



# 50<sup>th</sup> EUROPEAN STUDIES CONFERENCE





Welcome!

We extend a cordial welcome to all participants of this year's European Studies Conference. This interdisciplinary gathering of scholars has facilitated an active exchange of ideas, insights, and reflections for fifty years and we are so pleased that you are all able to join us as we celebrate this significant milestone achievement. We are looking forward to another stimulating and productive series of sessions that will focus on multifaceted perspectives concerning the present, past and future of the European continent.

We wish you a pleasant and rewarding scholarly experience!

Lisabeth Buchelt  
ESC 2025 Conference Coordinator

Conference Steering Committee:

Mark Celinscak, History  
Robert Darcy, English  
Adrian Duran, Art and Art History  
Tanushree Ghosh, English  
Laura Grams, Philosophy and Religion  
Sara Marzioli, Exploratory Studies  
Jody Neathery-Castro, Political Science  
Lana Obradovic, Political Science  
Cynthia Robinson, Black Studies  
Martina Saltamacchia, History  
Steven Torres, World Languages and Literatures  
Paul Williams, Religion

*This conference has been made possible thanks to the generous support of UNO's Sam and Frances Fried Holocaust and Genocide Academy, The Schwalb Center for Israel and Jewish Studies, the School of the Arts, the College of Arts and Sciences, World Languages and Literature, the Department of History, and the Department of English.*

*And for their very generous support in celebration of the ESC's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, a very special thanks to the Government of Ireland Emigrant Support Programme, An Roinn GnóthaíEachtracha/Department of Foreign Affairs, and to our community partner the Omaha Irish Cultural Center.*



## General Information

### Location of the Conference

The 50th annual European Studies Conference will be conducted online and in-person this year.

The in-person sessions will take place at the Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center (CEC) on the University of Nebraska Omaha Dodge Campus (*see **Shuttle & Campus map** at the end of this program and in your folder*). You will be able to sign in, receive informational materials and a copy of the final version of this year's program in the designated registration area on the second floor of the CEC. Members of the ESC Steering Committee will welcome you and answer any questions you may have.

### Shuttle Service

Complimentary shuttle service will be available on a regular basis between the conference hotel, Courtyard by Marriott Omaha Aksarben Village 1717 S. 67th Street, located on the UNO Scott campus, and the UNO Dodge campus, the site of the European Studies Conference. The UNO shuttle runs continuously between the two campuses every 5-10 minutes. You can access the UNO Live Shuttle Tracker at this webpage:

<http://www.unomaha.ridesystems.net/routes>

To get to the conference from the hotel, you can take the shuttle at the Mammel Hall shuttle stop (Durango route) or at the Scott Residence Hall shuttle stop (Maverick route), both at a very short distance from the Courtyard Omaha Aksarben Village. The shuttle will bring you to the Criss Library shuttle stop located on Dodge campus. From there, please take a short walk to the Community Engagement Center and go to the second floor (*see **Shuttle & Campus map** at the end of this program and in your folder*).

### Parking

In case you wish to drive to the conference, you will need to purchase a visitor daily parking permit for \$4.00 for Thursday. A daily permit will allow you to park in Faculty/Staff surface lots, the East Parking Garage (EPG), or in the West Parking Garage (WPG). Daily parking permits can be purchased online via the [MavPark](#) portal or in-person at the UNO Parking and Transit Services office, located on UNO Scott Campus at 1313 South 67th Street, just south of the Pacific Parking Garage. On Fridays, Dodge Campus observes permit-free or open parking for general-use spaces in the East Parking Garage (EPG) and West Parking Garage (WPG).

The Orv Menard Lectures: Special Keynote Speakers  
Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center Rooms 230/231  
1:45 – 2:45 PM

Thursday 9 October

John Minahane, Independent Scholar

## Title: Poets Thinking Across Cultures in 14<sup>th</sup>-Century Ireland: Gofraidh Fionn Ó Dálaigh and Gerald fitzMaurice

**Abstract:** This talk reviews a strange and risky relationship, expressed in poetry, of two 14<sup>th</sup> century Irishmen. One was the outstanding *file* (professional poet) in the country; the other was an earl, an important official of the English government in Ireland. The master-poet, Gofraidh Fionn Ó Dálaigh, and the earl, Gerald fitzMaurice (called Gearóid Iarla in Irish), conducted their relationship in the Irish language, rather than English. Gofraidh engages with Gearóid in a long poem, arguing first, on the basis of law, that the earl should take responsibility and give compensation for the actions of a subordinate who has burned the poet's corn and sought to kill him. Gearóid has the power to decide arbitrarily; Gofraidh, however, argues that he should voluntarily act in accordance with Irish law (the so-called 'Brehon law'). And besides, there are the claims of many years' friendship. While no direct reply from Gearóid survives, a collection of 30 poems in Irish attributed to him may be seen as addressing issues that Gofraidh has raised. Gearóid Iarla frankly explains why he attacks the Gaelic Irish, even though they are his friends. He comments cheerfully on aspects of his imprisonment (lasting about a year) after capture by O'Brien, prince of Thomond. He has love poems to various women, and two splendid poems in praise of Irish rivers. Remarkably, he has poems to members of a great Gaelic rival kindred, the MacCarthys, whom he seems to relate to as poet to patrons. The question arises whether Gearóid's poetry leaves room for his role as earl: was it possible to wear these two hats in such a way? This and other questions of the Gofraidh-Gearóid relationship, taken broadly, will be discussed in the paper.

