



## Fall 2018

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University of  
Pittsburgh

University Center for International Studies  
European Studies Center  
4200 Wesley W. Posvar Hall  
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

412-648-7405

[esc@pitt.edu](mailto:esc@pitt.edu)

[www.ucis.pitt.edu/esc](http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/esc)

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## Director's Message

Dear ESC colleagues, students, and friends,

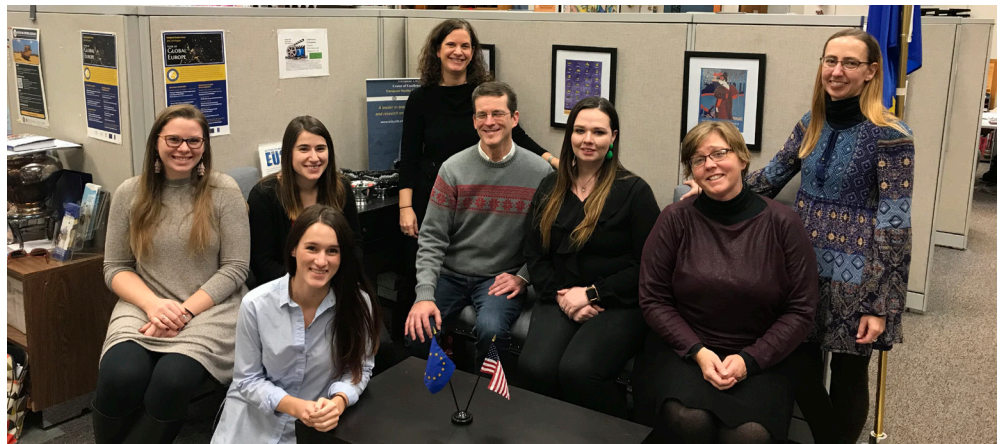
We've had a busy fall semester with several exciting events that have covered a wide range of topics—including multiculturalism in post-war Britain, women's suffrage, and the 25th anniversary of the European Common Market. In November, we organized a two-day symposium in honor of our colleague and founder, Dr. Alberta Sbragia, who will be retiring at the end of the academic year. Scholars came from the US, Canada, Italy, Germany, Australia, and Singapore (many former students of Alberta's) to honor her contributions to the fields of EU and comparative governance studies. The highlight of the event was a lecture by Andrew Moravcsik followed by a touching evening celebrating Alberta as a leader, scholar, and mentor.

Next semester, we continue our Global Europe series with a lecture on the cultural manifestations of soccer in Europe and North America, and *Conversations on Europe* resumes as we cover the Finnish education system and world's fairs and expositions. Affiliated faculty will teach two pop-up courses on readings in contemporary novels and perspectives on anti-Semitism. In addition, we will be hosting virtual roundtables on Brexit and the upcoming elections to the European Parliament. As part of our Jean Monnet Network Grant, Transatlantic Perspectives on Energy and Cities (TPEC), we are sponsoring a workshop on carbon emissions trading. Later in the spring, we will host author David Machado, who won the EU Prize for Literature for *The Shelf Life of Happiness* (*Indice Medio de Felicidade*), as part of our Getting to Know Europe grant with the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

Good luck finishing up the semester. Wishing you, your families, and friends all the best in the new year.

Jae-Jae Spoon

Director, European Studies Center



## *Conversations on Europe Spring 2019*

**January 15**

The Finnish Education Model:  
What Can We Learn?

**February 12**

40 Years of Democracy in  
Spain (in Spanish)

**February 26**

World's Fairs and International  
Expositions

**March 19**

BREXIT: A Europe Without the  
UK

**April 16**

EP Elections: What's at Stake?

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.

## **Up Close and Personal**

by Shirin Fozi, PhD



The particular stress of applying for grants to travel to distant places is a familiar theme across the humanities and social sciences. There is an added urgency for historians of art and architecture, because the expectation is not only to find the occasional archival discovery or to discuss a particular theory: there is also the need to see the physical objects, to really understand what they look like in detail. Despite its usefulness, photography is not quite enough for a specialist in this kind of work. Pictures distort and distance the object; they can communicate some aspects of the artifact or structure at hand, but only by reducing it to a projection from one point of view. For a scholar of medieval sculpture, this distinction cannot be underestimated; photographs never quite capture all the angles that can be seen in front of the object itself. Thus I am deeply grateful to have received a European Studies Center Grant for travel to Germany, and to have spent July 2018 focused on looking closely at a wide range of objects that are central to my work.

