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

**Borderland Identity and Politics: Ukraine and Moldova after 20 Years of Independence**

*Part of IERES’ Petrach Program on Ukraine*

with

Ludmila Coada

and

Valentyna Vasylova

*Fulbright Visiting Scholars, IERES*

Charles King

*Professor, Georgetown University, will serve as discussant*

Twenty years after the breakup of the Soviet Union, Moldova and Ukraine – the borderlands in perpetual transition – are still building their geopolitical identities and foreign policy. During two decades of independence these countries have oscillated between a closer partnership with Russia and a pro-Western orientation, while neighboring Romania’s accession to the European Union has brought the EU eastern frontier to this long contested region, marked in particular by a frozen conflict in Transnistria. The speakers will discuss the two states’ borderland politics, both in terms of their geopolitically ambiguous position and the cross-border ethnocultural space defined by conflicting historical memories and overlapping identities.

**Ludmila Coada** is an Associate Professor at the Free International University of Moldova (Chisinau), and is currently a Visiting Fulbright Scholar at IERES. Her areas of interest and expertise include foreign policy analysis, including the international behavior of Moldova and other post-Soviet states. She is the author of several scholarly articles on Bassarabian history and the foreign policy of Moldova.

**Valentyna Vasylova** holds an MA from Central European University (Hungary) and a PhD from Chernivtsi University (Ukraine), and currently is a Fulbright Visiting Scholar at IERES. Her research interests encompass the post-communist transformations of East Central Europe, (cross-)border regions, frozen conflicts, and historical memory.

**Charles King** is Professor at the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, and an expert on Eastern Europe, nationalism, and ethnic conflict. He has lectured widely on these topics and has worked with broadcast media ranging from CNN and the BBC to the History Channel and MTV. His latest book is *Odessa: Genius and Death in a City of Dreams*.

**Thursday, April 28, 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.*