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

**The Costs of Justice:**
How New Leaders Respond to Previous Rights Abuses

*with*

**Brian K. Grodsky**
Assistant Professor of Comparative Politics, University of Maryland, Baltimore County

In *The Costs of Justice*, Brian K. Grodsky provides qualitative analyses of how transitional justice processes have evolved in diverse ways in postcommunist Poland, Croatia, Serbia, and Uzbekistan, by examining the decision-making processes and goals of those actors who contributed to key transitional justice policy decisions. Grodsky draws on extensive interviews with key political figures, human rights leaders, and representatives of various international, state, and nongovernmental bodies, as well as detailed analysis of international and local news reports, to offer a systematic and qualitatively compelling account of transitional justice from the perspective of activists who, at the end of a previous regime, were suddenly transformed from downtrodden victim to empowered judge.

Grodsky challenges the argument that transitional justice in post-repressive states is largely a function of the relative power of new versus old elites. He maintains that a new regime’s transitional justice policy is closely linked to its capacity to provide goods and services expected by constituents, not to political power struggles. In introducing this goods variable, so common to broad political analysis but largely overlooked in the transitional justice debate, Grodsky argues that we must revise our understanding of transitional justice. It is not an exceptional issue; it is but one of many political decisions faced by leaders in a transition state.

**Wednesday, April 27, 2011**
3:30-5:00 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 on the record.