

GRANTEE-LED SESSIONS

Session #1: Friday, November 17th, 9:30-11:00 Individual Presentations

Panel #1 Climate Change, Ecosystems, and Sustainability		
Title	Speaker	Description
<i>Challenges and Opportunities of Decarbonizing Transportation Systems</i>	Andre Boehman (Spain)	Low carbon fuels (not strictly “carbon free” fuels, but those with low carbon intensity) can and should play in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Bringing down fossil carbon emissions immediately can yield tremendous improvements with regard to the climate crisis, in contrast with waiting for electric vehicles to penetrate the market, and electricity production to be deeply de-carbonized. Widespread and immediate adoption of low carbon intensity renewable fuels can provide dramatic carbon intensity reductions, overnight, when used in the vehicles we drive today.
<i>The Impact of Past and Future Climate Changes on Snake Distributions in Morocco with Implications for Snakebite Risk in the Mediterranean</i>	Calvin Schaefer (Morocco)	The country of Morocco has a unique geography, lying at the crossroads between the Atlantic Ocean, Mediterranean Sea, European Continent, and the Sahara Desert. Due to this location, the country hosts an impressive array of habitats which structures a highly distinct assemblage of floral and faunal species. One particularly diverse faunal group are the country’s snake species, with twenty-five different species, originating from both Europe and Sub-Saharan Africa. Among these snake species, seven are venomous. Due to this high diversity of venomous snake species, snakebite risk in Morocco is relatively high for the region. Using species distribution models for three different time periods, we show how the distributions of venomous snake species in

		<p>the country has changed through time and how they are projected to change in the future under a climate change scenario of increasing aridity for the Mediterranean region and how this might impact snakebite risk in the country. We then apply these same techniques in smaller case studies of other countries within the mediterranean with similar snake species that will be similarly impacted by future aridification.</p>
<p><i>Valorization of Olive Mill Wastewater Sludge for Green Fuel Production</i></p>	<p>Foster Agblevor (Egypt)</p>	<p>Valorization of agroindustrial residue such as olive mill wastewater sludge (OMWS) is very important to Spain and the Mediterranean olive oil industry. Advanced methods of processing OMWS to convert it into diesel fuel and biochar will address both environmental pollution as well as reduce carbon emission. Thermochemical conversion methods, such as fluidized bed pyrolysis was conducted at 450 C to produce biocrude oils from OMWS. The pyrolysis process produced large quantities of hydrogen which could be potentially used for hydrotreating the biocrude oil. The biocrude oil was suitable for direct use as marine diesel because of its low oxygen content, high HHV, and easy miscibility with very low sulfur diesel fuel. Hydrotreatment of the biocrude oil improved its fuel properties and could find a wide range of applications as diesel fuel. The biochar had very high carbon content and nutrients and could be potentially used for soil amendment in the olive growing areas. Thus, we have demonstrated that a potential waste material can be converted into very useful materials ensuring complete closure of the carbon cycle.</p>

Panel #2
Migration Through the Centuries

Title	Speaker	Description
<p><i>Cash for Migration Control: Policy Responses to Migration Trends Across the Central Mediterranean</i></p>	<p>Humzah Khan (Tunisia)</p>	<p>This presentation will discuss evolving trends in policy responses to migration across the central Mediterranean, the most active route for irregular migration into the EU so far this year. Tunisia is of particular interest. In fall 2022, Tunisia overtook Libya as the most common departure point for migrants crossing the central Mediterranean. The proportion of migrants departing from Tunisia continues to grow—in July 2023, 86 percent of the 23,600 migrants arriving in Italy departed from Tunisia. Tunisia’s attempts to manage the migration surge have drawn allegations of abuse from human rights organizations. This past summer, a controversial EU-Tunisia agreement to a cash-for-migration-control framework ignited anger within the EU. The framework has had a rocky start: in early October, Tunisia publicly rejected a €60 million tranche of financial support from the EU, dismissing it as “charity”. As the EU tries to replicate such agreements with other countries across North Africa, cash-for-migration-control policies may become a key feature of Mediterranean diplomacy and security arrangements.</p>
<p><i>Maritime Connectivity and Mobility in the Southeastern Aegean during the Neopalatial Period: A GIS-based Approach</i></p>	<p>Nick Bowman (Israel)</p>	<p>Recent studies of Mediterranean maritime connectivity (Leidwanger 2013; Broodbank 2000; Knappett 2013; Leidwanger and Knappett 2018) have improved upon earlier approaches that conceived of the sea as an undifferentiated, isotropic surface by considering variables beyond pure distance. These approaches have assessed the influence of environmental and cultural variables that acted on the lives of ancient mariners and the structure of maritime networks. Similarly, this study seeks to balance these considerations by comparing</p>

