



EUROPEAN STUDIES CENTER

A Jean Monnet European Union Centre of Excellence
A US Department of Education National Resource Center

SUMMER 2016

- 1 “Farewell from the Director,” by Ron Linden
- 2 In Review
- 3 “Focusing on the Mediterranean,” by Lina Insana and Neil Doshi
- 5 ESC Spotlight: Kyle Ciccone
- 8 “Thank you and Farewell,” by Gavin Jenkins



FAREWELL FROM THE DIRECTOR

“Hello, I must be going.....”

With this greeting, the Marx Brothers proclaimed, “I’m glad I came, but just the same, I must be going.” This spring marks five years since I assumed the role of Director of our Center. Because of the talent, commitment and creativity of the people who work here, we not only weathered the challenges of a changing environment, but flourished. We are now a Title VI National Resource Center, funded by the US Department of Education, and a Jean Monnet European Union Centre of Excellence, funded by the European Union. With these and other external grants and funds from the university, we are able to offer a range of conferences, events, courses, visitors and programs that add a European salience to an increasingly global campus.

As readers of this newsletter will be aware, we have helped undergraduate and graduate students study people, events, societies, languages and issues that take place in Europe as well as those around the world that have a European connection, including, of course, in the United States. Just in this past year, our Center hosted our award-winning *Conversations on Europe* on the migrant crisis, the rise of populist parties in Europe and the US, climate change, and the impending British vote on EU membership. We have added new courses, sent

Continued on Page 4

IN REVIEW

CONVERSATIONS ON EUROPE



On April 19, the ESC's award-winning virtual roundtable series, *Conversations on Europe*, finished the academic year by analyzing another pressing issue facing Europe with, "The Continent is Cut Off! The British Referendum on the EU." Bob Dodge, a retired history professor from Washington & Jefferson College, was in attendance and said he found the *Conversation* informative. "As a historian, I have always been somewhat critical of the UK's role in the EEC/EU. I believe Dr. Ron Linden referred to Britain as a sometimes "awkward member" of the EU. I agree." Moderated by Dr. Linden, the panel also included Michelle Egan, Professor at American University's School of International Service; Amelia Hadfield, Jean Monnet Chair in European Foreign Affairs at Canterbury Christ Church University; Tim Oliver, Dahren-dorf Fellow on Europe-North American Relations at London School of Economics; and Alan Sked, Professor Emeritus of International History at London School of Economics.

GENDER EQUALITY



On March 21, the ESC held a lecture titled, "Gender Equality in the Age of Academic Capitalism: Cassandra and Pollyanna Evaluate University Transformations." Presented by Myra Marx Ferree, Alice H. Cook Professor of Sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the lecture explored the paradoxes of how gender equality politics intersects with liberal as well as neoliberal reform projects in universities. Dr. Ferree specifically examined the discourses of diversity management and gender mainstreaming as frames for accountability and excellence in Germany and the US. Dr. Ferree's visit was made possible by a Jean Monnet Center of Excellence grant.

VIRTUAL BRIEFING



On April 12, the ESC hosted a Virtual Briefing titled, "EU-US Privacy Shield Update." Audience members who logged on remotely saw a view similar to the one above. They learned what the new privacy shield means for US businesses from a panel of experts, including Ted Dean of the US Department of Commerce, who was the Chief Negotiator of US-EU Privacy Shield; Pierluigi Perri, Specialist in Advance Computer Law from the University of Milan; and David Thaw, Specialist in Law and Information from the University of Pittsburgh. ESC Director Ron Linden moderated the briefing, which was live streamed to more than 30 business professionals throughout the US.

FOCUSING ON THE MEDITERRANEAN

by Lina Insana and Neil Doshi
Department of French and Italian

“Mediterranean [meta]geographies,” a two-semester long series of events organized by faculty in the Department of French and Italian with financial support from the European Studies Center, culminated on March 14 and March 15 with the dramatic readings of *Lampedusa Beach*, which is part one of the theatrical *Trilogy of the Shipwrecked* by renowned Sicilian playwright Lina Prosa. The first female Italian writer and director to have her work performed at the *Comédie-Française* of Paris, Prosa has become one of Europe’s most sought-after playwrights, and the performance marked the US premiere of Prosa’s recent work.

