



## Winter 2017

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## Director's Message

Dear ESC colleagues, students, and friends,

We've had a busy fall semester with several exciting events covering everything from the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, to populism, social media and participation, and the future of the European nation state.

Next semester, we continue our Participation and Democracy series with lectures on women in the European Parliament on January 18, and climate change protests on March 29. We will host Virtual Briefings on Brexit and net neutrality and a conference on cyber-security in the spring.

We are also excited to participate in a UCIS-wide series to commemorate the 50th anniversary of 1968—the year that changed the world. The Global Legacies of 1968 series kicks off on February 8 with a lecture by Todd Gitlin, Professor of Journalism and Sociology at Columbia University, titled “The Ambiguous Consequences of a Failed Revolution.” The ESC is sponsoring a virtual roundtable on "May 1968 and the Legacies of Protest in France," on March 14.

Please check out our [new website](https://www.ucis.pitt.edu/esc/) for more details and information on all of our upcoming events—<https://www.ucis.pitt.edu/esc/>.

Good luck finishing up the semester and I hope you, your families and friends have a wonderful holiday season.

Jae-Jae Spoon  
 Director, European Studies Center



*The ESC staff wishes you happy holidays and a happy New Year!*

## Conversations on Europe 2017-18

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

March 27

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.

## Race, Class, and Gender in France



One of the illustrations by Yasmine Ramedace commissioned for the anthology. Copy-righted image. Reproduction or distribution of this art without the artist's consent is illegal.

by Felix Germain, Ph.D.

**D**ue to the Trans-Atlantic slave trade, millions of people of African descent are currently living across the globe. France, a country that participated in the trade and, from the late nineteenth century to roughly the mid-twentieth century, the colonization of the African continent, also has a substantial black population. However, in the mid-1950's, only 55,000 blacks lived in France. Though France does not use race as an analytical category for its census, one can estimate that its black population is nearly twice as much as Jamaica—an island with 2.8 million people of African descent, renowned for its intellectual and cultural production. The increase of the black population in France occurred fairly quickly, prompting scholars to publish numerous studies on the subject.

The scholarly interest in race, migration, and postcolonial black France grew in tandem with a brilliant scholarship on French women, as French and American

scholars paid closer attention to the intersection of gender, culture, and national formation. Among other things, earlier scholars explored how French women advocated for educational reforms, suffrage, legalization of abortion and contraception, and equal opportunities in the labor market. However, this vibrant literature only reflected the experiences of white French women. As a scholar interested in African Diaspora Studies, I realized that the struggle for equality undertaken by black women in France and the Overseas French Territories has been largely neglected. For this reason, teaming with Silyane Larcher, an outstanding political scientist and Research Fellow at the University of Paris Diderot, I decided to write an anthology outlining the patterns and paradigms of resistance characterizing the lives of black women in France and her Overseas Territories from the abolition of slavery in 1848 to the present era.

The anthology, *Black French Women and the Struggle for Equality* (1848-2016), is forthcoming with the University of Nebraska Press' series on France Overseas: Studies in Empire and Decolonization (Fall 2018). The European Studies Center played an important role in the production of this timely manuscript. With the Faculty Research in Europe Grant that I received, Dr. Larcher and I were able to hire translators to translate four articles written by French scholars. Additionally, we hired Yasmine Ramedace, an emerging artist from Martinique, to illustrate the book cover. Ramedace's artistic contribution has been well-received by the press's editor and the reviewers for the ways it captures the invisibility yet omnipresence of black French women in France.

Funding from the European Studies Center allowed us to publish this collaborative project, which is the first comprehensive study focusing on black women's experiences and struggle for equality in France and the French colonies from 1848 to 2016. Drawing on research from scholars of different disciplinary background and countries, the anthology offers a fresh and multidimensional perspective on race, class, gender relations in France and her former colonies. All in all, the manuscript will cater to a community of students and scholars in West Africa, the French Caribbean, Europe, and North America who share an interest in French history and current affairs.