		<p>connectivity and mobility between Crete and Rhodes during the Neopalatial Period. The GIS-based least-cost path analysis (LCPA) employed by this study weighs the potential for ancient maritime travel, connectivity, against the actualized movement of people, mobility, by approximating travel times and likely routes and by assessing ceramic assemblages, respectively. These complementary analyses reveal correlations between connectivity and mobility, but also stark divergences, indicative of when factors beyond environmental affordances played a decisive role in shaping the maritime movement of people, goods, and ideas. Furthermore, this study demonstrates the continued need to refine maritime connectivity models by incorporating a variety of material cultural data sets indicative of actualized mobility.</p>
<p><i>Matter Out of Place: The Saharan Air Layer, Migration, and Welfare Subsidies in the Canary Islands</i></p>	<p>Eda Pepi (Spain)</p>	<p>Amidst escalating militarization of the Mediterranean, many migrants departing North Africa have turned to the Spanish Canary Islands, Europe's "outermost territories" in the Atlantic. Consequently, Canarians view their picturesque islands as a "hardship post" and Europe's "backway." In 2020, during the pandemic, a sharp rise in migration (23,000 migrants arrived by boat compared to 2,700 in 2019) coincided with an unprecedented annual calima sandstorm that paralyzed the islands for weeks, carrying 60 million tons of dust. Spaniards interpreted both as indigenous African "pollutants" rather than as consequences of global capitalist expansion. A crisis discourse deployed anti-political and naturalistic imagery, portraying a tumultuous, almost oceanic Sahara that pollutes from all directions—with migrating epidemiological threats by sea and chemical dust emissions by air. Leading Canarians refer to their home as the "asshole of the world" (el culo del mundo). Canarians employ racializing discourses about these multiplying crises to characterize even migrants with postcolonial ties to Spain (such as Saharawis) as burdens</p>

		<p>on their welfare state. This paper contrasts such discourses with the preferential state subsidies received by Canarian citizens, who do not perceive them as welfare. I theorize these subsidies, within their settler-colonial context, as a form of "hardship compensation" akin to what humanitarian operators and diplomats receive. Canarians negotiate whiteness and membership in the global north by moralizing subsidies as 'hazard pay' for necessary yet undesirable border work at the EU's oceanic frontiers, and in relation to "hazards" they associate with living just 108 km off the coast of Africa.</p>
<p><i>Ignacio Jerusalem: 18th-century Composer and Pioneer</i></p>	<p>Javier Mendoza (Spain)</p>	<p>Ignacio Jerusalem was Chapelmaster of the Mexico City Cathedral from 1750-1769. He was born in Lecce, Naples and later lived and worked in Ceuta and Cadiz, eventually settling in New Spain (Mexico City). Jerusalem is likely the only musician/composer to have worked on three continents during the 18th Century. His music is of a very high quality and was widely distributed in the new world during his lifetime. His life and career make for an interesting migration story during the Age of Enlightenment. Jerusalem's journey illustrates how ideas circulated in the Mediterranean world and how those ideas traversed the Atlantic as well; connecting the Atlantic world with the Mediterranean world. Jerusalem was one of many Italians who came to Spain in the second half of the 18th Century to create music. Jerusalem, just as Boccherini, Farinelli, and Scarlatti, was among a wave of Italians who immigrated to Spain and had a substantial impact on Spanish Society in a variety of disciplines.</p>



