

# Claremont-UC Undergraduate Research Conference on the European Union

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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 4–5, 2019, at Scripps College in Claremont, California. A total of 33 students presented papers written on various topics related to the European Union. These students represented 19 different schools: Baylor University, Brigham Young University, The Catholic University of America, Cypress College, Georgia Institute of Technology, London School of Economics, Oakland University, Pomona College, Scripps College, University of California, Berkeley, University of California, Los Angeles, University of Florida, University of Montana, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, University of Southern California, University of Southern Maine, University of Utah, University of Victoria, and Washington University in St. Louis. 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. **Afton J. Apodaca and Julia Greensfelder** test the economic interdependence peace pipeline theory and investigate its potential to aid the European Union’s quest for energy security. **Arianna Babraj** explores Italians’ perceptions and experiences with immigrants along with their ideas regarding immigration policy. **Ethan Davis** analyzes European attitudes towards immigration and welfare as well as the actual spending on these programs. **Ghazi Ghazi** considers the Turkish policies in the Balkan region and determines whether Turkey’s growing influence is making it a competitor to the EU. **Lauren M. Olsen** uses a panel fixed-effects regression to compare immigration policies of the original EU-15 and looks for the effects of female representation. **Clay H. Parham** sees whether primordialism or constructivism better explains the gains of *AfD* in the 2017 election. **Sarah L. Sheets** compares post-socialist compliance patterns with the rest of the EU using data on infringement cases. **Alina L. Sobolik** observes the influence of supply factors in the recent electoral success of far-right populist parties. **Malcolm E. C. Thomson** investigates Swedish CSR non-compliance and the role of contrasting positions with the Commission in the area of European macroeconomic integration. **Ryann Welch** examines nuclear energy policy in both Hungary and Ukraine as well as the comparative influence of the EU and Russia. **Abigail Woodfield** views the rise of illiberal democracy in Central and Eastern Europe in light of the 2008 financial crisis.

The conference was hosted by the European Union Center of California, and the administration of the conference by Center's staff, headed by Agnieszka Lazorzcyk, was indispensable to its success. Kenneth Leonardo and Agnieszka Lazorzcyk'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 and the European Union Center of Excellence at UC Berkeley.

We are grateful as well to our keynote speakers: Dr. Dallas Burtraw for his informative address entitled "The Evolution of EU Leadership in Energy and Climate Policy," and Dr. Adam Zientek for his thought-provoking observations on "The Two Frances and the Giles Jaunes."

Special thanks are due as well to the faculty discussants who shared their time and expertise with the students. These include Joshua Goode, Claremont Graduate University; Tobias Hofmann, University of Utah; Wade Jacoby, Brigham Young University; Eva-Maria Maggi, University of Montana; Branislav Radeljic, University of East London; Hans Rindisbacher, Pomona College; Jennifer Taw, Claremont McKenna College; and Adam Zientek, University of California, Davis. 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.

Corey Tazzara, Director  
European Union Center of California