Dear ESC colleagues, students, and friends,

As we slowly return to the ‘new normal’ here at Pitt, we have embraced our ability to have both virtual and hybrid events, which allow both remote and in-person participation. In the past two months, we have had the privilege to welcome both the French Council General, François Penguilly, and the European Union Executive Vice President for An Economy that Works for People, Valdis Dombrovskis, to campus. These events offered both in-person and remote options and we were joined by students and faculty from Pitt and across our Jean Monnet in the USA Network of partner centers. It was great to see a high level of student engagement at these events. (You can read more about Dombrovskis’s visit on pg. 2).

Working closely with our affiliated faculty, we developed our theme for this year, which is the Year of Recovering Europe. This organizing theme addresses recovery from a variety of angles, including health, economy, social justice, climate change, education, and politics. To kick off our Year of Recovering Europe, Gary Younge, journalist and Professor of Sociology at the University of Manchester, gave our Jean Monnet EU Center of Excellence Distinguished Lecture on how Europe Misunderstands Black America (read more on pg. 11). This Fall, we will be addressing this theme through several of our Conversations on Europe roundtables, which will

continues on page 12
This September, Pittsburgh was the site of the EU-US Trade and Technology Council (TTC), where top officials from the U.S. and EU met to discuss transatlantic trade, emerging technology, innovation, and the promotion of shared democratic values.

In addition to co-chairing the TTC, European Commission Executive Vice President Valdis Dombrovskis also visited the University of Pittsburgh to discuss trade, technology, and transatlantic relations with GSPIA Associate Dean and ESC faculty affiliate Erica Owen. In discussing the TTC, Dombrovskis noted that one thing discussed was technological development. He told Owen that “as technologies are developing, new kinds of goods are appearing. We need this cooperation, coordination, and framework to avoid some misunderstandings, to see how we approach different new developments [and] different new products.”

The event was held in the William Pitt Union and streamed as a webinar, with over 200 people in attendance. EU Ambassador to the U.S. Stavros Lambrinidis and the Director-General for Trade Sabine Weyand also attended. Several students and faculty asked Dombrovskis questions, including a GSPIA student asking about the EU’s relationship to China, while an Economics faculty member asked the TTC co-chair to expand on challenges and conflicts of interests that he saw while at the Council meeting. Dombrovskis stressed the importance of understanding the TTC as a framework for cooperation rather than as simply legally binding. In addition to describing the challenges of agreeing on the implications of regulation in digital markets, he also brought up the difference between the U.S. and EU’s stance on data privacy protections.

To wrap up the event, Dombrovskis was asked to respond to what many Pitt undergraduates were asking about what comes next and how to prepare for a 21st century economy. He responded: “I think one thing which is clearly coming is rapid technological development. So in Europe, we’re talking about a green and digital transformation of our economy.” The reference to the EU’s commitment to a green recovery recalled our event last spring, when First Vice President Frans Timmermans virtually visited Pitt to discuss his work as an EVP for the European Green Deal. As we move further into our theme of Recovering Europe (which you can read more about on pg. 6), we hope for further conversations that embrace the interdisciplinary nature of addressing European recovery in the past, present, and future.
After receiving the Klinzing Grant toward a preliminary research trip to Berlin, Germany, my goal was to take this opportunity to familiarize myself with a foreign archive, discovering the kinds of sources and materials that could be useful for my dissertation. I work in migration studies, particularly on movements within and from the German Empire, therefore the Federal Archives, City Archives, and the Secret Prussian State Archives are important for my research. Weeks in advance, I emailed each archive that I planned to visit to inform them what I was working on. I received no reply but assumed that they could help me once I arrived. I studied every archive’s website, determining the proper protocols for conducting research. Feeling as though I had prepared as much as I could, I ventured to Berlin and prepared myself for my first visit to the Federal Archive.

