Drugs, Organized Crime, and Politics in Kyrgyzstan: Findings from the Field

Part of IERES’ Visiting Scholar Roundtable Series

with

Alexander Kupatadze
IERES Hoffman Junior Post-Doctoral Fellow in Eurasian Studies

The transit of Afghan drugs was a main factor defining the nature of organized crime in Kyrgyzstan. The period of chaotic trading with no high level involvement in the early 1990s has been replaced by organized trading by sophisticated criminal groups with political connections in the early 2000s. Already before the 2005 Tulip Revolution drug traffickers had managed to infiltrate the government, with corrupt law enforcement and other officials getting their share of the narcotics trade. Since 2005, many allege that close relatives of President Kurmanbek Bakiev had stakes in drug smuggling. Simultaneously, in recent years, the representatives of law enforcement structures have played an increasingly important role in the smuggling networks. The presentation will discuss recent trends in regional drug smuggling activities, the involvement of criminal and radical Islamist groups in this business, and the interaction between the drugs trade and politics.

Alexander Kupatadze is Hoffman post-doctoral fellow in Eurasian Studies at IERES. He recently received his Ph.D. from the School of International Relations at St. Andrews University, and is currently adapting his dissertation into a book project entitled "Organized Crime and State Formation in Post-Soviet Eurasia."

Wednesday, February 23, 2011
4:00-5:30 p.m.
Voesar Conference Room
1957 E Street, NW, Suite 412
Please RSVP with your name and affiliation to ieresgwu@gwu.edu.

This event is off the record.