

22ND UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH CONFERENCE ON THE EUROPEAN UNION

April 4-5, 2024
Claremont, California

HOSTED BY



The European Union Center of California
at Scripps College

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SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

Thursday, April 4, 2024		
3:00-5:00 PM	Hotel Check-In	DoubleTree Hotel
5:00-5:30 PM	Conference Registration	Hampton Room
5:30-6:00 PM	Welcome and Dinner	Hampton Room
6:00-7:00 PM	Thursday Keynote	Hampton Room
7:30-9:00 PM	CONFERENCE SESSION A Panel 1: <i>Social Policy</i> Panel 2: <i>Climate & Environment</i>	Humanities Building Room 201 Room 204
Friday, April 5, 2024		
6:00-8:00 AM	Breakfast at DoubleTree Hotel	DoubleTree Hotel
8:30-10:00 AM	CONFERENCE SESSION B Panel 3: <i>European Right Wing</i> Panel 4: <i>European Colonialism Then & Now</i>	Humanities Building Room 201 Room 202
10:00-10:15 AM	Break	Humanities Museum
10:15-11:30 AM	CONFERENCE SESSION C Panel 5: <i>Nationalism & Identity</i> Panel 6: <i>Healthcare Policy</i>	Humanities Building Room 201 Room 202
11:45-12:30 PM	Lunch	Hampton Room
12:30-1:30 PM	Friday Keynote	Hampton Room
1:30-1:45 PM	Break	Humanities Museum
1:45-3:00 PM	CONFERENCE SESSION D Panel 7: <i>The EU and the Balkans</i> Panel 8: <i>Lessons from Scandinavia</i>	Humanities Building Room 201 Room 202
3:00-3:15 PM	Break	Humanities Museum
3:15-4:30 PM	CONFERENCE SESSION E Panel 9: <i>Cold War, Conflict & Security</i>	Humanities Building Room 201
4:30-6:00 PM	Break	Humanities Museum
6:00-7:00 PM	Dinner & Awards Ceremony	Hampton Room
Saturday, April 6, 2024		
6:00-9:30 AM	Breakfast	DoubleTree Hotel
12:00 PM	Hotel Check-Out	DoubleTree Hotel

Please be advised that the Humanities Museum (2nd floor of the Humanities Building) will serve as a break room throughout the day on Friday, April 5. Refreshments will be provided.

Thursday Night Keynote

April 4, 2024, 6:00-7:00pm

INTERNATIONAL LIBERAL CHALLENGES TO DEMOCRACY IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Christina Schneider, University of California, San Diego

Recent years have witnessed significant concern about democratic backsliding. Resulting from the actions of duly elected governments, the incremental deteriorations of democratic institutions, rules, and norms have affected democracies around the globe, including some of the oldest in the world. Dr. Schneider will discuss the current challenges to democracy, with a focus on the international liberal foundations of democratic backsliding and its implications for the United States, the European Union, and the international liberal order.



About the Speaker:

Christina Schneider is Professor of Political Science at the University of California, San Diego, and Co-Director of the Future of Democracy Initiative at the UC Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation. Professor Schneider is an expert in research on the domestic politics of international cooperation, studying how international cooperation affects and is affected by democratic politics and representation. She is the author of two books, including *The Responsive Union: National Elections and European Governance* (Cambridge University Press). The book presents a comprehensive account on when and how EU governments are democratically responsive to public opinion when they cooperate at the European level. The book was awarded the Best Book of 2019 and 2020 by the European Political Studies Association. She has published widely on these and other research subjects, including bargaining in international organizations, globalization and democratic representation, challenges to democracy and the liberal international order, and democratic backsliding.

Friday Noon Keynote

April 5, 2024, 12:30-1:30pm

EU Common Security Lecture

THE EU AND NATO TAKE LEADERSHIP IN EUROPE: RESPONSE TO U.S. INDECISION ON UKRAINE

Rose Gottemoeller, Stanford University

Since the U.S. Congress has been dithering over providing funds to assist Ukraine, the European Union and NATO alliance have stepped forward. While the EU is looking for ways to pay Ukraine out of frozen Russian assets, NATO countries have found 800,000 rounds of ammunition that they are looking to purchase for Ukraine's fight against Russia. Although these initiatives cannot replace the vital role of the United States in European defense, they are a welcome sign of European leadership at a time of great crisis.



About the Speaker:

Rose Gottemoeller is a Lecturer at Stanford University's Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies and its Center for International Security and Cooperation. Before joining Stanford, Gottemoeller was Deputy Secretary General of NATO from 2016-19. Prior to NATO, she served in the U.S. State Department as Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security at the U.S. Department of State. In 2009-10, she was the chief U.S. negotiator of the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START) with the Russian Federation, an experience captured in her memoir, *Negotiating the New START Treaty*, published in May 2021 by Cambria Press.



