



EUROPEAN STUDIES CENTER

A Jean Monnet European Union Centre of Excellence
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Photograph Courtesy of Wiki Commons

A giant poster of a male couple hugging on a building on the Dame Street end of South Great George's Street, in Dublin, Ireland. The work, by artist Joe Caslin, was part of a Yes Equality project to promote marriage equality in Ireland.

MARRIAGE EQUALITY IN IRELAND: A HISTORIC REFERENDUM AND VICTORY FOR LGBT RIGHTS

by **Dr. Helma G. E. de Vries-Jordan**
Director of the History and Political Science Program
University of Pittsburgh at Bradford

On May 22, Ireland held a historic referendum, asking voters whether or not to add a constitutional amendment stating that “marriage may be contracted in accordance with law by two persons without distinction as to their sex.” Gay marriage is debated across Europe, and I am working on a book focused on the marriage equality movements and LGBT activism in advanced industrialized democracies. Thanks to the European Studies Center’s generosity with assistance, I conducted field research in Ireland during 2014. I also have completed field research in the Netherlands, Belgium, France, the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and the United States. Over the past two years, I have conducted interviews with activists, organizers, plaintiffs, lawyers, and politicians.

Prior to the referendum, every major Irish political party supported a yes vote, and several current and former politicians came out publicly. In the end,

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IN REVIEW

CONVERSATIONS ON EUROPE

On Oct. 20, the European Studies Center continued its monthly virtual roundtable series, *Conversations on Europe*, with a videoconference devoted to “Europe’s Jews: Past, Present, and Future?” With 56 people in attendance, the Center had two overflow rooms (left and right below) at the University of Pittsburgh. “[The *Conversation*] did a great job in presenting the current state of anti-Semitism in Europe and what is being done by governments and civil society to combat it,” said Pitt sophomore Brian Burke. Center Director Ron Linden (above, left) moderated, and panelists included Gunther Jikeli, Indiana University professor and author of *Muslim Antisemitism in Europe*; Ben Judah, a journalist who has written on Britain’s Jews for *Politico* and *Tablet*; Andrew Srulevitch, Director of European Affairs and Assistant Director of International Affairs for the Anti-Defamation League; and David Weinberg, Professor Emeritus at Wayne State University and author of *Recovering a Voice: West European Jewish Communities after the Holocaust*. “I found the discussion to be highly interesting,” said Pitt junior Kayleigh Gaborek. “Prior to attending, I had not realized that anti-Semitism was still a rather big problem in Europe.” Pitt junior Jake Ford said the *Conversation* helped him see the Paris terrorist attack in a different light. “It provided a connection to France that I would otherwise not have had,” he said.



HAVE SKATES, WILL TRAVEL: RESEARCHING SWEDISH YOUTH HOCKEY

by Alexandra Mountain, PhD Candidate
Department of History, University of Pittsburgh

Anders Melinder and I sat in a small conference room at a round table. His grey hair was combed neatly to one side, and he wore a sports jacket over a T-shirt. I travelled to Örnsköldsvik to talk to Melinder about his life's work: a sport that has arguably surpassed soccer as Sweden's national pastime.

"Hockey, hockey, and church," he said. "That's what matters here."

Melinder smiled wide and gestured emphatically as he spoke about how important hockey is to Sweden, specifically in Örnsköldsvik, a small, isolated town that is called "Ö-vik" for short and has a natural harbor along the shores of the Gulf of Bothnia. Melinder is biased on the topic. Last year, he retired from coaching Ö-vik's elite high school hockey team after starting the program in the 1970s. Throughout his extensive career, Melinder trained hundreds of young boys, including Swedish hockey legends like Peter Forsberg, Markus Naslund, and the Sedin twins, Henrik and Daniel. He taught them how to skate hard and fast, and how to win.

My three months in Sweden, generously funded by a summer research grant from the ESC, made it clear that while Melinder might be a more rabid fan than most Swedes, passion for the game of hockey runs deep throughout the country. My dissertation is a historical analysis of the global shifts that occurred in the training and development of youth hockey players from 1970 until 2010. It is a comparative study that looks at how youth hockey programs in Canada, the United States, and Sweden transformed from localised, individual systems in the 1970s to an international network of player development by the late 2000s. I want my project to demonstrate how the increasing intensification of youth hockey programs, geared towards producing professional players for the National Hockey League, impacted young hockey players. How young is too young to consider going pro? How does the experience of a Canadian hockey player differ from that of an American, or Swede?

As I developed my project, I realized I needed to spend a few months in Sweden. Information on how

the Swedish youth hockey system worked was difficult to find. I researched extensively online, looked through books, and talked to some Swedish friends, but I still did not really have an exact picture of the hockey set up. This summer trip had two objectives. The first was to gain a small level of proficiency in the Swedish language. The second was to interview as many Swedish hockey players and personnel, like Melinder, as possible in order to understand how the Swedish system worked, as well as how the Swedish hockey player experience had changed over a number of decades.