*Dr. Germain (L) and Dr. Larcher (R), co-editors of the anthology.*

*Félix Germain is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Africana Studies, who specializes in Caribbean and African migration to France, decolonization and social movements, contemporary French Caribbean societies, and gender relations in the French Atlantic.*

## ESC NEWSLETTER

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For newsletter announcements, comments, or submissions, please email [eu-news@pitt.edu](mailto:eu-news@pitt.edu).

*This newsletter has been funded with assistance from the European Union and the International and Foreign Language Education (IFLE) office of the U.S. Department of Education. The contents are the sole responsibility of the ESC and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the EU or the U.S. Government.*

## In Review

This semester the ESC hosted a number of events aimed to give students, faculty and staff a taste of current events, emerging trends, and historical context of Europe. Our *Conversations on Europe* topic included: the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and its far-reaching impact, the 30th anniversary of the Erasmus program, and the secessionist movements in Catalonia and Northern Italy. Our installment on secession in Catalonia and Northern Italy proved especially popular, with 60 students in attendance.

We also held a number of lectures and colloquiums throughout the semester. Dr. Abe Newman of Georgetown University gave a lecture on "Dueling Market Power: The Politics of Stock Exchange Delisting in the Transatlantic Market Place." Dr. Yannis Theocharis from Groningen University presented a talk on the power of social media in political spheres called "Social Media and Political Engagement: Conceptual and Empirical Challenges of Digitally-Enabled Participation."



Students of the European Studies Freshman Academic Community (above) had the opportunity to travel to New York City to tour the United Nations (UN), visit with the Delegation of the European Union to the UN, and learn about study abroad and funding opportunities at the Institute of International Education. Pictured above are seven Pitt freshmen in the Economic and Social Council Chamber at the UN headquarters.

The ESC 13th annual Model European Union conference for high school students (below) was held on Friday, December 8, 2017. Over 150 students from 16 regional school districts participated. Prizes were awarded for best position paper and exemplary delegations. Winning schools included North



Allegheny High School, South Fayette High School, Mt. Lebanon High School, Riverview High School, and North Hills High School.

The newly minted Swedish Ambassador, Karin Olofsdotter, paid a visit to the ESC this semester as part of her tour of Western Pennsylvania. The ESC was honored to host her, and held a luncheon for students interested in meeting and speaking with the new ambassador.



Our director, Dr. Jae-Jae Spoon, presided over a roundtable on the surging populist movements called "Populism's Rise in Europe and the U.S." Other panelists included Thomas Vitello from Sciences Po Paris, and Ignasi Pérez from European University College. Over 40 people attended.





Jeanette S. Jouili, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at the University of Pittsburgh. Her research investigates Muslim communities in a post-colonial Europe and how increasingly security-oriented European policies reconfigure Muslim life. She is author of *Pious Practice and Secular Constraints: Women in the Islamic Revival in Europe* (Stanford, 2015). Currently, she is working on a new book project on Muslim popular culture in post 7/7 UK.

The ESC has provided funding for Dr. Jouili's fieldwork in the UK and supported and organized her recent symposium "Europe's Muslim Question?". The day-long symposium brought together scholars from across the country to discuss how successive public debates in Europe and the policies they have enabled have increasingly cast local Muslim populations not only as a security threat, but also in opposition to the secular and liberal values considered foundational for a European identity. It furthermore investigated the different responses by European Muslim to the discursive and political climate. A number of scholars have shown how young Muslims seek to creatively employ alternative languages that refuse the discursive framework into which Muslims have been placed, especially through cultural production.

## 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.

### Thursday, January 18, 2018

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

### Thursday, February 8, 2018\*

Keynote Speaker: Todd Gitlin, Columbia University  
"The Ambiguous Consequences of a Failed Revolution"

### Wednesday, March 14, 2018\*

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

### Tuesday, March 27, 2018

Virtual Roundtable: "Elections in Italy: A next Wave for Populists?" (In Italian)  
Co-sponsored by Dept. of French and Italian

### Thursday, March 29, 2018

Jean Monnet Lecture: "Climate Change and Protest"  
Stacy VanDeveer, University of Massachusetts

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

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**\*These events are also part of our UCIS-wide Spring semester series: Global Legacies of '68.**

This series of lectures, screenings, and events will explore how the spirit and events of 1968 echoed across the globe and through history.

For a full list of the Global Legacies of '68 events, [click here](#).



