Parties and inter-party relations are expected to be more fragile in Eastern Central Europe than in established democracies and in Southern European ‘new’ democracies. This presentation investigates to what extent this expectation is borne out by data from Bulgaria, Hungary, Slovakia, Romania, Slovenia, Croatia, Poland, Latvia, the Czech Republic, Estonia and Lithuania. Many relevant aspects of party politics, including electoral volatility, party system fragmentation, the closure of the government-building process, and the age of parties, are compared. This presentation also discusses how one should conceptualize and measure party system stability and how party system institutionalization is related to the quality of democracy.

Zsolt Enyedi is Professor of Political Science at Central European University and Austrian Marshall Fellow at the Center for Transatlantic Relations, Johns Hopkins University. He studied comparative social sciences, history, sociology and political science in Amsterdam and Budapest. He has widely published on party politics, comparative government, church and state relations, and political psychology. He (co)authored two and (co)edited eight volumes and published close to hundred articles and book chapters. His articles appeared in journals such as Political Psychology, European Journal of Political Research, West European Politics, Party Politics, Europe-Asia Studies, European Review, Journal of Legislative Studies, Democratization and Social Thought and Research. Zsolt Enyedi was the 2003 recipient of the Rudolf Wildenmann Prize and the 2004 winner of the Bibó Award. He held research fellowships at the Woodrow Wilson Center, Kellogg Institute (Notre Dame University), the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Studies, and the European University Institute (Florence, Italy).

Wednesday, March 18, 2015
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm
Voesar Conference Room
1957 E St. NW, Suite 412
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This event is on the record.