Session #2: Friday November 17th, 11:30-13:00
Workshops

Title	Workshop Leader(s)	Description
<i>Fostering Research Collaboration Across International Borders Amidst Cultural, Regulatory, and Funding Divergence</i>	Andre Boehman, Tami Clare, Daniel Fernandez Guevara, Zuleima Karpyn, Liz Koselka, and Oren Okhovat (Spain)	The goal of this workshop is to share examples and best practices in maintaining and strengthening international research partnerships.
<i>Empowering Voices: Aims, Challenges, and Accountabilities in Public-Facing Research</i>	Rachel Sanderson and Brian Keeling (Spain)	Explore the benefits of innovating and embracing public-facing components within any research project.
<i>Podcasting for Researchers</i>	Collin Bjork (Slovenia)	This workshop is designed to help Fulbright Scholars communicate their knowledge and expertise to a wider academic and public audience by providing participants with actionable takeaways to start a podcast about their own research.
<i>I am a Fulbrighter- Now What?</i>	Claudia Gentry-Weeks (Spain)	Scholars will develop strategies for enhancing their academic and professional identities, for communicating their research, and for continuing collaborations after returning to their home countries.
<i>Exploring Qualitative Research Strategies: Lessons, Challenges, and Stories from the Field</i>	Hayley Dunlop, Eric Griego, Shraya Poetti, and Gergana Sivrieva (Spain)	This interactive session will draw on the experiences of Fulbright Scholars who have conducted research with interview components and/or other types of qualitative methods such as community based participation and engaged ethnography—While the workshop will focus on basics such as (1) preparing interview guides and

		<p>questions, (2) recording and transcribing interviews, (3) building trust and cultural/linguistic competence, (4) the ethics of compensation and exploitative practices, (5) avoiding bias, and 6) navigating researcher subjectivity, an emphasis will be placed on audience participation to allow those with more qualitative interview or participatory research training and knowledge to share the wisdom they have gleaned from past and/or current projects.</p>
<p><i>Translation: Problems and Possibilities</i></p>	<p>Patrick Lewis (Turkey)</p>	<p>This workshop is open to exploring how issues ranging from language learning to the sociolinguistics of citizenship and migration and the politics of institutional translation shape the responsibilities and dilemmas faced by Fulbrighters in their roles as researchers and "unofficial" cultural and academic representatives in their host countries.</p>

**Session #3: Saturday, November 18th
9:30-10:50 Panels**

Panel #1: Innovative Water Solutions		
Title	Speaker	Description
<i>Sustainability of Aquaculture in Spain: Challenges and Solutions</i>	Claudia Gentry-Weeks (Spain)	Aquaculture is a major industry in Spain, producing ~276,700 tons of mussels, sea bass, rainbow trout, and sea bream yearly. Spain provides 83% of the world's supply of sea bream which are grown in ocean pens. These crowded growth conditions make sea bream more susceptible to bacterial diseases, so antibiotics are included in fish food. Approximately 80% of these antibiotics end up in sediments that are spread by ocean currents. They kill most of the bacteria, but some become resistant and survive. The antibiotic is now useless against fish diseases and resistance can be transferred to bacteria that cause human diseases. Climate change increases seawater temperature which modifies bacteria, making them more prone to become antibiotic resistant. This presentation will focus on Spain's aquaculture and threats to this industry, including the role of climate change in increasing antibiotic resistance of bacteria that cause fish diseases. New therapies that we are developing in the lab of Dr. Maria Angeles Esteban at the Universidad de Murcia to inhibit antibiotic-resistant bacteria without the use of antibiotics will be discussed briefly.
<i>Leveraging Machine Learning for Early Warning Systems with Satellite Imagery</i>	Safwan Wshah (Jordan)	On a daily basis, satellite images offer invaluable insights into a range of events, from floods and algae blooms to droughts and storms. Deep learning, the cutting-edge technology in machine learning, is particularly well-suited for handling computer vision and sensory applications, making it an ideal choice for processing satellite imagery. However, it does come with its set of challenges, including dealing with vast volumes of data, addressing biases in datasets related to the events of interest, and the necessity for training large

