

15TH TRANSATLANTIC STUDENTS SYMPOSIUM

RETURNING TO THE NATION? CHALLENGES TO DEMOCRACY AND SUPRANATIONALITY IN THE 21ST CENTURY"

ROME, WARSAW AND BERLIN, MARCH 25-APRIL 2, 2017



in cooperation between, and supported by:

OSU, Public Policy Graduate Program, Diversity & Cultural Engagement

Humboldt-University Berlin, Germany

University of Warsaw, Poland

Max Kade Foundation

Embassy of the United States of America in Poland



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This report is an addendum and expansion of the main symposium report, located at <http://www.trasym.org/report.html>.

1. NOTES ON PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

The program continued in the current configuration. The theme took its cue from the rising support for populist and nationalist ideas, movements and politics within the recent years.

Additionally, the symposium web site was completely redesigned.

2. PREPARATORY SEMINARS

A preparatory seminar was taught by PD Dr. Reinhard Isensee in Winter Semester 2016/17 at Humboldt University, which incorporated a selection process. Prospective symposium participants on the Humboldt side submitted their proposals and were accepted on the basis of the academic merits of their papers.

Another seminar was taught by Dr. Philipp Kneis, Dr. Allison Davis-White Eyes and Dr. Rebecca Warner in Winter Quarter 2017 at Oregon State University, to prepare the students selected by the Public Policy Graduate program and the DCE (Diversity & Cultural Engagement) office for the symposium.

At Warsaw University, Dr. Tomasz Basiuk prepared the students in Winter 2017.

All classes were coordinated by drawing from the same core syllabus (available on <http://www.trasym.org/trasym15.html>) to ensure that students — despite their different fields — shared the same background. A video conference between all partners was held in February, allowing an exchange of ideas and introductions.

3. ORGANIZERS AND PARTICIPANTS

Number of Participants: 34

Organizers: 6

Dr. Philipp Kneis, Dr. Allison Davis-White Eyes, Dr. Brent Steel, Dr. Rebecca Warner (OSU)

PD Dr. Reinhard Isensee (Humboldt)

Dr. Tomasz Basiuk (Warsaw)

Student/Assistant Organizers: 8

Greta Fortwengel, Aisha Said, Kathleen Pilz (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)

Sarah Boege, Jordan Hensley, Terrance Harris, Whitney Archer (Oregon State University),

Gosia Zacheja (Warsaw University)

Students: 20

(Humboldt: 9, OSU: 8, Warsaw: 3)

4. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION / CALL FOR PAPERS

The supranational structure of the European Union and its related institutions was developed to counter the existential crisis caused by the drastic fragmentation of Europe into multiple nation states and their empires at the time; a crisis that had unleashed two World Wars and a Cold War.

At the end of the Cold War, it had seemed that Europe was on the winning trajectory. Futurists like Jeremy Rifkin even proclaimed that there was a “European Dream” that could end up more powerful than the American Dream. Both NATO and the European Union welcomed as new members former enemy countries that used to be members of the Warsaw Pact, just as the original European Coal and Steel Community used to forge a bond between former antagonists. The Euro as a common currency was envisioned to tie together what seemed to belong together, just as the combining of coal and steel production, atomic energy oversight, and the common market had done before.

The end of the Cold War also saw the presumed confirmation of the Hegelian “end of history” as the victory of democratic free market societies over autocratic models, with the United States as the uncontested leader not just of the “West” but of the world. United since the defeat of National Socialism, both the United States and the European Union had seen the collapse of the Soviet Communist system – and were safe in the assumption of the greatness of their own systems of governance and economy, which included a wider supranational framework of international cooperation and development.

Yet nowadays, in the West, there are calls to “Make America Great Again,” to stress State Sovereignty, to question Federal authority or withdraw from the European Union, to end efforts for wider supranational trade agreements, to couch policy issues in mainly national terms, and to limit border-crossing efforts. Be it the Trump movement, the French Front National, UKIP, the Alternative for Germany, Fidesz and Jobbik in Hungary, PIS in Poland, the Finns Party, Golden Dawn in Greece, the Brexit movement and proceedings, the Right Sector in Ukraine, United Russia, or many others – a resurgent and unapologetic nationalism is back on the table, ironically as an apparently international movement, fueled by a common canon of anti-refugee, anti-immigration, anti-government, anti-Muslim, anti-Semitic, anti-American (in Europe and Russia), anti-European (in the US), and anti-global sentiments. At the same time, the nationalist movement claims to be truly democratic, and to speak for the true representatives of the people.

This may point to a redefinition of what is understood as democracy, and can also be attested for the Occupy movement, Democracy Now, the Bernie Sanders campaign, and others who combine a nationalist protectionist narrative with an internationally cooperative outlook. In both cases – “left” or “right” – traditional institutions, treaties, parties, the transatlantic cooperation, and representative democracy itself seem to be under serious review at a time where the triumphalist moment of the 1990s seems like a distant memory.

What does this mean for the capacity of modern democracy to be resilient to such challenges? Are we at risk of returning to the final years of the Weimar Republic, or even the pre-World War I world order? Is a United Europe facing the same problems of Balkanization that had caused the end of the Habsburg Empire in 1918, or of united Yugoslavia in the 1990s?

The 15th Transatlantic Students Symposium will consider these questions and bring students from the United States, Germany, Poland and other countries together on a field trip to Rome, Warsaw and Berlin.

5. SYMPOSIUM WEEK FIELD TRIPS

Site Visits: Demonstrations for European Unity; Colosseum; Roman Forum and Capitoline Museum; Vatican Museums; St. Peter's Cathedral; POLIN Museum of Polish Jewish History; Royal Castle Museum; Nowy Teatr (Dance Performance); Warsaw Planetarium (Concert)

Institutional Visits: Sapienza University; Libera Università Internazionale degli Studi Sociali; Italian Parliament; Fundacja Ocalenie (Refugee aid center); Humboldt-University Berlin



