Pizza and Politics Schedule 2013-2014

"Eating in Gezi, Devoured by Gezi: Food and Resistance in 2013 Istanbul Gezi Park Protests"

Wednesday, April 9, 2014
12 pm  4130 WWPH

Discuss the politics of food while eating pizza. Food may be a marker of identity, metaphor for social change, and means of resistance. Gezi Park events started after brutal interventions were made by police against Gezi Park occupiers on May 29, 2013, quickly escalating into one of the greatest civil protests in Turkish history, and spreading to other parts of the country. During the events, protesters responded to misinformation from mass media and accusations of the government in a variety of creative ways. Drawing from in-situ observations, news and social media, Haksöz will focus on food as one of these creative responses of the protesters to the government and its mass media, and will analyze how food has been used by the protesters as an ideology, and for solidarity and resistance.  **PIZZA WILL BE SERVED!**

"European Elections for National Parties: Electoral Goals and Candidate Selection in the Parties of Europe"

Wednesday, March 26, 2014
12 pm  4209 WWPH

Join the EUCE & ESC for a lunchtime discussion as Andrea Aldrich, Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of Political Science, presents her research on national European parties and their relationships with European Elections and Members of the European Parliament (MEP). Current literature on political parties assumes that all parties have different strategies for any given election based on their short term and long term goals. Some
national parties may view the European elections as an opportunity to increase their influence and expand their representation in elected office, while others may view it as a nuisance and care relatively little about its outcome. Aldrich will discuss how these views determine the strategies that parties use for selecting candidates to represent them at the EP if they win office, leading to a diverse variation in the type of legislator that national parties and member states select to send to the EP. The presentation will show under what conditions parties are likely to have experienced versus inexperienced candidates, and how this may impact the quality of representation among member states and their public. PIZZA WILL BE SERVED!

"Valued Exports: Social Standards in EU & US Trade Agreements"

Tuesday, December 3, 2013
12 pm  4217 WWPH

Join the Center as we enjoy pizza and politics during the lunch hour for a discussion offered by Center Library Research Advisor, Evgeny Postnikov. His talk will focus on the bilateral preferential trade agreements (PTAs) of the European Union and the United States, which are increasingly being used as vehicles for exporting social regulation, such as labor and environmental standards. Despite the similarity in terms of the inclusion of such provisions, design varies greatly between U.S. and EU agreements. Postnikov examines the disparity between both parties’ execution of these PTAs with paired cases of EU-Chile, U.S.-Chile, EU-South Korea, and U.S.-South Korea PTAs, relying on data from interviews with interest groups and policy-makers in Brussels, Washington, Santiago, and Seoul. PIZZA WILL BE SERVED!

"Decentralization, Interactive Governance and Income Inequality: Spain and Sweden"
Tuesday, October 29, 2013

12 pm  4217 WWPH

Political Science PhD Candidate Yasemin Irepoglu offered a talk based on her dissertation research, which combines the literatures of 'fiscal decentralization' and 'governance' in searching for determinants of income inequality. It argues that fiscal decentralization makes inequality more likely while the interactive nature of governance offsets this effect. Building on the author's earlier quantitative work, it compares findings from field work conducted in Spain—a country with low interactive governance—and in Sweden—a country with high interactive governance.  PIZZA WILL BE SERVED!

"Inside the Brussels Complex"

Wednesday, October 2, 2013

12 pm  3800 WWPH

In this first 2013 installment of our Pizza and Politics Graduate Lecture Series, GSPIA’s EU and the World Organization executive members talk about their experience interviewing policy-makers, EU civil servants, and visiting major institutions in Brussels and Luxembourg as participants in the EU in Brussels Program, co-sponsored by Pitt’s EUCE/ESC & Graduate School of Public and International Affairs. Also learn about getting involved in the EU and the World Organization and about other opportunities for EU Studies at Pitt!  PIZZA WILL BE SERVED!