When I arrived, I found out that I had needed an appointment, and that I should come back in a month, as that was how far ahead they were booked. In a panic, I called other archives that I had planned to visit. The rest were also booked at least until the end of the month. The excitement of increasing vaccination rates and lower spread of COVID-19 at the time did not erase the fact that a pandemic was ongoing, and that research facilities had reduced visitor numbers by limiting the number of appointments each day. I was so upset with myself, thinking that I had not prepared for this possibility. After a phone call with Allyson Delnore (the ESC graduate advisor) and a re-strategizing session with my advisor, Gregor Thum, I set my sight on libraries.

In a consultation with Jens Prellwitz at the State Library, he helped me redesign my approach to research despite COVID restrictions. Becoming familiar with their library’s atmosphere prepared me for archival research. I study German migration from the eastern provinces of the former German Empire to places further west, such as Berlin. Visiting the city’s most historic neighborhoods in which many migrants of various backgrounds lived, as well as walking through the many fascinating museums and landmarks of the city (German History Museum, the various sites on Unter den Linden, and the Berlin Zoo) provided a sense of the beautiful qualities of the city that enamored its inhabitants at the end of the 19th century. Experiencing Berlin and practicing the language also helped my research process, as historians must describe the settings in which the events of their project occurred. Moreover, archivists eventually answered my emails with information about useful materials, so that I know what to request when I return to their facilities. Especially in a time as unpredictable as this, be aware that protocols may exist that are not apparent on archival websites. But there is always opportunity elsewhere. My story is one of caution for travel during a pandemic, but it also proves that an unfortunate situation can become deeply rewarding. Embrace these bumps in the road of research for the opportunities that they provide.

Ann Fleming is a second-year PhD student in the Department of History. She received a Klinzing Grant for overseas research. Klinzing Grants are meant to facilitate graduate study on topics related to contemporary Europe. Historical topics may be eligible for funding, but must relate the past to Europe’s present in a clear way. The Klinzing dissertation grant will support dissertation research or the writing of a dissertation either in the coming summer or academic year.
Elvås, a Swedish filmmaker, is MEET EU's first Virtual Resident Filmmaker.

In partnership with the Jean Monnet Center of Excellence at Florida International University and the Center for European Studies at the University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill, the ESC is launching a range of activities under the initiative “MEET EU: Making Encounters, Engaging Transatlanticists.” In addition to activities like a short film competition, Model EU teams, virtual presentations for K-12 education, and expert career panels, the initiative includes hosting an emerging EU virtual filmmaker resident. During the virtual residency, Elvås will remotely engage with the artistic communities and academic life of the three universities, and, if possible, will travel to spend a week at each institution. Elvås's film will also be screened and promoted in the three locations.

Having recently graduated from the Stockholm University of the Arts, Elvås applied with A Swedish Defence, a short film about a Swedish weapons engineer and his anti-war activist daughter and a protest that interrupts an international arms deal. Elvås sees his project as thinking through Europe and Sweden's self-image, so the residency's emphasis on European identity and relationships. “The themes I’m continuing to come back to are shame and the search for family and family connections, and [for] the last two years I've been trying to find ways to talk about bigger subjects through these smaller themes.” He has been particularly interested in Swedish weapon export, since Sweden has been in the top ten of weapon sellers for the last ten years. “It sits very badly with our values – we are known as being an open country that takes in a lot of refugees, that stands up for what's right and wrong, or at least that's our self-image, but this doesn't really correspond with also selling weapons to the same countries that we sometimes save refugees from.”