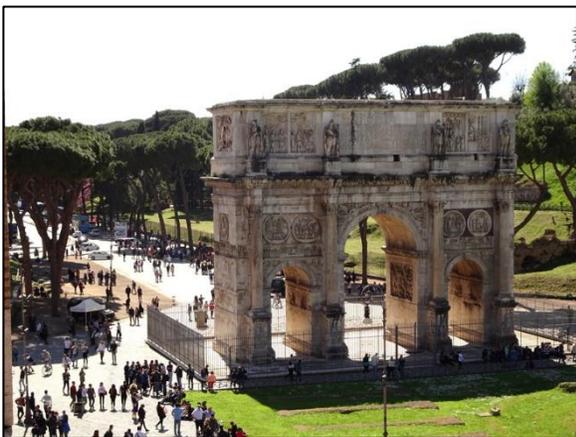
Pro-EU Demonstration



Orientation Meeting at the Napoleon Hotel Rome



Colosseum, Rome



Roman Forum



Saturday, March 25th: Arrival in Rome

12:00 PM Arrival at Hotel in Rome

Afternoon Time for Exploring

Pro-EU demonstrations for the 60th Anniversary of the Treaties of Rome

Suggestions: Villa Borghese (Park free), National Gallery of Ancient Art (\$12), Spanish Steps (free), San Luigi dei Francesi (free), Piazza Venezia

5:00 PM Meet and Greet at Napoleon Hotel

Sunday, March 26th: Cultural Visits in Rome

1:00 PM Colosseum Tour

3:30 PM Foro Romano

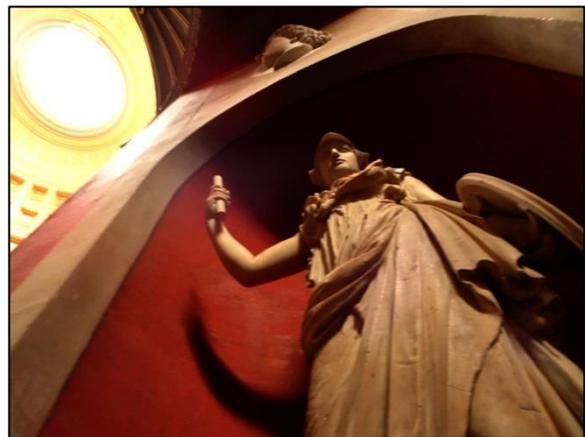
4:00 PM Capitoline Museum



Capitoline Museum



Vatican Museums



Monday, March 27th: Cultural and Institutional Visits

- 9:30 AM Tour Vatican Museum and Sistine Chapel
- 1:00 PM St. Peter's Square and St. Peter's
- 2:00 PM Lunch
- 3:30 PM Visit at Sapienza University of Rome



Capitoline Museum



St Peter's



Sapienza Visit



Parliament Visit

Tuesday, March 28th: Cultural and Institutional Visits

- 2:00 PM Visit at LUISS (Libera Università Internazionale degli Studi Sociali)
- 3:00 PM Visit to Italian Parliament
- 4:00 PM Discussion at LUISS



Parliament Visit



Discussion at LUISS



Pantheon



Reception after LUISS visit

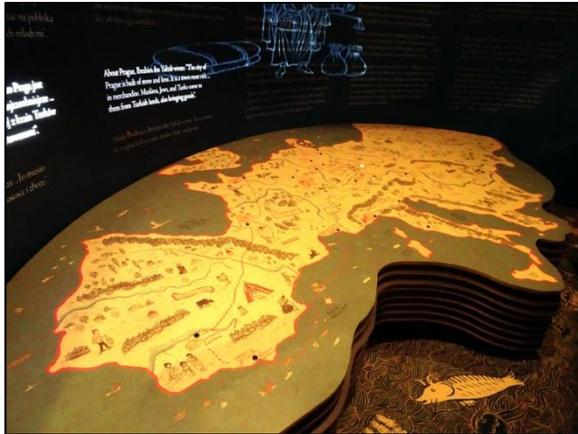
Wednesday, March 29th: Arrival in Warsaw

- 10:05 AM Flight to Warsaw
- 12:25 PM Arrival in Warsaw
- 3:30 PM POLIN Museum of Polish Jewish History
- 5:30 PM Walk through former Jewish ghetto to the New Town/Old Town



POLIN Museum of Jewish Life, Warsaw

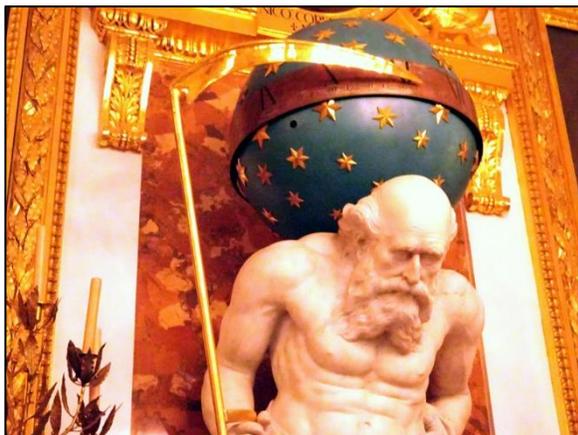




POLIN Museum of Jewish Life, Warsaw



Royal Castle, Warsaw



Foundation Ocalenie, Refugees Aid Organization

Thursday, March 30th: Cultural and Institutional Visits

- 10:00 AM Visit at Royal Castle Museum (audio guide)
- 12:00 PM Lunch
- 1:00 PM Fundacja Ocalenie re. Refugees and migrants
- 8:00 PM Modern dance performance at Nowy Teatr

Friday, March 31st: Transatlantic Symposium Conference

9:00 AM Conference Begin, Senate Room, main campus
6:00 PM Conference End
7:00 PM Concert at the Planetarium
8:00 PM Dinner Reservations

Saturday, April 1st: Berlin and Alumni Event

5:00 AM Taxi to Train station to Berlin
11:18 PM Arrival in Berlin
2:00 PM Optional Sightseeing Tour: Topography of Terror
7:00 PM Alumni Event at Senatssaal, HU
9:00 PM Optional Evening Fun

Sunday, April 2nd: Departure from Berlin

Departures of American and Polish Groups



Symposium Conference, Warsaw



Waiting for the Train to Berlin



Train to Berlin – for some, the first train ride ever...



15th Year Anniversary Event with Program Alumni in Berlin

6. SYMPOSIUM CONFERENCE SCHEDULE, UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW, POLAND

Faculty:

Tomasz Basiuk, Uniwersytet Warszawski, American Studies Program

Tomasz Basiuk holds a doctoral degree in English from the University of Warsaw and a post- doc degree from the University of Gdańsk. Author of *Exposures. American Gay Men's Life Writing since Stonewall* (2013) and a book on the novelist William Gaddis (in Polish, 2003). Co-editor of several volumes in queer studies and in American Studies. Co-founder of the electronic queer studies journal *InterAlia*. He teaches in the American Studies program at the University of Warsaw.

