Human Rights in Contemporary Poland
Part of IERES European Politics Series

with

Professor Krzysztof Motyka, Chair, Sociology of Law and Morality
John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Poland

A quarter century has passed since 1989, when the transition from communism to a free-market democracy began in Poland. One of the most important dimensions of this process was the change in the status of the individual and the concept of “human rights,” which replaced the communist idea of “citizens’ rights.” This transformation, particularly visible in the text and the structure of the new Polish Constitution of 1997, has been followed by changes in the legal consciousness of Polish society, which has been shifting towards a more liberalistic, individualistic, and rights-oriented model. In addition to presenting these changes, Prof. Motyka will discuss the role of human rights in the political processes of contemporary Poland, as well as their place and structure in the consciousness and attitudes of Poles of today.

Professor Krzysztof Motyka is Chair of Sociology of Law and Morality at John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin and the former co-director of the Postgraduate Program in Constitutionalism at Maria Curie-Skłodowska University (Lublin), a part of the American Council of Learned Societies’ East European Constitutionalism Project (1995-2000). Since the early 1980s, Professor Motyka has organized an annual Days of Human Rights conference. Previously, he was a member of the Minister of Foreign Affairs’ Advisory Board on Human Rights (2001-2002) and of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (2007-2012). He has authored and edited 12 books and over 50 articles and reviews. His current research interests include the world reception of Leon Petrażycki’s theory of law, the right to privacy in old European democracies, and sociology of human rights.

Friday, September 25, 2015
12:30 pm – 2:00 pm
Voesar Conference Room
1957 E St. NW, Suite 412
Please RSVP at http://go.gwu.edu/motyka

This event is on the record.