Dear ESC colleagues, students, and friends,

I hope the fall semester has gotten off to a good start. We’ve had a busy few months and have a great year of programming coming up. I am excited to share that news that the ESC has been awarded three grants: a Jean Monnet Center of Excellence (JMEUCE) grant, a Jean Monnet Network grant, and a National Resource (Title VI) Center and Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships Grant from the U.S. Department of Education. All together, the ESC will be distributing over $2 million to faculty, students, and staff at the University of Pittsburgh over the next four years. You can read more about focus of the grants and the projects and programs they will be funding on pages 4-5.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the ESC’s designation as an EU Center of Excellence (and the 34th anniversary of what started as the West European Studies Center). To celebrate this anniversary, the theme of this year’s programming is Global Europe. We kicked off our Year of Global Europe with Eurofest—a celebration of all things European in the ‘burgh—on a beautiful Saturday in September. And we are welcoming Prof. Wendy Watson at the end of October, who will be discussing her book: Mixing It: Multinational, Multi-ethnic Britain in the Second World War.

In November, we will be honoring our founder and longtime Director, Prof. Alberta Sbragia, who will be retiring at the end of the academic year, with a symposium which will bring together some of the top scholars in EU and comparative governance studies to honor her contributions to the field. In March, we have organized an event in Brussels to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the EUCE program and Prof. Sbragia’s integral role in its creation.

Please check out our website for the full list of Global Europe events—conversations, symposia, lectures, and films. I look forward to seeing you at our programs and events this fall.

Enjoy the change of seasons!

Jae-Jae Spoon
Director, European Studies Center
When most Americans think about their health or what it means to be healthy, it is frequently in terms of not being sick or having anything wrong with them. Although this approach to health, characterized as a “medical model,” has dominated our thinking for most of the 20th century, competing models of health have emerged in the latter part of the 20th and into the 21st century. In 1948, The World Health Organization defined health as, “a complete state of physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.” This holistic approach to thinking about health continues to evolve and with it, new questions emerge. For example, how do societies grapple with the growing health problem of social isolation and loneliness that is affecting the populations of many developed countries? Recent research has shown that the effect of loneliness and social isolation can be as harmful as smoking 15 cigarettes per day and is more damaging to health than obesity. This past spring I received a Course Development Grant from the European Studies Center, to travel to the UK to research the phenomena of social isolation and loneliness. The goal of this trip was to learn how policymakers, health researchers, and community members in Scotland and England—who have been at the forefront of thinking about this issue, are responding in terms of policy development and program implementation to combat the problem. I intend to apply what I learned to revise an existing doctoral seminar that I lead at Pitt’s Graduate School of Public Health that addresses social determinants of health.

After spending three weeks in the UK—primarily in Scotland—I was struck by two things regarding how this country approaches social isolation and loneliness across the lifespan. First, there appears to be a genuine commitment to addressing this issue, and policymakers at the national and local levels are engaged in efforts to identify promising approaches to reduce loneliness and isolation, and then facilitate implementation of them in local communities. Second, the strategies that are used to address loneliness tend to focus on asset-based approaches. This means that community initiatives effectively address what people want and need by involving them in the development process. This type of approach builds individual and community capacity, and is more sustainable. When I first arrived in Glasgow, I met with staff from the Voluntary Action Fund (VAF) who provided introductions to a number of “third sector” (non-profit) organizations that I would be visiting. The VAF is a fund manager that invests in initiatives that address social inequalities and builds resilient communities. They support a range of organizations, but their core philosophy is to invest money, develop capacity and build relationships. The following narrative describes the work of one organization that was funded by the VAF that embodies this philosophy.