**John Minahane, scholar and poet,** is the author of *The Christian Druids: on the filid or philosopher-poets of Ireland*, first published in 1993 (reprinted Howth Free Press, Dublin 2008). Since then, he has been involved in the arguments regarding the poets in the old Irish civilization. He has edited and translated *The Poems of Geoffrey O'Donoghue / Dánta Shéafraidh Uí Dhonnchadha an Ghleanna* (Aubane Historical Society, Millstreet, Ireland 2008), and more recently a selection of the work of a 14<sup>th</sup> century master poet, Gofraidh Fionn Ó Dálaigh, *Poems to the English / Dán na nGall* (Aubane 2020). Two of his translations appear in the ambitious recent anthology *Bone and Marrow/ Cnámh agus Smior. An Anthology of Irish Poetry from Medieval to Modern*, ed. Samuel K. Fisher and Brian Ó Conchubhair (Wake Forest University Press, Winston-Salem 2022). Essays of his on Irish-language literature and history, published in Dublin Review of Books and elsewhere, are available online. In recent times he has focused on 19<sup>th</sup> century poetry in Irish. John Minahane has lived in Bratislava for some time and has published translations of Slovak poetry, among them *Krvavé sonety*, a cycle of anti-war sonnets composed on the outbreak of the World War in 1914 by Pavol Országh Hviezdoslav (*The Bloody Sonnets*, Bratislava 2018).

Friday 10 October

Ari Kohen, Professor of Political Science and Schlesinger Professor of Social Justice

Director, Norman and Bernice Harris Center for Judaic Studies

## Title: “Every Age Has its Own Fascism”: How Contemporary Political Speech Deals with Extremist Ideologies

**Abstract:** Extremist nationalist groups have worked to subvert the democratic process, built a base of support through the promotion of xenophobia and bigotry, and regularly promote all manner of conspiracy theories. Nonetheless, there is a reticence to label them as fascists or to suggest that they are promoting a fascistic ideology, in part because when we hear the term “fascism” or “fascist” today, it often triggers a certain reaction—some will say things like, “*Oh, what an exaggeration! Where are the brown shirts? Where are the mass arrests? Where are the concentration camps?*” To be sure, fascism is difficult to define as a universal concept. It molds itself to the circumstances of time and society. And the frequent and careless use of this term in political debates runs the risk of diluting its meaning. When a term is reduced to nothing more than an insult, it loses its significance and analytical value. As George Orwell put it in his 1944 essay “What is Fascism?”: “All one can do for the moment is to use the word with a certain amount of circumspection and not, as is usually done, degrade it to the level of a swearword.” Clear distinctions and definitions are vital; they provide context and prevent the term from becoming vague, applicable to everything yet signifying nothing.

**Ari Kohen, Professor of Political Science**, is also Schlesinger Professor of Social Justice, and Director of the Norman and Bernice Harris Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. His books, *Untangling Heroism: Classical Philosophy and the Concept of the Hero* and *In Defense of Human Rights: A Non-Religious Grounding in a Pluralistic World* were published by Routledge. Recent articles have appeared in *Human Rights Review*, *Journal of Human Rights*, *Journal of Humanistic Psychology*, *Discourse & Society*, *Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy*, *Social Justice Research*, *Politics*, and *Polis*. Kohen is the co-editor of a book series with the University of Nebraska Press—Contemporary Holocaust Studies—that focuses on contemporary research and teaching on the Holocaust. Two volumes have been published: *Unlikely Heroes: The Place of Holocaust Rescuers in Research and Teaching* and *Antisemitism on the Rise: The 1930s and Today*. The next volume, *Fascist Legacies: Far Right Ideologies Then and Now*, is under contract.

Saturday 11 October

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Special Event

9:00 — 11:00 AM

Samuel Bak, Artist and Holocaust Survivor

Title: “Acknowledging the Past/Envisioning the Future: A Conversation with Samuel Bak”

## Samuel Bak Museum and Learning Center in Aksarben

This year in celebration of the ESC's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we have a grand finale event on Saturday morning.

Samuel Bak, internationally renowned artist and Holocaust Survivor, will be joining us live via Zoom from his home in Boston, Massachusetts to discuss his life and work with the Bak Museum Executive Director, Hilary Nather-Detisch. This will be followed by a private guided tour of the current exhibit. Since its founding almost 10 years ago, many ESC participants have expressed interest in visiting the Museum and Learning Center but have never been able to work it into their time here in Omaha. This year is your chance. Participating in a discussion with Mr. Bak in addition to a private showing of his work is truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and we hope that many of you are able to join us for this extraordinary event.

