The Institute for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies

Invitation to a book discussion:

**Oil Is Not a Curse:**
*Ownership Structure and Institutions in Soviet Successor States*

featuring

**Pauline Jones Luong**
Associate Professor of Political Science, Brown University

Commentary by Edward C. Chow
Senior Fellow, Energy and National Security Program, CSIS

Friday, September 24, 2010
12:30 – 2:30 p.m. (lunch will be served)
Elliott School of International Affairs
Lindner Family Commons (Room 602)
1957 E Street, NW, 6th Floor
RSVP to Olga Novikova at novikova@gwu.edu

Please join us for a book discussion of the newly-published *Oil Is Not a Curse* (co-authored by Pauline Jones Luong and Erika Weinthal) with presentation by Pauline Jones Luong and commentary by Edward Chow. This new study argues that the ability of mineral rich states to avert the “resource curse” by building strong fiscal regimes depends on the ownership structure they choose to manage their mineral wealth. The energy-rich states of Russia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan are not “doomed,” by virtue of their wealth, to follow the path of their mineral-rich counterparts in the developing world.

**Pauline Jones Luong** is Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of Political Science at Brown University. Her primary research addresses a variety of topics related to institutional origin and change, identity and conflict, and the political economy of development. She has published articles in several leading academic and policy journals, including the *American Political Science Review*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *Foreign Affairs*, and *Resources Policy*. Her books include *Institutional Change and Political Continuity in Post-Soviet Central Asia* and *The Transformation of Central Asia*.

**Edward C. Chow** is a Senior Fellow in the Energy and National Security Program at CSIS. He is an international energy expert with 30 years of oil industry experience, including 20 years with the Chevron Corporation. He has advised U.S. and foreign governments, major international oil companies, and leading multinational corporations.