It was an ambitious itinerary: the trip began and ended in Munich, and traced a complicated path through about a dozen different cities, large and small. My time was divided between several projects at various stages, and some of the work was archival. In Frankfurt, for example, I found some previously unnoticed documentation concerning the modern provenance of the earliest and most significant medieval crucifix in the United States. The object, carved from willow wood in the early eleventh century, originally belonged to a church somewhere near Salzburg but was in the possession of a German-Jewish art collector in Frankfurt by the 1920s. Its path from there to the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, where it has been kept since 1951, is complicated and in many ways poetic: it had been promised as a gift to the Frankfurt museums, but the plan fell apart as Europe descended into the chaos of war, and the Boston curator who finally arranged for its purchase was himself the former general director of the Frankfurt museums who had been forced to flee Germany amid the rise of the Nazi regime. I knew many parts of this story from archival work in Boston, but it was deeply satisfying to flesh out the details during a day of digging through old letters, inventories, and telegrams that have been carefully preserved at the Städel Art Institute.





Most of my time, however, was spent revisiting many of the funerary monuments that feature in my current book project, which is the first extended study to examine the rise of figural tomb sculpture in northern Europe in the eleventh and twelfth centuries. Tomb effigies from the period ca. 1200-1600 are very well known to scholars of medieval and Renaissance art, but the earliest examples of the genre have only rarely been the subject of scholarly scrutiny. The dozen or so figural tombs that survive from ca. 1080-1200 have occasionally been discussed in focused essays, but my current project represents the first book to collect all of the known examples and consider the rise and codification of this genre as a reflection of the larger historical and theological problems of this period in northern Europe, particularly in Germany. They are scattered across Germany; it was a rare treat to see the examples in Schaffhausen (just across the Swiss border, by Lake Constance) and Magdeburg (near Berlin) on the same journey. I spent extra time with the bronze effigy of Rudolf of Swabia in Merseburg cathedral, cast around 1080 and thought to be the oldest example of its type. In Hildesheim I spent a whole day on a ladder examining the unique tombstone of Bruno, a canon who died on 17 December, 1200. As cathedral cellarer, he had been in charge of dispensing alms to the poor, and his monument bears some of the most powerful images of abjection and disability found anywhere in Europe at this time: the corpse, wrapped and shrouded for burial, appears in the company of the beggars and cripples who have come as mourners. The sculpture has been installed in the cloister of the cathedral

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## ESC NEWSLETTER

### **Director**

Jae-Jae Spoon, Ph.D.

### **Associate Director**

Allyson Delnore, Ph.D.

### **Newsletter Editor**

Avery Keatley

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

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**50**  
YEARS

University Center for  
International Studies

## Faculty Spotlight and Symposium



Dr. Alberta Sbragia

This November, the ESC held a two-day symposium in honor of our founding director and Pitt professor, Alberta Sbragia. Dr. Sbragia, who is a world-renowned scholar in the field of EU studies, is retiring at the end of the 2018-19 academic year. To mark her retirement and her many achievements, the symposium, “Comparative Governance in Europe,” was centered around the primary themes of her scholarship: in addition to the European Union, Sbragia’s areas of expertise center on comparing the European Union and the United States, comparative politics, comparative regionalism, and comparative federalism.

Sbragia earned her undergraduate degree from Holy Names College in Oakland, California, and spent her junior year in France studying at the Université de Paris (Sorbonne). She received her MA and PhD in political science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, which included a year of research in Italy as a Fulbright Fellow.

Following completion of her PhD, Sbragia joined Pitt’s faculty and taught American and European urban politics and policy. From 1983-1984 she was visiting associate professor at Harvard University’s Graduate School of Business Administration. In 1984 the University asked her to develop and direct the West European Studies Center. From 1993 to 1995 Sbragia chaired the European Union Studies Association (EUSA), the field’s premier scholarly association, and based its headquarters at Pitt. In 1998 she founded the

University’s European Union Center, one of the original 10 centers in the United States funded by the European Commission, that was named a European Union Center of Excellence in 2005.

The European Union named her in 2005 Jean Monnet Chair *ad personam* in recognition of her teaching and research related to the European Union; in 2013, EUSA conferred on her its Award for Lifetime Achievement in European Studies. At Pitt, Sbragia was the inaugural holder of the Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg University Chair from 2006-2010, awarded the Provost’s Award for Excellence in Mentoring in 2013, and is presently University Center for International Studies Research Professor.