Lampedusa Beach addresses the plight of asylum-seekers and migrants who make the perilous journey across the Mediterranean Sea. Prosa’s play stages the fictional monologue of the African migrant woman Shauba, who, fleeing poverty and violence at home, embarks on a precarious voyage by boat. Piloted by rapacious smugglers intent on raping Shauba, the boat capsizes. Shauba’s address captures the stream of thoughts and memories that cross her mind as she sinks underwater, catching a fleeting glimpse of Lampedusa beach on the horizon before she drowns. It was read in Italian on the first night and in French the second, and both readings were followed by a lively public discussion with Prosa.

The confrontations on Lampedusa Island between authorities and refugees, so stirringly presented in Prosa’s play, present a microcosm of the larger questions about North-South relationships, ethics, and human rights that mark the current state of politics and inspire the “Mediterranean [meta]geographies” series. The six events organized were planned to coincide with graduate seminars focusing on Mediterranean studies taught in the Department of French and Italian: “Theories of the Mediterranean” with Professor Neil Doshi in the fall and “How to do Things with Islands” with Professor Lina Insana in the spring. While highlighting the shared interests of faculty in the department, the series also offered graduate students in both seminars an opportunity to interact with visiting scholars and to extend seminar discussions into a wider, public forum.

The fundamental premise that drove the organi-

zation of the “Mediterranean [meta]geographies” series draws from what scholars Peregrine Horden and Nicholas Purcell have called “connectivity,” a term they use to describe the network of cultural and economic ties linking the diverse micro-regions of the Mediterranean basin. In the academic subfield of Mediterranean Studies, this notion of connectivity has been particularly important to scholars interested in exploring the ways cultural phenomena commonly understood as belonging to or evolving out of a national culture, equally owe their emergence to histories of cultural contact in the Mediterranean. Such an approach is in part a response to a current political climate that construes the Mediterranean as the border between modern Europe and its others. By highlighting historical connections between cultures and societies, Mediterranean scholars seek to nuance accepted historical narratives and make available alternative perspectives that meaningfully contribute to cultural understanding. Events planned in Pittsburgh sought to extend the idea, inviting participants to reflect on how the study of the Mediterranean must both recognize connectivity between Mediterranean spaces and engage multi-disciplinary frameworks connecting scholars, disciplines, and approaches.

“Mediterranean [meta]geographies” opened in September with the visit of writer and director Abdellah Taïa. Author of 11 books and director of the ground-breaking film *L’armée du salut* [*Salvation Army*] (2013), Taïa is considered by some to be the first ‘out’ Moroccan writer in France. His film – an adaptation of his novel of the same title – gave the Arab-world its first on-screen, openly homosexual protagonist. A partially autobiographical narrative about growing up gay in Morocco and travelling between France and North Africa, *L’armée du salut* reflects on what it means to be a queer Arab in Europe. Over the course of several days, on a visit that was primarily sponsored by the Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies Program, Taïa visited undergraduate literature classes, hosted a public reading in a local bookstore, met graduate students, and screened and discussed his film. The ESC also provided support for Taïa’s visit, and he was a panelist for a *Conversations on Europe*, the ESC’s award-winning virtual roundtable series. The *Conversation* explored identity in the Francophone world and was conducted entirely in French.

Taïa’s visit was followed in October by that of Katarzyna Pieprzak, Professor of French and Compara-

Continued on Page 7

Continued from Page 1

students and faculty to Europe, and put on conferences on everything from extremism to literature. We hosted dozens of visiting scholars and practitioners who exposed people here to European experiences and perspectives on topics ranging from the economy in Greece, to Germany since reunification, to literary and artistic perspectives across the literatures and languages of historical and contemporary Europe.

In the community, we have bolstered the teaching of French through our French Immersion program, brought dozens of teams here to participate in Model EU simulations at both the high school and college levels, and played an active role in programs devoted to business, trade and current events put on by the World Affairs Council and German American Chamber of Commerce, among others. Sadly, we also offered a heartfelt response to terrorist attacks in France with our Hail2Paris program in the fall. This spring we will host the first ever Europe Day Festival (May 7) and bring 31 students and faculty to Brussels to see the “capital of Europe” first hand.