During the residency, he will be working on a feature-length film that investigates these issues surrounding a Swedish weapon deal with Thailand that started in 2006 and ended in 2013. The deal sold Swedish fighter jets to the military, and “the last deal, the last jets [Sweden] gave them, was just a couple of months before they had a military coup.” Elvås’s film will thus follow a father and daughter to Bangkok in this time, exploring the tension in their relationship as the father, a weapons engineer, works on the deal and the daughter meets teens in Bangkok and begins to question her political values. Elvås recently received a grant from the Swedish Art Council to travel to Bangkok in August 2022 for a research and planning trip.
Elvås is drawn to considering the gray areas in these types of big political issues, likely, he says, because of his parents. “My mother was Vice-Chairman of the Swedish Peace [and Arbitration] Society in the 80s, so she’s been very active against weapon systems. And my father, on the other hand, was State Secretary for the Social Democrats, which is the political party here in Sweden that is in charge of the majority of weapons sales...so basically [there was] a lot of arguing about this, and it created this feeling in me that, oh, this is so complicated, and it really does have different sides and I would like to try to create something that brings both of these [sides] up.”

Follow our social media and website for more discussions with Elvås and his work when his residency begins in mid-November!

**Moving Images: Transatlantic Connections**

In addition to funding Elvås's residency, the MEET EU funding allows the ESC, alongside our collaborators at the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill and Florida International University, to host a short film competition for young people in the three states. Elvås will be one of the judges for the finalists, which will be screened at the 2022 Pittsburgh EU Film Festival. More information can be found [here](#).

The inaugural competition asks young people to create a short film (documentary or non-documentary) responding to the theme “Transatlantic Connections”. **Submissions are due November 28, 2021.**

MEET EU: Making Encounters, Engaging Transatlanticists is a grant generously funded by the European Union through the European Union Delegation to the US in Washington, DC.
How do we define recovering?
In the wake of the 2020-21 academic year, which was indelibly shaped by a global pandemic and social justice movements, the theme of Recovering Europe provides space for topics that address recovery from a variety of angles, including health, economy, social justice, climate change, and politics. In recognition of a larger multi-year initiative involving various units on campus, activities will also address themes of reckoning and recovery through Decolonizing European Studies.

We encourage faculty and graduate students to interpret the theme of “Recovering Europe” broadly and to be creative in imagining possible collaborations. Recovering Europe invites comparative and trans-regional approaches to understanding Europe. Recovering Europe encourages challenging assumptions and identifying ways to reimagine and re-conceive the history of the continent within world history.

How did our “Year of” programming begin?
Our “Year of” programming, is funded by a multi-year grant through the European Union Jean Monnet European Union Center of Excellence (JMEUCE). The cycle has included four years thus far: Year of Global Europe, Year of Memory and Politics in Europe, Year of Creating Europe, and this year’s Year of Recovering Europe. These themes are reflected in our Conversations on Europe series, the projects we fund, and a variety of student-driven events.

What types of events are in our lineup, and how are they informed by our theme?
We have eight events as part of our series this year. Our next event on November 16 will consider the health outcomes and economic impacts of COVID across Europe. A leading question of the event asks not only which institutional structures lead the recovery effort, but how this recovery impacts Europeans, and who is left behind by these efforts.

How can you get involved?
The ESC accepts proposals from Affiliated Faculty for projects related to the theme. The types of projects vary greatly and include a variety of student-driven events and projects. Possible projects could include pop-up courses, invited lectures and symposia aimed at students, faculty-led student research projects, film screenings, readings, and art exhibits.

Topics relevant to the theme could explore issues including, but not limited to, the arts, culture, public health, education, law, discovery and invention, wartime trauma and peacebuilding, politics, economics, demography and society, and/or foreign policy.

Additionally, the ESC will match funds for projects that are relevant to both our Recovering Europe theme and the Office of the Provost’s Year of Data and Society. Relevant projects for both themes can have far-reaching relevance for the understanding of European recovery and the people shaping, shaped by, and underrepresented by data.

Want to submit a proposal, or find our latest Year of events? Check out our website and find more information under Events.
Register for Spring Classes

We have many great classes this Spring for our certificates! Here are just a few highlights. All approved courses will soon be available on our website.

