

# Approaches to Migration, Asylum, and Race in Europe and Beyond

A conference of the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence

Florida International University | Modesto A. Maidique Campus  
11200 SW 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Miami, FL 33186 – MARC Building - MARC Pavilion

*February 20-21, 2023*

## Conference Participants: Biographical Notes

### KEYNOTE SPEAKER



#### **Arancha González Laya**

*Dean*

*Sciences Po*

*Paris School of International Affairs*

Arancha González is the third Dean of PSIA at Sciences Po and first woman to lead the world's third school for Politics and International Studies.

Prior to joining PSIA, Ms. González served as Spain's Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation (2020-2021). She previously was Assistant-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of the International Trade Centre (2013-2020). Between 2005 and 2013 she served as Chief of Staff to the Director-General of the World Trade Organization, Pascal Lamy. Before that she held senior positions at the European Commission in the areas of international trade and development. Ms. González started her career as lawyer in the private sector.

Ms. González has been a member of PSIA's Strategic Committee since 2017.

A Spanish national, Ms. González holds a degree in law from the University of Navarra and a Postgraduate Degree in European Law from the University Carlos III of Madrid.

## **PANEL I**



### **Cecilia Estrada Villaseñor, Ph.D.**

*PhD Researcher at the University Institute of Migration Studies*

*Comillas Pontifical University, Madrid*

*Director of the Chair for Refugees and Forced Migrants-INDITEX*

Cecilia Estrada Villaseñor has a PhD in International Migration and Development Cooperation from the Comillas Pontifical University. She has a master's degree in International Relations and Communication from the Complutense University of Madrid. She has a degree in Communication Sciences from the Autonomous University of Guadalajara, where she collaborated for the NEXOS magazine, in which she was the editor. She studied specialized journalism at the University of Belgrano in Buenos Aires, Argentina. She is currently Director of the Chair for Refugees and Forced Migrants-INDITEX. She is the coordinator of OBIMID (Ibero-American Observatory on Human Mobility, Migrations and Development) from where she investigates and analyzes more precise issues from the Ibero-American region. Sociodemographic profile studies / refugee integration process / reception and social and labor integration of immigrants and the refugee population. society, aimed at immigration, discursive representation in the media of immigrants and refugees.



### **Andrea Peña-Vasquez, Ph.D.**

*Visiting Assistant Professor of Government*

*Hamilton, New York*

Andrea Peña-Vasquez received her Ph.D. in political science with a concentration in comparative politics from the University of Notre Dame, and her B.A. in political science and sociology from the University of Florida. Her research focuses broadly on topics of migration and citizenship in both Sub-Saharan Africa and Western Europe, and she is especially interested in the intersection between race, legal status, and governance. She is currently working on a project that explores how municipal policymaking affects the access to residence permits among African immigrants in Spain. Her work has been supported by the J. William Fulbright Foundation and has been featured in *The Washington Post's* Monkey Cage and Politics, Groups, and Identities.



**Terrence Peterson, Ph.D.**

*Assistant Professor*

*Department of History*

*Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs  
Florida International University*

Terrence Peterson is an Assistant Professor in the Department of History, and a faculty affiliate in African & African Diaspora Studies and the Center for Muslim World Studies. From 2015 to 2016 he was a postdoctoral fellow at the Center for International Security and Cooperation at Stanford University. He completed his PhD in History at the University of Wisconsin Madison (2015) with a dissertation examining the French Army's efforts to win Algerian 'hearts and minds' during Algeria's war of independence from France (1954-1962). He is currently writing a book that explores the intersections between the Cold War, decolonization, and the development of contemporary counterinsurgency doctrines during the same period. His research has been supported by the Council for European Studies, the American Historical Association, and the Fulbright Program.

Dr. Peterson's teaching and research interests include Modern Europe, North Africa, and the Mediterranean; France, the French Atlantic, and the French Empire; Colonialism and Imperialism; Military, Gender, and Oral History.