Annexe Communities is a vibrant community center located in west-central Glasgow. The center has a number of interesting programs, including the Connects2Project which helps individuals over 60 to improve their physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing, make new friends, and support and inspire each other to combat social isolation. They also strongly encourage participants...
to share their skills and talents. Several years ago, one person who came to the Annexe wanted to learn how to knit, and another person wanted to teach knitting. Hence the beginning of Knit and Natter, a group of highly engaged, talented women who get together to talk, laugh and socialize with one another while they knit blankets, clothes, and toys for those in need all over the globe—from earthquake victims in Nepal to local Glaswegians in need. After a few years, the group realized that they had sent hand-knitted items to six of the seven continents of the world—everywhere but Antarctica! A relative of a staff member worked with whales and penguins in Antarctica and thus Operation Penguin began, and ended with the shipment of knitted penguins and other items to Antarctica!

Annexe Communities and Connects2Project provides a physical space that draws in members of the community and facilitates engagement with one another. Knit and Natter is just one example of how these spaces and programs can help combat loneliness and isolation.

The lessons that I learned from this experience were invaluable and they provide an important frame of reference for revamping my existing health behavioral theory seminar. It is important for students to understand the need for new ways of thinking about health and well-being in the United States; the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation proposed a Culture of Health that promotes individual and community well-being, creates healthy physical and social environments, and supports access to high-quality health care for everyone. As I explored the issue of social isolation and loneliness in the UK, I definitely saw a culture of health that reflected these values.

Jeanette Trauth, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor and Director of the Doctoral Program in the Department of Behavioral & Community Health Sciences at the Graduate School of Public Health. Her research and teaching is focused on examining various social determinants of health.
A spring semester of busy grant writing paid off when in July and August, the European Studies Center received notification of having been selected for funding for three very important grants: a Jean Monnet Center of Excellence (JMEUCE) grant, a Jean Monnet Network grant, and a National Resource (Title VI) Center and Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships Grant from the U.S. Department of Education. All told, over four years, the ESC will be distributing over $2 million worth of grant funds to faculty, students, and staff at the University of Pittsburgh.

With funding provided by EU, the JMEUCE grant funds research and teaching that explores Europe as a historical project, Europe as a cultural project, and European responses to contemporary issues. This cycle of JMEUCE funding will support visiting scholars, “Year of” thematic programming, faculty speaking tours for Pitt’s new Critical European Culture Studies Ph.D. program, and a workshop for early-stage researchers. The Summer Research Scholars Program will award travel grants to international researchers to use Pitt’s unique EU Delegation Depository Collection (the Barbara Sloane Collection.) The annual Jean Monnet Symposium will focus on historical topics related to the founding and development of the EU. Funding also exists for a European Union Studies teaching fellow, a new study abroad option in transatlantic studies, and “pop-up” courses related to the annual themes of “Global Europe,” “Memory and Politics,” and “Creating Europe.”

Additionally, the JMEUCE grant provides funding – with matching funds from Year of Pitt Global Funding and the Dean of Arts and Sciences – for two events held in honor of Vice Provost and Professor Alberta Sbragia, the ESC’s founding director, who will retire at the end of this academic year. Dr. Sbragia is a world-renowned scholar of European integration and one of the founders of the field of EU Studies in the United States. She has been internationally recognized as a scholar, teacher, and mentor. In 2005, the European Union named her Jean Monnet Chair ad personam in recognition of her contributions to teaching and research on the EU. She was the inaugural holder of the Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg University Chair from 2006-2010. In 2013, EUSA conferred its Award for Lifetime Achievement in European Studies on her. That same year, she was awarded the Provost’s Award for Excellence in Mentoring at Pitt. Her books include: *Euro-Politics: Politics and Policymaking in the “New” European Community,* and *Debt Wish: Entrepreneurial Cities, US Federalism, and Economic Development.* Recently, she has focused her attention on comparative regionalism, exploring the impact of the European project on other regions, like Latin America and Asia and inspiring a new generation of scholars.