The **Samuel Bak Museum and Learning Center** is located within walking distance of the hotel at 2289 S 67 Street (*see **Aksarben map** in your folder*). In this space, the Museum showcases 99 pieces of Bak's work through rotating exhibitions, as well as providing classroom and presentation spaces for tours, lectures, and curated programming. Samuel Bak Museum: The Learning Center offers a source of collaboration and opportunities to students, faculty, and staff with the broader community around the subjects of art, Holocaust education, human rights, and genocide.

## Anthony Jung Award for Outstanding Graduate Presentation

For his service to the European Studies Conference and his support of students and young scholars, the ESC Steering Committee established in 2009 the *Anthony Jung Award for the Best Graduate Student Presentation at the European Studies Conference*. The Anthony Jung Award carries a \$250 prize, and the full text of the winning paper will be published in the ESC Selected Proceedings.

## Conference Proceedings

Presenters at the European Studies Conference are encouraged to submit their papers to be published in our online Conference Proceedings, ISSN 2476-0269. Submissions should be sent to [europeanproceedings@unomaha.edu](mailto:europeanproceedings@unomaha.edu). For specific details and format requirements, please see our website. For any other questions regarding the Proceedings, please contact [europeanproceedings@unomaha.edu](mailto:europeanproceedings@unomaha.edu). A special thanks to our Conference Proceedings editor, Professor Tracy Bridgeford, English Department, University of Nebraska Omaha.



**Program Overview**  
**Thursday 9 October 2025 [IN PERSON]**

8:30 – 11:00 AM ..... Conference Registration

8:30 – 9:45 AM ..... Breakfast

9:00 – 9:15 AM .....Special Welcome to all 50<sup>th</sup> ESC Participants from Senior Vice Chancellor Phil He

10:00 – 11:15 AM.....Session One

Panel 1: Legacies of World War II: Recording, Remembering, Revising [CEC 201]

Panel 2: Dante Alighieri and His Poetic Afterlife [CEC 205]

11:30 AM – 12:45 PM.....Session Two

Panel 3: Silver, Spices, and Ships I: Late Medieval Networks of Commerce and Credit [CEC 201]

1:00 – 1:45 PM..... Participants Luncheon [CEC 116]

1:45 – 2:45 PM..... Orv Menard Lecture | Conference Keynote I [CEC 230/231]

3:00 – 4:15 PM..... Session Three

Panel 4: Friendship in Hume, Kant, and Nietzsche [CEC 205]

Panel 5: Intersections I: Medicine and Morality in European Visual Arts, Folklore, and Literature [CEC 201]

4:30 – 5:45 PM.....Session Four

Panel 6: Spiritual Ethics and Political Agency in Twelfth-Century Thought [CEC 205]

6:00 – 7:30PM ..... Reception

*Please plan to join us for an opening celebration reception in the Union Pacific Room on the first floor of the Community Engagement Center, sponsored by the Government of Ireland Emigrant Support Programme, An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha/Department of Foreign Affairs, and the Omaha Irish Cultural Center.*



Program Overview  
Friday 10 October 2025 [IN PERSON]

8:30 – 12:45 PM..... Conference Registration

8:30 – 9:45 AM..... Breakfast

10:00 – 11:15 AM..... Session Five

Panel 7: Alternative Heroes and Heroics in Old English Poetry [CEC 201]

Panel 8: Whispers Beneath the Silence: Reclaiming Hidden Histories of World War II [CEC 205]

11:30 AM – 12:45 PM..... Session Six

Panel 9: Legacies of Empire: Past and Present [CEC 201]

Panel 10: Scent, Sound, Sentiment: Narrating Loss through Memory and Decay [CEC 205]

1:00 PM – 1:45 PM..... Participants Luncheon [CEC 116]

2:00 PM – 2:45 PM..... Orv Menard Lecture | Conference Keynote 2 [CEC230/231]

3:00 – 4:15 PM..... Session Seven

Panel 11: Tales from Two Cultures: Connections Between the Czech Republic and the United States [CEC 201]

Panel 12: Intersections II: European Philosophy and Literature [CEC 205]

4:30 – 5:45 PM..... Session Eight

Panel 13: Change and Challenge in the European Union [CEC 201]

Panel 14: Silver, Spices, and Ships II: Late Medieval Material Culture and Consumption [CEC 205]

7:00 – 9:00 PM..... Celebratory Reception at Beacon Hills

*Please plan to join us for a cash-bar reception at Beacon Hills restaurant in Aksarben Village, sponsored by the Government of Ireland Emigrant Support Programme, An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha/Department of Foreign Affairs, and the Omaha Irish Cultural Center.*

Program Overview  
Saturday 11 October 2025 [IN PERSON]

9:00 – 11:00 AM..... 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Special Event at Samuel Bak Museum and Learning Center

Virtual Program Overview  
Thursday 9 October 2025 [VIRTUAL]

10:00 – 11:15 AM..... Session One  
Virtual Panel 1: Connections I: Women in Culture Across Time [Live stream in CEC 209]

11:30 AM – 12:45 PM..... Session Two  
Virtual Panel 2: Connections II: Transnational Cultural Studies [Live stream in CEC 209]

4:30 PM – 5:45 PM ..... Session Four  
Virtual Panel 3: Gender in Society [Live stream in CEC 209]

Friday 10 October 2025 [VIRTUAL]

