



## Fall 2019

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## Director's Message

Dear ESC colleagues, students, and friends,

We've had a busy fall semester, which kicked off with our "Global Town Hall: From Local Activism to Global Reform" on September 19th. Timed to coincide with the UN Climate Summit the following week, this day-long event, co-sponsored with the Global Studies Center, focused on climate, gender and sustainability at the local and global levels. Wanjira Mathai, daughter of Nobel Laureate and Pitt Alum, Wangari Maathai, and Executive Chair of the Wangari Maathai Foundation, was the keynote speaker. We were happy to have the Heinrich Böll Foundation join us as a co-sponsor of the event, and included among the invited participants was a rising star in the German Green Party. Students, faculty and community members enjoyed a day of learning from experts and in-depth discussions. The previous day, we held a Youth Town Hall, which engaged middle and high school students in these same topics and how they can be agents for change in their own communities.

This year's 'Year of' programming is focused on Memory and Politics (see article on pg. 4) and we have an exciting line-up of speakers, roundtable discussions, and a spring conference planned. Along with the other UCIS Centers, we are participating in a series this semester entitled "1989: A Year of Revolutions". Films, discussions, and lectures all focus on this foundational year around the world. The series will culminate with a roundtable discussion in December of those who personally experienced 1989 and its aftermath. In another cross-Center collaboration, we organized a successful roundtable with the Asian Studies Center on the EU-China relationship at the end of October, which was held downtown to engage the larger Pittsburgh community.

I'm excited to share that we have increased our engagement with social media, including live tweeting during some of our events. If you aren't already, please follow us on Facebook and Twitter--@EuCeEsc, and let us know if you have publications or other exciting news to share. We will be happy to relay them on our channels.

Please check out our website for the full list of this year's events. I look forward to seeing you at our programs throughout the year.

Jae-Jae Spoon  
Director, European Studies Center

## *Conversations on Europe*

All conversations are held on Tuesdays from noon to 1:30 P.M. in 4217 Posvar Hall. Conversations are free and open to the public. You may join us in-person or remotely. Conversations are live-tweeted by @EuceESC.

### **Tuesday, November 12:**

Immigration in the Mediterranean: A Historical Perspective

### **Tuesday, December 3:**

Democratic Backsliding: Poland and Hungary

### **Tuesday, January 21:**

Brexit Update

### **Tuesday, February 18:**

Monuments and Contested Memory in Europe

### **Tuesday, March 17:**

Borders and Contested Memory in Northern Ireland

### **Tuesday, April 14:**

*Lieux de Mémoire:* Notre-Dame One Year After the Fire

## **Pitt Bradford & Heilbronn University: 10 Years of Transatlantic Partnership**

By John Crawford

The University of Pittsburgh at Bradford (UPB) and Heilbronn University (located in Heilbronn, Germany) have truly fostered a strong partnership over the past ten years. The collaborative agreement began between Dr. Mathias Moersch and Professor Rick Nelson (UPB) and it was set up as an exchange opportunity for business students and faculty. Upon Rick Nelson's retirement in 2013, I took over this relationship with Heilbronn University. Pitt-Bradford students have the opportunity to study a semester or two in Heilbronn while I travel abroad to teach at their international business school for two weeks each summer. In exchange, Pitt-Bradford hosts a number of Heilbronn's students and faculty members each year.

One of our newest ventures is a cross-Atlantic classroom that I use via Pitt-Bradford's ITV classroom. The course is my Investment Management class and the technology allows us to sync our two classrooms, an entire ocean apart, in real time to discuss derivative trading strategies once a week during the Fall semester. This gives my students, some of whom have never left Pennsylvania let alone the United States, an opportunity for some international exposure. The support of the UCIS has made these strides possible.

