Desecularization Post-Soviet Style:
Delimitations of New Religious Public Space in Central Asia

with

John Schoeberlein, Nazarbayev University

What has been called desecularization in other parts of the world — a reversal in the trend towards privatization of religion — in Central Asia today is called secularism. This talk takes an anthropological perspective on the nationalization of religion in Central Asia, focusing on popular attitudes that largely endorse the state control of religion, whether it be the Islam that is seen as the key to spiritual and moral well-being, or the proselytizing Christianity that is seen as a threat to social stability.

John Schoeberlein is a social anthropologist with nearly three decades of experience researching Central Asia, the Caucasus, and Muslim societies of Eurasia generally. Prior to moving to Nazarbayev University in 2012, he established and directed the Program on Central Asia and the Caucasus at Harvard University (Cambridge, USA) for nearly two decades, and he also served as Visiting Professor at the Eurasian National University (Astana), and at the American University of Central Asia (Bishkek), among many other roles.

Thursday, April 23, 2015
4:00 pm – 5:30 pm
Conference Room 505
1957 E St. NW, 5th Floor

Please RSVP at http://go.gwu.edu/schoeberlein2

This event is on the record.