*Sindhu on the Giant's Causeway.*

In May of 2017, after receiving the Harris Miller Scholarship, I had the opportunity to study abroad in Ireland with a group of about thirty other students from the School of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh. The experience was incredible.

The program is an integrated field trip abroad, and it offers students interested in the health professions a chance to learn about healthcare abroad and see interdisciplinary models of service delivery. I learned so much in my 30 days abroad, from seeing physical therapy in specialized schools to shadowing speech-language pathologists in hospitals.

Not only did I learn an incredible amount from the trip, but I also was able to see so much of Ireland, which is a stunning country. We stayed in Belfast, and took a field trip to a breathtakingly beautiful place called Giant's Causeway. In Dublin, we ate giant sundaes and explored Trinity College, and left from the countryside of Newgrange, where we cooked giant meals together and cuddled sheep.

Most importantly, studying abroad introduced me to wonderful, intelligent, caring, passionate, kind people who I am so grateful to have met and call my friends.

*Sindhu Chennupati is a senior in the School of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences at Pitt. She is completing a Bachelor of Philosophy in Communication Science & Disorders and obtaining minors in Spanish and Linguistics.*

I have always loved to travel. I was graced with a wonderful high school program that allowed me to travel abroad numerous times. So, when I was given the opportunity to travel abroad again through my university, I jumped at the chance. I chose Dublin, Ireland because my family is Irish, both in heritage and culture. I received two scholarships from the European Studies Center, both under the ESC Study Abroad Remission Scholarship. My experiences there were life changing. For a solid month, the duration of the program, there was never a dull moment. Every day my best friend and I were visiting one of the many museums, hiking old trails, taking a bus trip to other cities in Ireland, or just taking a nice walk in park.



*Cassidee at the Cliffs of Moher.*

Of course, there were classes and school work involved. However, the classes went beyond typical brick and mortar styles. The aims of the professors were to teach the students not only about Ireland in general, but to immerse them in the local culture. They fit a semester's worth of studying into a month, but managed to make it enjoyable. I was able to visit Galway, the Aran islands, Belfast, and Cork. Each experience was different from the others, each city had its own culture, lifestyle, and accent. It was striking how similar Ireland and its people were to the United States through their history, political opinions and all around nature. I would do it all over again if I could.

*Cassidee Knott is a junior at the University of Pittsburgh majoring in History with minors in French, English Literature, a certificate in Western European Studies, a certificate in Medieval and Renaissance Studies, and a related area in Anthropology.*

## ESC Abroad 2017

This summer I had the opportunity to study abroad in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. I was very grateful that I was selected as a recipient of the Harris Miller Integrated Field Trip Abroad Scholarship to make these experiences possible. In the two weeks I spent in Belfast, Northern Ireland, I visited special schools for children with various disabilities. I am interested in becoming a Speech Language Pathologist and I was able to shadow Speech Therapists at the special schools. I learned not only about the challenges these individuals with disabilities face, but strategies and methods to account for the difficulties.

The two weeks spent in Dublin, I got to shadow multiple disciplines at St. James Hospital including a Physiotherapist, Occupational Therapist, and a Nutritionist. This allowed me to understand other disciplines and how they work directly with Speech Pathologists. Also, by interviewing multiple Irish people about their values and beliefs, I learned differences between the Irish culture and my own culture. As a future clinician this gives me cultural competence when working with diverse patients. These opportunities have expanded my knowledge and will be memories that I will carry with me for rest of my life.



*Shayla poses with a fluffy new friend in Ireland.*

*Shayla Rice is a senior Communication Science and Disorders major in the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, with minors in Secondary Education and Linguistics. She is planning to pursue a Master's degree in Speech-Language Pathology after graduation.*

I received the Friedl E. Kessler Memorial Fellowship to study abroad Fall 2017 in Heidelberg, Germany. I participated in an immersive language program through Heidelberg University, the oldest university in Germany, with 38 other American students. By taking all of my courses in German and getting involved in the community, I have learned so much about German language and culture. Additionally, Heidelberg's central location made it easy to travel to many other countries in Europe, such as the Netherlands, France, Italy, and Ireland. While travelling to these new places, I enjoyed expanding my cultural horizons, in addition to acquiring new skills and knowledge.