I attended a six-week intensive language course held in Lund and operated through Folkuniversitetet. The course was rigorous and challenging, but it was only when I started my interviews that I realized how valuable taking the language class was. Everyone I talked to seemed surprised and excited that I was trying to learn Swedish. It validated my research to them, and I felt that all of my interview subjects became much more relaxed when they realised that this was not just a holiday in Sweden for me. Through my many conversations with Swedes, be it planned interviews or random conversations started at coffee shops, it became clear how much hockey means to Sweden, and how much time and energy is put into training and developing young players. One example that was continually referenced to me and demonstrated how important youth hockey is to Sweden was the annual TV-Pucken.

The TV-Pucken is a national, televised hockey tournament that draws 24 teams from the 24 districts in Sweden to compete against one another. It is hugely publicised, incredibly popular, and is considered a showcase for the most talented Swedish hockey players between the ages of 15 and 16. Without my interviews, I would have been aware of the TV-Pucken's existence, but I could not have fathomed how integral the tournament is for the future of young hockey players in Sweden, or how important the tournament is to the whole of Sweden.

The TV-Pucken is just one example of how being in Sweden and talking to Swedes made clear certain events or facets of Swedish hockey of which I was previously unaware. My time spent there over the summer has highlighted some key differences between the training and professionalization styles of Canada and America compared to Sweden. It also convinced me that the Swedish tradition of *fika* - simply sitting down and chatting with people over coffee - is a great research tool. €

COMING UP

CONVERSATION ON EUROPE

The ESC's next installment of *Conversation on Europe*, its monthly virtual roundtable series, is entitled "The Climate for Climate Change Negotiations." With the UN Climate Change Conference (COP 21 / CMP 11) wrapping up in Paris, a panel of experts will provide their views of what was accomplished and what was lost in the negotiations. Panelists will include Michaël Aklin, Assistant Professor of Political Science; Wil Burns, Co-Executive Director of the Forum for Climate Engineering Assessment at American University; Thomas Pellerin-Carlin, a Research Fellow of European Energy Policy at the Jacques Delors Institute; and Leah Stokes, Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of California, Santa Barbara. **12 p.m., Dec. 11, 4209 Posvar Hall.**

GRANTS FOR FACULTY

The ESC has grants available for faculty doing research related to Europe. The European Studies Grant Competition is to develop and strengthen faculty expertise on various aspects of historical or contemporary Europe, its states and peoples. The Jean Monnet Center of Excellence Grant Competition is intended to develop and strengthen faculty expertise on any aspect of post-World War II European Integration, including the European Union and its member states and societies. Awards are intended to be used during Summer 2016. For eligibility requirements and application procedures, please see our website.

MELLON-CES DISSERTATION

COMPLETION FELLOWSHIP

The Mellon-CES Dissertation Completion Fellowship is funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and includes a \$25,000 stipend, as well as assistance in securing reimbursements or waivers in eligible health insurance and candidacy fees. Mellon-CES Dissertation Completion Fellowships are intended to facilitate the timely completion of the doctoral degree by late-stage graduate students focusing on topics in European Studies in the humanities. **Deadline: Jan. 26, 2016.**



IN MEMORIAM

On Oct. 23, the European Studies Center lost a dear friend and colleague when Susan Hicks died tragically as she rode her bike home after work. Susan, 34, was the Assistant Director for Academic Affairs at the Center for Russian and East European Studies (REES) for the past two and a half years, working directly with over 100 undergraduate and graduate students. Her time at REES was marked by creative programming and passion for her student advisees.

Susan received a PhD in cultural anthropology from the University of British Columbia, and bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Pittsburgh. If you would like to contribute to the Susan Hicks Memorial Fund, which will provide funding for students working in the REES region, you may do so at www.giveto.pitt.edu/hicks.

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For newsletter announcements, comments, or submissions, please email eu-news@pitt.edu.

ESC would like to thank the European Union for support for the Center.

ESC SPOTLIGHT: JANICE VANCE



This month, ESC Newsletter Editor Gavin Jenkins interviewed **Dr. Janice Vance**, Director of the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences' (SHRS) Study Abroad Program in Ireland. In October, the SHRS study abroad program celebrated its 10th anniversary with a reception for a group of colleagues from Belfast who traveled to Pittsburgh. The ESC has supported the SHRS program since it began 10 years ago because it provides students with the opportunity to explore, research, and practice service provision models in Belfast and Dublin in a range of professions, including speech-language pathology, audiology, physical therapy, occupational therapy, clinical dietetics and athletic training. On top of starting the study abroad program, Dr. Vance is also the Director of Undergraduate Education in the Department of Communication Science and Disorders in the SHRS. This is the SHRS' first study abroad program.

