces of poverty and disinvestment from the 1980s through 2010. There are a host of similarities between the two cities, but the role of the state was clearly far stronger in France, which funded the construction of more than 14 million housing units between 1945 and 1985, four million of which were “social housing” built for low-income residents. On the other hand, the neoliberal withdrawal of the government in the United States during the 1970s and 1980s forced low-income communities to create a more extensive and durable nonprofit sector, which never evolved to the same extent in France. The point of comparison between the two is how low-income people developed and used social capital—a network of relationships in a community, a form of interdependence that knits people together—in the context of each county as a response to the effects of decline and marginalization.

With assistance from professors at Sciences Po Lyon and Jean Monnet University (with whom Pitt has a partnership), as well as some former graduate students, I found numerous people who had formed civil rights associations, social enterprise organizations, and other efforts to manage the effects of poverty, unemployment, and isolation. Nearly every person I met had a fascinating story of resistance in some of the poorest communities in the Lyon region. Many of these leaders have been witness to violence that rocked Lyon’s suburbs over the past three decades. Yet they have persevered and forged a new vision for the community.

Individuals with whom I spoke included: a life-long resident of Vaulx-en-Velin who is trying to build a €4 million youth community center; two women who immigrated to Vaulx-en-Velin from Algeria in the 1970s, and now manage two community centers in the Mas du Tureau social housing complex; a woman who grew up in Vénissieux who founded an association for young people in the 1980s, served in the first European Parliament, and is now a city councilwoman from Lyon’s 8th arrondissement; a chef-turned-social-enterprise-director who manages eleven food distribution centers throughout greater Lyon; and a high school senior who grew up in Les Minguettes and wants to be a biology teacher. Collectively, their efforts represent the potential and benefits of social capital in poor communities which have been unfairly maligned.

My interviews revealed that people disagree with the negative portrayals of Lyon’s banlieues as some of the worst places to live. Many of these communities have changed in profound ways in recent years, and individuals have done much to facilitate this change. Since the late-1970s, activists from the Lyon region have formed associations, marched, demonstrated, and struggled to assert French civil rights and, in the spirit of Henri Lefebvre, their right to the city. Today, a new generation of activists are taking charge. One recent high school graduate from Vénissieux, Younès Atallah, advocates for many of the same rights as those who came before him in a newsletter he edits: “We fight that fight every day, every minute in our head, in our articles,” he explained. “Here we have more good than bad. I think I can help and contribute to change.”
GLOBAL LEGACIES OF 1968

March 14, 2018
VIRTUAL ROUNDTABLE: “May 1968 and the Legacy of Protest in France”
12-1:30 p.m. | 4217 UCIS
Sponsored by the European Studies Center

March 22, 2018
PANEL DISCUSSION: “1968: Framing Radical Politics in Time and Space”
Elaine Carey, Purdue University, and Felix Germain, University of Pittsburgh
4-5:30 p.m. | 4130 Posvar
Sponsored by the Global Studies Center

April 3, 2018
LECTURE: “1968: The Year that Rocked Pittsburgh”
Emily Ruby, Heinz History Center
4-5:30 p.m. | 4130 Posvar
Sponsored by the University Honors College

April 10, 2018
FILM & DISCUSSION: “Red Dawn”
4-6 p.m. | 4130 Posvar
Sponsored by the Center for Latin American Studies

April 17, 2018
PANEL DISCUSSION: “1968: What Have We Learned?”
4-5:30 p.m. | 4130 Posvar
Directors, University Center for International Studies