Between Byzantium and Brussels: The Politics of Orthodox Churches in the European Union

with

Dr. Lucian Leustean, Senior Lecturer, Aston University (United Kingdom)

Dr. Eliot Sorel (moderator), Founder, World Youth Democracy Forum

Co-sponsored by the World Youth Democracy Forum

This talk examines the political mobilization of Orthodox Churches in the European Union. After the 1992 Maastricht Treaty, the Orthodox churches of Greece, Romania, and Cyprus have opened representational offices in Brussels. Other Orthodox churches from non-EU member states, such as the Russian Patriarchate and the Ecumenical Patriarchate, have engaged with European institutions, and opened representational offices, while the Serbian Orthodox Church maintains a staff member as part of the Conference of European Churches. We will address religious dialogue in the European Community from the 1950 Schuman Declaration until today; the political typology of Orthodox representations in Brussels and Strasbourg; and policy priorities on issues of ‘religion,’ ‘faith,’ and Orthodoxy in the European Union.

Dr. Lucian Leustean is a Senior Fellow at the Transatlantic Academy, the German Marshall Fund of the United States, Washington DC, and Senior Lecturer in Politics and International Relations at Aston University, Birmingham, United Kingdom. The founding editor of the Routledge Book Series on Religion, Society and Government in Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet States, he was also the principal investigator on a 2010-2011 ESRC Research Grant entitled ‘The Politics of Religious Lobbies in the European Union.’ His publications include The Ecumenical Movement and the Making of the European Community (Oxford University Press, 2014), Eastern Christianity and Politics in the Twenty-First Century (Routledge, 2014, editor), Orthodox Christianity and Nationalism in Nineteenth Century Southeastern Europe (Fordham University Press, 2014, editor), Representing Religion in the European Union: Does God Matter? (Routledge, 2012, editor) and Orthodoxy and the Cold War: Religion and Political Power in Romania, 1947-65 (Palgrave, 2008), and he has been awarded the George Blazyea Prize in East European Studies from the British Association for Slavonic and East European Studies.

Thursday, April 9, 2015
12:30 pm – 2:00 pm
Voesar Conference Room
1957 E St. NW, Suite 412
Please RSVP at http://go.gwu.edu/leustean

This event is on the record.