Defeating Authoritarian Leaders in Postcommunist Countries
Part of the IERES Book Launch Series

with

Valerie Bunce
Professor of Government, Cornell University

and

Sharon Wolchik
Professor of Political Science and International Affairs, GWU

Nathan Brown, Professor of Political Science and International Affairs, will serve as discussant

What explains the remarkable run of surprising electoral victories by opposition parties in authoritarian-led regimes in postcommunist Europe and Eurasia from the mid-1990s to 2005? This book argues that oppositions in countries as different as Slovakia, Serbia and Ukraine succeeded in defeating authoritarian incumbents or their anointed successors by deploying a set of sophisticated electoral techniques that enhanced their ability to win popular support. These techniques were adopted and then diffused across national boundaries as a result of the hard and creative work of a transnational network committed to democratization through elections and composed of Western democracy promoters, local oppositions and NGOs, and, finally, "graduates" of successful electoral efforts in neighboring countries.

Valerie Bunce is Professor of Government and the Aaron Binenkorb Chair of International Studies at Cornell University. She teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in postcommunist politics, authoritarianism, democratization, inter-ethnic conflict and cooperation, and international democracy assistance.

Sharon Wolchik is Professor of Political Science and International Affairs at the George Washington University and a member of the IERES. She teaches Central and East European politics. Her research interests include mass mobilization and protest, international democracy assistance, ethnic relations, citizen political attitudes and values, and gender issues.

Monday, November 21, 2011
12:00-2:00 p.m.
Lindner Family Commons
1957 E Street NW, Room 602
Please RSVP at http://tinyurl.com/buncewolchik
This event is on the record