



Autumn 2017

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Director's Message

Dear ESC colleagues, students, and friends,

I am very happy to have started my first semester as Director of the European Studies Center.

We have a great year of programs coming up. First, we have our Participation and Democracy Series, which we kicked off with two events on the elections in Germany. Upcoming events will look at populism, social media and political engagement, coverage of female candidates in elections to the European Parliament, and climate change protests. We are working with the five other area studies centers and programs on an exciting series of programs this spring on the global legacy of the events of 1968. Second, we have a great line-up of our virtual roundtable series, *Conversations on Europe*, this year. Topics include the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, the 30th anniversary of the Erasmus program, an update on Brexit, alternative energy, 21st century cities, and the upcoming Italian elections.

October 15th marked the beginning of International Week and the ESC is sponsoring a film as part of the film series on displacement. *King of the Belgians* will be shown at the Frick Fine Arts Auditorium on Oct. 21st at 8pm.

Also, a couple of items to share. First, along with three other institutions, Pitt received the Senator Paul Simon Award for Comprehensive Internationalization by NAFSA: Association of International Educators.

The University Center for International Studies (UCIS) has played a big role in implementing Pitt's global plan and the ESC is proud to have been a part of this. Second, Senior Director of International Programs and Director of UCIS, Ariel Armony, has been named Vice Provost of Global Engagement and is now part of the Provost's leadership team. We wish Dr. Armony our sincerest congratulations on this appointment.

I look forward to seeing you at our programs and events this fall.

Jae-Jae Spoon
Director, European Studies Center

Conversations on Europe 2017-18

October 18

[Religion in Europe: 500 Years Since the Protestant Reformation](#)

November 15

[European Integration Through Study Abroad? 30 Years of the Erasmus Program](#)

December 6

[Brexit Update: Negotiating Brexit](#)

January 24

[Wind, Water, Sun: Clean Energy in Europe](#)

February 21

[European Cities in the 21st Century](#)

March 14

[May 1968: Legacies of Protest in France](#)

April 18

[Elections in Italy: A Next Wave for Populists? \(In Italian\)](#)

All conversations are held on Wednesdays 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.

The Effect of Immigrant Integration Policy on Attitudes Toward Immigration

by Michael Neureiter

Motivated by the 2015 European migrant crisis, my dissertation "On the Origins and Effects of Contemporary Immigrant Integration Policy in Western Europe" examines why some European states have adopted mandatory language and civic education requirements for immigrants while others have not, and what the consequences of these requirements are. I argue that one particular effect of these integration requirements is that they can lead to more positive attitudes toward immigrants among the general public. This effect works through two distinct and complementary mechanisms. First, by helping immigrants learn about the local language and culture, mandatory integration requirements make immigrants appear less "threatening" to native-born Europeans. Second, by introducing language and civic integration requirements for immigrants and communicating their existence to the public, governments can signal the extent of immigrants' obligations and responsibilities. This provides a counter-narrative to the common misperception that European governments are all too willing to grant rights and benefits to immigrants without asking much in return.

Thanks to the generous financial support provided by the Klinzing Grant for Dissertation Research on Contemporary Europe, I was able to test my arguments by developing an original survey experiment and distributing it to a representative sample of 1,600 British adults. Respondents were randomly assigned to one of eight experimental groups. Respondents in each group were presented with a hypothetical scenario including a particular integration policy and group of immigrants, and were then asked about their level of support for admitting that group of immigrants. My preliminary analyses of the survey data reveal three important results: first, respondents exhibited more positive attitudes toward immigrants if they do not have full access to the welfare state. Second, respondents were much more supportive of immigration when the immigrants in question are from other European countries as opposed to the Middle East. Third, mandatory language and civic education requirements for immigrants made respondents more supportive of immigration from the Middle East, but had no effect on their level of support for immigration from other European countries. I conclude that these integration requirements are an effective way to make European publics more supportive of immigrants that are otherwise often perceived as culturally distant and threatening.