From left: Will Daniels, Andrea Aldrich, Lauren Perez, Michelle Egan, Alberta Sbragia, Carolyn Dudek, Aaron Abbarno, Harrison Grafos, Galina Zapryanova, Anthony Zito, and Nils Ringe; all former students of Alberta and ESC certificate alumni.

Former students, colleagues, mentees, and friends from around the globe joined the symposium to share their work, much of which was related to, inspired by, or conducted under the guidance of Sbragia. The highlight of the event was a keynote lecture given by Andrew Moravcsik, followed by an evening event that lauded Sbragia’s accomplishments as a scholar, researcher, and devoted teacher and mentor. Those who could not attend the symposium but wanted to wish her well in retirement were invited to submit comments and stories online, which were displayed during the opening reception and compiled into a book.

We thank all of our attendees and speakers, and wish Alberta the very best as she looks ahead to retirement!



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since at least the eighteenth century, and it was a rare privilege to get close to its fragile surfaces and examine them at length.

I took over 2,000 photographs during the trip, and these are helpful records that I will use in teaching and research for years to come. Still the pictures are the equivalent of field notes, and as much as I enjoy them, they are no substitute for examining objects in person.

As a scholar of architecture, you really have to keep revisiting the sculptures to see what details you might have missed before, or how your opinion may have changed on how to interpret various features. Among the most beautiful things I saw was the sandal reliquary of St Andrew in Trier, an outstanding example of goldsmith work from the tenth century, whose details are marvelously photogenic. What is harder to communicate, however, is the experience of traveling to a small city, walking past its Roman ruins, finding its cathedral, and walking up the steps to the modest one-room treasury. The chance to really see the work itself – to walk around it, to see the light change on its surfaces, to grasp its scale and examine its materials – is irreplaceable, and yet so central to understanding it in full.

Images from first to last:

- 1) Sandal reliquary of St. Andrew (Trier, Germany)
- 2) Funerary monument of Bruno (Hildesheim, Germany)
- 3) The Boston Crucifix (Boston, Mass.)
- 4) Close-up detail of sandal reliquary



*Shirin Fozi is an Assistant Professor in the Department of History of Art and Architecture. Her forthcoming book will be the first to compile all the known examples of medieval European tomb effigies and examine how they reflect the cultural and theological understandings of the Middle Ages.*

Jennifer Dowdy is a junior at Pitt studying political science and French, and working towards a Transatlantic Studies Certificate. Jennifer first became interested in the Transatlantic certificate after visiting the EU Delegation in New York; she was already interested in human security issues, and decided to pursue a Transatlantic certificate that would allow her to combine her study of French and human security in Europe and Africa. Last summer, she worked as an intern at the European Grassroots Antiracist Movement in Paris.

As an intern, Jennifer worked as a liaison and translator for the small NGO. She helped translate op-eds and calls to action written by the president of the organization and sent for publication around the globe. One particular project she worked on focused on the Roma population in Italy, where a census of the Roma had been proposed. The last time such a census was taken was before WWII, when Roma were counted and deported to concentration camps. The organization put out an op-ed called, "We Are All Roma," and sent calls to action to NGOs around the world to protest this census. This was part of a larger project, essentially a Roma Pride Day, which serves as a gathering for Roma people and the agencies who worked to protect their rights.

The group also held protests, which Jennifer participated in as part of her work. During her two months in France, the country marked its day of remembrance for slavery and abolition, and that she and her coworkers marched around most of Paris in an all-day protest that began at the Louvre. She participated in another two-day protest against a restaurant which had refused to seat minority customers. Though Jennifer said she enjoyed her time interning and learned a lot about how NGOs function, she is still planning to pursue law school for international law once she graduates.



*Jennifer Dowdy takes time to visit a vineyard in Cassis during her two-month stay in France.*

Our fall semester was booked with lectures, roundtables, virtual briefings with scholars and professionals from around the world. In October, we welcomed professor Wendy Webster of the University of Huddersfield. Webster presented a lecture based on her recent book, *Mixing It: Multinational, Multi-ethnic Britain in the Second World War*. Her talk examined how overseas refugees, troops, and war workers made Britain's population in WWII more diverse than ever before, but how after the war, the history of those who stayed was largely forgotten. This lecture dovetailed with another from one of our affiliated faculty, Felix Germain, who gave a talk on "Black Women and the Struggle for Equality in France," that same week.



From left: Niamh Cully, US/Canada Division EEAS, Laura Fiore, FPI, Jae-Jae Spoon, Wendy Webster, Tim Rivera, EU Delegation to the US.