**PS 1311: WESTERN EUROPEAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**

**Instructor:** Visiting Italian Fulbright Distinguished Lecturer, Gianluca Passarelli  
**When:** MW 3-4:15

This course covers the politics and government of Western European countries at national and local levels. It also considers some aspects of the relationships between the European Union and its member states.

**PS 1317: POLITICS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Instructor:** Gemma Marolda  
**When:** TuTh 4-5:15

This course is designed to introduce students to the government and politics of the European Union. It will provide a historical overview and introduce students to the EU's governing institutions, current policies and debates, and the public's views of the EU through public opinion and electoral politics.

**ITAL 1078: - FULBRIGHT SEMINAR IN ITALIAN STUDIES: REPRESENTATIONS OF ITALY IN THE ANGO MEDIASCPE**

**Instructor:** Visting Italian Fulbright Distinguished Lecturer, Flavia Cavaliere  
**When:** Tu 2:30-3:45

This course investigates how Italian ethnic identities have been conveyed via advertising, films, myths and festivals, websites and new technologies, and through culture-bound terms, migrating words, and food.

**ENGCMP 0565: WRITING PLACES**

**Instructor:** Jennifer Keating  
**When:** TuTh 1-2:15

Introduces students to cultural and rhetorical exchanges with a primary emphasis on location. We will examine landscape, portraiture and interactive writing as we explore themes of authenticity, barriers, contested ownership of space, representation of language(s) and memory.

**FR 0016: - HISTORY OF FRENCH CINEMA TRAILER**

**Instructor:** Maxime Bey-Rozet

Students enrolled in FR0016 (History of French Cinema, taught in English) can add an additional one credit course to include French language materials and instruction. Interested students should contact the instructor.

**HIST 1024: HISTORY POP-UP**

**Instructor:** Orin James  
**When:** TuTh 1-2:15

This one credit course focuses on the rich history, culture and civilization of Austria to help understand her rise to power, downfall and ability to remain relevant today as a member of the European Union.
An English translation of *Aesop’s Fables* and a French classic for children offered for sale in Trinidad in 1836. Bengali adaptations of *Alice in Wonderland* and *Peter Pan*. Nineteenth-century English translations of Philippine Folk Tales. Each of these archival finds is part of a new collaborative digital project hosted by the University of Pittsburgh, which investigates the spread of children’s literature to the Global South in the first 200 years following the European development of printed books for youth.

*Round the Globe: Travel Routes of Children’s Literature* launched in May 2021 with ESC funding from the Year of Creating Europe matching funds from the Year of Engagement. Funding was also provided by the Global Studies Center, the Children’s Literature program, and the Department of English. The project builds upon the history of children’s books as vehicles of cultural transmission and exchange across cultures dating back at least to the sixteenth century, when children’s books began to spread between European metropoles and colonies in the Americas and Asia. The founders of the project—Associate Professor of English Courtney Weikle-Mills, Visiting Lecturer Sreemoyee Dasgupta, and PhD Student Gabriela Lee—were motivated to create the site in part because the amplified global spread of children’s books from 1750-1950 ultimately led to the emergence of a dominant idea of childhood defined by the Global North. Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, who grew up in Nigeria in the 1980s, attests to this problem in her TED talk when she describes how reading British and American children’s books crowded her own experiences in favor of what she calls a “single story.” *Round the Globe* aims to understand the cultural forces whereby this single story came to prevail, but also to uncover the true diversity of children’s cultural forms around the world and to show how the early spread of children’s literature in truth involves multiple stories, which took unexpected avenues due to local adaptation, resistance, and response. Even as a global canon of children’s classics can be said to have emerged by the end of the period covered by the research, local traditions, stories, and memories have persisted, which Weikle-Mills, Dasgupta, and Lee hope can pave new paths for the children’s literature to come.

