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

**From War-Profiteer to Strategic Asset:**
US Armament Policy towards Switzerland in the Early Cold War

with

**Marco Wyss**
*Visiting Scholar, IERES*

Immediately after the Second World War, US-Swiss relations were far from cordial. The United States accused Switzerland of war-profiteering because of its neutrality policy and its cooperation with the Third Reich. In late 1951, however, Washington assumed a more benevolent approach towards Switzerland, which was considered to be of strategic interest to the US. Meanwhile, Washington’s armament policy towards Switzerland seemed to evolve in parallel. While in 1945 a Swiss request for military aircraft was flatly rebuffed, by early 1952, Switzerland qualified for military aid under the Mutual Defense Assistance Act.

This presentation will focus on the evolution of Washington’s armaments policy towards Switzerland, and the reasons for US policy shifts. It will also question the assumption that the qualification for American military aid led to a dramatic change in US policy. Finally, the paper will examine if the supply of weapons and military technology was an American tool to wean Switzerland from its traditional policy of neutrality – as this was the case with the other traditional European neutral Sweden.

Currently a Visiting Scholar at IERES, Marco Wyss is a PhD candidate at the University of Nottingham and the University of Neuchâtel, where he is an Assistant in Contemporary History.

**Thursday, May 6, 2010**
3:30-5:00 p.m.
Voesar Conference Room
1957 E Street, NW, Suite 412
Please RSVP to ieresgwu@gwu.edu.

*This event is on the record.*