To mark Dr. Sbragia’s retirement, a symposium on November 9 and 10 will bring together her colleagues and former students. The symposium will address and advance her insights into viewing the EU from a comparative perspective, and charting the impact of comparative regionalism and comparative federalism in EU studies. On the evening of November 9, colleagues will honor her contributions directly. Then in March, 2019, Dr. Sbragia’s contribution to the creation of European Union Centers of Excellence will be recognized at a ceremony in Brussels, Belgium.

The Jean Monnet Network grant, Transatlantic Perspectives on Energy and Cities (TPEC), advances cooperation among the University of Pittsburgh, Newcastle University, University Jean Monnet Saint-Étienne, and Sciences Po Lyon. The aim is to strengthen research and teaching, and build on existing institutional relationships to enhance cooperation in the fields of European Union studies, particularly as relates to themes from transatlantic, urban, and energy policy studies. This grant is the result of collaborations with GSPIA (with matching funds and faculty support from the University Center for Social and Urban Research and the Shale Gas Governance Group) and the Center for Energy at the Swanson School of Engineering. Faculty from the Urban Studies Program and the Department of Political Science will also contribute research and organize conferences around
urban development and energy policy. The aim of this project is to analyze urban renewal and development policies in Lyon/Saint-Etienne, Newcastle, and Pittsburgh, with the goal of better understanding how cities are built, and to identify the economic and political regulations that impact urban redevelopment policies. The energy policy project will have a problem-solving focus: exploring the challenges that hydraulic fracturing (fracking) triggers, both in biosphere and society; exploring strategies to achieve Paris Climate goals with varying degrees of national support; and evaluating the success of carbon markets as a policy tool. Equally vital will be suggesting pathways for improving scientific and policy knowledge responding to these core concerns.

Last but not least, the National Resource Centers grant is funded through Title VI of the Higher Education Act. These are highly competitive grants that acknowledge a university’s strengths in research and teaching area studies and world languages. The ESC had been designated an NRC for the past four years. With this new cycle, the Center will develop programming around new initiatives, including Mediterranean Studies, LusoSphere Studies, and Baltic/Scandinavian Studies. Funding will enhance foreign language across the curriculum offerings and support new opportunities for student first-experiences in research by piloting programs with Pitt’s international partners. Funding from the NRC grant will be used for conferences, community engagement, and course development opportunities, as well.

In addition, after an eight year hiatus, the ESC was selected to once more award FLAS fellowships in European studies. These Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships, are extremely prestigious national awards that provide undergraduate and graduate students with tuition scholarships and living stipends, augmented through the generous support of Pitt’s Office of the Provost. Selected FLAS Fellows will spend one academic year or one summer improving their language skills while taking relevant area studies courses. Supported languages include Arabic, Bosnian, Croatian, French, German, Irish, Italian, Modern Greek, Modern Hebrew, Polish, Portuguese, Serbian, Spanish, Swedish, and Turkish. Priority will be given to students studying less commonly taught languages, but the opportunity does exist for the first time in almost a decade for students in French, German, or Spanish to receive FLAS fellowships. These awards will complement FLAS fellowships awarded to two other Centers in UCIS—the Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies, and the Asian Studies Center—providing Pitt students with opportunities to deepen their understanding of languages from around the world.

This past summer, Thayjas Patil, one of the ESC’s new student ambassadors, set off on an ambitious study abroad program in Berlin. A double-major in Neuroscience and Economics, Thayjas wanted to spend time in Berlin working with refugee populations. Specifically, Thayjas wanted to conduct surveys evaluating the mental health and access to mental health services of refugee populations in Germany.

Thayjas spent time volunteering in a refugee camp, interviewing Syrian, Afghan, and Iraqi refugees, and working with a translator to help with the mental health evaluations. He traveled to a few different refugee shelters, some, which he noted, were better maintained than others. Thayjas saw that one of the biggest challenges facing refugees is the language barrier: foreigners in Germany must demonstrate proficiency in German before they can get a job. Thayjas wanted to help with this discrepancy. He worked with local NGOs to collect books to be donated to the shelter where he spent most of his time. At the end, he says they collected between 150 and 200 books in German, including books for adults and children. The shelter kept the small library running after his departure, and even named it after Thayjas!