In October the ESC's parent center, the University Center for International Studies (UCIS), celebrated its 50th year with a festival in the Cathedral of Learning. All six international centers that comprise UCIS participated in the festival by setting up tables with program information, and putting on short presentations about their respective world regions. The festival included music, dance, and sweets from around the world.

The DAAD Visiting Associate Professor, Jan Musekamp, gave a talk in early November about the history of migration in the case of Volhynian Germans; the following week the ESC co-sponsored a lecture with the Embassy of Germany by Simon Richter titled, "How Green Is It? Evaluating Germany's Energy Transition." The lecture looked at the cultural story of Germany's energy transition.

In late November, the ESC, in conjunction with Pitt's business school, was pleased to welcome members of the German Embassy and the Bertelsmann Foundation to give a talk on "The Transatlantic Relationship: Perspectives from Germany." And in December, the ESC invited researchers from Denmark to discuss

diversity in European workplaces. We also partnered with Pitt's Nationality Rooms to bring jazz saxophonist Juli Wood to campus for a free performance.

Our *Conversations on Europe* this semester included two centennial anniversaries: the commemoration of women's suffrage in Europe in September with "100 Years of Women's Suffrage: Women in Europe Today," and of Armistice Day in November, with "Peace in Europe: 100 Year Anniversary of Armistice Day." In December, one day after the EU took another step towards a digital single market with the end of geoblocking, we hosted a roundtable looking back at "25 Years of the European Single Market."

Our final event of the semester was Model EU. Over 160 students from area high schools competed in the simulation. Students spent six weeks researching and preparing to serve as delegates for their respective countries, then spent the day debating current EU issues from the perspective of their assigned member state, creating working papers, and voting to pass resolutions. Each year we are more and more impressed with how well the students prepare and represent their member states.



Students compete in the Model EU simulation held on Pitt's campus.

The ESC also co-hosted a number of events this semester including: "From Circular Economy to Circular Society," an interactive workshop on environment and economy; "WAKE UP!" a DJ-ing and identity politics workshop; a lecture from activist and peacemaker Jon McCourt.

Lectures co-sponsored by the ESC this semester included: "Memory Conflicts as Barrier to Reconciliation"; "Historical Memory in Spain and Other Iberianist Challenges"; Institute for International Studies 2018 Symposium Series; "Youth Revolt Against Non-Democratic Regimes"; "Years of Stone: Crisis Management and Social Movements in Greece."



# Klinzing Dissertation Grant

By Brianna Howell

With the help of the Klinzing Grant for Dissertation Research from the European Studies Center, I was able to travel to the United Kingdom this summer to broaden my understanding of my research topic and gain some practical skills to improve the quality of my research. In general, I examine how voters understand the effects of globalization and how parties help voters to make sense of the issue. Originally from the Rustbelt and now living in Pittsburgh, I have long observed how the decline of the manufacturing industry has impacted local politics and voter priorities. However, since I've lived my whole life in the US, I have never had the opportunity to see how these processes unfold in different countries. Considering my focus on the advanced economies of Europe, it was vital to my project to visit a European country to enhance my perspective on this.



Newcastle University

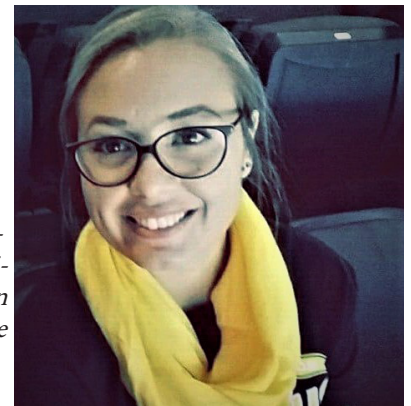
I visited the city of Newcastle Upon Tyne in the North East of the UK. This region has experienced development trajectories and economic hardships similar to many rustbelt cities in the US. While there, I met with local citizens and politicians to ask them how bigger debates about globalization were present in their communities. I was particularly curious about how the existence of more than two political parties impacted economic debates, and if there were any themes not present in U.S. debates. Newcastle has historically been a strong hold for the Labour Party, but has seen support for the Liberal Democrats, as well – two ideologically mainstream left-wing parties.

The most noteworthy finding from my interviews was that there were significant pressures on local government to promote ethical and fair-trade practices in govern-

ment contracts and projects. Local politicians prioritized well-paying employment opportunities for local citizens at all stages of government projects to promote local growth and human capital development. In many ways these policies can be tied to a typical left-wing party platform, but this strong local emphasis was interpreted by many as a key factor in the city's general support for the European Union. Further, several local politicians revealed renewed pressures by citizen groups to prioritize fair, non-exploitative, trading relationships with developing countries and doing so in environmentally and economically sustainable ways.

