The past six months at the Institute for European Studies have seen a lot of changes, beginning with me. In May, the EURO Advisory Board nominated me to become the next director, and I accepted, beginning my tenure on July 1. I would like to formally thank the Advisory Board for entrusting me with this position. I would also like to thank the previous directors, Brett Bowles and Tim Helwig, for leaving the house in good order, having secured Title VI and Jean Monnet grants to help support our mission. I look forward to working with the EURO community in the coming months and years to further the Institute’s mission!

EURO also hired a new Assistant Director, Heather Duemling, who had been occupying the position on an interim basis since our former Assistant Director, Liese Hilgemann, accepted her new position as Director of Graduate Administrative Services. Heather brings tremendous organizational skills and industry to the position, as well as a set of fresh perspectives and ideas. I look forward to collaborating with her for the remainder of my term.

The beginning of my tenure also coincides with a new change in the administrative structure of the Hamilton Lugar School. EURO has merged administratively with the Polish Studies Center (PSC), which is directed by Joanna Niżyńska. Heather, who serves as the Assistant Director of both entities, and I look forward to the future possibilities of this collaboration.

Recapping the Fall Semester

Indeed, our collaboration with the PSC has already borne fruit. One of the highlights of the Fall semester was “Writings on the Wall: The End of the Eastern Bloc in Popular Memory (1989-2019)” which took place November 11 at the University Club. A collaborative venture between the PSC, EURO, and the Russian and Eastern European Institute, “Writings on the Wall” explored the reverberations of 1989 in popular memory. Many thanks to Halina Goldberg, Johannes Türk, Lázsló Borhi, Maria Bucur, Craig Cravens, and Łukasz Sicinski and many others for taking part in this event and sharing their reflections on one of the most momentous transitions of the 20th century.
Another highlight was our film series, “(En)countering Dictatorships through Film in Post-WWII Europe,” which explores the way that film has been used to (en)counter dictatorship by diagnosing its causes, resisting its rule, and healing the wounds that authoritarianism inflicts on society and culture. This past semester we screened Costa-Gavras’s *Z* (France/Greece, 1969), Milos Forman, *Firemen’s Ball* (Czechoslovakia, 1967), and Nikos Perakis’s, *Loafing and Camouflage* (Greece, 1984). This coming semester, we are planning on screening Andrzej Wajda’s *Man of Marble* (Poland, 1977), Péter Bacsó’s *The Witness* (Hungary, 1969), Carlos Saura’s *La Caza* (Spain, 1966), and Susana de Sousa Dias’ *48* (Portugal, 2010). The juxtaposition of the experiences of Eastern and Western Europe in these films has been very thought-provoking as have the parallels with the contemporary political moment.

Our Friday lunchtime lecture series, which typically features a presentation by an IU faculty member or graduate student, was also an active presence in the intellectual life of the HLS this past semester. One of the highlights was Timothy Water’s talk on Catalonia’s secession movement, "Subsidarity, Secession, and Constitutional Order: The Catalan Crisis in European and International Perspective," which proposed an innovative approach for dealing with secession movements. Other highlights were Kate Hunt’s examination of the effects of the 2018 Irish abortion referendum on pro- and anti-abortion groups, “The Next Steps: Social Movement Evolution After Major Success or Failure,” and William Kindred Winecoff’s examination of the changing geopolitical and economic power of Europe, “Structural Change in World Politics: Is Europe Declining as Others Rise?” Two graduate students also presented part of their dissertation research. Our GA Miguel Cruz-Díaz spoke on “Transnational Antifascism: The Anarchist Black Cross and Francoist Spain” and Stewart Duncan, from the Department of Musicology in the Jacobs School, gave a talk titled “Political Culture and Cultural Politics: How English Choral Music and European Politics Intertwined.”

**Upcoming Events**

We tend to think of Europe as a bastion of calm and stability. It is not. The past decade has been a tumultuous one for Europe that has seen economic crisis and the rise of populism, the growth of secession movements, an immigration crisis fueled by war and climate change, the weakening of transatlantic relations, and the emergence of a host of new foreign policy challenges. Europe’s precariousness means that we need cutting-edge scholarship on it now more than ever. It also means that we need to train new generations of citizens and scholars that possess linguistic skills and deep knowledge about European culture, politics, and history. In the coming semesters I hope that EURO can continue to grow as a clearing house for ideas and new scholarship and as a vehicle for generating students interested in European cultures, societies, and politics.

Our outreach program is the tip of the spear in this effort, and we have a vigorous program scheduled for next semester as well. We are very excited to be screening, in conjunction with REEI and the Tocqueville Center, Victoria Baltag’s recent film *The Hidden Story of the Pitești Experiment*, which documents a little-known Romanian reeducation campaign from 1949-1951 that targeted students who refused to join the Communist Party. The director of the film will be present and will join us for Q & A after the film. Our lunchtime lecture series has a robust lineup again and will feature talks by Carl Ipsen on the Italian olive oil industry (February 7), Paul Craig on Brexit (date t.b.d.), and Neovi Karakatsanis (IUSB) and Jonathan Swarts (IUN) on their recent book, *American Foreign Policy Toward the Colonels’ Greece* (March 27).

