Cultural strategies are key elements in the resistance of states like Estonia, Ukraine and Georgia to neo-imperial Russian policies. Located at the crossroads of different cultural, ethnic, religious and civilizational flows, these states have "in-between" identities that are both flexible and contested. Major cultural, political, and sport mega-events, as well as religious activities, are key methods by which these states assert their identity vis-à-vis Russia in ways that promote domestic consolidation and international integration. This talk examines three such cases: Estonia's XXVI Song and Dance Festival, which took place in Tallinn in July 2014; the way in which Lviv's particular Galician identity resonated in Europe during the 2012 UEFA European Championship; and Tbilisi's hosting of the European 2015 Olympic Youth Festival and final game of the 2015 UEFA Championship. Analysis of these cases is based on in-depth interviews with local policy activists, cultural entrepreneurs, intellectuals, artists, and government officials.

Wednesday, December 2, 2015
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Voesar Conference Room
Suite 412
1957 E St. NW

Please RSVP at:
http://go.gwu.edu/yatsyk

This event is on the record.

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Alexandra Yatsyk is Carnegie Research Scholar at GW’s Institute for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies. She is Head of the Center for Cultural Studies of Post-Socialism at the Kazan Federal University, Russia. She has worked as a lecturer and a visiting researcher at the School of Language, Translation and Literature Studies (University of Tampere, Finland), the Center for Urban History of East Central Europe (Lviv, Ukraine), and the Center for EU-Russia Studies (University of Tartu, Estonia). Her research interests include representations of post-Soviet national identities, sports and cultural mega-events, Russia's protest art, and biopolitics. She is a co-editor of a special issue of Sport in Society (2015) and the author of several book chapters and articles, including for European Urban and Regional Studies, Problems of Post-Communism, International Spectator, and Digital Icons.