10:00 – 11:15 AM..... Session Five  
Virtual Panel 4: Ethics and Identity in 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> Century European Literature [Live stream in CEC 209]

4:30 PM – 5:45 PM..... Session Six  
Virtual Panel 5: Criminal Minds: Profiling, Espionage, and Justice [Live stream in CEC 209]

## 2025 COMPLETE PROGRAM

Thursday 9 October 2025

*Please note the virtual panels are integrated into the complete program listings and are highlighted in gray*

8:30 – 11:00 AM..... Conference Registration

8:30 – 9:45 AM..... Breakfast (CEC 116)

10:00 – 11:15 AM..... Session One

**Panel 1: *Legacies of World War II: Recording, Remembering, Revising* [CEC 201]**

**Chair:** Mark Celinscak, University of Nebraska Omaha

“Music Pushing a Social Hierarchy, Evoking Division and Unity”

Alexis Ritterbush, University of Nebraska Omaha

“American Journalists and Germany in the ‘Nightmare Years’”

Donald Sunnen, Virginia Military Institute

“Northern European Memories of WWII—Steps on a Bumpy Road Towards Are-Old Truths about Humanity”

Poul Houe, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

“Red Bear in the Forest: J.K. Zawodny and the Katyn Massacre”

Andrew Gregg, Historic Preservation Commissioner

**Virtual Panel 1: *Connections I: Women in Culture across Time* [CEC 209]**

**Chair:** Cadra Peterson McDaniel, Texas A&M University, Central Texas

“Dialogue with the Classics: The Female Savior in Bulgakov’s Fiction”

Nina Efimov, Florida State University

“From Oppression to Vindication: Female Revenge Ghosts and the Domestic Space as Liminal Place in the Supernatural Tales of Lettice Galbraith”

Elisa Fierro, Independent Scholar

“The Letters of Bianca Cappello at the Home Foundation: An Interpretive Hypothesis”

Giovanna Potenza, University of Naples, Italy, Federico II

“Christinas in Exile: Pizan and Belgiojoso”

Carolyn Gascoigne, University of Houston—Downtown

**Panel 2: *Dante Alighieri and His Poetic Afterlife* [CEC 205]**

Chair: Andrew Kettler, University of South Carolina, Palmetto College

"Dante Alighieri: the Poet's Poet"

Rebecca Umlad, University of Nebraska Kearney

"Poetic Voice and Spiritual Experience: Dante and the Shaping of Romantic Verse"

Kajetan Hubl, University of Nebraska Kearney

"The Beatrician Experience: The Power of Memory upon Receptive Souls"

Allison Arens, University of Nebraska Kearney

11:30 AM – 12:45 PM.....Session Two

**Panel 3: *Silver, Spices, and Ships I: Late Medieval Networks of Commerce and Credit* [CEC 201]**

Chair: Martina Saltamacchia, University of Nebraska Omaha

"Networks and Debt in Datini's Archive"

Wyatt Smith, University of Nebraska Omaha

"The Knights Templar and the Foundation of Medieval Banking"

Sean Nish, University of Nebraska Omaha

"A Road Paved with Silk and Gold: the Role of Jewish Merchants in the Rise of the Silk Road"

Graham McVicker, University of Nebraska Omaha

**Virtual Panel 2: *Connections II: Transnational Cultural Studies* [CEC 209]**

Chair: Sara Marzioli, University of Nebraska Omaha

"The Paradigm of Just One Brick: From Berlin Residential Villa Architecture to Beyond the International Style with Bauhaus Craftsman, the Architect Ludwig Mies van der Rohe"

Titian Butash, Independent Scholar

"Clash of Narratives about the Second World War's Legacy in Slovenia after 1975"

Marta Cmiel-Bazant, Institute of Western and Southern Slavic Studies, University of Warsaw

"Straight from America to Romania: Literature, Music, Film in the 1960s"

Gabriel Manea, Ovidius University of Constanta





1:00 – 1:45 PM..... **Conference Luncheon [CEC 116]**  
Welcome Remarks by **Dean Melanie Bloom**, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Nebraska Omaha

1:45 – 2:45 PM..... **Orv Menard Lecture | Conference Keynote I [CEC 230/231]**  
Remarks by **Commissioner Jim Cavanaugh**, Douglas County Board District 2; Board of Directors, Omaha Irish Cultural Center  
Introduction of keynote speaker by **Dr. Lisabeth Buchelt**, Department of English, University of Nebraska Omaha

**Keynote Speaker: John Minahane:** “Poets Thinking Across Cultures in 14<sup>th</sup> Century Ireland: Gofraidh Fionn Ó Dálaigh and Gerald fitzMaurice” (Independent Scholar)

*Conference Luncheon and Orv Menard Lecture/Conference Keynote sponsored by  
Government of Ireland Emigrant Support Programme, An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha/Department of Foreign Affairs,  
and the Omaha Irish Cultural Center.*



3:00 – 4:15 PM..... Session Three

**Panel 4: *Friendship in Hume, Kant, and Nietzsche* [CEC 205]**

Chair: Erwin Erhardt, University of Cincinnati

“David Hume on Commerce and Friendship”