Dr. Allison Davis-White Eyes, Oregon State University, Diversity & Cultural Engagement

Allison Davis-White Eyes holds a B.A., M.A. from U.C.L.A and a Ph.D. from Oregon State University and currently serves as the Director of Diversity & Cultural Engagement. In addition, she serves as affiliate faculty in the School of Public Policy and as adjunct faculty in the School of Language, Culture and Society with a research emphasis in post-colonial cosmopolitanism and mobilities of culture and identity. Dr. Davis-White Eyes has held positions in higher education for over 20 years and has created research partnerships and collaborations between Oregon State University, Tribal communities and international universities--designed to enhance the student experience, and to provide opportunities for experiential learning that critically explore narratives of difference and representation.

PD Dr. Reinhard Isensee, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

PD Dr. Isensee teaches in the American Studies Program at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. After completing his Ph.D. on 19th century American literature he pursued a postdoctoral research project on 20th century American Adolescent Literature (Habilitation in 2002). With a particular interest in transatlantic and transnational topics, he has more recently focused in his research on (visual) media with a special emphasis on the cultural work of digital media. He has published extensively in the field of American literature on American Naturalism and on 20th century young adult literature, as well as in Cultural Studies on multicultural education, cultural identity formation, as well as digital media. His current research work encompasses the contemporary American adolescent novel, the cultural and social history and present models of transatlantic, transnational and global education as well as the impact of digital media on the production and distribution of knowledge in American culture. He has frequently held long-term as well as short-term guest professorships at universities and colleges in the United States and in Europe.

Dr. Philipp Kneis, Oregon State University, Political Science Program

Philipp Kneis holds an M.A. in American Studies and History from Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, and a Ph.D in American Studies from the University of Potsdam. He is one of the founding members of the Transatlantic Students Symposia. He currently serves as the Assistant Director of the Public Policy Graduate Program at OSU, and also teaches in Political Science. His main research interests pertain to intersections of culture and politics in the US and the European Union.

Prof. Brent Steel, Oregon State University, Public Policy Graduate Program

Brent S. Steel (PhD, Washington State University) is professor of political science and Director of the

Public Policy Graduate Program at Oregon State University. He has published journal articles and book chapters concerning energy policy, environmental policy, science policy, state and local government, and sustainable. He is the coauthor of *State and Local Government: Prospects for Sustainability* (Oxford University Press, 2011) and editor of *Science and Politics: An A to Z Guide to Issues and Controversies* (Sage, 2014). Dr. Steel joined the political science faculty in 1998 after having positions at Washington State University and Oakland University (Michigan). He teaches courses in comparative politics, public policy theory, research methods, science policy, environmental policy, rural policy, and state and local government.

Prof. Becky Warner, Oregon State University, Sociology Program

Becky Warner is Professor of Sociology at Oregon State University. She has just returned to her faculty position after serving six years as Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs. Becky is the Principal Investigator on a \$3.5M NSF ADVANCE Institutional Transformation grant. The primary goal is to serve as a catalyst for advancing the study and practice of equity, inclusion, and justice for women and others from historically underrepresented groups who are faculty in the academy.

Student & Assistant Organizers:

Aisha Said, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, American Studies Program

Aisha Said is originally from Cairo, Egypt, where she received her German Abitur. In 2015 she graduated from Potsdam University in Germany and earned a bachelor's degree with a double major in English & American Studies and General & Theoretical Linguistics. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in American Studies at the Humboldt University of Berlin. She has developed a strong interest in global education, especially institutions of higher education and their access to knowledge in national contexts. She is currently writing her Master Thesis on the American and Western influence on Egypt's higher education institutions with emphasis on the American University in Cairo (AUC). Said also does volunteer work with newly arriving refugees in Berlin by helping children improve their German language skills and integrating them into German society.

Greta Sophie Fortwengel, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, American Studies Program

Greta Sophie Fortwengel is a third semester Master student in the American Studies Program at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and is one of the student organizers on this year's Transatlantic Student Symposium. She completed her two-subject Bachelor's program at the Georg-August-Universität Göttingen in American Studies and Social and Economic History. She is about to start her Master Thesis on Young Adult Literature with the focus on the portrayal of LGBTQ characters.

Kathleen Pilz, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, American Studies Program

Kathleen Pilz is a student organizer of this year's Transatlantic Student Symposium and a master student of the American Studies Program at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. After she received her bachelor's degree in American Studies with a minor in business administration, she continued her studies at the HU, in which she participated in the 2014th Transatlantic Student Symposium. In the academic year of 2014/2015, Kathleen was as a teaching assistant for German language acquisition at the University of Minnesota. During that time, she also took American Studies classes, which aroused her interest in the topic of her Master Thesis: German War Brides and the effect of cultural stereotypes on immigration. This project combines several of her research interests like (women's) immigration, national identity, and cultural stereotypes.

Gosia Zacheja, Uniwersytet Warszawski, American Studies Program

Gosia is a 1st year MA student in American Studies, following her BA program. She's interested in the U.S. foreign relations, specifically Cuba and China, civil rights issues, and foreign languages. She speaks Polish, English, and French, and is learning Italian and Mandarin Chinese. Last summer, she interned in the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw in the Protocol and Public Affairs sections. She hopes to work in an international environment in the future.

Sarah Boege, Oregon State University, Master of Public Policy Program

Sarah Boege is a second year Masters of Public Policy student at Oregon State University. Her research interests is where international policy intersects with environmental, rural, and social policy. She spent the summer in rural Guatemala conducting research for her thesis, which she will present about during the 2017 Transatlantic Symposium. She is originally from Chandler, Arizona and did her undergraduate studies at Arizona State University, receiving a BA in Sustainability, a BA in Spanish Linguistics, as well as a minor in Latin American Studies. Following graduation she hopes to work for an NGO doing sustainable, participatory international development work in Latin America.

