Swiss Foreign Policy toward the United States (1945-1963):
A Neutral Country on the Side of Washington

Part of IERES’ Visiting Scholars Roundtable

with

Virginie Fracheboud, PhD Candidate, University of Lausanne, Switzerland

Between 1945 and 1963, the Swiss Federal Council pursued a policy of “neutrality and solidarity,” which promoted neutrality as the basis for the nation’s actions on the international stage. However, Switzerland partially waived its neutrality under pressure from the United States in instances where Swiss economic interests were at stake. After the diplomatic break in US-Cuban relations in 1961, the Swiss embassy began to represent American interests in Havana. Even though Switzerland sided with Washington, this talk will examine how Swiss diplomats gained the confidence of the Cuban authorities and how the US government perceived this turn of events.

Virginie Fracheboud is a Ph.D. Candidate at the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences at the University of Lausanne (Switzerland). Her research focuses on transatlantic political and economic relations between 1945 and 1973.

Thursday, April 16, 2015
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Voesar Conference Room
1957 E St. NW, Suite 412
Please RSVP at http://go.gwu.edu/fracheboud

This event is on the record.