The two big events on our Spring schedule, however, are the Midwest Model European Union (MMEU) and a new mini-conference, “The Future of Europe,” which we hope to make into an annual event. Last year’s MMEU brought together over 140 students
fo make into an annual event. Last year’s MMEU brought together over 140 students from 17 different universities to take part in a role-playing competition that recreates the European Union’s legislative process. We are hoping for similar turnouts this year. Our mini-conference on “The Future of Europe,” will feature IU faculty and European experts and politicians organized into three panels: “Populism, Democracy, and Europe: The Future of Jean Monnet’s Vision of Integration,” “The Future of Euro-American Relations,” and “European Foreign Policy in a Changing World: Challenges and Possibilities.” Stay tuned for more details!

Notes on Staff

I’d like to finish by welcoming new staff members: Our GAs for this year are Miguel Cruz-Diaz and Michael Stiles. Miguel is a doctoral student in the History Department, and Michael is a doctoral student in French horn performance in the Jacobs School of Music. I’d also like to welcome Jonathan Van Hecke, Annie Mangus, and Panagiota Doukas to our team. Jonathan is serving as our Less Commonly Taught Languages Coordinator, and Annie is our EURO Content Coordinator. Panagiota is working with me to develop content for online Greek courses. Please stop by and say hi if you are on the fourth floor. Heather (GA 4015) and I (GA 4022) both have open doors.

Franklin L. Hess
Director, Modern Greek Program
Director, Institute for European Studies
EURO’s Lunch Lecture Series:  
A window into what EURO is all about  

By Miguel A. Cruz Díaz

During this past fall semester, the Institute for European Studies organized a number of lectures at the Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies known as the Lunch Lecture Series. As the name implies, these lectures are held Fridays at noon, with lunch being served, and are pitched to a varied audience of undergraduate and graduate students as well as diverse groups of faculty members. The aim of these lectures is to showcase the recent research and scholarly production of EURO-associated faculty as well as graduate students, piquing the curiosity of members of Indiana University’s student community who might be interested in pursuing research and educational opportunities in Europe. The lectures in this series provide a window into EURO’s efforts to incentivize scholarly interest in Europe, and generate interest in the opportunities made possible by EURO. As such, they complement other lectures presented by the institute, and often serve as an introduction to scholarly lectures for students who are not overly familiar with them.

This lecture series benefits greatly from the fact that EURO can proudly call upon the talents of a truly interdisciplinary group of scholars that includes established members of the university faculty as well as rising scholars in their respective fields and advanced graduate students from a variety of areas of interest. Our guest lecturers represented departments such as Musicology, Political Science, Law, and History.

The main strength of EURO’s lecture series lies in providing undergraduate and graduate students who may or may not be already associated with European studies a general overview of the state of things with regards to ongoing research and academic production in the field of European research. In other words, this series serves as a sampler of sorts. And as any good sampler should, our lunch lectures offer a variety of options.

The lecture series kicked off with Professor Timothy Waters from the Maurer School of Law on September 20. Professor Waters’ lecture, ‘Subsidiarity, Secession, and Constitutional Order: The Catalan Crisis in European and International Perspective’, centered on new approaches to understanding the contemporary Catalanian independence movement.

Spain continued to be examined by our second lecturer on September 27, with the presentation by doctoral candidate Miguel A. Cruz-Díaz, from the Department of History. Cruz-Díaz’s lecture, “Transnational Antifascism: The Anarchist Black Cross and Francoist Spain”, focused on the Anarchist Black Cross, a transnational anarchist organization that provided relief to political prisoners during the latter years of the dictatorship of Francisco Franco.

On October 11, our third lecturer was Stewart Duncan, a doctoral candidate in Musicology from the Jacobs School of Music. His lecture,
'Political Culture and Cultural Politics: How English Choral Music and European Politics Intertwined in the 1930s', examined the close-knit relationship between choral music and political kinship, diplomacy and belonging in England during the 1930s.

Our next guest lecturer was Dr. Kate Hunt, a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of International Studies. Her lecture on November 1, “The Next Step: Social Movement Evolution After Major Success or Failure”, explored the influence of political outcomes of social movements, a clever reversal of the traditional way of measuring social movements in politics, using the case study of the abortion debate and 2018 referendum in Ireland.

On October 25 EURO’s guest lecturer was Dr. William Kindred Winecoff, Associate Professor of Political Science. Dr. Winecoff’s lecture, “Structural Change in World Politics: Is Europe Declining As Others Rise?” engaged the constantly changing narratives regarding the geopolitical power of Europe and its place in the contemporary world economy, a growing area of interest in academic fields of study.

