Revolutions as Negative Coalitions: Why Orange Was Just Red and Yellow (But Not Blue)

Part of IERES’ Eurasian Leadership Series

with

Mark R. Beissinger

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The study of revolutions has been plagued by a dearth of information at the individual level, both in terms of our knowledge of who participates in revolutions and how others in society relate to revolutionary upheavals. Using a highly unusual and detailed survey taken in the immediate aftermath of the 2004 Orange Revolution in Ukraine, this lecture will explore what Orange Revolution participants shared in common and the how their backgrounds and beliefs differed from those who supported the revolution but did not participate in it, those who actively mobilized against the revolution, those who opposed the revolution but failed to mobilize in support of the incumbent regime, and those who remained entirely apathetic in the midst of major revolutionary upheaval. Among other findings, Orange Revolution participants are shown to have had quite weak commitment to the revolution’s master narratives, to have been highly diverse in their beliefs on most major issues of Ukrainian politics, and to have been united primarily by their strong dislike of the incumbent regime and by weak ties of ethnicity and common social position. The lecture will conclude with a discussion of the implications of these findings for other revolutionary processes around the world.

Mark R. Beissinger is Professor of Politics at Princeton University and Director of the Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies. He previously served on the faculties of University of Wisconsin-Madison and Harvard. Beissinger’s main fields of interest are social movements, revolutions, nationalism and ethnic politics, and imperialism, with special reference to the Soviet Union and the post-Soviet states.

Wednesday, February 1, 2012
4:00-5:30 p.m.
Voesar Conference Room
1957 E Street, NW, Suite 412

Please RSVP at http://tinyurl.com/BeissingerGWU

This event is on the record

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