Recent events in Ukraine again bring up the question of countries’ energy policy choices and the role of powerful domestic groups in relation to Russia and the EU. *The Politics of Energy Dependency* looks at these issues from the perspective of post-independence energy politics in three post-Soviet states: Ukraine, Belarus, and Lithuania. It compares these three states’ reactions to the serious external shock of their sudden transformation from constituents of a single energy-rich state to separate energy-poor entities heavily dependent on Russia, as well as politically-independent transit states. Using extensive field research and until now untapped local sources in Ukrainian, Belarusian, Russian, and Lithuanian, the book analyzes how these states’ unique location, powerful domestic economic actors often making a profit of their situation of energy dependency (“oligarchs”), and Russian power, has affected Russia’s ability to use energy as a foreign policy tool in the region – and these states’ own political development.

Margarita M. Balmaceda is professor of diplomacy and international relations at Seton Hall University and research associate at the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute. She is the author of *Energy Dependency, Politics and Corruption in the Former Soviet Union* (Routledge, 2008), *The Politics of Energy Dependency: Ukraine, Belarus and Lithuania Between Domestic Oligarchs and Russian Pressure* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2013), and *Living the High Life in Minsk: Russian Energy Rents, Domestic Populism and Belarus’ Impending Crisis* (Budapest: Central European University Press, January 2014).

**Thursday, January 30, 2014**

4:00 – 5:00 pm

Voesar Conference Room

1957 E Street NW, Suite 412

Please RSVP at [http://go.gwu.edu/Balmaceda](http://go.gwu.edu/Balmaceda).

This event is on the record.