Finally, on December 6, as a coda to the lecture series, EURO hosted the final lecture of the semester as an Overseas Studies Lunch, an informal orientation session regarding opportunities available for studying abroad in Europe. This was a logical conclusion to the lecture series, as it provided information to students who might have become intrigued by the possibility of doing research abroad after listening to the previous guest lecturers. Relevant information about studying abroad was provided by EURO-affiliated faculty, the Office of Overseas Study, and the Hamilton Lugar School.

EURO’s Lunch Lecture Series is an important part of the Institute for European Studies’ efforts to provide tools and academic opportunities to undergraduate and graduate students who are interested in studying or researching overseas. It also provides an ideal space for faculty and graduate students to present and discuss their research in a comfortable environment.
EURO’s (En)countering Dictatorship Film Series: Interrogating Totalitarianism Through Film

By Miguel A Cruz Diaz

The (En)countering Dictatorship Through Film in Post-WW2 Europe series was conceived by EURO’s director, Dr. Franklin Hess, as a way to promote reflection on a period of European history that is politically relevant for the present. This film series explored various movies that were produced under or in the aftermath of the totalitarian regimes that were all too common on both sides of the Iron Curtain at the height of the Cold War.

Film can serve many roles, including that of interrogator, often times indirectly, of the societies in which they were made. This is particularly true of societies under totalitarian regimes that stifle artistic expression, especially when such expression can serve to criticize the status quo. As a historical device, film transcends its context and provides a window into past events through the ever-changing lens of those that experience it across time. Each film chosen was selected because it represented specific variations on the theme of dictatorship, as experienced on the East and the West.

The first film, Costa-Gavras’ Z (1969), explores themes of repression and assassination. It is a fictionalized account of the death of Grigoris Lambrakis, a charismatic member of the United Democratic Left who was assassinated in 1963. Costa-Gavras, long considered an iconic figure in cinema, directed this film while living in exile. Diagnosing the circumstances that led to the rise of Greece’s military Junta in 1967, this film proved to be an enduring critique of the military’s influence in civilian affairs.

The second film of the series, Milos Forman’s The Firemen’s Ball (1967) is a comedy oozing with social critique, taking place in Prague a year before the Soviet Union mobilized its armored units to “correct” the trajectory of the local government. Professor Craig Cravens of the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Culture presented this film and hosted a discussion after its screening.

The third and final film of the series for this semester was Nikos Perakis’ Loafing and Camouflage (1984). This is yet another comedy, only this time it tackles a dictatorship in the West: the Greek Junta. The comedic events of a group of soldiers serving at the newly established Armed Services Television serve as a way to critique the realities of life under an authoritarian regime. Dr. Frank Hess presented this film and led the discussion.

The EURO (En)countering Dictatorship film series will continue during the Spring 2020 semester with additional screenings and discussions that will surely enrich our understanding of the regimes depicted in these films.
Spring 2020 promises to be a busy one for EURO. Our first presentation in our Lunch Lecture series for this term will be on February 7 and will be given by Doctor Carl Ipsen, from the Department of History. His talk is titled “From Cloth Oil to Extra Virgin: The Changing Meaning of Italian Olive Oil in Recent Centuries.” Dr. Ipsen is also the director of the IU Food Institute. The lecture will be held at GA 1112 from 11:30-1:00pm.

On February 13 EURO, in conjunction with REEI and the Tocqueville Center, will be screening Victoria Baltag’s film *The Hidden Story of the Pitești Experiment*. The screening will be held at GA 1134 at 7:00 pm. There will be a Q&A with the director after the film.

Taking our cues from Cupid’s proverbial arrows, on Friday, February 14 EURO will hold its annual Valentine’s Bake-off. Homemade baked goods will compete for prizes, then be promptly eaten. The bake-off will be held GA 1060 between 12:00-1:00pm at GA 1060.

Our lunch lecture in March will be presented by two speakers: Neovi Karakatsanis from IU South Bend and Jonathan Swarts from Purdue Northwest. Their talk will be on “America and the Greek Colonels: The Making of Cold War Foreign Policy”, and will draw from a book they recently co-authored: *American Foreign Policy Towards the Colonels’ Greece: Uncertain Allies and the 1967 Coup d’État*.

EURO will screen three additional films as part of our returning (En)counering Dictatorship film series. The first, Péter Bacsó’s *The Witness* (Hungary, 1969), is a satire about totalitarian rule in mid-century Hungary. The second, Carlos Saura’s *La Caza* (Spain, 1966), is the story of three men on a hunt dealing with personal fallout from the Spanish Civil War. The third film, Susana de Sousa Dias’ *48* (Portugal, 2010), is about Portugal’s fascist period from 1926 to 1974.

And last but certainly not least we will be hosting the annual Midwestern Model European Union from April 2-4, the centerpiece of EURO’s Spring semester activities, as well as a mini-conference, ‘The Future of Europe.” Check the EURO website for details!