These findings have two major implications. First, while generally insightful, previous research explaining individual attitudes toward immigration has largely failed to develop practical suggestions on how to mitigate prejudice against immigrants. This study demonstrates that mandatory language and civic integration requirements for immigrants can lead to more positive attitudes toward immigrants. In cases where such requirements already exist, the same result can

be achieved by communicating their existence more effectively to the public. Second, the benefits and drawbacks of mandatory language and civic education requirements for immigrants are still subject to much debate among scholars and policymakers alike. As elected officials ponder the tightening or loosening of these requirements, it is important that they are presented with information on all their effects, including a potential reduction of anti-immigrant sentiments.

In addition, the financial support I received through the Klinzing Grant allows me to present my research findings at the 59th International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention in San Francisco, April 4-7, 2018. Representing over 100 countries, ISA has more than 6,500 members worldwide and is the most respected and widely known scholarly association in its field. Being able to present my survey results at the ISA Annual Convention is beneficial for three reasons. First, ISA conventions are not only attended by scholars but also by a large number of policymakers. This provides me with a unique opportunity to create awareness of my findings among policy circles, which is crucial if I want my research to have an impact beyond academia. Second, the panel in which I will present my results is scheduled to include migration experts from all over the world. Therefore, I expect to receive quality feedback that will allow me to further improve my dissertation and get it published in a high-ranking academic journal. Third, ISA conventions provide an ideal environment to exchange ideas with likeminded scholars. Therefore, I anticipate being able to establish collaborative projects and develop ideas for future research. I would like to build on my dissertation by exploring other ways in which mandatory language and civic education requirements for immigrants affect both the immigrant community and the public at large, and how public attitudes toward immigration and immigrants can be improved.

Michael Neureiter is a Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of Political Science. His research interests include migration and migration policy, human rights and democracy promotion, and mass media and public opinion.

ESC NEWSLETTER

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

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Student Spotlight: Sarah Fling

Interview by Avery Keatley



Sarah Fling, the ESC student ambassador and Brussels Study Trip alumna poses for a picture in Belgium.

Sarah Fling is a junior at Pitt, studying History and Theater, and pursuing a certificate in West European Studies from the ESC. I spoke with Sarah about her courses, her experience in Brussels, and how she got interested in Europe to begin with.

Q: You're a Theater major?

A: Yes, I'm a Theater and History major. When I first came [to Pitt] I was hesitant to do that because everyone tells you not to do those types of majors. So I started out doing History and Political Science, but last year, [I thought], you know what, I'm just going to do what I like to do, and I'm going to do History and Theater.

Q: And you're also pursuing a certificate here.

A: Yes, I'm pursuing a certificate in West European Studies. My focus in my majors is European history or European theater, so I still haven't decided exactly what I want to do. But it's definitely going to be something with politics. Because it's something I'm really interested in that I just don't have time for.

Q: Are you interested in modern European politics?

A: I would say politics-wise I'm more interested in modern European politics. History-wise, I'm more interested in the Tudor Era. That's my dish.

Q: What time period is that?

A: I would say it's going toward the 1500's until...well, Queen Elizabeth was the last ruler of the Tudor Era, and she died in 1603. So about that 100-year period is my favorite.

Q: What got you interested in Europe?

A: When I was a little kid, I used to ask my parents to take me to the library so I could take out books about the plague, and other random European happenings. When I was in second grade I did an entire project about the creation of the Titanic and Lady Di, so I've always just had this interest since I was really little.

I think it's because I read those kids' books about diaries of young girls in historical eras. I used to read one, it was Marie Antoinette as a young girl, pretending to write a diary. I would read those all the time. I think that's where it started.

Q: Had you been to Europe before you went to Brussels?

A: No, I hadn't. I've been to Brussels twice with the [European Studies] Center. But that was the first time I ever went to Europe. I loved it.