Thayjas says his experience in Berlin was a profound one that has changed how he sees his future plans: originally Thayjas had planned to pursue medical school to become a practicing doctor. Now, he still plans to earn an MD, but says he would like to continue his work with refugee populations and mental health, and that he is more interested in entering the field of public health and health access.

The library that Thayjas helped start is still collecting book donations. If you are interested in donating books for refugees in Berlin, contact Thayjas directly at TAP97@pitt.edu.
RONALD H. LINDEN is Professor of Political Science at the University of Pittsburgh. From 2011 through 2016 he was Director of the European Studies Center at Pitt, a National Resource Center and Jean Monnet European Union Centre of Excellence.

A Princeton Ph.D. (1976), Dr. Linden was Director of the Center for Russian and East European Studies at Pitt from 1984-89 and 1991-98. From 1989 to 1991 he served as Director of Research for Radio Free Europe in Munich, Germany with responsibility for observing and analyzing the extraordinary changes in East Europe. Dr. Linden’s research career has focused on Central and Southeastern Europe, including in recent years, Turkey. His most recent research, supported by a Fulbright-Schuman grant and the American Institute of Contemporary German Studies, explores the impact of growing Chinese trade and investment in Europe. Recent publications on this topic include, “The New Sea People: China in the Mediterranean,” and “The Open Door Swings Back: The Challenge of Chinese Investment.”


During spring, 2018 Dr. Linden was a Fulbright-Schuman Scholar in Rome, Italy and Bruges, Belgium. During fall, 2016 he held a DAAD Research Fellowship at the American Institute for Contemporary Germany Studies in Washington, DC. Previously, he has been a Transatlantic Academy Fellow at the German Marshall Fund and received research grants from the National Council for Eurasian and East European Research and from the International Research and Exchanges Board. He has been a Fulbright Research Scholar, a Fulbright Distinguished Lecturer, a Research Scholar at the Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies of the Woodrow Wilson Center, a Senior Fellow at the United States Institute of Peace under the Jennings Randolph Program on International Peace, and a Guest Scholar of the East European Studies Program of the Woodrow Wilson Center.

At Pitt he has taught courses on world politics, comparative foreign policies, East Europe, and a graduate seminar on East European politics and capstone seminars for political science majors on “Transformations at the Edge of Europe” and “The New International Relations of Europe.”
On Saturday, September 15, the ESC held its third annual EuroFest outside of Posvar Hall. Students, staff, faculty, and all of greater Pittsburgh were invited to the festival, which featured music, dance, and food from Europe, and celebrated Pittsburgh’s rich European heritage. The Frick, The Carnegie Library and the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust all hosted activities for kids. The ESC had a booth that featured Euro-trivia, certificate and study abroad information, and even gave away a $1,000 study abroad scholarship. In the afternoon hosted EU trivia, where teams pooled their EU knowledge and competed for prizes.

Vendors from around the city set up tents with goods and services, and Pitt student groups tabled for their organizations. EuroFest had about 1,000 visitors this year.

We’d like to thank our sponsors, the Delegation of the European Union to the United States, the German American Chamber of Commerce, Pittsburgh Int’l Airport, Wyndham Pittsburgh Universty Center, European Wax Center, Center for International Legal Education, and the following Pitt academic departments: French and Italian, History, Hispanic Languages and Literatures, History of Art and Architecture.

Many thanks to all our sponsors for making EuroFest 2018 possible. And we’d like to thank our vendors, student groups, performers, food trucks and visitors for one incredible day! We hope to see you again next year!

Aside from EuroFest, the ESC also hosted educational and community events this fall. We welcomed our students, new and returning, back to campus with our opening reception in September, and held our first pizza party for new certificate students at the end of the month, to foster closer connections between our students and center staff.