Patrick Murray, Creighton University

“Grappling with Dualism: Kant on Friendship”

Jeanne Schuler, Creighton University

“Nietzsche on the Counter-Ideal of Friendship”

Richard White, Creighton University

**Panel 5: *Intersections I: Medicine and Morality in European Visual Arts, Folklore, and Literature* [CEC 201]**

Chair: Rebecca Umland, University of Nebraska Kearney

“Medical Illustration From the 11th to 19th Century: A Map of Medical Humanities”

Grace Spaulding, University of Nebraska Omaha

“Tales, Terror, and Trap Doors: The Vampire in European Culture, 1732-1851”

Stu Burns, Stevens Creek Press

“Landscapes of Progress and Decadence: Interpretations of Paintings of the Russian Countryside at the World of Art Exhibitions”

Cadra Peterson McDaniel, Texas A & M University Central Texas

“Immoral Art: The Intersections of Gender and Pre-Raphaelite Artwork in *The Picture of Dorian Gray*”

Isabella Martin, University of Nebraska Omaha

4:30 – 5:45 PM..... Session Four

**Panel 6: *Spiritual Ethics and Political Agency in Twelfth-Century Thought* [CEC 205]**

Chair: James Buckingham, Independent Scholar

“Medicine and Morality in Hildegard of Bingen’s *Ordo Virtutum*”

Cheryl Mendoza, University of Nebraska Omaha

“St. Thomas Aquinas and the Importance of Avoiding Evil”

John F. Morris, Rockhurst University

“Political Criticism and Social Discourse in Marie de France’s *Lais*”

Christina Delray, University of Nebraska Omaha

**Virtual Panel 3: *Gender in Society* [CEC 209]**

Chair: Carolyn Gascoigne, University of Houston Downtown

“Emancipation versus Liberation: the Role of Women’s Education in Eastern European Society”

Silvia Asandei, University of Kansas

“The Role of Gender in Social and Economic Policy in the European Union”

Anjali Yogi, Maitreyi College, Delhi University

**6:00 – 7:30 PM .....Opening Reception [CEC Union Pacific Room]**

*Please plan to join us for a cash-bar opening celebration reception in the Union Pacific Room on the first floor of the Community Engagement Center sponsored by the Government of Ireland Emigrant Support Programme, An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha/Department of Foreign Affairs, and the Omaha Irish Cultural Center.*

Friday 10 October 2025

8:30 AM – 12:45 PM..... Conference Registration

8:30 AM – 9:45 AM..... Breakfast [CEC 116]

10:00 – 11:15 AM..... Session Five

**Panel 7: *Alternative Heroics in Old English Poetry* [CEC 201]**

**Chair: Lisabeth Buchelt, University of Nebraska Omaha**

“Blood in the Bedroom: Female Suffering and Victory in the Old English *Judith*”

Vaness Kalil, University of Nebraska Omaha

“The Words of Wynn in *Beowulf*: The Warnings of Hrothgar’s Queen”

James Buckingham, Independent Scholar

“Halls and Hosts: Heroic Bodies of Water in the Old English *Exodus*”

Thomas Kalil, University of Toronto

**Panel 8: *Whispers Beneath the Silence: Reclaiming Hidden Histories of WWII* [CEC 205]**

**Chair: Donald Sunnen, Virginia Military Institute**

“Women’s Work: Gender, Forced Labor, and Resistance in the Union Kommando at Auschwitz”

Jessica Foster, Indiana University

“The Legacy of the Lesser-Known Nuremberg Trials”

Isaac Amon, Washington University in St. Louis School of Law

“Using Digital Tools to Trace Holocaust Experiences”

Andrea Wagh, University of Nebraska Lincoln

**Virtual Panel 4: *Ethics and Identity in 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> Century European Literature* [CEC 209]**

**Chair: Steven Torres, University of Nebraska Omaha**

“Narratives of Suffering: Exploring Ethical Representation of Tragedy in Contemporary Anglophone Fiction”

Manzar Feiz, University of Texas at Dallas

“‘A Shock of Recognition, as Though a Door was Opening Up’: Queer Identity in Mohsin Hamid’s *Exit West*”

Samuel Munger, South Dakota State University

“The ‘Superfluous Man’ in 19<sup>th</sup> Century Russian Literature”

Evita Ilushenko, Florida State University

“(Counter-) Politics in Language and Literature in the Postcolonial Society”

Sujoy Barman, Ganpat University



11:30 AM – 12:45 PM.....Session Six

**Panel 9: *Legacies of Empire: Past and Present* [CEC 201]**

Chair: Kevin Samejon, University of Nebraska Omaha

“Roads of Empire: the Roman Road Network”

Michael Ziemann, Seattle Pacific University

“Finlandizing a Soviet Territory: Nation, Culture, Language, and Geopolitics in the Soviet-Finnish Borderlands”

Diego Benning Wang, Princeton University

“‘Blood is National, Plasma is Global’: EU Plasma Collection Systems and Policies”

Zsofia Bacsadi, Central European University

**Panel 10: *Scent, Sound, Sentiment: Narrating Loss through Memory and Decay* [CEC 205]**

Chair: Tanushree Ghosh, University of Nebraska Omaha

“Seeking a Lost Time in *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald”