Q: Can you tell me a little about your experience there?

A: Yes—the first time I went for five days, and that was the Brussels Study Tour. That was more focused on the institutions of the EU, so we visited the European Parliament and the council building. We were there during the Brexit vote...the results came out and I don't know how to describe the tension. It was palpable.

That got me more interested in visiting again. I heard about the five-week program in Brussels and how I would take classes and get academic credit. [I went] and learned so much about the EU! There were students from all across the US, and graduate students too, so it was catered to a more advanced level. It was challenging...but it ended up being worth it because I gleaned a lot of knowledge.

Q: Were your expectations met when you went to Europe?

A: I had super high expectations, and everything surpassed my expectations. [Brussels] is such a diplomatic area, such a unique mixture.

Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Shanti Gamper-Rabindran

Shanti Gamper-Rabindran, Ph.D., Associate Professor, GS-PIA, is in the final stages of publishing her book, *The Shale Dilemma: A Global Perspective on Fracking and Shale Development*. The book, due to be published this November, is the culmination of years of research, some of which the ESC helped organize and fund.

In 2014 and 2015, the ESC funded two international conferences for which Dr. Gamper-Rabindran was the scientific organizer. In 2014, the ESC supported and organized her first conference, “Environment and Energy: A Comparison of U.S. and EU Policies.” This led to another conference the following year, “Managing Risks in the Shale Gas Industry.” Our sister center, Russian and East European Studies Center (REES) funded and organized this conference in with support from the ESC.

In 2016 the ESC funded Dr. Gamper-Rabindran’s trip to Munich, where she delivered a talk. She also received funds from the ESC in 2017 for continued research in Germany.

Dr. Gamper-Rabindran is currently teaching three graduate courses in GSPIA, which center around economics, sustainability and policy.



Dr. Gamper-Rabindran at the ENEL geothermal power plant in Tuscany.

2017-18 Participation and Democracy Series

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

Monday, October 30, 2017

Colloquium: Populism in Europe and the U.S.

Monday, November 6, 2017

Jean Monnet Lecture: “Social Media and Political Engagement,” Yannis Theocharis, University of Groningen

Thursday, January 18, 2018

Jean Monnet Lecture: “Consistently Invisible? Women’s News Media Coverage during the European Elections, 1999-2014”
Maarja Luhiste, Newcastle University

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

Virtual Roundtable: “Elections in Italy: A Next Wave for Populists?”
Co-sponsored by Dept. of French and Italian

Wednesday, March 29, 2018

Jean Monnet Lecture: “Climate Change and Protest,” Stacy VanDeveer, University of Massachusetts, Boston

Thursday, February 8, 2018

Featured Speaker: Todd Gitlin, Columbia University, “Legacies of 1968”

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Virtual Roundtable: “May 1968 and the Legacies of Protest in France”

These events are free and open to the public. [Check our website](#) for more information.

In Review

The ESC kicked off the 2017 academic year with events for students, faculty and staff. The ESC was a sponsor of the 27th Annual Pittsburgh Irish Festival, held Sept. 8-10 at the Riverplex. In addition to a booth, the ESC sponsored a lecture series, “Bridge to Europe,” with three lectures from Nic Barilar, a Ph.D. candidate in Theatre and performance Studies, Dr. Janice Vance from the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, and Dr. Paul Adams from the Dept. of Political Science at Pitt Greensburg.

The ESC also sponsored a lecture by Dr. Zachary Greene from the University of Glasgow, called “How Intra-Party Disagreement Determines Issue Salience and Diversity in Parties’ Election Manifestos.” Dr. Greene gave examples from election platforms in Germany to highlight the ways in which parties negotiate between intra-party groups.

On Sept. 14, the ESC held its opening reception. Sixty-five students, faculty and staff came to meet and mingle, as well as learn about our center and programs. We were delighted to have such a strong interest and kick-off to this year!

