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Foreword

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FOREWORD

The European Union Center of California hosted the joint Claremont–University of California Undergraduate Research Conference on the European Union on April 7–8, 2016, at Scripps College in Claremont, California. A total of 42 students presented papers written on various topics related to the European Union. These students represented 16 different schools: Baylor University, Brigham Young University, Claremont McKenna College, Georgetown University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Grinnell College, Oakland University, Pitzer College, Pomona College, Scripps College, the University of Delhi, the University of Arizona, the University of California at Berkeley, the University of California at Riverside, the University of Miami, and the University of Southern California. This volume is a compilation of the top papers presented at the conference.

The student conference was modeled on professional academic conferences. Each student presented his or her own research to a panel moderated by a faculty discussant whose primary tasks included providing constructive feedback and stimulating discussion of the issues at hand. The conference was likewise designed with specific goals in mind: to promote the visibility of European Union Studies and expose the participants to different intellectual and academic traditions within this field; to motivate student research and hone analytical, writing and presentation skills; and to strengthen the curriculum in European Union Studies at participating campuses by encouraging faculty interaction with students, not only with respect to their expertise in particular research areas but also by conveying general knowledge about contemporary Europe to students. Hence, the research presented in this volume reflects a collaborative effort to involve students in academic research and policy debates on issues involving the European Union.

The subject matter in the papers reflects the diversity of the student authors. **Alexis Cooper** and **Gabriel Davis** investigate the extent to which opposition to the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) is directly correlated to the recent rise of right-wing populism through case studies of Hungary, Germany, and Poland. **Nia R. Gillenwater** analyzes the Irish government's response to the financial crisis and the success of their guarantee to all debt-holders. **Pedro Maddens Toscano** provides a historical overview of the Galileo satellite navigation system and the Global System for Mobile Communications. **Shivang Mehta** examines Finland's frozen economy through the perspective of Nokia and their participation in the single market. **Brian T. Preece** considers Britain's community-based counterterrorism model and its relevance to France's security forces. **Cleo M. Spencer** uses interviews with LGBT people living in Prague to examine the use of collective identity as a tool for mobilization in Prague. **Jobel Kyle P. Vecino** compares the reactions to the Snowden revelations within the United Kingdom and Germany. **Anna M. Winslow** provides case studies of how policy interests have developed in response to the Syrian refugee crisis in Germany, Hungary, and Lithuania.

The conference was hosted by the European Union Center of California, and the administration of the conference by Center's staff, headed by Jennifer Cichocki, was indispensable to its success. Kenneth Leonardo's editing of this volume allows us to share the results of the conference with a wider audience. In addition, we owe a debt of gratitude for

the financial and administrative support provided by the European Union Center of California at The Claremont Colleges; Institute of European Studies at UC Berkeley; the European Union Center of Excellence at UC Berkeley; the Institute of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies at UC Berkeley; the BYU Center for the Study of Europe; the David M. Kennedy Center for International Studies at BYU; the European Union Center of Excellence of Seattle at the University of Washington; and the Colorado European Union Center of Excellence at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

We are grateful as well to our keynote speakers: David Goldblatt for his lively address entitled “The Good the Bad and the Ugly: European Football in the Twenty First Century” and Polish Consul General Mariusz Brymora for his thoughtful retrospective entitled “The EU crisis of 2016—a wakeup call or an existential threat?”

Special thanks are due as well to the faculty discussants who shared their time and expertise with the students. These include Steve Casper, Keck Graduate Institute; Beverly Crawford, UC Berkeley; Heidi Haddad, Pomona College; Elizabeta Jevtic-Somlai, Brigham Young University; Cristina Nicolescu-Waggonner, Pomona College ; Jeffery Pennington, UC Berkeley; Branislav Radeljic, the University of East London; Hans J. Rindisbacher, Pomona College; Maja Stroinska, formerly with Polish consulate in Los Angeles; and Jennifer Taw, Claremont McKenna College. The participation of these individuals established a high standard for the conference and greatly enriched the experience of the students.

Ultimately, the success of the conference was due to the outstanding contributions of the student participants. As the selections in this volume make clear, their papers demonstrated both serious intellectual maturity and genuine research skills. The result was a conference that was both thoughtful and stimulating.

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European Union Center of California