Herbert Craig, University of Nebraska Kearney

“Images and Sounds of Empire: Austria in Joseph Roth’s *Radetzky* and *Die Kapuzinergruft*”

Julian Gillilan, University of Nebraska Lincoln

“‘I’ll Make You Shit!’: Olfactory Othering and the Necropolitics of Colonial Prisons”

Andrew Kettler, University of South Carolina



1:00 – 1:30 PM..... Conference Luncheon [CEC 116]

Remarks by **Dr. Lisabeth Buchelt**, Department of English, University of Nebraska Omaha

Anthony Jung Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Presentation

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM.....Orv Menard Lecture | Conference Keynote II [CEC 230/231]

Introduction of keynote speaker by **Dr. Lana Obradovic**, Department of Political Science; Goldstein Family Community Chair in Human Rights; Academic Director, U.S. Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM) Strategic Leadership Fellows Program; Principal Director, Balkan Youth Leaders (BOLD) Civic Engagement Program, University of Nebraska Omaha

**Keynote Speaker: Dr. Ari Kohen**, “*Every Age Has its Own Fascism*. How Contemporary Speech Deals with Extremist Ideologies” (University of Nebraska, Lincoln)

*Conference Luncheon and Orv Menard Lecture/Conference Keynote sponsored by  
The Leonard and Shirley Goldstein Center for Human Rights and  
The Goldstein Family Community Chair in Human Rights*



3:00 — 4:15 PM.....Session Seven

Panel 11: *Tales from Two Cultures: Connections between the Czech Republic and the United States* [CEC 201]

Chair: Alexis Ritterbush, University of Nebraska Omaha

“Czech Communities in the United States during World War II”

Martin Nekola, Czechoslovak Talks Project

“A Tale of Two Cities: Comparative Policy Lessons from Opava, Czech Republic and Kearney, Nebraska”

Co-authored by Tell Jensen and Peter Longo, University of Nebraska Kearney

Panel 12: *Intersections II: European Philosophy and Literature* [CEC 205]

Chair: Jeffrey Jarzomb, University of Nebraska Lincoln

“Political Epistemology in Europe: Recent Contributions and Their Implications for Engaged Teaching and Research in the Spanish Humanities”

Steven Torres, University of Nebraska Omaha

“The Impossibility of Racial Systems in *Die Verlobung in St. Domingo*”

Spencer Tessman, University of Nebraska Lincoln

4:30 — 5:45 PM..... Session Eight

Panel 13: *Change and Challenge in the European Union* [CEC 201]

Chair: Gwyneth Cliver, University of Nebraska Omaha

“Joint Acquisition as a Catalyst in EU Defense Policy: From Intergovernmental Hesitation to Supranational Momentum”

João Guerreiro, NOVA University of Lisbon—FCSH

“A Tree-mendous Regulation: EUDR’s Paper Jam in the U.S.”

Scott Sybeldon, University of Wisconsin Stevens Point

“The Mobilization of Serbian Youth: Has the Time Arrived for Serious Reform in the Nation?”

Erwin F. Erhardt, University of Cincinnati

**Panel 14: *Silver, Spices, and Ships II: Late Medieval Material Culture and Consumption* [CEC 205]**

**Chair: Martina Saltamacchia, University of Nebraska Omaha**

"The Intersection between Medieval Pilgrimage and the Economy"

Katie Dykstra, University of Nebraska Omaha

"The Effects of Luxury on Medieval Europe"

Tyler Gillis, Florida State University

"From Vine to Wine: Medieval Art and the Material Culture of the Wine Trade"

John Schnelker, University of Nebraska Omaha

**Virtual Panel 5: *Criminal Minds: Profiling, Espionage, and Justice* [CEC 209]**

**Chair: Lana Obradovic, University of Nebraska Omaha**

"Techniques from the Past Impacting the Future: the Birth of Profiling"

Myriam Krepps, Pittsburg State University

"Contributions of the British Special Operations Executive during WWII"

Leo Gruber, PennWest University

"Joseph Banks: Privateer of Forged, Plagiarized, and Contracted Scientific 'Discoveries'"

Anna Faktorovich, Dickinson State University

**7:00 – 9:00 PM.....Celebratory Reception at Beacon Hills**

*Please plan to join us for a cash-bar reception at Beacon Hills restaurant (6750 Mercy Road) in Aksarben Village, sponsored by the Government of Ireland Emigrant Support Programme, An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha/Department of Foreign Affairs, and the Omaha Irish Cultural Center.*



Saturday 11 October 2025 [IN PERSON]

9:00 – 11:00 AM..... 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Special Event at Samuel Bak Museum and Learning Center

Please plan to join us for our grand finale event: continental breakfast and then a conversation with artist Samuel Bak as he joins us live via Zoom from his home in Boston, Massachusetts. This will be followed by a private guided tour of the current exhibit. Since the Bak Museum's founding almost 10 years ago, many ESC participants have expressed interest in visiting the Museum and Learning Center but have never been able to work it into their time here in Omaha. This year is your chance. Participating in a discussion with Mr. Bak in addition to a private showing of his work is truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and we hope that many of you join us for this extraordinary event.