Our first roundtable for our ongoing *Conversations on Europe* series took place on Sept. 20. The topic was, “Germany’s Elections: What’s at Stake in 2017?” Over 75 students, faculty and staff packed the room to hear our panel, which included: Annika Schechinger, Deputy Director of the German Embassy; Dr. Gregor Thum, University of Pittsburgh; Dr. Tarik Abou-Chadi, Humboldt University in Berlin; Dr. Mark Kayser, Hertie School of Governance. Our director, Dr. Jae-Jae Spoon, moderated the panel and discussion.

On Oct. 13, the ESC held a symposium called “Europe’s Muslim Question?” Over 50 in-person and online participants joined us for an all-day event that explored topics in European-Muslim identity. Three panels were held throughout the day, with panelists from across the country giving talks and presentations.



Top left: Nic Barilar, Ph.D. candidate, Theatre and Performance Studies, gives a lecture at the Pittsburgh Irish Festival. Top R: Attendees listen to a panel as part of our symposium, “Europe’s Muslim Question?” Bottom L: Students, faculty, and staff gather, eat, and mingle at our Opening Reception. Bottom R: a full house for *Conversations on Europe*, Germany’s Election: What’s at Stake in 2017?



ESC Updates

The ESC is proud to welcome two new staff members to our team. Eliana Callahan has taken the role of Educational Engagement Coordinator, and Josh Counselman is our new Reserach Advisor and Teaching Fellow.

Eliana Callahan, Educational Engagement Coordinator



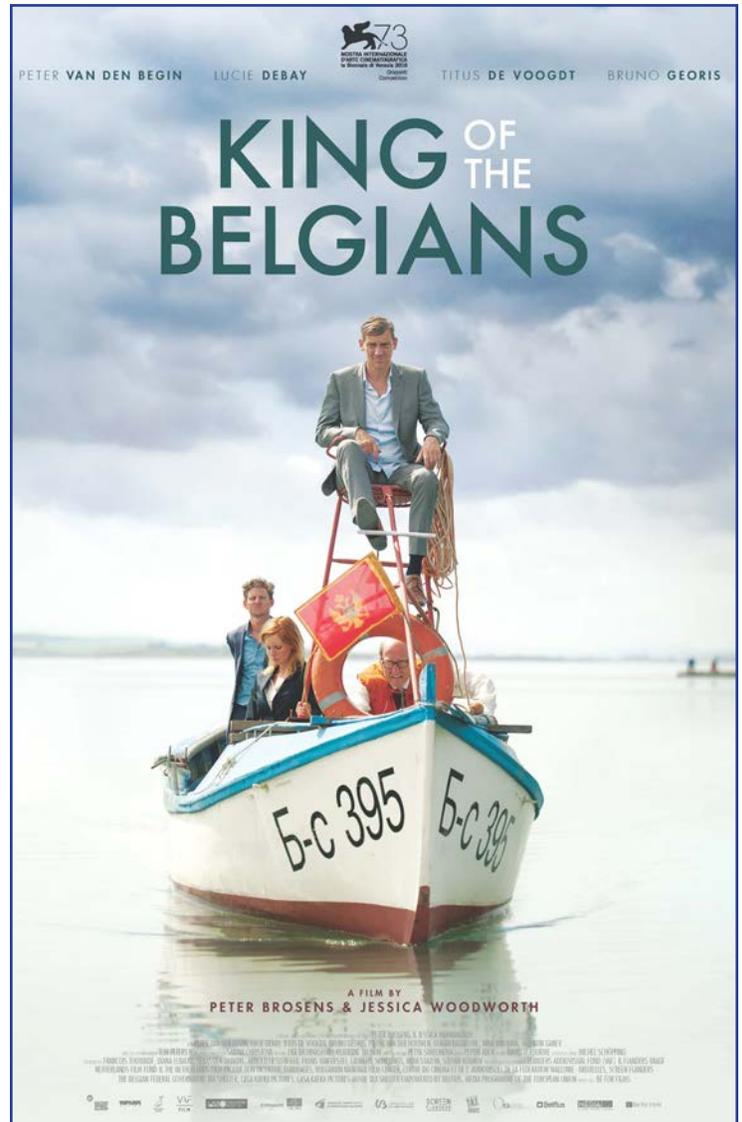
Eliana began working at the European Studies Center in May of 2017. She has a BA in anthropology and an MS in Education. Eliana taught middle school in Nebraska for ten years prior to moving to Pittsburgh; here she substitute taught for multiple districts and earned