This past summer, the UCIS Research and Teaching in Germany grant helped me travel abroad once again to further my research and teaching collaboration with Heilbronn University. For the past three years, I've taught a special topics course in finance titled, Corporate Financial Scandals and Crises. This class fits well into Heilbronn's finance curriculum as it is not something their institution offers on a regular basis. They believe that it is greatly beneficial to provide an American perspective on the topic of global financial crises to a classroom of mostly Europeans. Typically, my class consists of thirty to forty students with 50% of them being German, local students. The other half of the class is made of other nationalities from all across the world. As Heilbronn is an international business school, many of the classes are held in English.

My course focuses on various economic patterns and crises like bubbles, manias and crashes. Often times, economic bubbles and their subsequent crashes bring about a wave of corporate scandals, which we discover in the aftermath. This part of the curriculum looks at various case studies like Enron, Adelphia, Tyco, WorldCom and Lehman Brothers. Since this class provides more of an American perspective on the topic, the students are required to research and present on other international based corporate scandals and crises. The international students provide great research on various subjects like the VW emissions scandal, FIFA corruption case, and the Parmalat collapse (to name a few). The work that the students contribute helps add an international perspective to my course, which I teach back at Pitt-Bradford. It allows me to further integrate international material into the course, again giving our students greater exposure to global issues.

## Pitt Bradford & Heilbronn Partnership

The second purpose of my collaboration in Heilbronn was to coordinate further co-operative teaching arrangements with Heilbronn's faculty as well as further the research opportunities between our two faculties. I worked closely with Dr. Moersch to coordinate his travel arrangements to Pitt-Bradford this fall. We believed that it would be beneficial if Dr. Moersch would come to Pitt-Bradford for the first two weeks of the Fall semester, so the Pitt-Bradford students taking Investments Management would have some face-to-face instruction with him. Thanks to UCIS's, Dr. Moersch came to Pitt-Bradford and co-taught Investment Management. While here, he was able to form a face-to-face relationship with UPB's students and our faculty, interacting with them on a personal level. We are confident that this will help improve our synchronous class sessions during the rest of the semester.

The third purpose of my stay in Heilbronn was to reboot a research topic between our institutions. Dr. Moersch and I have a teaching research paper in the works that focuses on the (lack of) participation by rural college students in study abroad programs. Sadly, our two institutions see an imbalance of students coming and going abroad. Annually, Heilbronn sends between six and eight students to Pitt-Bradford, while UPB sends only one to Heilbronn. This imbalance causes me great concern as our business students need to experience international exposure in order to remain competitive in the globalized environment we operate in. In collaboration with Heilbronn, I designed and ran a survey questionnaire a couple of years ago, asking Pitt-Bradford students why they opt out of study abroad programs. The major takeaways were fears that programs were too expensive, that there would be too many language barriers, and that it would take them too far from friends and family. Yet, those surveyed who studied abroad, especially in Heilbronn, found the cost was less than a semester at Pitt-Bradford, and that there was no language barriers at all. This travel allowed me to continue working on this paper with Dr. Moersch and hopefully use it to help increase our students' participation rates abroad.

It is incredible to see such financial support and grant opportunities, like the UCIS Research and Teaching in Germany grant, available to faculty members of the University of Pittsburgh. It is especially wonderful to see these opportunities available to faculty of branch campuses too. My hope is that through our continued work and effort, notably by trying a short-term, faculty-lead trip to Heilbronn, we can help to increase the number of UPB students traveling abroad.

*Before coming to Pitt-Bradford, John worked for the Dresser-Rand Co. in Olean, N.Y. and Houston, TX, where he held a variety of financial positions. Currently, he teaches and maintains the finance course curriculum as well as advises the Student Investment Club, which aims to encourage a hands-on approach to learning.*

### ESC NEWSLETTER

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International Studies

## The Year of Memory and Politics

“Memory is always relevant in politics, but it seems especially relevant today.”

When ESC Director Jae-Jae Spoon and ESC Associate Director Allyson Delnore sat down with ESC affiliated faculty to discuss topics of interests, one theme that emerged was a desire to tap into the increasing tendency among European countries to turn to the past. Between the 30th anniversary of 1989, the rise of far-right parties and their nostalgic rhetoric, the debate over monuments, and Brexiters’ longing for hazy “better times,” the connective tissue between memory and contemporary politics seems “especially relevant” indeed.