So far, the project presents analyses of circulation and adaptation patterns in three areas by the Pitt team including the Caribbean (Weikle-Mills), India (Dasgupta), and the Philippines (Lee). For each area, the site features resources including interactive Google maps highlighting the travel routes of children’s books, bibliographic entries for selected texts, contextualization and background, links to primary documents, and suggested secondary sources. Preliminary findings show that the areas’ different histories when it comes to colonization, slavery, and independence had a profound effect on how children’s books were distributed, received, and reworked, but continues on page 10
The Portuguese Empire was the first global empire in world history, exerting influence on four different continents and lasting for almost six centuries. Although the Portuguese expansion was based on colonialism and slavery, one of its results is the adoption of Portuguese language and the creation of a common culture that still endures in countries and regions throughout the world. Worldwide, there are approximately 266 million Portuguese Speakers, making it the sixth most spoken language in the world. It is an official language in nine countries and a working language of numerous international organizations. The multicultural identities created in the Portuguese-speaking countries are still an important part of the rich and diverse histories of these regions.

For students who wish to pursue a career or research with an international dimension, or in the Luso-sphere specifically, studying this history and the interregional relationships extant in the Portuguese-speaking world offers multiple opportunities. The ESC and the Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS) received a Pitt Seed Grant to jointly work on developing a Program in Luso-Sphere Studies, including a Certificate in Luso-Sphere Studies, as well as a Related Concentration in Luso-Sphere Studies at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. This program will be among the first of its kind in the US and given the University of Pittsburgh’s resources and increasingly global focus, it could become a central location for the study of Portuguese language and Luso-Sphere cultural heritage.

Esc Associate Director Allyson Delnore is a coordinator on the project and said that "Pitt's strengths in European Studies and Latin American studies pair well. We no longer feel limited by traditional area studies, which were long confined to continental land-masses. Combining our resources will advance research on the Portuguese-speaking world as a unique region, while also addressing the academic interests and pre-professional goals of students at Pitt." Students will be able to self-design thematic coursework that could address anything from The Luso-Sphere and the European Union, Transatlantic Portugal (both historical and contemporary), Sustainability and Development, Gender Studies, Social Policy, Immigration and Diaspora Studies, and Language and Literature. To enrich the curriculum of students pursuing a Luso-Sphere certificate, CLAS and ESC will also work in developing a study abroad program for undergraduate students that will visit different Portuguese speaking countries. Together with other credentials and co-curricular experiences in a student’s academic plan, these new credentials will help students prepare for international careers in administration, policy, diplomacy, and international business as well as graduate degrees in policy studies, cultural studies and the humanities.

The team working on this project includes our own Allyson Delnore and Stephen Lund, CLAS principal investigator Luis G Van Fossen Bravo and co-principal investigator Keila Grinberg, as well as Hispanic Languages and Literature faculty members Ana Paula Carvalho and Serena Rivera, and Study Abroad Office liaison Gisselle Arce.
that there are also striking commonalities, such as, for instance, the circulation of Arnaud Berquin’s *L’Ami Des Enfants* to all three areas. The evolution of children’s literature in each area, too, was shaped by the folk traditions and political movements of the colonized, which blended with imported books and tales to yield texts that were anti-colonial in purpose, such as a blood-sucking mosquito modelled from Lewis Carroll’s fabulous Wonderland creatures who represents an exploitative European colonialist and the Black Cinderella of reggae songs.

Since the May launch, the Pitt team has been recruiting and working with scholars from Nigeria, Iran, Latin and African America, the UK, and other regions of India to produce new content featuring many texts that are not widely known outside of their cultures, therefore making their study accessible to a broad audience of scholars, librarians, authors, students, and the larger public. In addition to adding scholarship on other areas of the world, the site will be a research hub for scholars collaborating to outline the global paths of genres such as fairy tales and popular stories such as *Alice in Wonderland* and *Arabian Nights*, both as books and theatrical performances. For more information about the project, or to get involved, please contact Courtney Weikle-Mills at caw57@pitt.edu or Sreemoyee Dasgupta at srd51@pitt.edu.
“At least we don’t do that here.” That is what Gary Younge, award-winning author, editor, broadcaster, and academic, was told by a colleague in 1998 after hearing the news of James Byrd’s gruesome and racist murder in Jasper, Texas. Younge was the speaker for our Jean Monnet European Union Center of Excellence Distinguished Lecture for the Fall Semester, also part of Pitt’s International Week.

