What can the experiences of Hollywood's blacklisted exiles in Europe tell us about our understanding of the Cold War? Given the blacklist’s significance as an icon of Cold War America, its absence from accounts of the cultural Cold War in Europe is striking, and reflects the perception of the Hollywood blacklist as a purely domestic phenomenon. The history of the blacklisted community in Europe discussed in this talk reveals the important transnational dimensions of the Hollywood blacklist. As American political exiles, the blacklisted in Europe were a provocation to CIA-sponsored cultural propaganda, while their films presented a “counter canon” to 1950s Hollywood domestic production, with its implicit attempt to win over hearts and minds to the “American way of life.”

Rebecca Prime, Ph.D., is a visiting scholar at Hood College, where she was the Libman Professor of the Humanities and an Assistant Professor of Art until last year. A film historian whose research interests include transnational American and European cinema, her work has appeared in numerous journals and edited volumes. She is the author of Hollywood Exiles in Europe: the Blacklist and Cold War Film Culture (Rutgers University Press, January 2014) and the editor of Cinematic Homecomings: Exile and Return in Transnational Cinema (forthcoming, Bloomsbury, August 2014). A Fulbright scholar, she holds degrees from Columbia University, New York University, and the University of California, Los Angeles.

Monday, April 21, 2014
4:00 – 5:00 pm
Voesar Conference Room
1957 E Street NW, Suite 412
Please RSVP at http://go.gwu.edu/Prime

This event is on the record.