



Summer 2019

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Director's Message

Dear ESC colleagues, students, and friends,

As we are enjoying a beautiful spring in Pittsburgh, I'm happy to share with you our final newsletter of the 2018-2019 academic year.

Our Brussels event in March, which celebrated 20 years of the European Union Centers of Excellence, was very successful. It gave us an opportunity to highlight the importance of continued funding for EU Studies in the US as well as connect with alumni in and around Brussels.

In April, we hosted Portuguese author David machado, recipient of the EU Prize for Literature for *The Shelf Life of Happiness* (Indice Medio de Flicidade), as part of our Getting to Know Europe grant with the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. David gave a public reading at the Carnegie Library and met with students in an ESC-sponsored pop-up course on contemporary European novels, and with Portuguese language teachers throughout Pittsburgh.

We rounded out the semester with a community "understanding Brexit" drop-in session and a lively discussion of the upcoming elections to the European Parliament.

This summer, we will again be taking a group of K-12 educators, faculty teaching at community colleges and minority-serving institutions, and undergraduates to Brussels in June to learn more about, and engage with, the EU and its institutions. This is also in partnership with UNC-Chapel Hill.

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate all of our faculty and student grant recipients and our graduating certificate students. We wish all the best to a number of our affiliated faculty who are retiring this spring/summer, including our founder, Prof. Alberta Sbragia, and another former Center Director, Prof. Ron Linden.

Looking ahead to next year...the focus of our programming for the coming year is around the theme Memory and Politics. We are accepting proposals for events relevant to the theme. Visit www.ucis.pitt.edu/esc/year-of-memory-and-politics to learn more and then stay tuned for an exciting line-up of speakers, films, and roundtable discussions. You can always see what we're up to on our website (www.ucis.pitt.edu/esc) or follow us on Facebook or Twitter (@EuCeEsc).

Have a productive and restful summer!

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.

Stay tuned for next year's installments!

Servants of the Seasons: Itinerant Labor in the Early Americas

by Molly Warsh



Starting a new project can be daunting, but there is no better way to get the work going than to jump right in. Thanks to a generous grant from the European Studies Center, this is what I was able to do in the summer of 2018, as I traveled to England, Spain, and Portugal to research my book-in-progress, titled *Servants of the Seasons: Itinerant Labor and Seasonal Flux in the Global Early Americas*.

In *Servants*, I build on my interests in mobile labor and the range of experiences between freedom and enslavement that played a role in the transformations of the Americas in the post-Columbus era. I am particularly curious about how these experiences of labor were shaped by natural seasons, and the seasons of commerce and war. Even as scholars map—in increasingly rich detail—the contours of free and enslaved labor in the early modern world, certain aspects of mobile and seasonal labor remain murky. There are, of course, many early modern professions that are so familiar to us that we forget how seasonal they were: farmers and sailors being chief among them. But many early modern industries on either side of the Atlantic followed seasonal patterns: from whaling to mahogany logging, fort and highway construction, dredging projects, forest clearing, silk harvesting, and, as I explored in my first book, pearl fishing. All different types of people performed these critical, seasonal, and often mobile forms of labor.

Over the course of my research on pearl cultivation and trade in the sixteenth

and seventeenth centuries (which contributed to my book, *American Baroque: Pearls and the Nature of Empire 1492-1700*), I came across accounts of surprising collaborations from early Iberian exploratory voyages in the Pacific, settlements in the Caribbean, and even unusual agreements that saw the movement of workers and pearl hunters from Scotland to Sweden and back again, across the North Sea. Whether these often-coerced collaborations involved indigenous peoples employed as slave catchers in the Venezuelan pearl fisheries, or the ambiguously labeled “levantine” pearl divers brought onboard California pearl fishing voyages under strict contractual terms, the conditions of employment made use of the workers’ skilled labor while severely restricting their freedom of movement.

I wanted to learn more about these types of working arrangements and the people who arranged and labored under them. In pursuit of these questions, I headed first to London, where I spent two weeks working in the British Library and the National Archives. Among my most intriguing finds in the library were the petitions for temporary passports from workers of various sorts—stewardesses, boat captains, merchants—seeking to leave England to conduct business for a limited period of time in continental Europe. In the National Archives, I focused my research on responses to natural disasters: I was curious to see how these moments of intense environmental distress disrupted existing patterns of work. I wasn’t disappointed—I found sailors who were redirected to help with relief efforts following the 1692 Port Royal, Jamaica earthquake, performing a variety of duties in response to this cataclysmic event. How laborers who participated in these types of temporary duties conceived of these episodes in their working lives is one of the most interesting, if elusive, elements of this project. I’m particularly intrigued by the individual decisions that shaped patterns of itinerant labor.