		<p>models, among others. In this presentation, I will discuss both the promise and the challenges associated with harnessing satellite imaging for various applications, with a focus on how we can advance its impact in the Mediterranean region.</p>
<p><i>Molluscan Shellfish Aquaculture and Production in the Mediterranean Sea</i></p>	<p>Huiping Yang (Spain)</p>	<p>Globally, aquaculture production has grown steadily and reached a total of 122.6 million tonnes in live weight in 2020, including 87.5 million tonnes of aquatic animals mostly for use as human food, 35.1 million tonnes of algae, and 700 tonnes of shells and pearls for ornamental use. As a major component of marine aquaculture, molluscan production in 2020 was 17.74 million tonnes accounting for about 20.3% of the total (inland and marine) animal aquaculture production and 53.1% of marine aquaculture production. The molluscan species for aquaculture are majorly bivalves, including clams (together with cockles and ark shells), oysters, mussels, and scallops, and several other species such as abalones. In the Mediterranean and black sea coast, mollusks are cultured in 21 countries with a total of 0.126 million tonnes of production, which accounted for less than 1% of world production, and the top three aquaculture species are the Mediterranean mussel, Japanese carpet shell, and Pacific oyster. With its long coastline (46000 km), the Mediterranean sea has a huge potential for molluscan aquaculture with more species and higher production.</p>

Panel #2:
Policy and Education in the Mediterranean Context

Title	Speaker	Description
<p><i>Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) and Sustainable Local Economic Development: Institutional and Policy Resilience in the Face of Electoral Changes – the Case of Barcelona</i></p>	<p>Eric Griego (Spain)</p>	<p>This research explores the interplay between local electoral politics and institutions created to advance the SSE and sustainability. The Barcelona 2030 SSE Strategy is a case study of developing local institutions and capacity to successfully promote more democratic and sustainable economic initiatives. Several studies have analyzed the growth of the SSE policies at the local and national levels, yet the intricacies of how electoral politics affect economic sustainability warrant further study. Will recent electoral swings in support for pro-SSE and sustainability policies at the local and national levels undermine the institutions that have been launched in recent years to promote more democratic, inclusive, and sustainable economic development models? Using preliminary data from semi-structured interviews of policy elites and participant observations from public and governmental hearings, this research will provide a case study of whether the ideological shifts in global, European, and local politics will affect these new SSE and sustainability-related institutions. This paper contributes to the growing body of literature on SSE and sustainability by exploring the often-overlooked role of local politics and elections in shaping SSE and sustainability policy outcomes.</p>

<p><i>The SEED Framework: Integrating Climate Literacy across the Curriculum</i></p>	<p>Ahmad Ghashmari (Jordan)</p>	<p>The SEED framework, which stands for Simplify, Educate, Engage, and Depolarize, is designed to integrate climate literacy across the curriculum in higher education settings. This comprehensive approach ensures that students at all levels receive a well-rounded and accessible education about climate change and its implications. Simplification in climate education involves making complex climate science and policy topics more accessible for students using real-world examples and interdisciplinary approaches. Educating students includes integrating climate topics into the curriculum and encouraging research and internships in climate-related fields. Engagement focuses on involving students in seminars, initiatives, and partnerships with environmental organizations, and promoting active learning and activism. Depolarization is achieved through constructive dialogues, respectful engagement with climate skeptics, and interdisciplinary coursework to encourage diverse non-political solutions in addressing climate change. The SEED framework aims to create a cohesive and inclusive approach to climate literacy, ensuring that students of all ages can gain a comprehensive understanding of climate change while fostering critical thinking, engagement, and respectful discourse. This holistic approach equips future generations with the knowledge and skills needed to address the pressing environmental challenges of our time.</p>
<p><i>The Multilingual Advantage? Testing the Relationship Between Speech Perception and Production in Third-Language Sound Acquisition</i></p>	<p>Yevgeniy Melguy (Spain)</p>	<p>Theories of second-language pronunciation such as the Speech Learning Model predict that speakers will learn speech sounds in a second language (L2) based on the similarity of those sounds to existing ones in the first language (L1). For instance, if a speaker perceives a first-language sound as similar to a second-language sound (e.g., Spanish</p>

