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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**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.
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.
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 Drosten 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
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