Molly Warsh, left.

For example, while reading through negotiations of the enormous land grants given to the Earl of Bedford and his associates in return for their promise to drain the English fens, I saw a familiar pattern: elites co-opted by an ambitious government, and vernacular practices of resource management ignored by authorities at a heavy price. What opportunities did these experiments in natural resource management offer to working men and women, and how did these new projects shape old patterns of seasonal labor? What connections and family imperatives informed the decisions of fens laborers to venture far from home to work on often

ESC NEWSLETTER

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controversial projects? What had these workers done before, and what did they do afterwards? And how did these previous and subsequent engagements reflect (or not) the era's cooler temperatures, rising seawaters, and unstoppable demand for arable land and the food it could produce?

One of the central questions of *Servants of the Seasons* is how to define “migrations” and “itinerancy”, and the notion of seasonal labor itself. The experience of a solitary itinerant laborer is certainly distinct from that which happens as a group, in either family units or historically mobile ethnic groupings— or even by members of a particular trade who seek out a new kind of work, often impermanent, when their historic industry is threatened for any number of reasons. This was not an infrequent occurrence in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, as global markets were upended by shifts in consumer demands and newly interconnected routes of exchange.

Furthermore, I am also quite interested in how gender and sex shaped peoples' experience of itinerant labor circuits. In my trips to various European archives last summer. I caught glimpses of the women who traveled into port towns to service arriving fleets in various capacities (from bakers, to prostitutes, to chefs on voyages, and beyond.) I am also interested in female labor that was less mobile but no less work, and no less subject to seasonal flux. What about the women who labored in pregnancy and childbirth, and as wet nurses and nannies—how were they effected by distinct seasonalities and the presence (or absence) of men?

After two weeks of research in London, I headed south to Spain and Portugal to shift my focus a bit and explore involuntary transportation of workers throughout Iberian imperial realms. In Madrid, I continued my exploration of how seasonal work of various types shaped peoples' engagement with borders and states. The characters I encountered in the Spanish archives ranged from summer soldiers guarding Mediterranean ports for a few high-risk months out of the year, to itinerant tuna fisherman working on Spain's Atlantic coast. These types of work—impermanent, sometimes negotiated by contract, sometimes informally arranged—were employed in projects of varying scale, over distances small and large. The temporary nature

of these workers' employment often reflected seasonal demands and rendered them vulnerable to unexpected and damaging weather events, particularly notable during the Little Ice Age of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The nature of these laborers' work—the mobility embedded within it and its fixed time frame—also posed unique challenges to governments seeking both to limit their influence and protect their welfare.

From Madrid, I headed to Lisbon, where I turned my attention to women and the seasonal flow of labor throughout Portuguese imperial holdings. In the Portuguese empire, convict labor and banishment played an essential role in the Crown's management of its domestic and overseas territories, from its earliest days to its twentieth-century demise. The populations sent overseas to perform work for the crown were not all convicts: among the most interesting examples from the Portuguese sphere were orphaned women who were sent to Portugal's Eastern Empire to serve as brides for imperial officials.

How did empire force expanding central powers to think about its territories, labor and time management in different climate zones and hemispheres? And how were perceptions of other peoples' seasonal patterns of labor used to justify imperial conquest? These questions—and my answers to them—will continue to evolve as I continue to work on *Servants of the Seasons*. I was fortunate to get off to a great start last summer thanks to support from the European Studies Center.

Molly Warsh is an Associate Professor of History and Associate Director of the World History Center at the University of Pittsburgh, where she is also Molly is the author of American Baroque: Pearls and the Nature of Empire 1492-1700, published in April 2018 with the Omohundro Institute/University of North Carolina Press. She is also co-editor (with Philip D. Morgan) of an anthology of collected essays, Early North America in Global Perspective, published by Routledge in August 2013. Her articles have appeared in the William & Mary Quarterly and Slavery & Abolition. In 2019-2020, she will be a fellow at the Huntington Library in Pasadena, CA, working on her current book project (about which she will speak today), Servants of the Seasons: Itinerant Labor and Environmental Flux in the Global Early Americas.

