What is the present status of NATO in the United States’ security approach? The Libya War in 2011 gave clear indications that the United States wanted to lead NATO “from behind” and that the Europeans were expected to take care of their own problems. The United States’ focus on Asia cemented that impression. Then, in the spring of 2014 came the Ukraine crisis, and American reactions were rapid, forceful, and substantial. President Barack Obama took the lead, and NATO was back in the center of Obama’s security policy debate. But has the Ukraine crisis changed the long term trend? To what degree are the United States actually willing and able to engage in European security affairs in the future?

**Dr. Magnus Petersson** is Professor of Modern History at the Norwegian Institute for Defence Studies in Oslo, as well as an Associate Professor at Oslo University and Stockholm University. He has been a Lecturer, Researcher, Director of Studies, and Head of Research and Development at the Swedish National Defence College (1998–2008), and currently he is the first Fulbright Hildeman Fellow in Scandinavian Studies at IERES.

**Thursday, January 22, 2015**
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Voesar Conference Room
1957 E Street NW, Suite 412
Please RSVP at http://go.gwu.edu/Petersson