Jordan Hensley, Oregon State University, Master of Public Policy Program

Jordan Hensley is one of the student organizers on the 2017 Transatlantic Symposium and a second year MPP student at Oregon State University, where his research focuses on educational policy issues. Originally from Camas, Washington, he completed his undergraduate work at the University of Idaho in political science. Prior to attending OSU, he has managed political campaigns, worked in city government, and most recently completed a year as a VISTA Americorps member at Portland Youth-Builders, an alternative high school in SE Portland. In his spare time, Jordan enjoys singing karaoke, running, musical theatre, and American football.

Terrance Harris, Oregon State University, Diversity & Cultural Engagement

Terrance Harris serves at the Director of the Lonnie B. Harris Black Cultural Center at Oregon State University. He is originally from Louisville, KY and moved to Corvallis, OR about a year ago from FL where he worked at Stetson University in Wellness & Recreation. Terrance received his Bachelor's degree in General Business from Western Kentucky University and a Master's in Higher Education in Student Affairs from the University of North Texas. Terrance is an active member within the African American Knowledge Community of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) and is a proud member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. Terrance believes that his everyday mission is to be the vessel to help students develop. This is Terrance's first time traveling abroad and is excited about building new relationships and learning more about European culture.

Whitney Archer, Oregon State University, Diversity & Cultural Engagement

Whitney Archer serves as an Associate Director of Diversity & Cultural Engagement and Director of the Women's Center at Oregon State University. In these roles, Whitney is responsible for the administration, management, and operation of the Women's Center as well as providing guidance and support for all seven Cultural Resource Centers (CRCs). The CRCs at OSU serve as hubs for academic support, social justice awareness, identity development, transformative learning and leadership. Whitney is engaged in gender equity work across the university including her involvement on the President's Commission on the Status of Women, and annually teaches courses in Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies.

Conference Program

9:00 *Opening Remarks*

9:15 *Panel 1: Identity, Politics, and Praxis*

Gosia Zacheja,

Uniwersytet Warszawski, American Studies Program:

“Women's Resistance through a Glass Ceiling: Looking at the Black Protest in Poland, and March on Washington in the U.S.”

Bio: Gosia is a 1st year MA student in American Studies, following her BA program. She's interested in the U.S. foreign relations, specifically Cuba and China, civil rights issues, and foreign languages. She speaks Polish, English, and French, and is learning Italian and Mandarin Chinese. Last summer, she interned in the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw in the Protocol and Public Affairs sections. She hopes to work in an international environment in the future.

Abstract: I will be looking at recent examples of women protesting in two different countries. Both protests highlighted a problem in politics, namely the lack of gender representation at the highest levels. This causes a situation where decisions directly affecting women's lives are made without them. The gender gap in politics is becoming more visible as women are slowly shattering glass ceilings in other fields, but the one in politics still remains. Could the current challenges to world democracies be solved by equal gender representation at the government levels? Looking at examples of marches in Poland and in the U.S., I will try to find an answer to this question.

Luiza Kotys,

Uniwersytet Warszawski, American Studies Program:

“Might Lavender Scare Be a Real Threat Again?”

Bio: Luiza is a second year master's student at the American Studies Center and is writing her master's thesis on the concepts of truth in New Journalism. She graduated from Faculty of Applied Linguistics where she received her master's degree in Translation of Languages for Specific Purposes and Glottodidactics. She would love to become a crossover between Joan Didion and David Foster Wallace.

Abstract: I decided to analyze the stances on LGBT community that some of the members of Donald Trump's cabinet have. I focus on Trump, Mike Pence, Jeff Sessions, Tom Price and Neil Gorsuch (Trump's Supreme Court nominee). Their attitudes towards LGBT people led me to believe that a situation similar to lavender scare in the 1950s – firing homosexuals from the civilian agencies of the federal government – might happen again. I also present the current Polish LGBT community situation, as well as compare lavender scare to the operation Hyacinth – collecting data concerning homosexuals – that happened during the 1980s in Poland.

Jason Dorsette,

Oregon State University, Education PhD Program:

“An exploratory and critical inquiry journey: Seeking To Better Understand how Queer and Spiritual College Men of Color who Attend Predominantly White Institutions Make Meaning of Their Collegiate Experience”

Bio: Jason J. Dorsette is a native North Carolinian who now lives in Corvallis, Oregon. He currently serves as the Chief of Staff for the unit of Diversity & Cultural Engagement (DCE) at Oregon State University (OSU) and is a first year PhD student in the Language, Educational Policy, and Equity program in the College of Education at OSU. Jason received his BA in History and Education from North Carolina Central University—a Historically Black College & University (HBCU) and a Masters of Public Policy and Administration from North Carolina State University. As Chief of Staff for the unit Diversity & Cultural Engagement, Jason provides specialized services, support, and leadership to students, staff, faculty and senior level administrators throughout OSU. He advises student clubs, specialized social change initiatives, and is involved regionally and nationally in a number of professional, civic, and social associations, including but not limited to; the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA), American College Personnel Association (ACPA), the National Advancement of the Association of Color People (NAACP), Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, and City of Corvallis Leadership Advisory Council, just to name a few.

In addition, Jason teaches graduate level courses in the College Student Services Administration program, and undergraduate courses in the College of Kinesiology. One of Jason’s greatest joys is helping college students develop and grow into thriving citizens that can positively contribute to their community and the greater society. Jason research interest areas include student success, minority male development and success, organizational culture and leadership, inclusive excellence, spirituality and liberation, diversity and social change, the African Diaspora, African American/Black student development, student leadership and involvement, and fraternity and sorority life. During his spare, which is rare, he likes to read academic journals and publications, spend time with family and friends, travel, watch television, visit blogs focused on men’s social issues, wellness, and fashion. One of his guilty pleasures is getting lost for hours surfing YouTube.

Abstract: As a student affairs and multicultural affairs educator I am interested in exploring how do males of color who attend Predominantly White Institutions (PWIs) that identify as queer and spiritual navigate and make meaning of their collegiate experiences. As a first year doctoral student my research skills and interest evolving. I would like to use this presentation/conversation as an opportunity to hear feedback from other students and faculty members that participate in the Transatlantic Symposia. Currently, the theoretical framework that I am drawing from is Critical Race Theory, Social Constructivist Theory, and the Theory of Self-Authorship. Again, my presentation will be more of an informal conversation and an opportunity for me to share where I am in my search and to receive constructive feedback from others.