Some of my favorite experiences included playing for an Ultimate Frisbee team through my university, living with German roommates, and volunteering at a local elementary school, teaching English as a second language to first graders. Although these experiences were challenging at times because of cultural differences and learning the language, they have helped me to grow substantially as a person. In the future, I hope to be able to return to Germany to continue improving my language skills and continue to explore new places around the world.

*Allison in Heidelberg, in front of the Altstadt and Heideleberger Schloss.*



*Allison Hill is a senior Psychology and German major, with a certificate in West European Studies. Upon graduation, she hopes to attend graduate school to study Cognitive Psychology or Neuroscience. Allison plays Ultimate Frisbee for Pitt's women's team, Danger, and enjoys traveling, volunteering, and painting.*

## Klinzing Dissertation Grant: Julie Ann VanGyzen

By Julie Ann VanGyzen

I was fortunate enough to be awarded the Klinzing Grant for Dissertation Research this past year, which, with the assistance of one other grant, allowed me to conduct archival research in France for the entire month of June 2017. My dissertation focuses on how music was used to mobilize people as a tactic for and as resistance during the Nazi occupation of France in World War II. At the outset of my research, I proposed three case studies: music that was broadcast on the British Broadcasting Company's program Radio Londres; the actions of the resistance organization le Front national des musiciens, a group comprised of composers and musicians; and finally how composers use private compositions as a means of personal resistance.

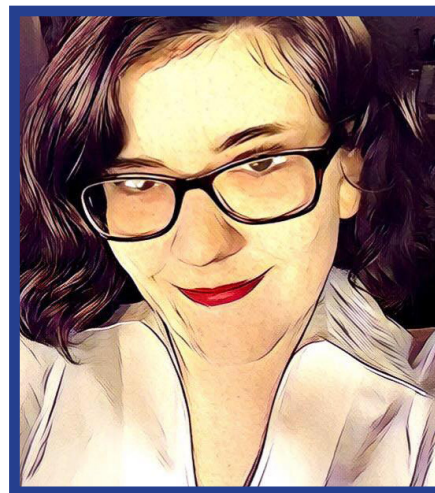
I conducted research in four different archives, beginning in the Archives nationales located in Saint-Denis. Many legal documents from the Nazi occupation are housed here, for instance Nazi-instated laws outlining what types of music were banned, which were very vague and broad. This archive also holds many depositions created after the liberation of France, when the reinstated French government prosecuted individuals accused of collaboration, including a number of conductors and music directors.

Next, I visited l'Institute memoire de l'edition contemporaine (IMEC), in the beautiful city of Caen, to view their Pierre Schaeffer archive. The composer Pierre Schaeffer is credited with spearheading resistance radio efforts, and so I had envisioned incorporating this into my first chapter. However, the wealth of material held in this archive was much more than I had expected. After spending days reading letters between him and Radiodiffusion France (a French radio station), documents outlining a resistance program, letters describing him and his associates as involved in the resistance, and their plans for broadcasting the Liberation, I have decided that the case of Schaeffer necessitates its own chapter. The experience at IMEC was novel for me as well, as they do not allow flash photography, and the entire hall was full of researchers from 9 A.M. to 6 P.M. every day, everyone quietly typing up documents related to their work. I had only a week to work there, and given this method of documentation, I would have loved to spend much more time in the archive.

The last two archives brought me to Paris—to the Bibliothèque nationale de France, where both the Inathèque audio-visual archives and their music department are located. Unfortunately, the Inatheque archives were not as helpful as I hoped, so I spent more time in the music department at the

Richelieu location. I had previously visited the music department, and so this time, with a knowledge of how to ask for materials and what to look for, I had a much easier and more fruitful experience. One of the main types of documents pertaining to my research are letters between composers and musicians. Perhaps the most heartbreaking of these letters were those between composer Louis Saguer and his friend David Eisenschitz, a photographer. Saguer and Eisenschitz applied for visas to the United States to escape the Nazi occupation, but were denied due to their poor financial situation. The letters stop in 1943, when Eisenschitz was deported to Neuen-gamme concentration camp in Germany. He never returned.