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Conference Session A

THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2024 • 7:30pm-9:00pm

Panel 1: SOCIAL POLICY

Discussant: Erica Dobbs, Pomona College
Humanities Building, Room 201

Welfare and Inequality Unveiled: Comparative Analysis of Governmental Accountability in Reducing Wealth Inequality in Germany and France

Simon Le, University of Washington

Variation in Paternity Leave Policy in Slovenia and Hungary

Kendra Nguyen, Pomona College

A Comparative Analysis of the Irish and British Governments' Responses to Their Housing Crises from Austerity to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Eduardo Figueroa Medina & Liam Bayer, Pomona College

Panel 2: CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT

Discussant: Andre Wakefield, Pitzer College
Humanities Building, Room 202

Memories of Black Gold: Populist Narratives of Memory Politics Justifying the Polish Coal Industry

Yvonne Pan, University of Washington

European Union Policymaking vs. Economic Growth: Analysis of Air Pollution in the EU in Relation to Economic Production and the Evolution of Policy from 1990 - 2020

Matthew Hester, Christopher Newport University

Germany's 'Climate Foreign Policy Strategy' and Making the High Politics of Climate Change

Thomas Goldstein, American University

The Benefits of the Use of Nuclear Energy

Justin Nordberg, Christopher Newport University

Conference Session B
FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 2024 • 8:30am- 10:00am

Panel 3: EUROPEAN RIGHT WING

*Discussant: Christina Schneider, University of California-San Diego
Humanities Building, Room 201*

Cloaking the Front National: Marine Le Pen and French Nationalism

Taryn Blecher, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

**Motion in the Ocean: Responses to Migration in the Italian Mediterranean,
with a Focus on Lampedusa**

Alex Schmitt, University of Washington

**The Rise of European Right-Wing Populism and its Implications for LGBTQ+
Rights: A Comparative Analysis of Poland Versus Sweden's Attitudes Toward
Queer Communities**

Jaya Field, University of Washington

Panel 4: EUROPEAN COLONIALISM THEN AND NOW

*Discussant: Corey Tazzara, Scripps College
Humanities Building, Room 202*

**The Growth and Development of Central American Communities
Within Western Europe**

Jonathan Valenzuela Mejia, University of California-Los Angeles

The Representation of French Colonial Soldiers and Their Legacy Today

Claire Ducharme, University of California-Berkeley & King's College London

Returning the Benin Bronzes to Nigeria

Noelle Calara, University of Washington

**The Race to Invest: What Is the Driving Cause of the European Union's
Increased Involvement in Latin America?**

Bryson Frank, Soo Bin Im & Alyssa Powell, Abilene Christian University

Conference Session C
FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 2024 • 10:15am - 11:30am

Panel 5: NATIONALISM & IDENTITY

*Discussant: Adam Zientek, University of California-Davis
Humanities Building, Room 201*

**Bridging Philosophy and Practice:
How Philosophers Can Guide European Integration and Nationalism**
Meagan Meyer, University of Pittsburgh

**A Continent Reborn:
Redefining European Identity in the Aftermath of the World Wars**
Mallory Waligora, Oakland University

Brexit Power Dynamic and Scottish Independence
Sophia Zabell, University of Florida

Panel 6: HEALTHCARE POLICY

*Discussant: Rivka Weinberg, Scripps College
Humanities Building, Room 202*

The Price of Prevention: Spain and Italy's Approach to National PrEP
Jon Burkart, Pomona College

Christen Drost and Anthony Fauci's Impact on Public Trust During Covid-19
Kai Gundlach, Claremont McKenna College

**Empowering Ukrainian Children with Disabilities in School:
Law, Governance, and Inclusion Practices**
Nicole Brunette, University of Washington

Conference Session D
FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 2024 • 1:45pm - 3:00pm

Panel 7: THE EU AND THE BALKANS

Discussant: Mietek Boduszynski, Pomona College
Humanities Building, Room 201

**Democratization & Backsliding in the Context of EU Accession:
The Cases of Serbia and North Macedonia**

Vasileia Spyrou, University of Florida

Splitting Interests:

The Success Story of Croatia's EU Accession and Lessons for Aspiring Members

Ryan Scott, University of Florida

Enlargement Potential and Problematics:

The European Union's Approach to Bosnia and Herzegovina in the 21st Century

Vanesa Simic, DePaul University

Panel 8: LESSONS FROM SCANDINAVIA

Discussant: Alessandro Morosin, University of La Verne
Humanities Building, Room 202

Contrasting Penal Philosophies:

Analyzing Norway and the UK's Divergent Paths in Criminal Justice

Lawrence Pear, Lafayette College

A Humane Future for Penal Systems: Exploring Norway's Rehabilitative Prisons

Kristine Chen, University of Washington

**Assessing Paths to Greenlandic Independence
Reconciling Inuit Cultural Autonomy with Danish Rule**

Leo Freedman, University of Washington

Conference Session E
FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 2024 • 3:15pm - 4:30pm

Panel 9: COLD WAR, CONFLICT & SECURITY

*Discussant: Joshua Goode, Claremont Graduate University
Humanities Building, Room 201*

Pragmatic Legitimacy: The American Intervention in the Italian Elections of 1948

Jude Iredell, Pomona College

**How Memory Politics Drives Conflict:
A Case Study of the Conflict between Ukraine and Russian**

Madeline Dornfeld, Claremont McKenna College

The Revitalization of the Bundeswehr and German Security

Timothy Lee, Claremont McKenna College