There are many ways to approach this theme, but the events and speakers sponsored by the European Studies Center this year are focused around three main axes: Constructing, contesting, and idealizing memory.

*Constructing Memory* — Delnore explained that Sophia Rosenfeld, who recently published *Democracy and Truth*, was influential in choosing this year’s theme. Rosenfeld, an intellectual historian who specializes in the epistemic foundations of democracy in the Enlightenment, was prompted by on-going contemporary debates over “fake news” and “alternate facts,” to explore the connections between truth and democracy throughout the history of American and Western Europe. Lies and conspiracy theories make possible the construction of collective memories that may diverge from historical memory or “truth,” a theme that Rosenfeld will be able to discuss at length when she comes to Pitt on February 27. The notion that memory is both constructed and political can be seen in the practices of preserving the past: who makes museums? Whose voices are preserved, and whose are lost? How do we begin to archive the voices of those who have been historically underrepresented? Several of our events this year have been motivated by such questions, including a lecture from our DAAD lecturer, Paweł Machcewicz, about the history of the Gdańsk Museum, in the Spring, a faculty conference about memory and museums organized by Maureen Porter, and the last Conversation on Europe of the academic year in April, about memorializing the Notre-Dame fire.

*Contesting Memory* — Memory is slippery, and contesting

historical narratives is a pastime of the right as much as the left. Debates over monuments, for example, are usually centered around what we remember, and how we remember. We recently had a chance to examine a specific example of this during our October Conversation on Europe about Germany since the 1989 reunification: many citizens of former East Germany rebuff, sometimes inaccurately, narratives of economic restoration following the reconciliation with the West. We will have a Conversation on Europe in February on the topic “Monuments and Contested Memory in Europe,” and another one in March about “Borders and Contested Memory in Northern Ireland.”

*Idealizing Memory* — One cannot discuss the rise of the far-right in Europe without paying attention to one their preferred rhetorical devices: nostalgia. Slogans like “Make America Great Again” are not the exclusive privilege of American politics, and the Le Pens, Salvini and Farage of this world have grown accustomed to glorifying a national past that always relies on splintering Europe. Yet some members of the left, like Jean-Luc Mélenchon in France, also like to boast about an illustrious revolutionary past to bolster their electoral base. A recent JMEUCE lecture by Maria Todorova made this point clear by focusing on the collective memories and collective idealizations of a utopian future that shaped interwar Bulgarian socialism. Stay on the lookout for our upcoming “Eyewitnesses to History” panel in December, and for our JMEUCE lecture in January by Peter Verovsek exploring how memories of the World Wars contributed to the making of the European Union.

Our yearly themes are purposely broad, so as to accommodate as many different voices and perspectives as possible. We will finish the year with an event that transitions into our yearly theme for the 2020-2021 academic year, the “Year of Creating Europe.” In the meantime, remember to attend our lineup of stimulating lectures, roundtables and conferences about the myriad ways in which memory and politics shape each other.



# Sexual and Maritime Rhetorics in Europe

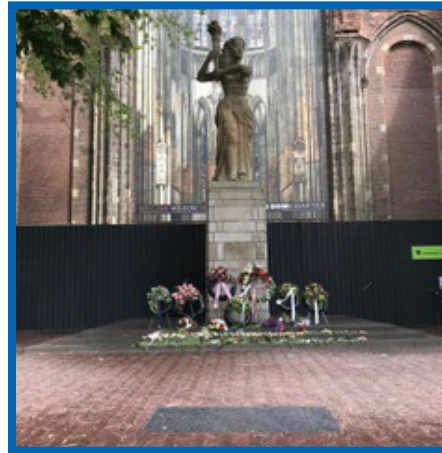
by Peter Campbell

In Spring 2019, I travelled to the United Kingdom as the in-country faculty for the Pitt in London semester abroad program. A generous grant from the European Studies Center—alongside funding from the Special Initiative to Promote Scholarly Activity in the Humanities—afforded me an unusual opportunity for on-site research toward two research projects connected by geography and topic. With London and the ancient market town of Epping as my base, I travelled by train through Manchester, Faversham, Dover, Portsmouth, Paris, Utrecht, and Amsterdam, putting edifices to ideas I explore in research about the rhetoric of English sodomy law, and the comparative politics of race and naval nostalgia among Atlantic maritime empires.