While there are some political organizations in the U.S. that aim to put similar ethical or environmental pressures on politicians, this framing is not as present in political debates. Based on my interviews in the UK and follow-up discussions with European politics scholars, I have realized that this perspective deserves much more consideration as a part of my dissertation.

During my time in the UK I also attended a class at the University of Essex, and learned new methodological approaches to research, which will help me get a better understanding of political discourse surrounding globalization conveyed in the media. Through this class, as well as my visits to Newcastle University, I was able to build connections with a network of scholars who are tackling important research topics on Europe, and who have already brought valuable insights to my research agenda. I am truly thankful for these new resources made available to me through the Klinzing Grant, and am certain the experience will continue to benefit me throughout my career.



*Brianna Howell is a PhD Candidate in the Department of Political Science. Her work focuses on how international issues become salient to parties and voters. Her dissertation, "The Declining Western Consensus on Free Trade," examines how and why international trade has become an increasingly contentious political issue in European countries.*

## Klinzing Pre-Dissertation Grant

By Anika Jugović Spajić

How do people cope when a state-sponsored healthcare system cannot address the needs of all its citizens because of budget constraints and wide-spread poverty? This is the main question driving my research. In the summer of 2017, I travelled to Belgrade and Zrenjanin, Serbia and conduct preliminary dissertation research, thanks to the generous support from the European Studies Center in the form of Klinzing Grant for Pre-Dissertation Research and Klinzing Grant for Dissertation Research. The fieldwork I conducted last summer was immensely helpful in the process of reshaping my research questions and topic, which is now titled *Everyday Health Activism: Negotiating Caring Responsibilities in a Hybrid Healthcare System*.

I interviewed members of voluntary organizations that focus their activism on diabetes care and endocrinologists working in public clinics. I was initially hoping to conduct more participant observation, but summer is a time when activism is mostly “put on hold” and civic organizations are closed for vacation. I was however able to visit some of the locations and observe the spaces in which organizers work.

I started by expanding my contacts list in Belgrade. I approached the president of one Belgrade association and we met for an interview. One thing that pleasantly surprises me every time is how eager activists are to talk and share their work, which makes them great interlocutors. I learned more about the activities of the association, which include weekly lectures and workshops, highlighting the importance of education for diabetes prevention and management and promoting what organizers consider to be healthy lifestyles. Activities that promote an ideal of a healthy lifestyle are particularly interesting to me, as I wish to analyze the ideal kinds of personhood or citizenship depicted in the process.

What I hadn't expected was that the activist associations provide healthcare services, such as monitoring glucose levels, as well as redistributing medical supplies provided by private pharmaceutical companies. This is important as expensive medical supplies are not available to everyone. Furthermore, the associations don't limit their activities to diabetes care, but provide humanitarian aid by collaborating with food banks and organizing clothing drives. This information made me rethink my topic and start considering how caregiving in activist com-

munities is intertwined with humanitarianism aimed at poverty, rather than just health. Additionally, as diabetes associations provide medical care themselves, I started thinking of them as another branch of the healthcare system, alongside the public and private sectors.

After gaining contacts from the activist I talked to, I interviewed more activists in Belgrade, from both national and local organizations; I traveled to Zrenjanin to interview members of the local organization. As poverty is more widespread outside the capital, the prospect of organizing activities is more precarious, and my aim is to further consider the class dimension of health activism.

Using previous connections, I interviewed an endocrinologist working in a diabetes counseling center. It turned out that even though the centers are situated in a state-sponsored clinic, private pharmaceutical companies play a big role by donating glucose monitors and educational materials, which are then redistributed by the physician.

In the end, I realized just how interlaced the practices of Serbian healthcare providers are. Associations are predominantly led by people with diabetes who need to see their physicians regularly to manage diabetes. State-employed and private physicians collaborate with civic associations and hold pro bono lectures. Pharmaceutical companies donate their equipment through clinics and associations. A further analysis of this division of labor will be one of the key foci of my dissertation, and I am extremely grateful to the European Studies Center for giving me the opportunity not only to conduct this preliminary research, but also continue it this year.



Anika Jugović Spajić is a fourth-year PhD student at the Department of Anthropology, University of Pittsburgh. Her dissertation focuses on contemporary health activism and caregiving practices in Serbia in the context of the neoliberal transformation of healthcare.