These activities have been facilitated by the foundational Center support noted above, which has been supplemented by grants under the Jean Monnet Project Program and a Getting Know Europe grant from the EU Delegation to the United States. In addition, our center is one of the few in the US to host scholars and programs offered by the DAAD, the Italian Fulbright Commission, and the Onassis Foundation. This level of external support has been made possible by a strong internal platform provided by the Provost and Dean’s office of the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, the office of Dean John Kee-

ler of GSPIA, the productive spirit of cooperation offered to us by faculty and chairs of a variety of departments, including History, Political Science, French & Italian, and German, and by our sister centers in UCIS and its new Director, Ariel Armony. Our affiliated faculty has given generously of its time to serve on our advisory board, present at and attend our events, serve on award committees, and enrich our plans with ideas and suggestions. As I know that time is the most valuable commodity we have, I am especially appreciative of this contribution.

None of this would have mattered if there were not energetic, talented people to follow through, to turn ideas into projects and then bring those projects to fruition. That work has been done by the multitalented, dedicated staff of the European Studies Center. On a daily basis, their job is to interface between our various constituencies, including students, faculty, administrators, funders and the community—not always an easy task. They have to get the budgets right, the bills paid, the programs out and the travelers here and home. They must give structure and direction to our daily tasks and to our long-term future and do so under time pressure, within the bounds of university and government guidelines and, not least, the uninformed goading and annoying purview of the Center Director. They deserve the thanks and appreciation of the whole Pitt community and they certainly have mine.

I will be sad to leave such a place, which is a “center” in all senses of the word, but I do so with pride in its achievements and confidence in its future.

Ron Linden

COMING UP

EUROPE DAY FESTIVAL

On **Saturday, May 7**, the ESC will host its first-ever Europe Day Festival. The festival, which will run from **12:00 PM - 7:30 PM** in and around Posvar Hall (**230 S. Bouquet Street**), will be a celebration of European culture, cuisine, and heritage. More information can be found at www.ucis.pitt.edu/eurofest. To volunteer, contact Kate Bowersox: kal68@pitt.edu.

ESC NEWSLETTER:

Director: Professor Ronald H. Linden
Associate Director: Allyson Delnore
Newsletter Editor: Gavin Jenkins

For newsletter announcements, comments, or submissions, please email eu-news@pitt.edu.

ESC would like to thank the European Union for support for the Center.

ESC SPOTLIGHT: KYLE CICCONE



This month, ESC Newsletter Editor Gavin Jenkins interviewed **Kyle Ciccone**, a senior at the University of Pittsburgh who is graduating this spring with a degree in Political Science and certificates in West European Studies, African Studies, and Creative Writing. As an undergrad, he studied in Florence, Italy, and after graduation, he's moving to Malawi, where he will work for the Peace Corps.

Q: What inspired you to earn your three certificates?

A: Western European and African Studies complement each other in a lot of ways. I think what initially inspired me to get those two certificates was the refugee crisis, particularly as it relates to people leaving Africa and seeking asylum in western European countries. By majoring in Political Science, I had the opportunity to look at this crisis as a policy issue. I continued to see a lot of inaction, not only within individual state governments, but also within large international organizations like the European Union and the United Nations. I wanted to really understand why this was happening, to gain more knowledge regarding the history of the African diaspora. I decided to go for an African Studies certificate at the beginning of my junior year, and in the spring semester of that year,

I studied abroad in Florence, Italy. While abroad, I had the opportunity to travel across Europe, seeing different countries, cultures, histories, languages. I fell in love with the people there and, coming back to Pitt, I decided to go for the Western European Studies Certificate.

The path to earning these certificates has given me an incredible amount of knowledge and understanding. It has allowed me to better comprehend the lives of Africans, Europeans, the unbelievable diversity within each continent, the political interactions, and so much more. On top of that, I've gotten to meet some of the most sincere, motivated, unique individuals, who have their own interesting stories to tell. It doesn't get much better than that. I've received so much support from my teachers and classmates, and my advisors – Anna-Maria Karnes and Stephen Lund – have been the best advisors on the planet. These programs have given me two great communities of education and compassion, and quite honestly, getting these certificates was the best decision I made at Pitt.

Q: What were your favorite West European Studies classes, and how did they influence you?

A: My two favorite Western European classes were actually taken during my study abroad semester in Florence, Italy. They were called: Western European Government & Politics and Travel Writing. Both of these classes were extremely different in subject material, but also kind of similar in their influence on me as a person.