The second chapter of my monograph “Rhetoric and Radical Politics: Sexuality, Race, and the Fourteenth Amendment” traces the understudied legacy of early twentieth-century judicial arguments about sodomy laws, especially in the U.S. state of Georgia. These century-old Georgia appellate cases, including the Georgia Appeals Court’s 1917 ruling in *Comer v. State*, have had a major, if often unwritten, influence on the U.S. Supreme Court’s late twentieth and early twenty-first century jurisprudence of sex, reproduction, and the Fourteenth Amendment Due Process Clause (“no State shall...deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law”). Sex arguments among judges in 1910s Georgia appellate courts turned on questions about how terms like “sex” and “crime against nature” were understood in English common law. They record the importance of earlier English constitutional debates about body and property, to twenty-first century U.S. laws restricting relational and relational choice.

I finished drafting my book in London, but I didn’t have space for a detailed investigation of the English history of the cases I study. Sodomy law has played a central role in the racist operation of English and other European maritime settler empires. And contemporary U.S. rights rhetoric can be traced in part through Parliament’s 1689 Bill of Rights, ratified following the successful Dutch naval invasion of England in the so-called Glorious Revolution of 1688. Just about a year ago, I travelled to the Netherlands for a conference on multicultural discourse at Tilburg University. On a lunchtime stop in Utrecht, I stumbled

on a plaque embedded in the paving stones of the Domplein, or Cathedral Square. This plaque commemorates Utrecht’s role in the Dutch sodomy trials and mass executions of 1730–31, part of a series of sodomy “pogroms” in eighteenth-century Indonesia and the Netherlands. During this time, Georgia and other English (including some formerly Dutch) settler colonies in the future United States were crafting their own systems of legal sex persecution—written through English constitutionalism and adapted for societies rooted in the conquest and settlement of indigenous land, and the plantation system of Black enslavement. I began to wonder if there might be some connection to Dutch settler legal rhetoric—and perhaps also a relationship between contemporary rhetorics of naval nostalgia and racial memory in the Netherlands, United Kingdom, and United States.



There couldn’t be a better example of a research project in fragile early stages than the possibility of a productive relationship between Utrecht’s sodomy trial (perhaps among the first European examples of the legal construction of

“homosexuality” as a bodily fixed, or racialized identity), and what I have spent years studying as the racial politics of recent U.S. judicial arguments about sex, and the sexual politics of judicial arguments about race. Half a year after my first serendipitous visit, funding from the European Studies Center gave me an opportunity to keep exploring these connections with a return to Utrecht this past May.

The city’s famous Dom Tower looms over the square and adjacent Domkerk; at one time, the “Cathedral Tower” and “Cathedral Church” were one building connected by a nave, which was destroyed by storm in the late seventeenth century. Scholars and local accounts (including the memorial) describe the rubble as a popular meeting

## Sexual and Maritime Rhetorics in Europe, continued

until the 1730 trial and mass execution. My first stop after revisiting the plaque was the Domkerk, where I also hoped to find one of the tomb effigies of important officers from the Golden Age of Sail common to major Dutch churches. Among a wealth of historical information about the Church and the Tower (centered, as I had hoped, around the tomb of a Dutch admiral from the Golden Age) I found no mention of the mass execution commemorated by the Sodomonument just outside. (The memorial, in turn, makes no mention of the trials and executions carried out in the Netherlands and Indonesia throughout the eighteenth century, or of the importance of the Utrecht trial to this broader effort.)



