Power and Muslim “Orthodoxy” in Kyrgyzstan
Part of IERES's Visiting Scholar Roundtable

with

Aurélie Biard
Centre for International Studies and Research (CERI)

Using case studies, this presentation will explore the effects of the interventions by the central and local authorities into struggles to define Muslim orthodoxy in Kyrgyzstan, as well as how these interventions shape the conditions in which Muslims are able to express their faith. The norms linked to the diverse attempts at defining orthodoxy in Kyrgyzstan tend to be freely appropriated by individuals. Each individual thus feels some sort of mastery in the use that he or she makes of religion as an identity marker.

Aurélie Biard is a researcher at the Centre for International Studies and Research (CERI) in Paris and an associated researcher at the Centre for Turkish, Ottoman, Balkan, and Central Asian Studies (CETOBA, CNRS). Her research focuses on the systems of interdependences between various Islamic actors at the individual, relationship, and structural levels, and the local power adjustments in Kyrgyzstan. Her main publications include “The Religious Factor in the Reifications of ‘Neo-ethnic’ Identities in Kyrgyzstan,” in Nationalities Papers and “‘Tengrism’ in Kyrgyzstan: in Search of New Religious and Political Legitimacy” in Representing Power in Ancient Inner Asia: Legitimacy, Transmission and the Sacred.

Thursday, March 27, 2014
4:00 – 5:00 pm
Voesar Conference Room
1957 E Street NW, Suite 412
Please RSVP at http://go.gwu.edu/Biard
This event is on the record.