Q: Why did you want to start a study abroad program in Ireland?

A: I was born and educated there. In Northern Ireland to be exact. I completed my clinical degree in speech therapy at the University of Ulster and practiced there for a couple years. Then I moved to England to study applied linguistics at the University of Reading. When I was 25, I earned my first faculty post at the University of Birmingham, but after a couple years, I accepted a position at the Univer-

sity of Cape Town in South Africa. I taught Logopaedics [speech therapy] in South Africa for almost 10 years. But then in 1995 I received a scholarship to come to Pitt to complete my doctorate in communication science and disorders. I've been in Pittsburgh ever since.

Q: How has the ESC helped the study abroad in Ireland program over the years?

A: Over a decade ago European Studies Center Assistant Director Steve Lund sent an email out offering seed money and logistical support for any faculty member interested in starting a study abroad program. They were interested in my ideas particularly because the program would serve SHRS students, who traditionally are unable to find study abroad experiences related to their majors. As the program grew, the support of the European Studies Center remained consistent, including thousands of dollars in scholarships that they have awarded to students on the trip each year.

Q: What are the program's accomplishments?

A: For over a decade, we've provided students in the rehabilitation sciences with an opportunity to study abroad in a program related to their specific interests. As a result, we've exposed students to different models of health care and education across three countries (USA, UK and Ireland), as well as to clinical and educational practices across a range of disciplines. This develops interdisciplinary understanding of multidisciplinary teamwork. It also develops professional skills and cultural competency and insights.

The program urges students to focus on topics that are critical to a healthcare career. We address the history and current state of topics such as healthcare structure, delivery systems, attitudes toward disability, and referral

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NOTE TO ESC ALUMNI:

Please keep in touch! We would love to hear about and celebrate your accomplishments. Send news of awards offered, grants received, books recently published, job appointments accepted, etc., to the Newsletter Editor at eucnews@pitt.edu.

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62% of Irish voters supported the constitutional amendment with a yes vote, and the over 60% voter-turnout reflected how important the issue is to the Irish. After a judge dismissed the final legal challenge to the referendum result, the Marriage Bill 2015 was introduced in the Dáil (the lower chamber of the legislature) in September. The bill was passed by the Dáil in October, with an amendment to remove a three month advance notification by civil partners seeking to get married. The bill was subsequently passed by the Seanad (the upper chamber of the legislature), and a couple weeks later, the Presidential Commission signed the Marriage Bill into law, as President Michael D. Higgins was on an official visit to the United States. Then, on Nov. 17, Cormac Gollogly and Richard Dowling became Ireland's first same-sex couple to marry. It is noteworthy that Tony and Darren Day, a couple from Northern Ireland, were also included among the first couples to wed in Ireland.

Many aspects of the referendum were controversial. Many people debated whether sexual minority groups' human rights should be subject to voter approval. There were some who thought voter turnout would be a problem, while others thought the Irish propensity to vote against referendum issues would detrimentally affect the outcome, despite high levels of public support for marriage equality. In order to successfully campaign for a "yes" vote, the Yes Equality campaign coalition was formed in March, 2015. This campaign drew together a number of key organizations: the Gay Lesbian Equality Network (GLEN), Marriage Equality, and the Irish Council for Civil Liberties.

Several of these organizations formed in response to past litigation concerning LGBT rights and have played an important role in advocating for equality legislation in Ireland. The first case involved Senator David Norris, who was elected to the Irish parliament and was an out legislator when homosexuality was still criminalized. Senator Norris challenged the continued criminalization of homosexuality in a case that eventually was appealed to the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR), a 1988 decision that Ireland was in breach of human rights. However, it was not until a change in government in 1993 that the Irish government decriminalized homosexuality. GLEN was set up in 1988 in response to the ECHR decision, as there were concerns that the Irish government might pass other types of legislation targeting gay men. GLEN cam-

aigned successfully to establish the same age of consent for all citizens, and subsequently in passing equality legislation regarding employment (1998), access to services (2000), and civil partnership (2010).

Another step toward equality came in 2004, when Senator Katherine Zappone and her wife Ann Louise Gilligan filed a lawsuit to have their Canadian marriage recognized in Ireland. This case was eventually heard by the Supreme Court in 2012 but was sent back to the High Court to challenge other aspects of Irish law. The couple stepped back from the case, pending the outcome of the referendum. This case drew a tremendous amount of media coverage, especially because many Irish people could relate to these women and their personal story. The case also spurred the formation of Marriage Equality as a supportive organization, and some activists see this case as having served as a catalyst to move the public and political discussion from civil partnership to marriage equality.