her English as a Second Language teaching certificate. Eliana is married with two teenage children. She enjoys travel, reading, and gardening. Contact Eliana if you are interested in opportunities for cultural and educational outreach, Model EU, Model UN, and EuroFest.

Josh Counselman, Research Advisor & Teaching Fellow

Josh Counselman is currently a fourth-year Ph.D. student in Political Science at the University of Pittsburgh. His research interests include international trade negotiations and agreements, economic voting, and international cooperation. He is from West Virginia, received his BA in Political Science from Marietta College, and his MA in Political Science from Pitt.

Contact Josh if you need assistance writing a paper on a European topic.



Screening: King of the Belgians Saturday, Oct. 21, 8 P.M. 125 Frick Fine Arts

Join Pitt and the ESC as we celebrate International Week with a film festival focusing on the theme “Displacement.” The ESC is proud to present the Pittsburgh premiere of *King of the Belgians*, a mockumentary which debuted at the Venice Film Festival earlier this year.

The screening is completely free, open to the public, and we’ll be serving chocolate-covered waffles. Don’t miss this!

[Watch the trailer here.](#)

Exploring Conflict Through Architecture

By Barbara Petrosky, Ph.D.

The title of my project was “Christian and Muslim Conflicts: Mozarabic Architecture and Literary Representations of Islam in the Pyrenees”. I received a Faculty Research Grant from the European Studies Center, to conduct research in the Pyrenees Mountains, specifically in Southern France and Northern Spain during June 2017. The goal of my trip to Southern France was to study the Romanesque and Gothic architecture of some important churches, monasteries, castles, and cathedrals, in order to better understand the relationship between religion, art, and literature in the twelfth century.

I followed the footsteps of Charlemagne’s great retreat from Roncesvalles in 778 in the Pyrenees, after the death of his nephew, Roland. As an Associate Professor of French Literature, I studied both the literary representation of this journey and the architectural artifacts left by the Mozarabic artists in Southern France. These artists were Christians who lived in the Iberian Peninsula after the Arab invasion of 711. These conquered Christians were tolerated and maintained their traditional religion, though they came to be called *mustarib*, meaning “arabicized,” from which “Mozarab” is derived. Mozarabic architecture shows the influence of Islamic style, especially in its use of horseshoe-shaped arches and ribbed domes. Many churches built in the Mozarabic style by monks who moved to northern Spain in the ninth through 11th centuries still survive.

Although Charlemagne’s military campaign took place in the eighth century, he was the central figure in a cycle of epic poems called *chansons de geste* which I analyzed during my trip to Europe. The first poem from the *geste de Charlemagne*, or the Cycle of the King, is *La Chanson de Roland* written near the end of eleventh century. The two other poems belong to the *Cycle de Guillaume d’Orange* or Cycle of William of Orange. These poems are: *Aymeri de Narbonne* (beginning of 13th century), and *Les Narbonnais* (13th century). Finally, the last one is *L’Entrée d’Espagne* (14th century).

Charlemagne remained a central character in many epic poems, even though he had died centuries before they were written. This time gap is attributed to the fact that vernacular French literature did not become prevalent until the

latter eleventh century, with the *Song of Roland* circa 1070. The poets chose Charlemagne as both a political model and as a literary construct of the ideal king. The writing of many of these popular epic poems were written in the twelfth century, when French kings were beginning to consolidate their political influence in Western Europe.