The Dom Tower is accessible only through guided tour. As in the Domkerk, the journey up the Tower included information on the storm and reconstruction, with no mention—until I asked—of the history of the rubble, the trial, or the plaque embedded in the square. My experience, of course, was an anecdotal one: a great deal of difficult archival research and investigation lies ahead. But as a construction of memory-in-place, the Domplein struck me as an example of what rhetorical scholars of memory and monuments think about as physical argumentative briefs—in this case for the nostalgic memorialization of imperial maritime glory, and the sublimation of imperial histories of sexual and racial punishment.

My naval nostalgia tour also took me through Paris and Amsterdam, and, in England, Manchester, Portsmouth, St. Margaret's-at-Cliffe and Dover, Faversham, and several locations in London, including the J.M.W. Turner House and Gardens. I explored the historic Oare Gunpowder Works outside Faversham, at one time site of major gunpowder production for both the Royal Navy and British East India Company—where I was grateful for a tutorial on gunpowder production from a volunteer docent in the Faversham Society Museum. In Amsterdam, Portsmouth, and London, I investigated the memorialization of, among others,

Horatio Nelson, baron van Gendt, Michiel de Ruyter, and English and Dutch imperial naval history through painting, sculpture, ships and ship models.

Lisa Lowe's reading of Yinka Shinobare's sculpture *Nelson's Ship in a Bottle* anchors Lowe's argument about the importance of naval memory to contemporary attitudes about enslavement, race, and imperialism in former maritime empires. Research takes time, and comparative research across vast distances of scholarly field and geographic place can sometimes be difficult to even begin. I am grateful for this funding opportunity from the European Studies Center, which allowed me to use my time in London to begin exploring my own transnational understanding of contemporary U.S., English, and Dutch rhetorics of sexual normativity and White supremacy as interconnected and typical features of European maritime empires. I am excited to keep studying the relationships among these three country's imperial and post-imperial politics of sexuality and race, and their complicated national rhetorics of naval nostalgia.



*Peter Campbell sits next to the man with the cat in Amsterdam*

*Peter Odell Campbell is an Assistant Professor in the Department of English Program in Composition, Literacy, Pedagogy, and Rhetoric, and affiliate faculty in the Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies and Cultural Studies Programs and the European Studies Center at the University of Pittsburgh. Peter's writing can be found in *Monster Culture in the Twentieth Century*, *QED: A Journal in GLBTQ Worldmaking*, the *Quarterly Journal of Speech*, *Transgender Communication Studies*, and *Women's Studies Quarterly*.*



## Culture and Emotions in Dartmouth

by Brendan Ezvan

This summer I received funding from the *European Studies Center's Alberta Sbragia Fund for Graduate European Studies* to attend the 2019 Summer Institute of French Cultural Studies at Dartmouth, organized by Dr. Lawrence Kritzman. This year's theme, "Culture & Emotions," brought together graduate students with scholars from French, UK, and North American institutions whose work engages with the cultural history of emotions. Within the context of an increasing attention to the role of emotion in political life and popular movements in France (as in the emphasis on the populist anger of the *gilets jaunes* protest movement), the four weeks of seminars, lectures, and teaching practica held at Dartmouth offered a historical perspective on a cultural moment in French culture in which feeling has come to the forefront.

Each week, the Dartmouth Institute hosted two invited scholars to lead two in-depth seminars with graduate students, followed by a roundtable discussion and a pedagogical seminar that sparked lively discussion on teaching Francophone literature, philosophy, and culture in the undergraduate classroom – close attention was paid in particular to bringing together research and pedagogy. Participants were also given the opportunity to attend lectures by scholars on the cutting-edge of interdisciplinary research on the emotions, such as Georges Vigarello, whose ambitious edited collection *History of the Emotions* situates emotions in European culture and philosophy from Antiquity to the present.

Each week provided an invaluable encounter with scholars working on a wide variety of periods and with diverse methodologies. I had the opportunity to work through my own research both with fellow graduate students in French Studies and with senior faculty who have published extensively in their own fields. As the result of extensive conversations with other participants and invited scholars, I was able to develop a clear outline of my current dissertation chapter – a cultural and intellectual history of fire from 1600-1734 – that will be presented in part at the 2020 meeting of the Modern Language Association in Seattle.