Leading up to this year's referendum, the Yes Equality campaign coalition recruited historic numbers of volunteers to canvas Ireland, using personal stories to target the "moveable middle." This campaign included targeted efforts throughout the country, including certain rural and urban areas that were perceived as less supportive of this issue and which subsequently showed high levels of voter support for marriage equality. The approach taken and language used in much of the canvassing was similar to U.S. groups that mobilized voters in Maine, Maryland, and Washington. A key element of this approach involves having in-depth conversations with prospective voters, sharing personal stories as allies or as members of the LGBTQ community, and helping to make the issue more tangible. They also used the term "journey" as a way to discuss their own evolution on the issue of marriage equality in a way that was non-judgmental of prospective voters who might have different viewpoints. This approach encouraged voters to consider evolving in their own standpoints concerning marriage equality.

The positive messaging and framing of the Yes Campaign, which focused on equality as a core Irish value and highlighted the loving, committed relationships of LGBT couples, was highly successful in mobilizing referendum voters. Furthermore, low budget social media was utilized to share innovative ads, such as the "Bring Your Family With You" YouTube video that encouraged Irish citizens to speak with their family members about

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Colm Burns (left), Principal of Thornfield House School Jordanstown, Northern Ireland, thanks Center Director Ron Linden for the ESC's support of the SHRS study abroad program at a reception in October.

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and reimbursement. Students come to understand the scope of practice in each rehabilitation profession, as well as the role of a multi-disciplinary team in assessment and management. The program also stresses that public policy and economic issues affect services and professional practice.

In 10 years, 204 students have participated, and we have added a required spring course titled Ireland: History and Health Care. The reason for this class is to explore critical questions of Irish history, US health care and social services, as well as to serve as a foundation for exploring factors that influence the policy and practice of health and rehabilitation. While in Ireland, we study these issues as they pertain to the health and educational services provided to adults and children

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marriage equality. Intergenerational support for marriage equality was also furthered by the “Call Your Granny” campaign initiative. These strategies helped to yield considerable intergenerational support for marriage equality in the referendum.

In addition, there was a remarkable level of cooperation in strategy by allies in the government as well as advocates. In particular, the government was persuaded that it was essential to draft separate legislation entitled the Child and Family Relationships Bill, which modernized family code and in the process allowed for adoption by same-sex parents. The reason the movement and the government prioritized this legislation was because there were many concerns that if it was not passed that the referendum on marriage equality would become a referendum on LGBT parenting. There also were concerns that the opponents to marriage equality would focus on children in LGBT families and attempt to derail future efforts at inclusive family law reform, reflecting lessons learned from the French campaign regarding marriage equality legislation. The Child and Family Relationships Bill was ultimately passed during the month leading up to the referendum.

The successful passage of marriage equality in Ire-

land was made possible due to the presence of important political allies, including the current and previous justice ministers who devoted tremendous time and effort in personally drafting legislation and shepherding the bills' passage through several levels of review. Equally important was the role of supportive legislators across all political parties who shared their experiences as allies or members of the lesbian and gay community and helped to build support for the issue within their own political parties.

The strong government commitment to equality for the LGBT community is reflected in the subsequent passage of the Gender Recognition Act, which is highly progressive because it allows transgender people the right to legal recognition of their self-determined gender identity, without any required medical treatments or physician approval. It is also noteworthy that the language of the Marriage Bill is inclusive of individuals who are gender diverse. Given the influence of Catholicism in Ireland, as well as the fact that Ireland was the last West European state to decriminalize homosexuality, the passage of legislation legalizing same-sex adoption, permitting marriage of all couples regardless of their gender identity, and legalizing recognition of self-determined gender identity in the span of just several months is a tremendous victory for LGBT rights and has led to a greater push for marriage equality, particularly in Australia and Northern Ireland. €



Courtesy of Janice Vance

In 2010, Dan Rooney (center), former U.S. Ambassador to Ireland and chairman of the Pittsburgh Steelers, invited the SHRS study abroad students to meet him at the U.S. Embassy in Dublin.

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with disabilities in Northern Ireland (UK) and the south of Ireland.

Q: How would you like to improve the program?

A: I would like to extend the pool of students outside SHRS to include pre-med, social work and other health-related programs. However, the focus would be kept on rehabilitation. I feel strongly about the need for more health-related professionals to have insight into disability issues and professions. I'm not sure if this is feasible, though, since I already have more students than I can take from SHRS who are interested each year.

I would also like the program to be connected to more professionals in Pittsburgh. While our colleagues from Belfast were here for the anniversary reception, they visited several locations that serve children with disabilities. It was a great learning experience. But our main objective for the future is to continue emphasizing issues relating to inter-professional practices, preparing our students at the undergraduate level so that as they proceed to graduate school and beyond, they will have an expectation of themselves and others to participate within a collaborative and informed model of practice. €

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