Mykola Vorobiov spent nearly two months reporting on the fighting in eastern Ukraine this summer and fall, and while visiting Right Sector training camps, he interviewed the group’s leader, Dmitry Yarosh. Right Sector, a political party which was founded during the Euromaidan in November 2013, includes a number of parties and movements that support a nationalistic ideology. After the beginning of the conflict in Eastern Ukraine in April, hundreds of Right Sector activists organized volunteer battalions which fought against pro-Russian separatists backed by the Russian regular army and mercenaries. Right Sector is not officially registered and does not receive any support from the Ukrainian government; rather, activists use their own weapons and other equipment donated by volunteers who support Ukrainian forces in the East. Some of their weapons are taken as “trophies” from their enemies. Today, Right Sector is the most myth-shrouded battalion participating in the conflict. Russian media and officials describe Right Sector activists as "fascists" and "Nazis." In this presentation, Mr. Vorobiov will provide an overview of what he saw in the field and will describe the current situation in Ukraine.

Mykola Vorobiov is a Ukrainian political and military journalist. He covered the most dramatic events in Ukraine during the Euromaidan. In late May 2014, he began to report from the battle zone in eastern Ukraine. Overall, he has spent more than two months on different sides of the conflict in Ukraine. He had the opportunity to speak with a wide range of people there, including Ukrainian soldiers, their commanders, volunteers and civilians. Recently, Mr. Vorobiov has reported from the main hotspot around the Donetsk airport, which pro-Russian separatists and Russian forces have been trying to capture for several weeks.

Monday, November 24, 2014
4:00 – 5:00 pm
Voesar Conference Room
1957 E Street NW, Suite 412
Please RSVP at http://go.gwu.edu/vorobiov