Collapse: Why Some Asylum Systems Succeed While Others Fail
Part of IERES’ Visiting Scholar Roundtable Series

with

Ridvan Peshkopia
Visiting Scholar, IERES

A comparison between the poorly functioning Greek asylum system and the highly regarded Albanian system leads to the question: Why do some asylum systems succeed while others fail? Ridvan Peshkopia will argue that, unless countries need asylum systems to deal with an influx of asylum seekers, they have no incentives to establish such institutions. As an alternative to building asylum systems, governments prefer to allow—and even encourage—asylum seekers to leave for more lucrative countries. When that is not possible, governments prefer to tighten their border controls. Therefore, establishing operational and efficient asylum systems is governments’ least preferred alternative. Governments are willing to abide their countries’ international obligations as long as such obligations do not require excessive efforts and resources; in cases where respecting the 1951 Geneva Convention becomes more economically and politically expensive than defecting, governments defect by switching their focus from refugee protection to border control. This argument applies to the EU as well.

Ridvan Peshkopia received an M.A. from the University of Kentucky’s Patterson School of Diplomacy and International Commerce, an M.A. from the University of Kentucky’s College of Arts and Sciences, and a Graduate Certificate in Managing International Conflicts from the University of Kentucky Martin School of Public Policy and Administration. He is currently a Ph.D. candidate in political science with the University of Kentucky, an adjunct instructor with the University of New York Tirana, and a visiting scholar at IERES. His articles have appeared in *Theoria: A Journal of Social and Political Theory*, *New Political Science*, *The International Journal of Human Rights*, *Albanian Journal of Politics*, *Southeast European Politics*, *Southeast European and Black Sea Studies*, and *Forced Migration Review*.

Thursday, March 31, 2011
4:00-5:30 p.m.

1957 E Street, NW, Suite 412

Please RSVP with your name and affiliation to ieresgwu@gwu.edu.

This event is on the record.