This presentation will focus on the impact of Greece’s current financial crisis on its foreign policy by exploring foreign policy objectives towards its neighbors in Southeastern Europe and the eastern Mediterranean, as well as the Euro-Atlantic context. Despite the country’s economic crisis, which imposed a number of constraints on addressing foreign policy issues, Greek authorities have pursued new opportunities for improving the country’s relations with traditional allies and regional partners. The smart use of Greece’s strategic and geopolitical position with respect to its Euro-Atlantic commitments is key in keeping the country a stable and useful partner for the EU, the US, and NATO, especially in a region that’s challenging for European and Transatlantic interests. Greece’s political elite needs to address the impact of the economic crisis in its foreign policy: fostering economic growth and rebuilding the competitiveness of the Greek economy are essential elements for an innovative foreign policy.

Eirini Cheila is Professor of International Politics and former Head of the Department of International, European and Area Studies at Panteion University (Athens, Greece), as well as Vice President of the State Scholarships Foundation (2014-2016). She has served as a Visiting Professor at Paris II Panthéon–Assas (2010-2011), a Stanley J. Seeger Visiting Fellow at Princeton University (1996) and at the Institut Wissenschaft und Politik in Berlin (2007). She is currently a Visiting Scholar at the Institute for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies at GWU’s Elliott School of International Affairs. She has published extensively in Greek, French and English on issues related to foreign policy, crisis management and multilateral diplomacy. Her most recent book is titled *International Crises toward the 21st Century. Questions of Theory and Management* (in Greek).

Tuesday, November 29, 2016
12:30pm – 2:00pm
Voesar Conference Room
1957 E Street NW, Suite 412
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