**Markus Thiel, Ph.D.**

*Director, Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence*

*Professor, Politics & International Relations*

*Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs  
Florida International University*

Markus Thiel is professor in the Department of Politics and International Relations at Florida International University, Miami and director of FIU's Jean Monnet Center of Excellence. Dr. Thiel's research interests are the political sociology of the EU and European (Union) Politics more generally, as well as Nationalism & Identity Politics. He graduated with a Ph.D. from the University of Miami in 2005 and has published several EU-related articles and book chapters in peer-reviewed journals. In addition, his research on the political sociology of the EU produced the monograph, 'The Limits of Transnationalism' (Palgrave, 2011), and 5 co-edited volumes on: 'Diversity and the European Union' (with Lisa Pruegl, Palgrave, 2009), 'Identity Politics in the Age of Globalization' (with Roger Coate, Lynne Rienner/First Forum Press, 2010), 'European Identity & Culture: Narratives of Transnational Belonging' (with Rebecca Friedman, Ashgate, 2012), 'Sexualities in World Politics: How LGBTQ Claims Shape International Relations' (with Manuela Picq, Routledge, 2015) and 'EU Development Policies between Norms and Geopolitics' (with Sarah Beringer & Sylvia Maier, Palgrave, 2019). Most recently, he published a book on the linkage of European transnational civil society groups with the EU Fundamental Rights Agency: 'EU Civil Society and Human Rights Advocacy' (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2017).

He supervises doctoral students in the areas of EU Politics and International Organizations.

## **PANEL II**



### **Joyce De Coninck, Ph.D.**

*Post-Doctoral Researcher affiliated with Ghent University (BE)  
Scholar in Residence at the Center for Human Rights and Global Justice  
New York University*

Joyce is a post-doctoral researcher affiliated with Ghent University (BE) and a Scholar in Residence at the Center for Human Rights and Global Justice at NYU Law School. She is currently working on developing a model of relational human rights responsibility, to effectively apportion human rights responsibility stemming from transnational cooperative governance, involving state actors, international organizations, and private corporations.

Joyce holds a Master of Laws from Ghent University ('13), an LLM in International and European Law from the Institute for European Studies – Free University of Brussels ('15) and obtained her doctoral degree at Ghent University titled “Catch-22 in the Law of Responsibility of International Organizations – Systemic Deficiencies in the EU Responsibility Paradigm for Unlawful Human Rights Conduct in Integrated Border Management.” ('21).

Joyce was subsequently selected as an Emile Noël Fellow at the Jean Monnet Center of New York University (2021–2022). Additionally, she has held positions as an adjunct professor of EU law at Minnesota Law School ('22), as a lecturer at the University of Amsterdam ('21), as well as the University of Leiden ('22). Finally, she has regularly been invited to provide guest lectures - including at the College of Europe (BE), New York University (USA), and Loyola University (USA) - in the realm of international (human rights) law, EU law, and law governing asylum, borders and migration.



### **Ieva Giedraityte, Ph.D.**

*Lecturer  
Department of International Relations  
Center of European Studies  
Vilnius University  
Institute of International Relations and Political*

Ieva Giedraitytė, MA in Latin American Studies (Barcelona University, 2010) and Ph.D. in Political Science (Vilnius University, 2021), has nine years of experience in research and teaching. She also spent several years working as a trainee for different EU development cooperation bodies (DG DEVCO and the EU Delegation in Honduras).

Her research interests are EU external action (focus on development cooperation), Latin American studies (focus on Central America), and the formation of global and regional orders. Currently, as a Fulbright scholar at the Center for Latin American & Latino Studies (American University, Washington D.C.), Ieva is working on a project comparing the regional orders that the EU and US attempt to build in their Southern Neighbourhoods.



**Juan Carlos Gómez, Esq.**

*Clinical Professor of Law*

*Director of the Carlos A. Costa Immigration Human Rights Clinic*

*Florida International University College of Law*

Professor Gómez has been defending the rights of individuals in immigration matters for over 30 years. During this time, he has represented persons before the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, as well as the United States Departments of Justice and Homeland Security in complex immigration matters. Within the field of immigration law, he has helped thousands of individuals in situations including removal and deportation proceedings, family immigration, and the transfer of professionals and executives to the United States. Professor Gómez counsels international and national corporations on compliance with immigration laws. He also has coordinated teams of attorneys in multi-forum conflicts to effectively resolve clients' problems. As an attorney for a Central American Refugee Project, he helped in the representation of thousands of individuals in the Southeastern United States in a national class action. He has represented refugees from every part of the world where there have been conflicts over the last three decades. As director of East Little Havana Legal Services, he led a team of attorneys to resolve the series of problems faced by clients. Professor Gómez earned his J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. He also holds a B.A. (with honors) in Political Science and History from Florida International University.

