International Security, Conflict, and Culture: The Case of Bosnia and Secessionist Transnistria

Part of IERES' Visiting Scholar Roundtable

with

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The escalation, outplay, cessation, and resolution of regional conflict always involves multiple layers of action and actors. More attention to these layers and their interplay is needed in international security in order to understand how effectively to bring conflicts to a close. The most overlooked layer, and focus of this presentation, involves grassroots attitudes and socio-cultural realities inside conflict zones. While there is a growing interest in bringing culture into discussions of international security, scholars and practitioners are divided in their preferences for different currents of thought and understandings of "culture." After elucidating these debates, the presentation will go on to show how anthropology's attention to social structure and constructivist notions of identity matter to international security and conflict management through the case of the two-decade-long stalemated Transnistrian-Moldovan conflict and the war in Bosnia.

Rebecca Chamberlain-Creangă holds a PhD in Social-cultural Anthropology from the London School of Economics and a BA in International Relations. She has studied and worked in Eurasian conflict zones for the past twelve years, from Kosovo's divided city of Mitrovita to Croatia's former Eastern Slavonian war front (2000-01), and more recently in Moldova's separatist region of Transnistria (2004-06), supported by several Title VIII research grants, a Rotary Foundation Fellowship, and a Marshall Scholarship.

Thursday, April 12, 2012
4:00-5:00pm
Voesar Conference Room
1957 E Street NW, Suite 412
Please RSVP at http://tinyurl.com/Chamberlain-CreangaGWU

This event is on the record