French Language Immersion and Black France in the 20th Century

by Clayton Finn

For the summer of 2018, the Klinzing Pre-Dissertation Grant provided essential funds towards French language study, which was instrumental to my historical research on Black internationalism and Black Paris in the early twentieth century. With the help of the European Studies Center, I was able to obtain private language instruction through the *Alliance Française de la Riviera Californienne*. Because I was not limited to a standard class format, I received accelerated one-on-one instruction that was individually tailored towards my needs of reading French primary sources during archival research. The excellent folks at the *Alliance Française* paired me with one of their wonderful instructors who had a master's degree in my own discipline, history, and was able to speak directly to the skills I would need to complete foreign language primary source research. This time dedicated to language study was immensely helpful in informing my research project on the 1900 Paris Exposition, as well as my current and future project on notions of gender and sexuality in Black Internationalism of the early twentieth century.

I have long been interested in issues of race, gender, and identity; I studied gender and sexuality and African American history during my BA and MA. About a year ago, I learned that renowned activist, sociologist, and writer W.E.B. Du Bois traveled to Paris for the 1900 Paris Exposition to put on an exhibit showcasing African American life and progress in the U.S. since the abolition of slavery. This exhibit consisted of numerous charts and statistics about African American achievement, but I was most interested in the curated photo albums that purported to offer real portrayals of how Black people in the U.S. lived. These photographs showed respectable images of Black life, family, industry, and community to a global audience, but in a French context. I became fascinated with how African American identity, respectability politics, and portrayals of Black life traversed national borders. I was, and still am, curious as to how Black people navigated racial issues in France, and how French society viewed Blackness in the early twentieth century.

My current research project examines ideas of gender, sexuality, and marriage within twentieth-century Black internationalism. I am interested in how Black activist couples

understood and navigated their personal relationships in the midst of international activism. In blurring the lines between the personal and political, I am also blurring the lines between art and activism, as many prominent Black artists and writers of the early- to mid-twentieth century were also politically active and vice versa. To study this, I am looking at several prominent activist couples who traveled internationally and contributed to the period's Black cultural scene in Paris.

This summer, I will be travelling to the Rose Library at Emory University to explore their archives on Black Paris and Black internationalism. Their excellent holdings contain various activists' personal papers and numerous documents from Black writers and artists active in Paris in the early- to mid-twentieth century. I am very grateful for the time I was able to devote to studying French through the Klinzing grant, which will help the completion of my thesis and the analysis of French primary sources. The funds provided and the overall support for my project have propelled my work forward and helped me grow as a scholar.



Clayton Finn is a PhD student in the history department studying twentieth-century African American history. His research interests focus on issues of gender and sexuality in Black activism and the intersection of art and politics.

This year, the ESC collaborated with EU Centers at UNC and Florida International University, and the EU Delegation to the U.S. to bring Portuguese author David Machado to Pitt's campus. This is our second year partnering with these centers and the delegation to bring EU authors to American campuses, and we were thrilled to host Machado.

David Machado won the 2019 EU Prize for Literature for his novel, *The Shelf Life of Happiness*. The book chronicles the adult friendship of three best friends, who are coping with and deteriorating under the pressures of the Portuguese economic collapse in 2008.



David Machado gives a public reading from *The Shelf Life of Happiness*.

Machado gave a public reading and answered audience questions at the Carnegie Library. He met with Portuguese high school students, and with a class on contemporary European novels. The contemporary European novels class was a one-credit pop-up course funded by the ESC, and the class curriculum included *The Shelf Life of Happiness*. The students of that class met with Machado to talk about his novel and his work as an author.



Machado meets with students in the pop-up contemporary European novels course.



In March, the ESC participated in a symposium in Brussels which celebrated the 20th anniversary of the EU Centers of Excellence (EUCE) program. The ESC is proud to have been designated as one of the first EU Centers of Excellence in 1998, in large part due to the efforts and scholarship of Dr. Alberta Sbragia.

Dr. Sbragia was the founding director of the Center for West European Studies, which later became the ESC. Her scholarship in comparative governance has had an enormous impact on the field of EU Studies, and we were grateful to have her as our director for 25 years. Dr. Sbragia is retiring this spring from teaching.

The symposium marked both the 20th anniversary of the EUCE program, and the accomplishments and contributions of Dr. Sbragia during her long career in EU Studies. The symposium also highlighted the ongoing collaborations between the EU and the EUCE through the U.S.



Dr. Sbragia delivers a talk in Brussels at the Symposium to mark 20 Years of EU Centers of Excellence.