10:30 Panel 2: Rising Nationalism in Policy & Practice

Yousef Allouzi,

Oregon State University, Master of Public Policy Program:

“The Irridentist’s Guide to Public Policy: Why President Trump’s Policies will Struggle to Bring Back Jobs”

Bio: Yousef Allouzi is an author and first year Masters of Public Policy student who grew up in Texarkana, AR but currently lives in the Pacific Northwest. He graduated Magna Cum Laude with a BS in Economics and minor in Philosophy from Oregon State University. His research interests are in energy and international policy and he has over twelve years’ experience working in both local and federal government.

Abstract: The goal of this paper is to provide an analysis of the border-adjustment tax and more general corporate tax cuts as proposed by President Trump. The stated goal of such policies is to return American jobs back to America. In response to this claim, this paper explores the effects of tariffs and corporate tax cuts within the context of the domestic and international economy and makes some general conclusions about the effect these policies may have on returning outsourced jobs to the United States. The interpretation of the border tax is a simple tariff, so focusing on the concepts of comparative advantage and gains from trade are essential to the international component of this research. Underlying these protectionist policies is economic uncertainty, the product of a short-run problem due to an ever increasing world economy.

Chris Starr,

Oregon State University, Master of Public Policy Program:

“US Culture and International Relations Between Imagined Communities”

Bio: I grew up near Portland, Oregon, but far enough away, culturally and physically, to experience the diversity of American culture. If you look at a political map of the US, most of my relatives live in "red" areas. I have a B.S. in Biotechnology and an M.S. related to agriculture. Those degrees reflect my interest in the debate over agricultural biotechnology and other environmental issues. I came to the realization that a career in agricultural research was not a good fit for me, and eventually decided it was worth pursuing my interest in political debates related to agriculture and the environment with a public policy degree, so I am getting a Masters in Public Policy from OSU. I am interested in politics and policy related to rural areas, including rural areas in the US. This gives me an interest in some of the topics we are focusing on in this symposium, specifically nationalism, the concept of "the heartland", and right-wing populism.

Abstract: In this presentation, I will offer some cultural and political analysis related to the broad issue of how to stall the slide towards populist and authoritarian government, both globally and specifically in Western countries. I will focus on approaches to foreign policy, and use the United States as an example. Under the Trump administration, the United States is less willing or able to push back against authoritarianism and defend democracy on the global stage as it was in the past. My thesis is that an overreach by progressives in the area of foreign policy, along with a dismissal of the concerns of the sections of US society that are susceptible to right-wing populist rhetoric, has contributed to creating this situation. To do this, I will describe the “Jacksonian tradition”, a term used to describe

the culture and political tradition that right-wing populism in the United States originates from. I will describe how recent US foreign policy has alienated a large section of US society. I will propose a philosophical and rhetorical approach to foreign policy that is amenable to people currently attracted to right-wing populism in the US, but that also provides a platform for progressive idealism. Europeans may also find it valuable to consider this critique of progressive overreach and this widely applicable approach to foreign relations.

Jessica Andrepont,
Oregon State University, Public Policy PhD Program:
“Refugees and Rhetoric in a Hot Populist World”

Bio: Jessica Andrepont is a first-year PhD Student and Graduate Research Assistant in the School of Public Policy at Oregon State University. Her research interests are in the intersection of sea level rise-related climate change policy and social justice issues, especially within marginalized communities. She earned her BA from Pace University in Sociology and Women’s and Gender Studies; post-graduation – for her advocacy work during her undergraduate career – Andrepont was awarded an Honorary Degree of a Minor in Queer Studies. She recently completed her MPA in Public Affairs from the University of San Francisco with a Concentration in Urban Policy and Planning while working as a Graduate Policy Fellow focused on environmental policy, housing, and criminal justice issues. Andrepont has nearly 10 years of non-profit management experience and has been working in the field of politics and policy in various capacities for nearly two decades. While she was born and raised in Texas, her heart home is New York City; and visiting every continent, at least once, is a major life goal on her bucket list.

Abstract: Within 30 years, approximately 1 billion people are estimated to become internally and/or externally displaced from their home countries due to the irreversible effects of climate change. While this is, arguably, an imminent human rights emergency impacting the most marginalized populations around the planet, concurrently – in the most developed nations in the Global North – there are ascendant right wing populist (RWP) movements contributing to a backlash against refugees and immigrants. This project will examine the conflict between the realities of RWP in the Global North (xenophobic economic politics periodically combined with climate denialist rhetoric) and the impending global environmental refugee crisis.

Aleksandra Misior-Mroczkowska,
Uniwersytet Wrocław, American Studies Program:
National Catholicism in Modern Poland – a Brief Case Study

Bio: In 2016 Aleksandra Misior-Mroczkowska received her M.A degree at Philological School of Higher Education in Wrocław, Poland. Her M.A thesis dealt with an analysis of two Polish translations of Alan Alexander Milne’s works – *Winnie the Pooh* and *The House at Pooh Corner*. The subject occurred to be highly interesting, on its basis Aleksandra’s first article was published. She is currently doing her PhD degree at the University of Wrocław. Except of translation studies, her scope of interest includes the times of the Second World War, more specifically, propaganda of this period.

Abstract: The most unambiguous explanation of the concept of nationalism could be as follows “(...) nationalism refers to a group identity defined in terms of political, ethnic, or cultural identities, associations, and attachments. Based on this understanding, nationalism is identified by common features

that a group of people recognize as holding them together as a nation (...)” (Omer and Springs 2013). In the case of Poland, one of such features has always been religion, catholic faith. Over centuries the Catholic Church has had a leading role in the shaping of the Polish nation. In recent times, Poland has experienced two major changes with regard to (1) the Poles’ attitude towards the role of Church in politics, and also (2) the very role that it actually performs. The number of people who strongly oppose to the influence of the Church on political life has never been so high. In contrast to this change, the actual position of the Church has never been stronger. Political discourse started to converge with the religious one, what gave the opportunity for the national Catholicism, always present in Polish culture, to develop into a different direction than it used to. The Poles remain deeply divided into those who find the idea of secular social, and also private, life as intolerable, and those who believe that religion should be always a matter of personal sphere. Today’s Poland is torn by scandals concerning recognition of catholic social teaching by the current government.

References: Omer, Atalia and Jason Springs (2013) *Religious Nationalism: A Reference Handbook*. Oxford: ABC-CLIO.