		<p>dolor “pain” vs. English dollar), learning is unlikely to occur: they will produce that sound with an “accent”. However, over time, speakers can learn to perceive such differences and begin to produce L2 sounds in a more native-like way. This study extends this learning paradigm to the case of bilinguals learning a third language (L3): how do the L1 and L2 jointly influence the acquisition of novel sounds in the L3? In a series of experiments, we address this question by looking at the L3 English of Spanish-Basque multilinguals. Specifically, we examine the relationship between 1) sensitivity in perception of sound differences in English, 2) ability to produce English sounds in a naive-like way, and 3) transfer of phonetic learning from Spanish/Basque to English.</p>
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**Session #4: Saturday, November 18th
11:30-13:00 Panels**

Interactions and Cultural Expression: Past, Present and Future		
Title	Speaker	Description
<p><i>Visualizing Turf: Documenting Street Art as Visual Artifacts of Culture Wars</i></p>	<p>Brandon Gellis (Israel)</p>	<p>Conflict, uprisings, and culture wars are prevalent globally and are written, drawn, etched, and scarred on public streets and private spaces, often considered as turf. Walked and well-traveled streets offer accessible, uncurated spaces for street artists, activists, creators, and otherwise unheard people to vent grievances. As culture wars are prevalent in highly populated areas my work documents and responds to street art, graffiti, and mark-making (e.g., visual artifacts), and is where my research is focused. My current research documents and aims to interpret visual artifacts as personal responses to political, socio-economic, and religious conflicts or multigenerational culture</p>



		<p>wars. My work investigates how visual artifacts can express cultural pride, and political and religious exceptionalism and correlate to oppression. I am interested in the materiality of visual artifacts created on the street, and the interpretation of religious, social, and political conflict expressed through visual artifacts. A central question in my research is how people in the Middle East and Mediterranean create visual artifacts to support their sense of place and belonging and combat cultural exceptionalism.</p>
<p><i>New Speakers of Mediterranean Minority Languages: Cross-National Dialogue as an Act of Hope</i></p>	<p>Luke Bishop (Spain)</p>	<p>In this presentation, I survey the concept of “New Speakers”; that is, those whose first language is a dominant language in their home country (like Spanish) but who opt to learn a minoritized or regional language (like Catalan) and claim it as their own. Analyses of New Speakers find their academic roots in similar traditions of language revitalization and second language acquisition. In the Mediterranean region, New Speakers learn Catalan, Corsican, Occitan, and Monégasque, among others. The concept can be further expanded to include the history of modern Hebrew in Israel and potentially to the Berber languages of North Africa. My goals in this presentation are threefold. First, I explain the concept of New Speakerism in broad terms, with a focus on the diversity of language contexts that count new Speakers as members of their communities. Second, I explore how cross-national dialogue, especially within the European Union, has resulted in increased support for minoritized speech communities. Third, I present prompts meant to inspire our own engagement with local linguistic varieties as American Fulbright researchers in the Mediterranean region.</p>



<p><i>Putting Sources in Context: A Byzantinist in Israel</i></p>	<p>Vicky Hioureas (Israel)</p>	<p>The life of a historian is usually spent researching in archives and libraries, but what does it mean for the historian to live in a place where the material remnants of her field of study dominate the cultural, social, and geographical landscape? In this presentation, I will discuss the tangible dimensions of Byzantine history research and its importance in contemporary life in Israel and the eastern Mediterranean.</p>
<p><i>Music AR 3D: Presentation and Discussion on Interdisciplinary Media Projects</i></p>	<p>Tomas Cotik (Spain)</p>	<p>I will present a series of multidisciplinary projects that broaden access to classical music in innovative ways, celebrate diversity and collaboration through music, and explore the ever-changing fashions in art. These projects reimagine the public concert as a participatory and democratized experience with contemporary relevance, creating shared experiences that offer magical, improbable components. The presentation will include music and video elements, and the disciplines involved will be music, architecture, media, and technology, emphasizing their connection to culture and immigration.</p>