The Institute for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies (IERES) is pleased to invite you to:

Rock and Roll, Disco Mafia and the Collapse of Communism

Part of IERES’ Petrarch Program on Ukraine

with

Sergei Zhuk
Associate Professor of History, Ball State University

and

Taras Kuzio
Visiting Fellow, Center for Transatlantic Relations, SAIS, Johns Hopkins University

How did rock and disco music contribute to the fall of communism and the rise of post-Soviet capitalism? Why did Westernization during the two decades before the USSR’s collapse lead to russification? This presentation and discussion will analyze the cultural history of an important closed Soviet city, home to the ‘Dnipropetrovsk mafia’ that ran the USSR and Soviet Ukraine from the 1960s through to the 1980s, the rise of a new post-Soviet business and political elite from the Komsomol-run discos and businesses (including Yulia Tymoshenko, Sergei Tigipko and others) and the language question and Westernization in the media environment of independent Ukraine.

Dr. Sergei Zhuk teaches Russian and East European history at Ball State University. He is the author of numerous works, including his most recent book, Rock and Roll in the Rocket City: The West, Identity, and Ideology in Soviet Dniepropetrovsk, 1960-1985.

Dr. Taras Kuzio has analyzed Soviet, post-Soviet and Ukrainian affairs for the last two decades in various positions and edits the monthly Ukraine Analyst. He is currently an Austrian Marshall Plan Foundation Fellow at the Center for Transatlantic Relations, School of Advanced International Studies, where he is researching Ukrainian foreign and energy policies and writing a Contemporary History of Ukraine.

Wednesday, March 9, 2011
4:00-5:30 p.m.
1957 E Street, NW, Room 505
Please RSVP with your name and affiliation to ieresgwu@gwu.edu.
This event is on the record.