11:45 Panel 3: Belonging in “America”

Sarah Boege,

Oregon State University, Master of Public Policy Program:

“US NGOs in Rural Guatemala: Creating Sustainable Development or Continuing Imperialism?”

Bio: Sarah Boege is a second year Masters of Public Policy student at Oregon State University. Her research interests is where international policy intersects with environmental, rural, and social policy. She spent the summer in rural Guatemala conducting research for her thesis, which she will present about during the 2017 Transatlantic Symposium. She is originally from Chandler, Arizona and did her undergraduate studies at Arizona State University, receiving a BA in Sustainability, a BA in Spanish Linguistics, as well as a minor in Latin American Studies. Following graduation she hopes to work for an NGO doing sustainable, participatory international development work in Latin America.

Abstract: Over the last several decades, the narrative around international development has shifted away from neoclassical models towards an increased focus on sustainability as well as community-driven participatory development. However, there is a lack of research looking at whether these theoretical concepts manifest in practical realities that avoid the imperialistic flaws of previous development approaches. This study asks: Are the broad theoretical shifts in international development toward a more sustainable and participatory paradigm reflected in a practical shift in the operations of NGOs? These dynamics are explored through semi-structured interviews and participant observation in this qualitative case study about a U.S. grassroots sustainable development NGO that works in Guatemala to provide education, employment, and trash management to a rural indigenous community. An analysis of the data shows that the NGO does deviate from the development approaches of the past but does not wholly reflect the theoretical shift. These results can help inform international development policy and other foreign NGOs endeavoring to balance aid and international influence with local community involvement and Latin American sovereignty.

Freddy León,

**Oregon State University, College Students Services Administration Program:
“Mexican Immigrant Narrative: A Closer Look at the American Dream”**

Bio: My name is Freddy León and I am from Woodburn, Oregon. I received my B.A. in Spanish and Studio Art from Willamette University in 2013. I always knew I wanted to have a career in higher education, either as faculty or professional staff. I pursued the latter as I am currently a second-year master’s student at Oregon State University in the College Student Services Administration program. I am a graduate assistant with the Human Services Resource Center at OSU. My research interests include issues affecting first-generation college students, and social justice leadership and inclusivity within communities of people of color.

Abstract: The U.S. media portrays Mexican immigrants as people who come here to “take our jobs,” and “live off the system.” This rhetoric implies that Mexicans come to stay; to seek the American dream. The focus of this presentation is the immigrant narrative. Do they leave their country of origin with the goal of establishing themselves in the U.S.? We will look at Mexican migration, remittances, and folk songs to explore whether or not anti-immigrant rhetoric is correct in assuming that all Mexican immigrants are here to stay.

Anesat León-Guerrero,

**Oregon State University, Sociology, Spanish, and Ethnic Studies:
“Mexico & An Empty Democracy”**

Bio: Anesat León-Guerrero is a Xicana from a farm working immigrant family and was raised in Oregon, Arizona, and Michoacán, Mexico. She is an undergraduate at Oregon State University (OSU) studying Sociology, Spanish, and Ethnic Studies. She serves on the Oregon Student of Color Coalition board and Oregon’s Cultural Competency workgroup. Currently she works as the Executive Director of Diversity Programs for the Associated Students of OSU where she focuses on advancing diversity inclusion, and social justice on campus. She will be continuing her education at Indiana University in the Higher Education & Student Affairs Master’s Program in Fall 2017.

Abstract: The rising narrative of nationalism in the United States has resulted in xenophobia which primarily targets immigrants from Latin America, specifically Mexico due to its proximity and strong presence in the United States. Latinx immigrants have reacted to this by stating their right to pursuit happiness in the country, and others seek to return to their lands once they obtain financial security. However, the political climate shift around the globe is affecting Latin America and has evolved into a region that is striving to be recognized in politics and the economy. The U.S. holds the largest Latinx population outside of Latin America, and right-wing groups demand for Mexican immigrants to return to discourage other Latinx to immigrate. However, Mexico does not provide the same financial and social security as the U.S. Despite the presence of democracy in Mexico, it is lacking in structure and is missing central components of more advanced liberal democracies. One of the main concerns relating to politics in Latin America is that new democracies appear to be unconsolidated. After the failure of authoritarian, reactionary, socialists, and populist regimes, and lacking any other political model, democracy is the default option in Latin America. The central questions to understanding the political reality in Mexico are the following: What is missing from Mexico’s political nature for them

to be considered liberal democracies? Why has Mexico historically been unable to create an environment that sustains democracy?

Max Sage,

Oregon State University, Ethnic Studies Program:

“Horses, Dogs, and Indians: The Politics of Blood Quantum and Indigenous Identity in the United States”

Bio: Max Sage is a member of the Oneida Indian Nation of Wisconsin and a second-year Masters of Applied Anthropology student at Oregon State University. Max is interested in cultural revitalization through traditional foods and languages of tribal people, as well as policies that affect the unique aspects of tribal people and their sovereignty in the United States. Max’s undergraduate degree is in Native American Studies from the University of Montana. Prior to returning to school to pursue the Anthropology program, Max was a wildland firefighter for the United States government, working with multiple cultural groups and stakeholders throughout the United States. Max’s other interests include, making traditional arts and crafts, outdoor activities, and riding his motorcycle as much as is humanly possible.

Abstract: Blood Quantum, the measurement of Indigenous blood for tribal enrollment and recognition purposes, is one of the most divisive issues within Indigenous communities in the United States. If this serious debate is left undecided by Indian people, it represents a fundamental shift in the traditional socio-economic aspects of tribes, government to government relationships, tribal sovereignty, land base ownership, cultural practices, understanding of heritage, and the very essence of what it means to be Indian. In other words, without action, tribal people’s very political existence, and potentially, cultural traditions are threatened with extinction. This fundamental shift will transpire with or without native peoples’ voices and it is not only irresponsible but reprehensible for tribes to not engage in open discourse about this utterly deep-seated issue.

One cannot adequately address the various aspects and long-term effects of the policies of Blood Quantum without first understanding the historical basis for Blood Quantum, how governmental programs decided upon it and how it may benefit them regarding trust relations. Additionally, it is important to discuss how tribes use Blood Quantum or other measurements of tribal statuses, such as lineal descent, and the pros and cons of those membership requirements. What future ramifications of continued use of blood quantum will do to tribal governments, land base, sovereignty and culture are also of import. It seems that while both poignant and unsettling there is an opportunity to focus on some recent case studies, looking at dis-enrollment. Finally, it is incumbent that some viable, culturally grounded alternatives be presented.

