



During the academic year 2019-2020, Jean Monnet Chair Nils Ringe and the Jean Monnet Grants at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (UW-Madison) hosted numerous scholars specializing in European affairs. These guests gave excellent lectures on topics ranging from multinational political institutions to European monetary policy. Attendees included students, university staff, faculty, as well as local community members.



On October 24, 2019, **Volha Charnysh** (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), gave a presentation on a recent publication titled “The Role of Communities in Preserving Political Norms: Evidence from Forced Population Transfers.” Based on the forced migration of Poles during World War II, she discussed the results of a survey of these migrants’ living descendants. Their findings suggest an important correction to the current understanding of intergenerational transmission: families are more effective at transmitting their norms when embedded in like-minded communities, while parental socialization alone may not ensure long-run persistence of norms.

On November 14, 2019, **Jae-Jae Spoon** (University of Pittsburgh) presented her paper “Should We Stay or Should We Go? Electoral Effects of Dropping Out of Coalition Talks.” She argued that parties decide to abandon coalition negotiations when they expect to reap electoral gains. Moreover, the more conflict there is between potential coalition partners, the more likely a party is to drop out of coalition talks since policy concessions to future partners would be too high. The research was based on a dataset on the electoral performance of nearly 300 political parties running in 130 elections in 26 European countries from 1990-2015.



On January 30, 2020, **Michael Kaeding** (University of Duisburg-Essen) discussed his paper “Political equality without social equality? Social distortion of low voter turnout in the European elections 2019 across nine European capitals.” He addressed the question: would lower turnout in second-order European elections lead to greater social distortion in comparison to first-order national elections? While they assumed that the 2019 European elections would have to show a stronger social imbalance within the turnout than in the national main elections, this was not the case. In fact, contrary to this assumption, Kaeding’s results indicate that the effect of unemployment on turnout – as a proxy for the social situation in a city district – does not differ between European elections, the national main election and the local election.

Other guests in this series of lectures included **Jeffrey Kahn** on the Russian Constitutional Court and the European Court of Human Rights, **Amy Erica Smith** on religion and politics in Latin America, and **Amy Liu** on language and politics in Southeast Asia and Europe.