

EUROPE DAY CELEBRATION

The EU and US: Building Transatlantic Communities

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

Florida International University | Modesto A. Maidique Campus
11200 SW 8th Street, Miami, FL 33186

Thursday, May 9, 2024 – 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Roundtable Participants: Biographical Notes

PANELISTS



Bo-Joe Brans

Deputy Consul General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Miami

Bo-Joe Brans assumed his duties as Deputy Consul General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Miami in October 2023.

Before that Mr. Brans held various diplomatic postings: at the Permanent Representation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations in New York (2019-2023), at the Resident Coordinator's Office of the United Nations in Tunisia (2016-2019) and in the years before in various shorter postings: amongst them for the National Coordinator for Security and Counter-Terrorism (The Hague); UNICEF (Namibia, Cambodia, Jordan) and the European Commission (Brussels).

Mr. Brans graduated in 2010 with high distinction from the University of Amsterdam in International Relations and International Development Studies.



Sarah Kavanagh

Consul General

Consulate General of Ireland in Miami

Sarah Kavanagh took up her post as Consul General of Ireland in Miami in October 2022 and is leading the establishment of Ireland's first Consulate General in Florida.

She comes to Miami from the Human Rights Unit of the Department of Foreign Affairs in Dublin where she served as Deputy Director. Prior to joining the Department in 2020, Ms. Kavanagh served as Special Adviser to the Minister for Justice and Equality (2017-2020) and Special Adviser to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade (2014-2017). From 2005-2014, she worked for in the Houses of the Oireachtas (Parliament of Ireland) in a range of policy, strategy development and political communication roles.

Ms. Kavanagh is originally from Galmoy, Co. Kilkenny. She holds a Barrister-at-Law Degree (2012) and a Postgraduate Diploma in Legal Studies (2010) from the Honorable Society of King's Inns, Dublin. She also holds Masters Degrees in Political Communication (Dublin City University, 2017) and Politics (University College Dublin, 2021) and a BA Degree in History and Politics (University College Dublin 2020).



Raphael Trapp

Consul General of France in Miami

An alumnus of the Faculty of Law at the University of Paris XII and the Institute of Administration, Mr. Trapp joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2003.

In 2004, he was assigned to the Budgetary Office at the General Administration Department before joining the Human Rights office of the Ministry (2006-2009). Starting from 2009, Mr. Trapp was appointed as Legal Advisor at the Human Rights unit of the Permanent mission of France to the United Nations in Geneva (Switzerland).

In 2012, he took over the unit as Head of the Human Rights department of the Mission. He participated in the establishment of the Commission of inquiry on Human Rights violations in Syria, worked more broadly on the universal protection of freedom of speech, and the fight against arbitrary detentions and death penalty.

In 2013, Mr. Trapp joined the French Embassy in Rabat (Morocco) as First secretary at the Political Affairs unit, a period during which he worked in close relationship with the Moroccan civil society.

Back in Paris, at the Secretary General department of the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, he served as a Policy officer to follow up management and general Consular affairs; the last year of his posting, he managed the policy officers' team of the Secretary General.

In 2019, he was appointed Deputy permanent Representative of France to the United Nations and the International Organizations in Vienna (Austria) and worked on the nuclear Iranian file, on space affairs and on combatting cybercrime.

MODERATORS



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 a 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 Human Rights and 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 including the *Journal of European Integration*, the *Journal of Common Market Studies* and others. In addition, his research on the political sociology of the EU produced the monographs 'The Limits of Transnationalism' (Palgrave, 2011) and 'EU Civil Society and Human Rights Advocacy' (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2017), as well as 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 'The EU's international LGBTI rights promotion: promises & pitfalls' (Routledge, 2021), and co-authored 'The Politics of Social In/Exclusion in Europe' (Palgrave/Springer, 2023, with Ernesto Focchetto & Jeffrey Maslanik).

He teaches CPO 3103 Comparative (Western) European Politics, CPO 3104 EU Politics, INR 3214 International Relations of Europe, INR 3502 International Organizations, as well as graduate courses on European/EU Politics, International Organization and Research Design in IR. He supervises doctoral students in the areas of EU Politics, International Organizations and Political Sociology.



Tatiana Kostadinova, Ph.D.

*Professor, Department of Politics and International Relations
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Tatiana Kostadinova is a professor in the Department of Politics and International Relations and the director of the European & Eurasian Studies Program at FIU. She received her Ph.D. in Political Science from the Florida State University. Her research and teaching interests include elections, institutions, democratization, political corruption, and populism. She has been the recipient of several grants, among which the American Political Science Small Research Grant (2002) and a Fellowship Program Award from the German Marshall Fund of the United States (2003-2004). Kostadinova is the author of two books. In *Bulgaria 1879-1946: The Challenge of Choice* (East European Monographs/Columbia University Press, 1995) she explored institutional arrangements, party competition, and voting patterns in Bulgarian parliamentary elections. The second book, *Political Corruption in Eastern Europe: Politics After Communism* (Lynne Rienner, 2012) analyzed the emergence of corruption as a major obstacle to successful democratic transition. Her findings turn the attention to the eroding impact of malfeasance on citizen trust in institutions and the role of the European Union for promoting integrity in public life. Other publications include journal articles in *American Journal of Political Science*, *Electoral Studies*, *Journal of Peace Research*, *European Journal of Political Research*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Party Politics*, and *Europe-Asia Studies*.

Professor Kostadinova's primary teaching area is comparative politics. At the undergraduate level, she teaches courses on Russian and Eastern European politics, electoral behavior, and research methods. Her graduate level courses include seminars on democratic transitions, political parties, political corruption, and advanced research.

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