2:00 Panel 4: Populist Movements and Euroscepticism in Europe

Nadja Gladrow,

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, American Studies Program:

“The Imagined Community Behind the Reimagined Flag: The Reinterpretation of Flags by Populist Movements”

Bio: Nadja Gladrow is a first year M.A. student at Humboldt- University. She received her B.A. in North American Studies and English Philology. For her B.A. thesis, she researched varying portrayals of Uncle Sam in editorial cartoons of early 20th century African American newspapers. Outside of university, she works as a student assistant at an international business school and plays two instruments.

Abstract: In my presentation I will look at flags used by populist movements. Arguing that such flags are indicators for imagined communities who utilize and reinterpret historical visual symbolisms to ‘flag’ shared ideas about nationhood, I will ask why flags other than the official national flag are regaining importance. The German “Pegida“-movement will be used as an example. Goal is to investigate which connotations, discourses and reinterpretations of history and national identity are connected to such flags.

Elena Eggerath,

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, American Studies Program:

“How to Build a ‘Right’ National Identity - An Investigation of Rhetorical Mechanisms in Recent AfD Speeches”

Bio: Elena is a first semester MA student of American Studies at Humboldt University. Previously she acquired her bachelor's degree in English Studies and Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies at the University of Bonn. Her BA thesis investigated the aesthetics and artistic appeal of violence in North American pop-cultural movies. Also her main study focus has been on film- and theater studies, but also on postmodern metafictional literature and its formal and contentual possibilities.

Abstract: The appeal of right-wing populist parties is often based in their creation of a (supposedly) new national identity. Certain rhetorical devices and images seem to be recurrently used in order to create this national identity and thereby form an imagined community among the party's supporters. To exemplify this phenomenon, the presentation is going to focus closely on rhetorical mechanisms used by the AfD (Alternative für Deutschland), especially looking at the past few years. It will be investigated how parts of their public speeches and statements support the creation of a “new” national identity, how this identity delivers answers to potential voter's concerns and ultimately how all of this relates to the idea of an imagined community.

Jonathan Sandoval,

Oregon State University, Master of Public Policy Program:

“Hungary and Romania: A Study of Euroscepticism in Europe”

Bio: My name is Jonathan Sandoval. I graduated from Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas with a B.A. Degree in Environmental Studies. I grew up in both Texas and Oklahoma. I worked for the city of Georgetown, Texas before enrolling in OSU's Master of Public Policy Program in the Fall of 2016. My area of interest in Public Policy is International Policy. My favorite hobby is playing tennis, which I played in High School and Undergrad. Other hobbies include hiking and fishing.

Abstract: The European Union member states have vastly different views on what is best for their own people. This is shown by the variety of different ideological positions that each of them takes. A strong indication of this is the electoral success of Eurosceptic parties in Poland, Hungary, and Greece. Elsewhere there are several more EU constituents that have sceptic parties of notable size. However, there are other member states that have resisted a rise in Eurosceptic sentiment in the past decade. This project is a study of how some states have resisted these ideological positions and others embraced them. Specifically, Hungary and Romania are used as case studies. This choice is for several reasons. First, both countries are post-communist countries and have faced similar choices post-independence. Second, they both joined the EU in close succession with Hungary in 2004 and Romania in 2007. And third, they are in close geographic proximity as neighbors. The article delves into the specific economic, historical, and social factors that have led them to have differing views. Then it will try to determine what can be taken away from this analysis for each country's future relationship with Euroscepticism and Eurosceptic parties.

Elena Martin Sanchez,

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, American Studies Program:

„Catalan Nationalism. Imaginary Communities and the Building of a New Nation”

Bio: Barcelona native, Maria Elena Martin Sanchez, completed her undergrad in English Studies at the Universitat de Barcelona in 2015 which also included a year abroad at York University in Toronto, Canada. She is currently finishing up the first semester of her North American Studies graduate program at Humboldt Universität zu Berlin. She has since developed a keen interest in Culture, Gender, and African American Studies and has plans to pursue a Ph.D. in culture and American studies upon graduation.

Abstract: The spread of right-wing populism represents one of the most acute challenges to European liberal democracies. However, a different populist movement has been rising in Catalonia, Spain; morphing into an independence movement. The call for change and progression is rising in this region. While right-wing populists thrive on anxiety, hopelessness and poverty, Catalan populists get ahead with a rhetoric of progress, hope and change. In my presentation I will talk about how Catalan nationalism is different from the emerge of populist radical right, and will explain the different techniques that they use in order to gain more voters and sympathizers, and to create an imagined community.

3:15 Panel 5: National and Global Narratives

Ayla Violetta Estelle Wopker,

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, American Studies Program:

“(De)Othering the Nation - An Exploration of Construction and Deconstruction”

Bio: My name is Ayla, I am in my first year of the Master's programme in American Studies at Humboldt University. After finishing my Bachelor degree in Cultural Studies and English in Potsdam, I acquired a certificate in Gender Studies at the institute for sociology in Potsdam. During my studies I developed a special interest in linguistics and conducted several case studies on language use across the world. The combination of language with broader fields of culture and politics is what I am interested in and what I want to deepen in my studies.

Abstract: What do we need to overcome the deeply rooted concept of the self and the other in order to move towards a “de-othering“ of the other? I use Benedict Anderson’s concept of imagined communities to analyze nationalism and the differences between the existing assumption of fixed, naturally given differences of human beings, groups, communities, nations in opposition to the actual construction of those. The nation (as an imagined community) is seen as the given place of belonging and main aspect of identification. Differences between imagined communities are constructed and not distinct in nature and therefore show how arbitrary the distinctions between nations are. I will analyze the factors that are needed in order to deconstruct the existing concepts of the self and the other to establish a more global narrative.

Tobias Hausdorf,

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, American Studies Program:

„Under Pressure. The Freedom of Press in Germany, Poland, and Turkey and a European Public in the 21st Century“

Bio: Tobias Hausdorf is originally from Berlin and holds a B.A. in English Studies with a minor in history from Humboldt-University Berlin. There, he is currently enrolled in the American Studies M.A. program. During his undergraduate studies he spent a year at the University of Amsterdam (2013-14). His academic interests include literary studies, focusing on 20th century literature and diversity, transatlantic history, and media studies. He is particularly interested in journalism and has worked for some print and online media.