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End of the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual European Studies Conference 2025

Thank you all for joining us and celebrating the  
ESC's Golden Jubilee  
Safe travels!



50<sup>th</sup> EUROPEAN STUDIES CONFERENCE  
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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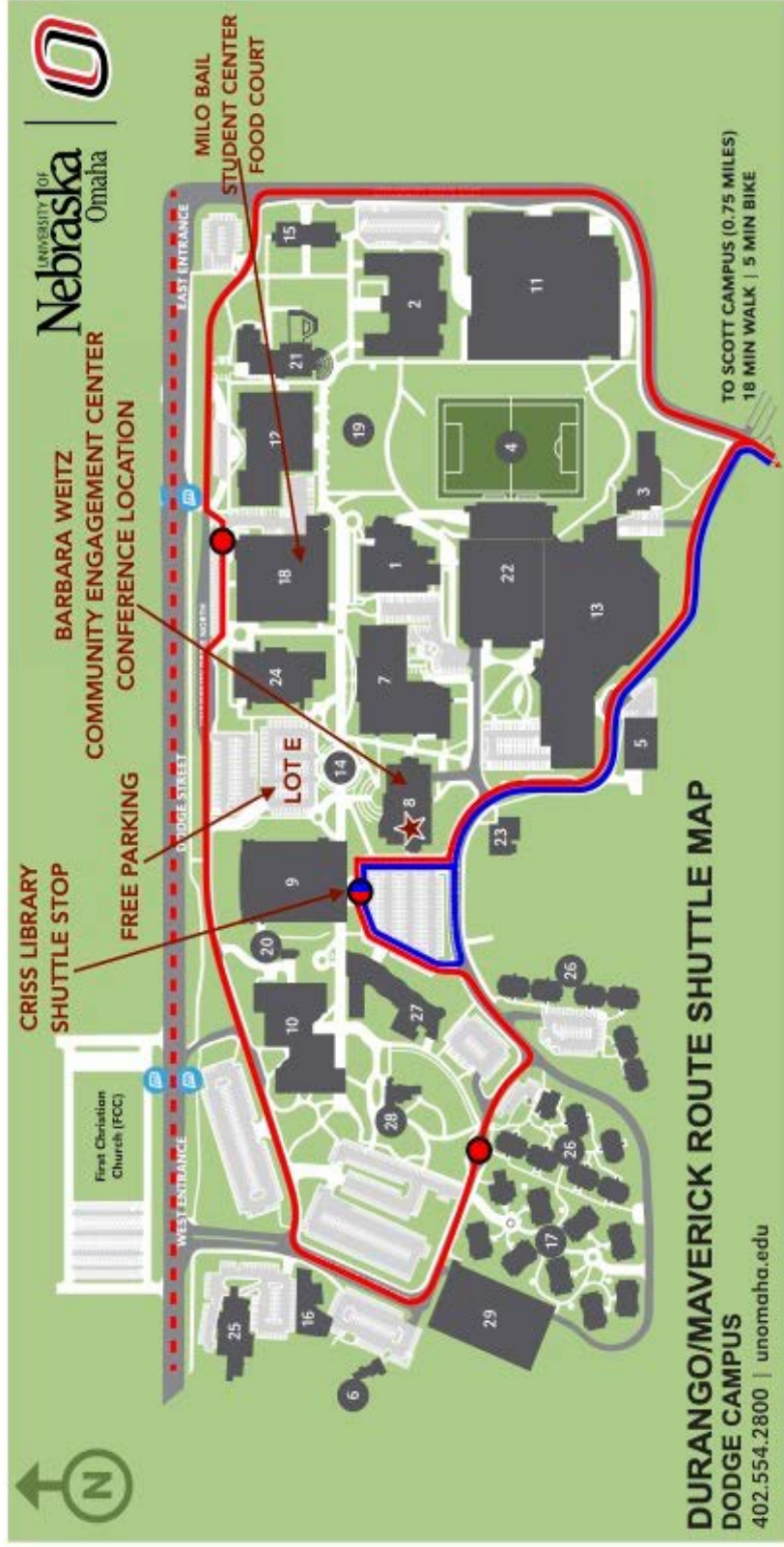
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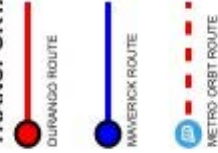