Younge, who has published books such as his recent Another Day in the Death of America, discussed the tendencies of a “moral superiority that is informed by a confluence of amnesia about Europe’s own colonial past and ambivalence about its racial presence, which sits alongside a genuine traditional anti-racism and international solidarity and enveloped in an often-fraught geopolitical relationship with the US itself.”

Younge’s talk was a narrative of vivid and revealing events, including a photobombing World War II British soldier from Gabon as well as as his own experiences as a young adult in France, Leningrad, England, and the United States. Particularly prominent was Younge’s discussion of how to define and generalize Europe – he described how, in 1991 in Paris, he experienced one of “the most racially intense periods” he’s encountered, including being denied entrance to nightclubs and cabs, beaten by police, and asked for papers repeatedly. Soon after in Leningrad, “it was assumed [that he] was American and therefore wealthy...,” and therefore treated as such. Younge said that while he was “the same person on the same continent during the same time period, it was the understanding of what [his] presence signified that changed.” However, despite these differences, there were yet some generalizations that could be made, including the sense of superiority his colleague expressed after Byrd’s murder. Younge described this sort of reaction as a larger problem that “presupposes the inevitability of racism and black people’s need to be grateful for it’s more benevolent manifestations.”

Younge’s last words were a strong summation of how, indeed, Europe (mis)understands Black America:

“Europe’s capacity to misunderstand America is directly related to its propensity to misunderstand itself. Its ability to practice substantial anti-racist solidarity is real but selective and undermined by solipsism and amnesia. Its ability to demonstrate compassion is genuine but partial and hampered by callous hyperopia – the ability to see the things that are closest to you clearly.”
focus on recovery from the (on-going) pandemic and climate change. In the Spring, we will host several roundtables that will focus on the theme of ‘reckoning with the past’ and will include discussions on de-colonizing the curriculum and museums and reparations to the victims of colonial violence. You can read more about the Year of Recovering Europe on pg. 6.

We will be welcoming Holger Klein (Professor of Art History at Columbia) to campus in November, the first in a series of visitors as part of our Creating Europe Project, which seeks to examine European integration and disintegration from different perspectives and across different time periods. As part of his visit, Prof. Klein will be meeting with faculty and students and discussing his recent research. “Creating Europe” is a two-year project funded by a Jean Monnet Project grant from the European Commission and is part of a larger initiative to reimagine European Studies at Pitt.

In addition to our Year of Recovery programming, we have an exciting line-up of events this spring semester, including our EU Film Festival and several academic conferences and symposia on comparative perspectives on industrial decline in the US and Europe, populism and technocracy, and energy transitions. We hope you will join us for these and other events either in-person or virtually (where possible).

Keep up with what we’re doing on our website, on Facebook, Instagram, and on Twitter.

Enjoy the changing seasons!

Jae-Jae Spoon
Director, European Studies Center

Join Europe Club!

The hybrid organization of Model EU and Europe Club is looking forward to many new and exciting opportunities this spring! Four of our participants will travel to Athens, Greece during Thanksgiving break to represent the University of Pittsburgh at an international Model EU simulation. The spring semester will include additional participation in Model EU simulations that include travel, as well as on-campus events like forums/discussions, movie nights, and other engaging and entertaining events for students to immerse themselves in European culture and politics!

Those interested in joining can contact Vivian Zauhar, the vice president, at vxz1@pitt.edu, or the president, Regent Curtis at rac210@pitt.edu.