Xenophobia and Labor Migration:  
A New Paradigm for Framing Identity Debates in Ukraine?  
Part of IERES’ Faculty Forum and Petrach Program on Ukraine

with

Marlene Laruelle  
Research Professor of International Affairs, George Washington University

Identity debates in Ukraine are traditionally framed around linguistic issues – the place of the Ukrainian and Russian languages in public life – and historical concerns, particularly the key events of the 20th century. However, for some years now, the migration issue—both the departure of Ukrainians looking for work in Europe or Russia and the settling of CIS migrants or refugees in Ukraine—has increasingly driven public debate. The rise in racist violence and the politicization of xenophobia, following a model borrowed from Russia, have marked Yanukovych’s Ukraine since 2010. Discussions around the new diasporas and strategies aimed at integrating migrants into the host society are acting to transform the modes of debating national identity in Ukraine.

Marlene Laruelle is research professor of international affairs and director of IERES’ Central Asia Program. She recently completed a trip to Ukraine with support from the William and Helen Petrach Program on Ukraine.

Tuesday, June 26, 2012  
4:00 – 5:00 pm  
Voesar Conference Room  
1957 E Street NW, Suite 412  
Please RSVP at http://tinyurl.com/LaruelleGWU

This event is on the record