Civic engagement levels are relatively low in transition countries compared to those in post-industrial societies and some non-industrialized countries in Africa and Asia. Do countries in the former USSR have no reasons to actively protest? Post-socialist transition is a mix of ‘democratic deficit,’ public dissatisfaction with policy and institutional performance, anomie, distrust, rise of inequality, and an oligarchic economy. But why is there no boost in civic engagement and protest activity? What contributes to citizens’ willingness to protest in post-socialist countries, and how is political activity influenced by values?

Svitlana Khutka is an Associate Professor of Sociology at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy in Ukraine, an expert of the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology, and Associate Researcher at the Higher School of Economics. She was a Carnegie Fellow at the Elinson Center for Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies at UW and UC Berkeley and was awarded the “Best Young Sociologist of the Year in Ukraine.” Some of her research interests include political culture with a focus on civic protest activity, governance quality in transition countries, subjective well-being, national identity and social memory in Ukraine, cross-national value comparisons, and human agency vis-à-vis gender differences.

Monday, November 9, 2015
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Voesar Conference Room
1957 E St. NW, Suite 412
Please RSVP at go.gwu.edu/khutka

This event is on the record.