In the politics class, I had an awesome professor from Romania named Floria. She was extremely knowledgeable about the history of European life, teaching us everything from government regime types to artistic movements. We would have really interesting classes, sometimes just hearing her lecture, other times going on class trips to museums, historical spots around Florence, etc. That class truly helped me better understand the historical development of the atmosphere we see today in Western Europe -- the politics, the economics, art, beliefs, and a lot more.

In the writing class, I had a professor from Florence named Elisa. This was honestly my favorite class abroad because, as someone who's passionate about creative writing, I was able to have a part of my curriculum that pushed for creativity and expression. A lot of our assignments dealt with going to specific spots around

Continued on Page 6

Continued from Page 5

the city of Florence and writing free-hand, very stream of consciousness-like. I find a lot of fulfillment in that kind of stuff, just writing off the top of my head. It allowed me to not only experience Florence's beauty, but also to express my feelings throughout the semester.

Overall, these two classes kind of served as a balance for me in Italy. I had the formal, political class that gave me a lot of historical context, as well as the creative writing class that gave me the motivation to express myself throughout my time there.

Q: Why did you join the Peace Corps, and what do you hope to get out of it?

A: I joined for a lot of different reasons. After studying abroad, I got the travel bug, as I expected. I came back to

America literally wanting to step foot everywhere on earth. So in the beginning of my senior year, I started wondering how I could combine my new passion for travel with my other interests and passions: advocacy work, teaching English, and writing. The Peace Corps had always been in the back of my head. I knew it was the perfect way for me to intertwine travel with advocacy, so I decided to join the movement. I got accepted as a volunteer in Malawi, and I'm going to move there to teach English as a second language.

I hope to get a lot out of this experience, but above all else, my goal is to have a better understanding of my impact at the micro-level. I want to work with people face-to-face, directly reciprocating a growth of knowledge through the exchanging of different languages and cultures. I want this experience to further my view of just how diverse this world really is. €

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

Congratulations to the following undergraduate and graduate students who will graduate with certificates in West European and/or European Union Studies this year (graduate students are indicated with a G):

EUROPEAN UNION STUDIES

Brian Chestler
James Fritz
Amanda Klimek (G)
Christopher Long
Iris Matijevic
Naomi Miller
Rachel Skillman
Briana Walker (G)

WEST EUROPEAN STUDIES

Kathryn Banaszynski
Jennifer Bertocchi
Kaitlyn Brown
Stephanie Buerk
Charlotte Chen
Kyle Ciccone
Kevin Daley
Julia Dawson
Hannah Devlin
Patrick Eaken
James Fritz
Martine Gallardo
Rachel Gliozzi

WEST EUROPEAN STUDIES (Cont.)

James Fritz
Martine Gallardo
Rachel Gliozzi
Saranya Govindaraju
Michelle Grant
Elizabeth Gujral
Dimitris Hatgidimitriou
Melissa Hager
Hongyu Huang
Kami Kubler
Kilian Liptrot
Adam Lough
Iris Matijevic
Jared Muehlbauer
Jessica Murray
Joshua Orange
Geethika Reddy
Elena Schaller
Taylor Stevenson
Alexandra Stuart
Sarah Ungeheuer
Juliana Warchola
Samuel Watson

Continued from Page 3

tive Literature at Williams College, who delivered a talk in the Humanities Center and met with the graduate students in Professor Doshi's seminar. Titled "Spaces of Migration and Aesthetics of Immobility: *Bidonvilles* in the Francophone Mediterranean Imagination," Pieprzak's talk examined the history of informal settlements/shantytowns – known as *bidonvilles* – set up by migrant workers in industrial areas in Morocco and France. As Pieprzak suggested, the growth of *bidonvilles* tracks industrial development, and its spread and growth over time can be read in terms of the history of colonization and the mass migration of labor across the Mediterranean from North Africa to France that occurs in the post-colonial moment. Focusing specifically on the representation of these sites in Francophone literature and graphic novels, Pieprzak asks how the perceptions of these settlements, which she describes in terms of an "aesthetics of immobility," work simultaneously to contain these sites in limiting ways, while at the same time inspiring possibilities of self-constitution and local activism.



The questions that Professor *Lina Prosa* Pieprzak raised about migration and the political agency of the dispossessed remained prominent in the following events. In early November, both the campus community and the wider public were invited to attend a screening of Stefano Liberti and Andrea Segre's award winning documentary *Mare Chiuso* [*The Closed Sea*] (2012). The film follows African migrants who, fleeing the violence of the 2011 war in Libya, sought asylum in Italy, but were turned away and deported to refugee camps at the Tunisian border. Offering the refugees a platform to narrate their own stories, the film asks pressing questions about responsibility and human rights that are increasingly important in what seems to be a worsening Mediterranean migrant crisis. Following the screening, Segre joined the local audience via Skype for discussion.

