Central Asian governments have incorporated their majority religions in efforts to define post-Soviet national identities. At the same time, however, they want to control growing levels of religious affiliation, especially among Muslims, that might act as potential alternative sources to state power. These dual aims are reflected in laws and policies that seek to define the legal limits of the majority religion and also to control the public expression of all religion. Common elements of Central Asian religion laws include: religious groups must undergo complex and intrusive state registration so as to gain legal status; members of unregistered religious groups face fines, police raids and possible terms of imprisonment; official permits are required to produce, import, export and distribute religious materials which can only be sold in officially-approved sites. Governments also strictly limit religious education, children’s participation in religious activities and the public wearing of religious clothing.

Tuesday, September 16, 2014
4:00 – 6:00 p.m.
Voesar Conference Room
1957 E Street NW, Suite 412
Please RSVP at: http://go.gwu.edu/Cosman

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