

Claremont-UC Undergraduate Research Conference on the European Union

Volume 2022

Article 3

10-31-2022

Foreword

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarship.claremont.edu/urceu>



Part of the [International and Area Studies Commons](#), and the [International Relations Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

(2022) "Foreword," *Claremont-UC Undergraduate Research Conference on the European Union*: Vol. 2022, Article 3. DOI: 10.5642/urceu.LBC08403

Available at: <https://scholarship.claremont.edu/urceu/vol2022/iss1/3>

This Foreword is brought to you for free and open access by the Current Journals at Scholarship @ Claremont. It has been accepted for inclusion in Claremont-UC Undergraduate Research Conference on the European Union by an authorized editor of Scholarship @ Claremont. For more information, please contact scholarship@cuc.claremont.edu.

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, 2022. Due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, the conference was held in a hybrid format—in person for those who were able to travel to Claremont, and remotely via ZOOM for others. A total of twenty-seven students presented papers written on various topics related to the European Union. These students represented seventeen different schools: *American University, Baylor University, Denison University, Dickinson College, George Mason University, Georgia Technical Institute, Harvard University, Northeastern University, Pomona College, State University of New York-Cortland, Syracuse University, University of Alberta, University of California-Berkeley, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, University of Florida, University of San Francisco, and University of Washington*. This volume is a compilation of the best papers presented at the conference.

The student conference was modeled on professional academic conferences. Each student presented 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. 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 selected for publication reflects the diversity of interests among the student authors. **Jace Bartz** examines the position of the Holy See on the international stage from the perspective of competing IR theories, and concludes that the Vatican's considerable global influence is best explained by constructivism. **Sky Berry-Weiss** highlights the European Union's remarkable achievements in transitioning from fossil fuels to renewable energy, and suggests that the EU's approach of “many carrots with a few sticks” could be used as a model for other countries and regions. **Florian Bochart** explores the issue of conflicting norms and integrity in foreign policy, and argues that normative conflicts, rather than being evidence of hypocrisy, are an essential part of what makes the EU a normative actor. **Jacob Mark DeCarli** compares the policy responses to the 2015 Syrian refugee “crisis” in Germany and the UK, and attributes the divergence in the restrictiveness of immigration policies to the pre-existing beliefs about migrants and the strength of securitization discourse of migration. **Emma Delapré** discusses the involvement of French feminists in the face veil debate in France, and argues that the regulations supported by pro-ban feminists are in direct conflict with their objective of promoting gender equality and work to further deepen the divide between Islam and the Republic. **Alexej Latimer** analyzes the effectiveness of sanctions placed on Russia following its 2014 violations of Ukrainian sovereignty, and determines that multiple confounding factors make it difficult to provide a definite assessment. **Claire Maurer** takes us on a cinematic journey through post-WWII history of Spain and shows how the Spanish attitudes towards Europe and European unification have changed over the years. **Varun Roy** and **Vignesh Sreedhar**

survey the EU, US, and Chinese approaches to AI development and regulation, and argue that the EU's first-mover status makes it uniquely qualified to lead the transatlantic alliance in setting international standards for ethical and secure AI. **Johanna Soleil** critiques French immigrant integration policies along the dimensions of cultural, economic, and health outcomes, and sees EU-level regulations as the best way to overcome France's reservations towards providing more robust and targeted integration support. Lastly, **Luca Zislin** offers a possible explanation for the unlikely alliance between the far-right Alternative für Deutschland party and some German Jews, and cautions that a deeper understanding of the political beliefs of German Jewish minority is needed to help prevent further legitimization of AfD.

The conference was hosted by the European Union Center of California, and the administration of the conference by Center's staff, headed by Agnieszka Lazorczyk, was indispensable to its success. In addition, we owe a debt of gratitude for the financial and administrative support provided by the Claremont Colleges and the European Union Center of Excellence at University of California-Berkeley. We are grateful as well to our keynote speakers: *Gregory F. Treverton (University of Southern California)*, who offered reflections on the geopolitical consequences of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, and *Dr. Adam Zientek (University of California-Davis)*, who spoke about the influence of the Great Replacement conspiracy theory on French political thought and the upcoming presidential election in France. Special thanks are due as well to the faculty discussants who shared their time and expertise with the students. These include *Menna Bizuneh (Pitzer College)*, *Mietek Boduszynski (Pomona College)*, *Steve Casper (Claremont Graduate University)*, *Jeffrey Pennington (University of California-Berkeley)*, *Ian McManus (Emerson College)*, *Hans Rindisbacher (Pomona 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 intellectual maturity and genuine research skills. The result was a conference that was stimulating for students and faculty alike.

Corey Tazzara, Director
European Union Center of California