How do migration and cultural diversity affect economic and social outcomes in the long run? After World War II, the Polish borders shifted westward, and six million people were relocated to the territories from which the German population had been expelled. Volha Charnysh uses an original historical dataset on the composition of 1,282 resettled municipalities to examine the far-reaching economic and social implications of this displacement. Contrary to the established consensus in political science and economics, she finds that today, income is higher in culturally diverse municipalities. She explains this counterintuitive result through differences in social capital in diverse and homogenous municipalities. Though this work is historical, it carries important implications for contemporary European politics, as the EU is currently experiencing one of the largest refugee flows in its history.

Volha Charnysh is a PhD candidate in Government at Harvard University. Her primary research interests are in comparative political behavior, ethnic politics, and political economy. Her dissertation investigates the effects of major historical events on contemporary political behavior in Central and Eastern Europe. Her work has appeared in *Comparative Political Studies* and *European Journal of International Relations* journals.

Friday, October 23, 2015
12:30 pm – 2:00 pm
Voesar Conference Room
1957 E St. NW, Suite 412
Please RSVP at http://go.gwu.edu/charnysh

*This event is on the record.*