I used money from the Faculty Research Grant to travel from Pittsburgh to Paris. Once in Paris, I took a train to Biarritz, and then rented a car in order to visit small villages. I studied the Hispano-moorish style of many different monuments such as: L’Hôpital Saint-Blaise, Oloron Sainte-Marie, Notre-Dame de Lescar, and the Castillet in Perpignan. Some of these monuments are situated in small villages in the Pyrénées-Atlantique region of France, near Pau. I also traveled to larger metropolitan areas such as Pamplona, Toulouse, Narbonne, and Perpignan which were preponderant in the Middle Ages.

My second goal was to take pictures in order to explain to my students the relationship between art and literature in the medieval times. A vast majority of the population in medieval Western Europe was illiterate, their biblical education was imparted through sculptures and stained-glass windows. My third goal was to expand my range of literary criticism to include some of the more influential scholars in the field.

The Faculty Research Grant gave me the opportunity to improve two French courses that I teach on a regular basis. My intention when teaching my Introduction to Civilization and French Literature courses will be to establish a link between the crusades and military campaigns of Charlemagne against Muslims, as depicted in these medieval poems, and the war on terrorism that is ongoing in the U.S. and in France right now. I intend to talk to the students about the war of religions in the Middle Ages and today.

I presented the results of my findings at the Pennsylvania Foreign Language Conference in Pittsburgh in September 2017. This paper will be certainly published in the proceedings of the conference.

Finally, I was very grateful to obtain this grant. As a French and Spanish professor at Pitt-Johnstown, this grant allowed me to improve my knowledge of both France and Spain,

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and enabled me to improve my scholarly work and my teaching.

Dr. Barbara Petrosky received her PhD in French literature from the University of Florida. She is Associate Professor, and currently teaches French language and literature as well as Spanish language on the Johnstown campus.



L'Hospital-Saint-Blaise, an example of 12th century Mozarabic architecture.

ESC Abroad

By Nathaniel Henderson

This past summer I had the privilege to spend a semester abroad in the beautiful city of Augsburg, Germany. This vibrant and storied place traces its history back more than 1000 years—Roman battlements still stand in parts of the city today. I spent my summer semester studying with the wonderful staff of the International Office's Welt Weit Program (World Wide) and the Sprachenzentrum (Language Center) at the university of Augsburg, where I took intercultural seminars and a grammar course. As a German Language and Culture major, with a certificate in Western European studies, my time at Pitt would not have been complete without some time studying in Germany. Recommended to me by my professor and department chair, Dr. Randall Halle, the program offered me ample opportunity to further enhance my German reading, writing, and speaking skills first hand. Along with practicing my skills, the program fit right in with my major and certificate, al-

lowing me to put all three courses towards my Pitt requirements.

In addition to my studies, I was able to enjoy the rich culture and history of Germany, exploring some of the historic sites in and around Augsburg as well as traveling to Munich several times, and around the country at the end of my stay, making stops in Stuttgart, Ingolstadt, Berlin, Wolfsburg, and Frankfurt. The Welt Weit Program for international students allows non-EU universities the opportunity to partake in all that the Uni Augsburg has to offer. Pitt was one of the earliest universities to partner with Augsburg for exchange programs, and this legacy allows for smooth operation when it comes to transferring credits, scheduling, and enrolling. It also allows for the opportunity to take more than just German classes, as the entire course catalog is open for students to explore, including Augsburg's excellent Arts, Humanities, Business, and Law programs, among others. It nicely complements the Erasmus graduate program for EU students, and the programs' shared home at the Augsburg International Office allows interaction and the opportunity to make friends with students from literally every corner of the Earth.



Nathaniel at VW Headquarters in Wolfsburg, Germany.