



FLORIDA
INTERNATIONAL
UNIVERSITY

School of International and Public Affairs
in the College of Arts and Sciences



THE MIAMI-FLORIDA EUROPEAN UNION CENTER OF EXCELLENCE



European Civil Society and the EU: Legitimacy through participation?

A Conference of the Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence
A Consortium of the University of Miami and Florida International University

February 23-24, 2015

**Florida International University – Modesto A. Maidique Campus
11200 SW 8th Street – Miami, FL 33199 - MARC International Pavilion**

PROGRAM

In the 2014-2015 year the EU Center will host a conference on ‘European Civil Society and the EU: legitimacy through participation?’ This conference will focus on the role of civil society in the functioning of regional governance today. Civil society has gained significant influence in the EU and its member states in the past few years, no matter if in consultative and advocacy roles in a number of policy arenas, or as transnational social movements in reaction to the Euro- and subsequent austerity crisis. With its rise in prominence, questions of cooptation and legitimacy of civil society actors have appeared. The strengths and challenges of organized civil society will be examined in this conference, as well as the impact of transnational NGO activities beyond Europe (in Latin America, Eastern Europe, and in transatlantic relations).

Monday, February 23rd, 2015

- 5.00 – 6.30 p.m.** **Keynote Address:**
[Dr. Justin Greenwood](#)
Professor of European Public Policy
Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen, UK
*“Participation of European Civil Society in the EU political system:
squaring the legitimacy conundrum with Representative Democracy”*
- 6:30. - 8:00 p.m.** **Cocktail-Reception (by invitation only)**

Tuesday, February 24th, 2015

8.30 – 9.00 a.m. **Coffee, light Breakfast and Registration**

9.00 – 9:05 a.m. **Opening Remarks:**

- **Dr. Rebecca Friedman**
Associate Professor of History
Co-Director, Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence
Florida International University
- **Dr. Markus Thiel**
Assistant Professor
Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Politics
& International Relations, Florida International University

9.05 – 10.45 a.m. **Panel I: Theorizing the emergence of civil society in the EU**

Panelists:

- **Dr. Philip M. Ayoub**
Assistant Professor
Department of History and Politics
Drexel University
*“Legitimizing Contested Norms: Transnational Civil Society and
Sexual Minority Rights in Europe”*
- **Dr. Barry Mowell**
Professor, History Department, Broward College
*“The Illusion of Global Civil Society at the UN: NGOs Consultative
Status at ECOSOC”*
- **Dr. Noah Weisboard**
Associate Professor of Law, FIU Law School
“Civil Society and the Crime of Aggression”

Panel Discussion chaired by Dr. Rebecca Friedman
Associate Professor of History
Co-Director, Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence
Director, European Studies Program
Florida International University

10.45 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Break

11:00– 12.45 p.m. Panel II: The Strengths and weaknesses of organized civil society

Panelists:

- **Dr. Christine Mahoney**
Associate Professor of Politics and Public Policy at the Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy, University of Virginia
“Testing Prospect Theory in the Real World: Gain versus Loss Frames in EU Policymaking”
- **Dr. Markus Thiel**
Assistant Professor
Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Politics & International Relations, Florida International University
“EU Civil Society, Human Rights and the Input/Output balance”
- **Jeff Maslanik**
Graduate Student in the Department of International and Public Affairs, Florida International University
“Bridging the Gap: The Role of NGOs (Native and Non-Native) in Facilitating Immigrant Integration in Sweden”

Panel Discussion chaired by Dr. Tatiana Kostadinova
Associate Professor, Department of Politics and International Relations
Florida International University

1.00 – 2.00 p.m. Lunch (by invitation only)

2.15 – 4.00 p.m. Panel III: EU Civil Society: Looking beyond Europe, or being Euro-centric?

Panelists:

- **Fiacre Bienvenu**
Graduate Student in the Department of Politics & International Relations
Florida International University
“Toward Making African Civil Society Work: Assessing Local Conditions for Democratic State Society Relations in Rwanda”
- **Dr. Sara Moats**, Instructor, FIU
“Transnational Venue Shopping: the Motivation, Tactics & Strategies of Organized Interests in a Global World”
- **Dr. Christopher L. Pallas**
Assistant Professor of Conflict Management
PhD Program in International Conflict Management
Department of Political Science and International Affairs
Kennesaw State University
“Inverting the Boomerang: Examining European CSOs’ Use of Developing Country Partners in Legitimizing Transnational Advocacy”

Panel Discussion chaired by Dr. Markus Thiel, Assistant Professor;
Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Politics and
International Relations, Florida International University