The screening of Segre's film was supplemented by a *Conversation on Europe* in which a panel of experts was invited to address current Mediterranean migration. The *Conversation* featured Joanna Kakissis, foreign correspondent for National Public Radio; Martin Xuereb, Director of the humanitarian search and rescue Migrant Offshore Aid Station (MOAS), and Alessandro Bertani,

Vice President of Emergency, an aid group that provides free, high quality medical care to victims of war and poverty. The *Conversation* was followed by a question and answer period, and the entire event was broadcast via internet feed. The wide ranging conversation offered much subject matter for thought, and the participants insisted on the global relevance of the current migration crisis. As Mr. Xuereb suggested, the salient question is not only whether or not countries like the United States should accept migrants, but also, what our responsibility is to asylum seekers in both historical and ethical terms.

The spring semester opened with the visit of Karla Mallette, Professor of Italian and Near Eastern Studies at the University of Michigan. Author of the groundbreaking scholarly work *European Modernity and the Arab Mediterranean*, Mallette is recognized as a key figure in the recent resurgence of Mediterranean studies as an academic subfield. Her work explores how categories of European modernity evolve over time and the function of cultural exchange and conflict in the Mediterranean. To engage with students enrolled in both Professor Insana's (spring) and Professor Doshi's (fall) seminars – and thereby to help connect the concerns of both courses – Professor Mallette pre-circulated unpublished work in progress from her current research on cosmopolitanism and vernacular language, and led an evening discussion session. She also delivered the 2015-16 Tucci–Cornetti lecture, organized by the Italian program. Her paper, titled "Writ in Water: Poetry on Paper in Medieval Italy," addressed the evolving technologies of paper-making and their influence in shaping the poetic consciousness of writers.

Mediterranean [meta]geographies coincided with the 50th anniversary of the Department of French and Italian and, as a series that addressed both scholarly and extremely topical issues, it represents the engagement of the department faculty in the transnational and global relevance of Francophone and Italian studies. The series of events was sponsored by, in addition to its home department, The Year of the Humanities initiative, The Humanities Center, the European Studies Center, The Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, and The Medieval and Renaissance Studies Program. €

THANK YOU AND FAREWELL

It has been an honor to serve as the newsletter editor for the European Studies Center the past four years. As I graduate this spring with a Master in Fine Arts degree from the University of Pittsburgh's nonfiction writing program, I will be passing the torch to an incoming graduate student who will takeover in September, 2016. I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you. As newsletter editor, I had the privilege of working with affiliated faculty and students who contributed to these pages. Thanks to them, I have a better understanding of designing and editing, but also of Europe and the European Union.

I've struggled through tragedy and health issues as newsletter editor, and the ESC's staff has been here for me every step of the way. Director Ron Linden has challenged me with each newsletter he has proofread. Associate Director Allyson Delnore has been amazing. Along with her insightful editing skills, she has helped plan each newsletter. Without Assistant Director Stephen Lund's



support, I would not have been able to complete the ESC Spotlight. He provided names and contact information, and he also helped when I took a course on Alfred Hitchcock last year, loaning DVDs and offering essay advice. Assistant Director of External Affairs Kate Bowersox has become a dear friend, listening to me vent about my personal life more than anyone. Outreach Coordinator Kathleen Ayers helped fix my resume,

and Administrative Assistant Lizz Schellin listened to me grumble as I poured my morning coffee. I'm grateful for my time here, and I'm going to miss all of them.

So here's my plan: continue working as a freelance journalist, while finishing a book about working at a gas station. I'm on the right path; I've been published in *VICE*. But I still have a long way to go before I end up in the ESC Spotlight section.

With gratitude,
Gavin Jenkins

University of Pittsburgh

UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
EUROPEAN STUDIES CENTER
4200 POSVAR HALL
PITTSBURGH, PA 15260
Phone: 412-648-7405
Fax: 412-648-2199
E-mail: esc@pitt.edu
www.ucis.pitt.edu/esc.html

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PITTSBURGH, PA
PERMIT NO. 511