### **PANEL III**



**Astrid Arraras, Ph.D.**

*Teaching Professor*

*Department of Politics & International Relations*

*Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs*

*Florida International University*

Astrid Arrarás was born and raised in Puerto Rico. She graduated from the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez with B.A. in Political Science in 1984. After receiving her B.A., she earned a Ph D. in Political Science at Princeton University in 1998. From 1998 until 1999, she worked as a Lecturer in the Department of Politics at Princeton University. At Florida International University, she worked as an Assistant Professor (1999-2004), Director of Academic Programs in the Latin American Caribbean Center (2004-10), Lecturer (2004-10), Senior Lecturer (2011-18) University Lecturer (2019) and Teaching Professor (from 2019 until the present) in the Department of Politics and International Relations. She is also the Coordinator of Internship Programs in the Department of Politics and International Relations. She teaches undergraduate and graduate courses on a range of topics including Comparative Politics, Political Violence, International Relations of Latin America, Politics of South America, Politics of Central America, Politics of Latin America, and Democratization. At Florida International University, she was honored with the Excellence in Teaching Award in 2004. She has published several articles in academic journals and book chapters in edited volumes. Her research interests include Democratization, Political Violence, Political and Social Movements, and Human Rights. Areas of Expertise: Latin American Politics, Democratization, Political Development



**Ernesto Fiocchetto, M.A.**

*Ph.D. Candidate in International Relations*

*Department of Politics & International Relations*

*Graduate Assistant, Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence*

*Florida International University*

Ernesto Fiocchetto, M.A. in Religious Studies (FIU – 2017) and M.A. in International Studies (FIU – 2019), is a Sociologist from Universidad Nacional de Cuyo, Mendoza, Argentina (2015). He is a doctoral candidate in International Relations at Florida International University, where he serves as a graduate assistant at the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet European Center of Excellence at FIU.

In nine years of teaching and research, his interests have centered on the multiple intersections of religious identities, migration, international politics, and gender and sexuality, mainly focusing on Latin America, the European Union, and the United States. For his dissertation project, he studies the agency of Faith Actors, including faith-based organizations, religious communities, and religious leaders, in the reception and integration of LGBTIQ+ Latin Americans claiming asylum in Spain and the US. He has several publications in Spanish and English and presented his research at some of the most prestigious academic conferences in the US and Europe.



**Kristen Guskovict, M.S., L.C.S.W.**

*Clinical Social Work/Therapist, LCSW*

*Principal Consultant*

*KLG Consulting Services*

Kristen established KLG Consulting Services in 2013. KLG Consulting Services created Heart of Aid Work in 2017 to support the psychosocial needs of aid workers and refugees. As a social worker, Kristen has learned that self-care starts with program design and delivery. By providing aid workers with necessary skills to deliver quality services to traumatized people, their vulnerability to burn out is decreased. Kristen brings over 15 years of experience working with refugees, including unaccompanied minors and torture survivors. She has worked with Humanitarian agencies and Peacekeeping Operations in Africa, Asia, and Eastern Europe.

Kristen is currently acting as the Interim Clinical Director for Partners in Trauma Recovery, a Berkley CA-based organization that works to address the psychosocial impacts of trauma amongst people surviving international human rights abuses.

Kristen holds an M.S. in Global Affairs with a concentration in Humanitarian Assistance from New York University and an M.S.W. from Florida International University. Kristen speaks French and Spanish.





**Marcie Washington, Ph.D.**  
*Associate Teaching Professor  
and Associate Director of Undergraduate Studies  
Department of Politics & International Relations  
Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs  
Florida International University*

Dr. Washington received her Master's degree in International Affairs from the College of Social Sciences at Florida State University and her Ph.D. in Conflict Analysis and Resolution from Nova Southeastern University. Her research interests are diverse, but she mostly focuses on topics related to conflict and cooperation, international and domestic migration, and transnational and domestic security. Dr. Washington's research interests assist in delivering an understanding that refugees, the diaspora, and internally displaced persons are also challengers who have the capacity, in certain political and social environments, to organize unrest and promote peace. Her work builds upon the rich and current scholarship of conflict and peace studies, demonstrating that understanding collective action is impractical in the absence of close attention to how memories influence collectives to engage in contentious tactics to re-frame a 'real and/or perceived' grievance from the past to reinforce their desired identity. When teaching about international relations, security studies, conflict and cooperation, and the politics of immigration, she delves into the socio-psychological and sociopolitical processes that occur within and between groups that promote collective action and cooperation.