Our first Conversations on Europe of the semester kicked off with the topic "100 Years of Women’s Suffrage: Women in Europe Today." We also hosted lectures including: "Party Discipline in the European Parliament: The Challenges of Accountability Beyond the State"; and "Did Prussia Have an Atlantic History?" and "Memory Conflicts as Barrier to Reconciliation: Post-Soviet Disputes between Baltic States and Russia," both in partnership with REEES.

The ESC also partnered with the German Department to host a workshop on Identity and DJing with a DJ and activist from Berlin. Working with POCACITO, the ESC helped sponsor a workshop called "From Circular Economy to Circular Society." The ESC also hosted a lecture given by the President of the Heinrich Boll Foundation, Dr. Ellen Uberschaer, titled "The Importance of Civil Society & Civic Education for Global Democracy."

For more information about our upcoming events, check out our website, or follow us on Facebook and Twitter.
In 1958, the International Theatre Festival in Dublin, Ireland was slated to feature new plays by some of Ireland’s great writers: The Drums of Father Ned by Seán O’Casey, Bloomsday (an adaptation of James Joyce’s Ulysses) by Allan McClelland, and three mimes by Samuel Beckett. Unfortunately, the Festival was cancelled after John Charles McQuaid, the Archbishop of Dublin, objected to O’Casey and Joyce’s inclusion. All of these plays were eventually performed in Ireland and elsewhere, although in some cases many not for many years after their de-facto banning. My dissertation examines how performances of banned plays carry the history of their censorship, and how, I argue, these performances can renegotiate cultural identity and memory. Over the summer, I traveled to the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland to conduct archival research, looking for evidence about how these plays were performed and the contexts of their various productions. These travels were supported by a Klinzing Pre-Dissertation Grant and an Arts and Sciences Summer Fellowship through the Department of Theatre Arts – without which I would not have been able to undertake this work.

The single most exciting item I found in the archives I visited in London came from the Lord Chamberlain’s papers at the British Library. From 1737 to 1968, plays intended for performance in London went through a screening process via the Lord Chamberlain’s office. The collection includes includes a copy of almost every script submitted and related correspondence. Here, I found McClelland’s Bloomsday script, which has remained unublished. Scripts like this one are hugely valuable pieces of evidence to help reconstruct the specifics of a performance. In addition, the clues in the Lord Chamberlain’s papers led me to evidence of an English production of Bloomsday which I did not previously know about.

At the University of Reading’s Samuel Beckett collection, I read Beckett’s personal diaries he kept during his visit to Nazi Germany, made largely to study art in Germany’s galleries, from autumn 1936 to the following spring in 1937. Beckett’s writing documenting his six months in Germany demonstrates a keen awareness of Nazi politics, and, I found, especially the censorship of art. As a censored artist, himself, Beckett’s German diaries offered proof of his awareness and interest in censorship long before the 1958 theatre festival debacle. While the bulk of my project focuses on the lives of these plays after the festival, these artists were contending with censorship long before the Archbishop’s intervention and this might have played a role in the plays’ composition, production, and reception. After all, O’Casey also encountered censorship prior to the ’58 festival, and Joyce’s novel famously survived a trial in the US.

I spent the longest leg of my trip in Dublin. One of my first stops was to the Dublin Diocese Archive, where I read McQuaid’s letters relating to theatre as well as politics. As I went through his instructions to his network of spies and informants, his refusals to allow priests in the parish to attend plays (a request that was necessary as priests were barred from attending theatre across the island), and the frequency with which he objected to and interfered with theatre, it became clear to me that theatre was a sort of battleground where the Archbishop fought for his vision of Irish identity. For McQuaid, this was an identity defined, first and foremost, by an intensely conservative Catholicism.

Some of the evidence I found caused me to rethink details about how these plays were performed. O’Casey’s The Drums of Father Ned had its world premiere, strangely enough, by an amateur community theatre in Lafayette, Indiana in 1959. I’ve been lucky enough to learn a great deal from that company, which still exists under a different name. Among O’Casey’s papers at the National Library of Ireland, though, I also found letters from actors and the director of that production, describing various parts of the production and even audience responses. In addition, the collection included production photos I had never seen.

