Preparing for Ukraine's 2015 Presidential Elections
Part of IERES’s Petrach Program on Ukraine Series

with

Taras Kuzio

Taras Kuzio will give an up-to-the-minute analysis of the latest developments in Ukrainian politics and preparations for the presidential election in 2015, which will be even more decisive than the voting in 2004. He will focus on the neo-Soviet vs. post-Soviet confrontation of political machines, abuse of state administrative resources, and mobilization of the opposition in Ukraine through an overview of the key players and their strategies. Ukraine’s domestic evolution has enormous implications for the country as the October deadline for signing an Association Agreement with the European Union approaches and in the wake of Ukraine becoming an Observer in the Russia-led CIS Customs Union (from 2015, the Eurasian Economic Union). Simultaneously, plans are proceeding for the privatization of Ukraine’s gas pipelines and including them in a gas consortium with Russia. Taras Kuzio will ask whether Russia has a greater stake in Yanukovych remaining in power beyond 2015 than the EU and US have in supporting Ukraine’s democratic progress.

Taras Kuzio is the author of the forthcoming book *Commissars into Oligarchs: A Contemporary History of Ukraine*, to be published next year by the University of Toronto Press as the first survey of Ukrainian political history from 1953 to the present. In 2010-2012, he was a visiting fellow at SAIS, where he ran the Ukraine Policy Forum, and the Slavic Research Center at Hokkaido University in Japan. He has also been in residence at IERES as a visiting scholar and lecturer.

Thursday, June 27, 2013
4:00 – 5:00 pm
Voesar Conference Room
1957 E Street NW, Suite 412
Please RSVP at [http://go.gwu.edu/Kuzio](http://go.gwu.edu/Kuzio)

This event is on the record.