Abstract: The aim of this presentation is to identify the factors that put pressure on the press in Europe and to lead to an understanding of the processes so that a counter narrative, which is also a defense of the human right for freedom of speech, can be developed. This presentation argues that a European public is needed to counter nationalist and populist influence in the media. Therefore, I will examine media in Germany, Poland, and Turkey. I limit my case study to these three countries as they appear as the most relevant in Europe today: Germany is number 16 of the 16 countries with a good situation for the press (Reporters without Borders), Poland ranks number 47 after government intervention in appointing director generals and Turkey has been downgraded continuously in the past, now ranking number 151.

Isabela Alzuguir,

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, American Studies Program:

“Hello, New World: The Reshaping of National Narratives in Good Bye, Lenin! and Scarface

Bio: Isabela Alzuguir is a content editor and screenwriter, born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, with a Bachelor’s degree in Social Communications/Film from the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro. Having written numerous series for Brazilian and international TV networks (such as Discovery Channel), as well as having developed corporate videos and documentary films, Isabela Alzuguir pursues a Master’s Degree at the American Studies program at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.

Abstract: The global turmoil and the radical changes that took place throughout the 1980s made the decade a relevant starting point for the discussion of national identity narratives. In this context, Hello, New World: The Reshaping of National Narratives in “Good Bye, Lenin!” and “Scarface” aims at exploring cinematic depictions of contrasting transitions into capitalism, within and outside the protagonists’ imagined communities. Whereas “Scarface” explores the experience of an immigrant

adapting to a clashing ideology while dealing with outer and inner preconceived notions about his identity as Cuban and about the United States, "Good Bye, Lenin!" addresses the difficulties of reassessing ideas about the characters' own nation – sharply reshaped with the decay of the Eastern Bloc and the reunification of Germany.

Viola Baltes,

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, American Studies Program:

"Blessing or Curse – The Transplantation of Knowledge Systems as a Way of Helping or Destroying other Democracies"

Bio: My name is Viola and I am 25 years old. After having spent a high school year in Ottawa, Canada, my love for the English language, culture and literature was sparked and I decided to pursue it academically. I studied English and American Studies with a minor in Scandinavian Studies. My special focus was on sociolinguistics. In my thesis I compared different approaches of language revival of threatened languages. I spent an exchange semester at the Linköping University, Sweden to explore and study a nation and society where English is not an official language but plays a crucial role in everyday life. As of October 2016 I am an American Studies Masters student at Humboldt University.

Abstract: In my presentation I will look at the chances and difficulties that arise when Western knowledge systems are transplanted into the Arab world. Taking the specific examples of the Abu Dhabi University (ADU) in Abu Dhabi and Al Ain and the United Arab Emirates University (UAEU) in Al Ain, I will focus on the educational situation as well as the personal experiences that students are confronted with. Ultimately I will answer the question "What impact do those systems have on the people, the culture and the societies?"

4:45 Panel 6: Right-Wing Movements and the Use of New Communication Tools

Sara Fehlhaber,

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, American Studies Program:

" 'DO NOT Believe it. There are no sources, they are just made up lies!' - Social Media and the Rise of Populism"

Bio: Sara Fehlhaber did her bachelor's degree in American Studies with a minor in Language, Literature and Culture at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität in Munich.

She devoted her thesis to the fields of social studies and visual studies, two of her research interests, which furthermore include comparative literature and Latin-North American studies. Currently, she is pursuing a master's degree in American Studies at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.

Abstract: Donald Trump (@realDonaldTrump), Twitter, 30th of September 2016: "Anytime you see a story about me or my campaign saying "sources said," DO NOT [sic] believe it. There are no sources, they are just made up lies!" - In a new era, which has been described as 'postfactual', the question that arises is: has the medium become the message? The means of communication in the new digital age and the return of populism seem undoubtedly connected, but in what ways? How do we meet the challenges this bears in our transatlantic democracies?

Lisa Maaßen,

**Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, American Studies Program:
“The Alt-Right and Net-Culture as a Platform for Nationalist Ideas”**

Bio: Lisa is currently in her second year of the American Studies M.A. program at Humboldt University Berlin. She received her B.A. in English and German Studies at the University of Bonn and spent a semester at Charles University in Prague. Her main interests are cultural and identity studies, with a special focus on popular culture. She wrote her Bachelor’s thesis about the cultural origins of American hipster culture and its literary representation, highlighting its relation to the concept of American individualism.

Abstract: My presentation will provide an insight into the communication strategies of the Alt-Right movement with a special focus on its instrumentalization of popular culture. By giving the example of this case study, I want to explore how the new possibilities of communication net-culture offers, combined with recent changes of atmosphere in US politics, could be considered a breeding ground for nationalist ideas as embodied by the Alt-Right. Though it proves difficult to actually grasp the movement’s underlying ideology and its mostly anonymous supporters, it is usually associated with a diverse set of several ideologies that can be regarded a threat to democracy. The Alt-Right movement appears to be particularly relevant to this year’s overall topic, as it makes use of modern forms of communication like bulletin boards and social media – especially through seemingly harmless visual means like memes – to convey a strong nationalist ideology. The aim of my presentation will be to illustrate and explain how nationalist ideas are communicated and spread through new forms of technology, and how popular culture is being used to mitigate or even conceal the actual severity of nationalist ideologies.

Weronika Kowalska,

**Uniwersytet Warszawski, American Studies Program:
“When the Extremists Lead the Nation: Polish Right Wing Extremism in National Politics”**

Bio: Weronika received her BA at the University of Warsaw at the Institute of English Studies as well as at the Department of Roman Philology. Currently, she is pursuing her master’s degree in American Studies Center at the University of Warsaw. She is particularly interested in the link between literature and medicine on which she is writing her MA thesis.

Abstract: In my presentation, I examine the link between the activity of right wing extremists and the rising appeal of right wing populists. As politically insignificant the extremists seem, in my opinion, they exert a huge impact on national politics. On the example of the All Polish Youth and National Front, I would like to analyze how exactly those organisms redounded on rising support for currently governing in Poland Law and Justice and what contributes to the attractiveness of right wing extremists, in particular, among young voters.

5:45 Closing Remarks