This was my first time working in archives. It was exhilarating and frustrating at different turns – to hold history is not to make it speak, it is not to see it clearly “as it happened.” A single letter can derail your hypotheses, and, after much hair pulling, require you to consider a new track. There is certainly much more work ahead of me, but the Klinzing Grant was a tremendous help, allowing me to begin to form arguments out of my sites, nuance what I already knew, and investigate brand new lines of inquiry.
By Jakub Lonsky

Thanks to the generous support from the European Studies Center, I was able to visit the University of Oxford in the United Kingdom this summer where I conducted research in the department of sociology, collaborating with one of the most prominent scholars on Russian Mafia today, Professor Federico Varese.

During my six-week visit at Oxford, I focused on developing my new project: to analyze nicknames, social networks, and conflicts inside the Russian Mafia (in Russian, vory-v-zakone, in English: thieves with a code of honor). Vory are a powerful organized crime group that emerged in the Soviet Gulag system (a complex of labor camps that existed in the Soviet Union during Stalinist era), and have been actively controlling many illegal markets throughout Europe and Asia since the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991. As mentioned above, the primary aim of the project is to analyze vory nicknames.

Nicknames are a feature of the criminal underworld in many societies. They have been found among members of organized crime groups as diverse as the Japanese Yakuza, Sicilian Cosa Nostra, Russian vory-v-zakone, Chinese Triads, and the Italian-American Mafia. In 1986, during the infamous Maxi Trial in Italy, the prosecutors found that about one third of members of the Sicilian Mafia had a nickname. However, these nicknames had only an informal character, meaning they were bestowed on individuals by their criminal peers in a casual way. By contrast, in Russian Mafia, choosing a nickname is indeed a part of the formal ritual of initiation. Nearly every vor has a nickname. The initiation ceremony signifies a rebirth of the individual—the beginning of a new life as a professional criminal. In this respect, nickname selection among vory is a process similar in concept to that of Catholic or Orthodox monks choosing saintly names when taking monastic vows. The importance of nicknames in vory fraternity is further emphasized by the fact that each member tattoos his name (or its symbol) on his body, despite a clear danger that such action could one day reveal his identity to the authorities.

In my project, I have collected nicknames of almost 5,000 members of the Russian Mafia. These have been categorized into several groups based on semantic content. The underlying goal is to answer two questions. First, how did the fall of the Iron Curtain in 1989 affect the nickname selection process among vory? This historical milestone is important because it led to radical changes in the nature of the fraternity as it transformed from a prison society into an organization of extra-legal governance, which in many ways displaced dysfunctional legal institutions (i.e. courts, police) in Russia during the early 1990s. Second, I want to determine what other factors, such as the age at initiation, nationality, or previous prison sentences affect the choice of a nickname. This will help shed light on the process of nickname selection as well as the nature of initiation rituals in general.

The research visit at the University of Oxford enabled me to make great progress on this exciting project. I had the opportunity to meet and work with Prof. Varese who, as an expert on Russian Mafia, is not only an invaluable collaborator on this project, but also a great mentor to me, currently serving as an external member on my dissertation committee. I would like to thank the European Studies Center for making this priceless academic experience at Oxford possible.

Jakub Lonsky, is a fifth-year Ph.D. student of economics at the University of Pittsburgh. His research focuses on the effects of immigration and migration policies, as well as the understanding of transnational organized crime groups such as Russian Mafia. He conducts empirical, inter-disciplinary research which lies at the intersection of economics, criminology, and political science.

Nic Barilar (page 8) is entering his fourth-year in the PhD program in theatre history and performance studies at the University of Pittsburgh. His research focuses on 20th-century Irish theatre and censorship. He has also worked as a director and scenic painter, and is a member of Actor's Equity Association.