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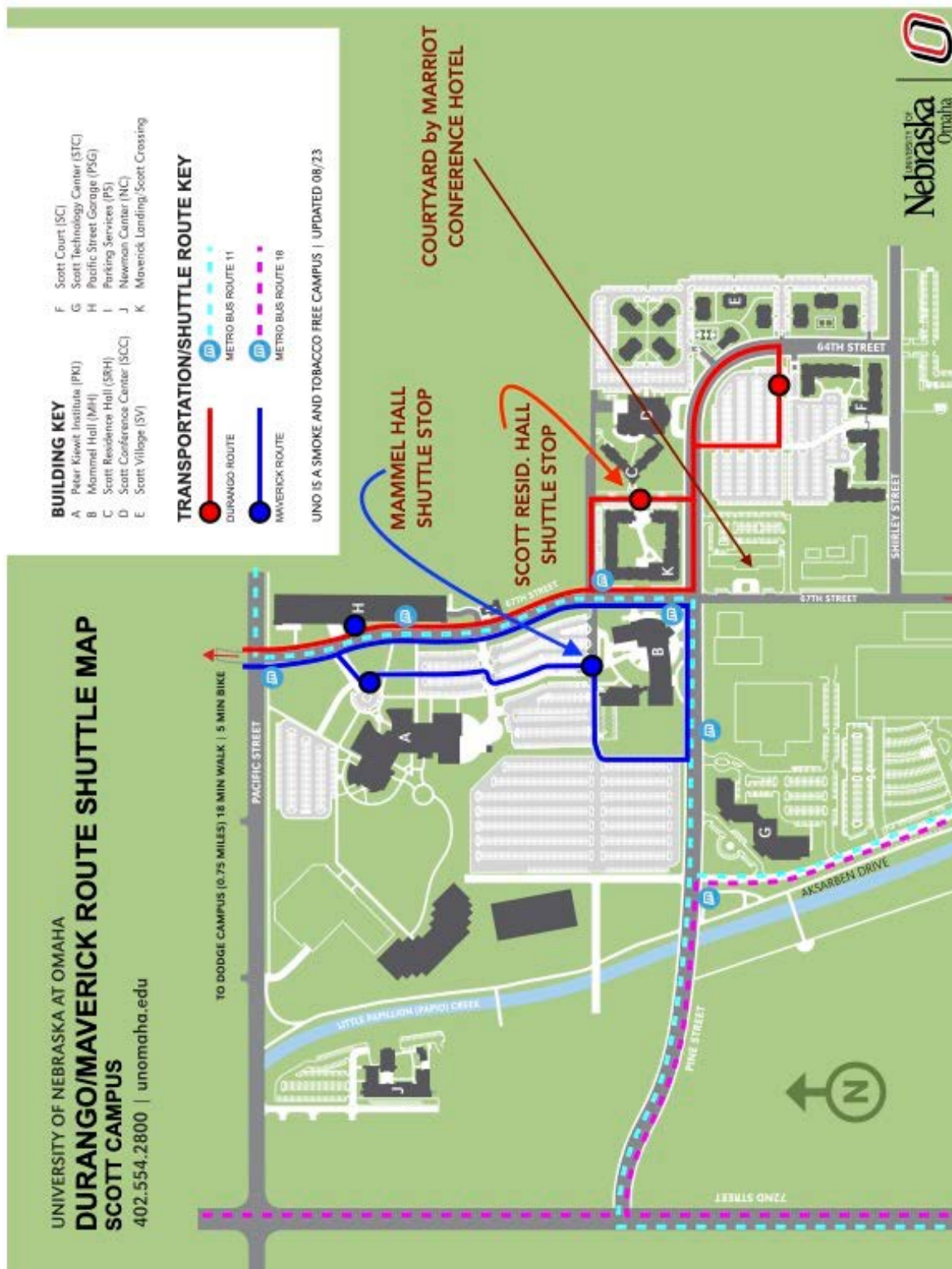


**TRANSPORTATION/SHUTTLE ROUTE KEY**



**BUILDING KEY**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 Allwine Hall (AH)                                     | 14 Hemmingson Memorial Campanile (HMC) (clock tower) |
| 2 Arts & Sciences Hall (ASH)                            | 15 Koyser Hall (KH)                                  |
| 3 Biomechanics Research Building (BRB)                  | 16 Landscape Services (LS)                           |
| 4 Caniglia Field (CF)                                   | 17 Maverick Village (MV)                             |
| 5 Central Utilities Plant (CUP)                         | 18 Milo Bail Student Center (MBSC)                   |
| 6 Child Care Center (CCC)                               | 19 Pop Bowl (open space)                             |
| 7 College of Public Affairs & Community Service (CPACS) | 20 Resource Conservation & Recovery Area (RCRA)      |
| 8 Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center (Weitz CEC) | 21 Ruskens Hall (RH)                                 |
| 9 Criss Library (CL)                                    | 22 Sapp Fieldhouse (SFH)                             |
| 10 Durham Science Center (DSC)                          | 23 Sculpture & Ceramics Studio (SCS)                 |
| 11 East Parking Garage (EPG)                            | 24 Strauss Performing Arts Center (SPAC)             |
| 12 Epley Administration Building (EAB)                  | 25 Thompson Alumni Center (TAC)                      |
| 13 Health & Kinesiology Building (H&K)                  | 26 University Village (UV)                           |
|   | 27 Weber Fine Arts Building (WFAB)                   |
|   | 28 Hayden House (HH)                                 |
|   | 29 West Parking Garage (WPG)                         |





## Parking Map

**Samuel Bak Museum: The Learning Center**  
**2289 S 67th Street, Omaha, NE 68106**  
**(p) 402-554-6100**

There is free parking in front of the museum along 67th Street or  
in the parking garage located behind the museum.



For ADA Accessible parking please visit our website:  
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UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA

**Samuel Bak  
Museum**  
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