It is difficult to reflect on this last point. Through the course of my research, the subjects I study have become more than just names on a page. They were real human beings, alive during a dark and tumultuous period. The letters and documents of my research are scattered with references to friends who have not been heard from in a while, or news of those who did not survive. And although my project does not aim to make larger claims about the world today, reading the intimate letters between Saguer and Eisenschitz gives me pause. How different his life would have been if Eisenschitz was granted entry to the United States. We write about history in an attempt to understand our world today, and in hope that we might learn from it.



*Julie Ann VanGyzen is a fourth year Ph.D. Candidate in historical musicology at the University of Pittsburgh. Ms. VanGyzen studies music and resistance in Nazi-occupied Paris. Her dissertation, "L'Art n'a pas de patrie? Musical Production and Resistance in Nazi-Occupied Paris, 1940-1944," explores such subjects through the mediums of radio broadcasting, public performances, and personal compositions.*

*For more information on Klinzing Grants, visit our website: [www.ucis.pitt.edu/esc/students/grads/student-funding-opportunities](http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/esc/students/grads/student-funding-opportunities)*



## Klinzing Pre-Dissertation Grant: Kathryn Waring

By Kathryn Waring

Last May, I traveled to Bielefeld, Germany to conduct archival research and take photographs for my project, “Investigating Historical Ties Between Epileptic Colonies in the United States and Germany.” The Bethel Institute in Bielefeld was the first epileptic colony in the world when it opened in 1867. By the early 1900s, the colony form had spread across the United States. Today, Bethel is a fully-functioning hospital serving the North Rhine-Westphalia region of Germany, and one of the leading institutions in Europe specializing in epilepsy. With the generous support of the Klinzing Grant for Pre-Dissertation Research, which covered my housing and transportation costs while in Germany, I was able to spend several weeks in Bielefeld this past summer researching exactly how and why the colony movement came to the U.S.



*The labororium of Bethel, an epileptic colony in Bielefeld, Germany.*

When I arrived in May, Bethel was celebrating their 150th anniversary. Commemorative banners hung off of buildings, on flagpoles, out of windows. My first afternoon at the institute, one of the archival specialists took a group of university students on a tour of the hospital grounds and invited me to tag along. Before leaving for Germany, when I looked at Bethel’s website, the photos made it seem as if there were a few buildings scattered throughout the institute’s grounds. But there, in person, it was as if Bethel was a city in its own right within Bielefeld. Dozens of buildings spanned the property. As we walked, we passed a laboratorium, an employee apartment building, and an amphitheater once used to gather patients—now overgrown. We peeked inside an entrance to a bomb shelter built during World War II, where a sign warned visitors of bats. We stopped outside a chapel with a stone plaque commemo-

rating the disabled victims of the Third Reich. After walking around for an hour and a half, we passed a sign with a map of the institute, and the specialist pointed out the parts of the grounds we had visited. In the hour-and-a-half long tour, we had seen only a small fraction of Bethel.

In the archival building, where I spent most of my time, my translator and I dug through box after box of records documenting Bethel’s beginnings. Letters sent between Bethel’s directors and disability advocates in America. Christmas letters from German philanthropists. Brochures of similar epileptic colonies in the U.S., Great Britain, and beyond. Somewhere in all of this, we stumbled across an entire box of meticulously detailed records documenting the colony’s cattle in the years immediately after World War II. Later that first week, I went for a walk around the institute and, retracing the steps of the tour so as to photograph everything we’d seen, ended up in the institute cemetery. Sitting under a brick archway, I surveyed the resting place of thousands of patients who had called Bethel home.

Throughout my time in Germany, I learned how a doctor from New York visited Bethel in the 1880s and studied the way it was structured; how that doctor brought the colony idea back to the U.S.; how he urged New York to establish a similar institute for epileptics, and how other states like Virginia and Ohio followed suit. As I enter the final year of my MFA program here at Pitt, the research I conducted this summer will be integral to the book I am writing, and I am grateful for the support I received from the European Studies Center to complete this trip.



*Kathryn Waring is an essayist and multimedia storyteller in the MFA Writing Program at Pitt. She teaches composition and edits for Hot Metal Bridge.*