Over the course of the Institute, one of the many opportunities that funding from the European Studies Center

provided was the chance to cultivate relationships with graduate students at varying stages of their academic career – from those already on the job market to first-year students. Our basement kitchen became an informal place to offer suggestions on job documents, information on conference panels being organized, teaching tips, and to sketch out all of the exciting directions that our work may yet take.

Attending the Dartmouth Institute wouldn't have been possible without the generous funding I received from the *Alberta Sbragia Fund*. Being able to engage with graduate students and scholars working through the pressing questions of contemporary cultural studies was invaluable both in spurring on my dissertation work and in demonstrating the different possibilities for interdisciplinary work within my own field. Hopefully, as a new generation of scholars develops, these kinds of important initiatives will continue to grow!



*Brendan Ezvan is a PhD candidate in the Department of French and Italian at the University of Pittsburgh. His dissertation considers how French texts of the long eighteenth century theorize emotions in ways that anticipate contemporary debates in literary studies and philosophy. He is currently at work on articles on elementary spirits and embodiment in speculative fiction and scientific treatises of the 17th and 18th centuries, especially in natural philosophical understandings of fire.*

## Pitt GTH: From Local Activism to Global Reform

Last September, the European Studies Center co-hosted the Pittsburgh Global Town Hall, an international event designed to tackle the interconnections between climate change, gender, and sustainability. The event featured ten participants from all over the world, in an exciting succession of roundtables, expert panels, and lectures.

Among the highlights of these two days, we had the pleasure of listening to Paulo Magalhães, the General Director of Common Home of Humanity, an international association whose purpose is to build a new theoretical and operational model of just and sustainable global governance. Specifically, Magalhães's intervention concerned the need to create a new legal framework in order to meet and act upon climate and nature emergencies.

We were also honored to welcome Wanjira Mathai, the executive chair of the Wangari Maathai Foundation and daughter of Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Wangari Maathai. Mathai talked about perpetuating her mother's legacy in her work with the Green Belt Movement, and called attention to the pivotal role Africa is bound to play in the upcoming fight against climate change.

Over the course of these two days, participants led stimulating discussions and call to actions, on topics ranging from how climate change affects women differently, how local political activism can ripple and reach a national, if not a global scale, or what role institutions of higher learning such as Pitt should play in these struggles.

Most of the events were live-streamed and recorded, and are available for streaming on the UCIS website. Thank you to all of our participants and to all the people who attended!



From left to right: Allyson Delnore, Earl James, Veronica Dristas, Wanjira Mathai, Ariel Armony, Paulo Magalhães, anupama jain, Jae-Jae Spoon and Michael Goodhart.

## Welcome to our new Student Ambassadors

This year again, the European Studies Center will have three undergraduate student ambassadors representing it, with different backgrounds and interests.

*Joanna Harlacher* is a senior student majoring in anthropology, and minoring in French, museum studies and historic preservation. She is also currently completing the certificate in West European studies, and was able to study in London, Madrid, Paris and Rome. After she graduates, Joanna would like to work in the Museum field.



*Robert Lynn* is a junior at Pitt, where he is doing a major in Political Science, a minor in Italian, and a certificate in European Union Studies. A one-credit course with the European Studies Center during his first year sparked his interest in the European Union, and his first trip abroad, in Italy, motivated him to learn the language. He hopes he will be able to pursue his interest in history, geography and all things political in graduate school, specifically GSPIA, where he would like to study the emerging sector of international technology in relation to space policy.



*Thayjas Patil* is a fourth year Neuroscience and Economics major, with a concentration in European Studies. He is interested in studying and comparing different healthcare systems around the world. After graduation, he plans to go to Medical school, and ultimately to work in administration in order to improve healthcare systems in the US and abroad. During the summer of 2018, he worked in Germany for two and a half months, where he worked in Berlin to research how healthcare access affects the mental state of refugees.