In addition to our EU author visit and symposium in Brussels, the ESC held and sponsored events on campus and in the Pitt community this spring. We held our final *Conversations on Europe* installment for the semester. Our topic was the European Parliament elections, and what is at stake for the future of the EP.

In March, the ESC sponsored a visit from the New Castle Delegation. They gave a joint talk, "Our Place in Changing Cities," with Pitt's Chancellor about how post-industrial cities are rebuilding, and what role public universities have in those cities. In the same vein, the ESC helped promote a panel discussion of *Cities on the Global Edge: Miami in the Twenty-First Century*, a new book co-authored by Ariel Armony and Ann E. Cudd.

That same month, we held a book launch and film screening of *Europe Endless*. The screening was followed by a panel discussion, largely framed around the Irish border and how it could be affected by Brexit.

Brexit has been a continuing topic of discussion and education that the ESC has taken up over the past few years. In an effort to help educate the public, the ESC held a Community Brexit Drop-In in April. Members of the Pittsburgh and Wilkinsburg communities were invited to a community center where the ESC had assembled four Brexit experts to take questions from the public as part of our EU2U Briefings.

In April, the ESC also helped fund the North American premiere of the Irish play, *On Trial*. Brought to the stage as part of a PhD project, this play was free to the community.

The ESC sponsored and co-sponsored lectures and workshops throughout the semester: our Visiting Italian Fulbright, Elena Di Giovanni, gave a lecture titled, "Censorship in Cinema and TV in Europe." Affiliated faculty member Michael Aklin led a, "Cap and Trade Initiatives Climate Workshop" for reserachers and practitioners. The ESC helped support a workshop and Q&A for International Francophonie Day, and well as various lectures, including: "Empire and its Aftermath: Transhispanic Dialogues on Diaspora," "Glass Half Empty: Architecture and the European Imagination," and "Almanac, Battledore, Chapbook: ABC of Pre-Modern Popular Print for Children."

Thank you to everyone who attended our events this academic year!



The student award winners of 2018!

We are extremely proud to announce that in the last academic year, the ESC gave away \$216,700 in funding for graduate scholarships, and \$32,000 towards undergraduate scholarships. This combines for a grand total of \$248,700 of funding across all of our students.

This includes FLAS grants towards foreign language study, Klinzing dissertation and pre-dissertation grants for research in and on Europe, Sciences-Po exchange scholarships, National Resource Center grants and our Alberta Sbragia Fund for dissertation research.

Our undergraduate grants help support students with internships at NGOs, law offices and businesses in Berlin, London, Dublin, and Madrid. They are also supporting students pursuing Museum Studies in Paris and Rome, Hispanic Studies in Valencia, Literature in Edinburgh, French Language Studies in Nantes, and the study of Ancient Greece in Athens.

We'd like to congratulate all of our scholarship and grant recipients, and invite you to consider how you might become one! Email [Steve Lund](#) if you are interested in studying, researching, or interning in Europe or in a EU-related field. Whether you're a freshman at Pitt or a seasoned faculty member, we'd love to help support your scholarship!

Our current grant cycle is closed, but feel free to take a look at our website to get an idea of all the types of work we fund for [undergraduates](#), [graduates](#), and [faculty](#).

Graduation 2019



Congratulations to the ESC cohort of 2019! We wish you all the best for the future.

European Union Certificate

Matthew Allen
Kaleb Knowlton
Ian Martin

Amanda Schwarz
Jaclynn Sell
Matthew Talotta (G)
Chukwuemeka Ukaga
Casey Wakeen
Jingxuan Yang

Certificate in Western European Studies

Jennifer Boum Make (G)
Mark D'Alesio
Christopher de Morais
Hannah Dieck
John Ferri (A)
Sarah Fling (A)
Michelle Hayner
Yuto Iwaizumi
Sarah Jie
Cassidee Knott
Julia Lewis
Marc Lucci
Shivangee Makharia
Allison Melcher
Ethan Moser
Katie Nan
Henry Novara
Zachary Rehrig
Maya Saltzman
Andrew Schlegel

Related Concentration in European and Eurasian Studies

Meghan Brannan
Sarah Fling
Alexander Hauschild
Amelia Johnson
Ellis Kane

Transatlantic Studies Certificate

Alexandria Chisholm
John Ferri
Sarah Fling
Laura Gooding
Andrew Gray
Todd Nemet
Krithika Pennathur
Andrew Schlegel
Amanda Schwarz
Bryce Yoder