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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 6–7, 2017, at Scripps College in Claremont, California. A total of 40 students presented papers written on various topics related to the European Union. These students represented 15 different schools: University of Arizona, Baylor University, Berkeley City College, Brigham Young University, University of California, Berkeley, University of California, Los Angeles, University of California, Santa Barbara, Claremont McKenna College, University of Denver, George Washington University, Pitzer College, University of San Francisco, Scripps College, University of Utah, and University of Toronto. 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 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 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. **Sandrine Charlotte Bartos** investigates the resources and policies related to Romani women in the European Union. **Filip G. Bozinovic** investigates the state of emergency in France and its relation to civil liberties and national security. **Alicia M. Carducci** observes the declining fertility trends in Italy, Spain, and Sweden. **Jordana L. Cashman** considers the ways European nations use Eurovision as a cultural platform. **Timothy K. Desjarlais** explores the increasing populist trend in the United States, United Kingdom, and Germany. **Kim Gabbitas** examines the rise of right-wing populist movements in Europe and their relation to the challenges faced by labor unions. **John Gleb** reinterprets George Kennan’s “Program A” of 1948–49 and its historical significance. **Silviu Kondan** and **Mridvika Sahajpal** study the relationship between the policy and practice of integration for the Russian Speaking Community in Estonia. **Rachel V. Ng** addresses the treatment of the Roma population in view of European Union citizenship. **Roshni J. Sopariwalla** evaluates the treatment of immigrants within the context of the current European Migrant Crisis. **Lauren Vidler** and **Hannah Pugh** explore the issues related to the potential impact of Brexit on European Union nuclear policy.

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 the University of California at Berkeley; European Union Center of Excellence at UC Berkeley; Institute of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies at UC Berkeley; BYU Center for the Study of Europe; the David M. Kennedy Center for International Studies at BYU; and the European Union Center of Excellence of Seattle at the University of Washington.

We are grateful as well to our keynote speakers: Dr. Michael Carpenter for his informative address entitled "Current threats and challenges to the European Project" and Dr. Adam Zeintek for his engaging reflections on the rise of populism.

Special thanks are due as well to the faculty discussants who shared their time and expertise with the students. These include Travis Nelson, University of Washington, Seattle, Jeffrey Pennington, University of California, Berkeley, Maja Stroinska, European Union Center of California, Nicholas Mason, Brigham Young University, Hans Rindisbacher, Pomona College, Eva-Maria Maggi, University of Arizona, Juli Minoves-Triquell, University of La Verne, Cristina Nicolescu-Waggoner, Scripps College, Tobias Hofmann, University of Utah, and Joshua Goode, Claremont Graduate University. 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