Witness to History: IERES Conference in Ukraine

Most scholarly conferences take place in meeting rooms far removed from the actual events they are studying. When IERES convened a book project meeting in the middle of December 2013 in Kyiv, Ukraine, however, it was right at the heart of an on-going protest against the country's government. The purpose of the meeting in Kyiv was to analyze Ukraine’s prospects for reform. Since gaining independence in 1991, Ukraine has seen several transitions in political power, and has even brought a coalition of reformers to office in the 2004 Orange Revolution. However, it has made little progress in carrying out basic constitutional, judicial, economic, and anti-corruption reforms. The consequence is a country that is far from living up to its potential in adopting policies that improve the overall standard of living for its residents. During the course of the conference, the participants presented and critiqued book chapters that seek to identify ...

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Kazakh Culture in the 20th and 21st Centuries

On November 6, 2013, the Central Asia Program (CAP) at IERES launched its Kazakhstan Initiative with the one-day event on "Kazakh Culture in the 20th and 21st centuries: Legacies and Innovations." The conference, opened by the Ambassador of Kazakhstan to the United States, H. E. Kairat Umarov, featured the most prominent representative of Soviet and contemporary Kazakh culture, Olzhas Suleymenov, currently the permanent representative of Kazakhstan to UNESCO. Ambassador Suleymenov discussed the role of culture in the 21st century and the dialogue of cultures as a tool for peace. He also answered questions from the audience about Kazakh literature during Soviet times, his poetry and civic engagement, and his research on issues of Eurasianism. The conference then moved to a more academic discussion, with panels featuring scholars from Kazakhstan, Europe, and the United States. The first panel discussed the current state of research ...

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Continued > **Ukraine Conference**

... the key obstacles blocking reform and propose potential solutions. Around the table were many of the leading scholars on Ukraine based in North America, Europe, and Ukraine itself. Also present were scholars familiar with the kinds of problems Ukraine faces but working on different countries, in order to provide comparative context. The conference was funded by a generous grant from the Elliott School’s SOAR Project Initiation Fund and the GW Office of the Vice President for Research.

The political turmoil in Ukraine naturally had a strong impact on the discussions. About a month before the conference opened, President Victor Yanukovych announced that he was not going to sign an EU Association Agreement as planned. His sudden retraction led thousands of protesters to occupy Independence Square and the streets around it. Even though the police tried to push the activists off of the square, the protests took hold and tens of thousands of people remained permanently camped on the square from late November, when the protests began, through the New Year and beyond.

In the evenings and on the weekends, additional thousands of people came out to the square to hear political speeches and some of Ukraine’s most popular musicians.

During the conference, IERES scholars met with many of the leaders of the protests, including several members of parliament and Evgenia Tymoshenko, the daughter of Yulia Tymoshenko, the former prime minister jailed by Yanukovych. They saw up close the stage that forms the center of the protests and the barricades being constructed on the streets leading into the square. The barricades sought to prevent the authorities from making additional attempts to remove the protesters.

The consensus among conference participants was that the need for reform in Ukraine is beyond doubt. This IERES project is intended to make a substantial contribution to the scholarly and policy-making discourse that promotes democratization.

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Continued > **Kazakhstan Initiative**

... on Kazakh literature, especially the classic works of Abay, Auezov, and Suleymenov, which shaped the Kazakh literary field. The second panel explored the Kazakh “new wave” cinema of the 1990s-2000s and the challenges involved in producing films in a Central Asian country. The third analyzed the revival of Kazakh traditional music and the birth of Kazakh pop music, which originates from ancient musical rhythms. The fourth panel investigated public street art and counter-cultural art as new forms of expression of Kazakh identity.

The conference concluded with an impressive Kazakh musical performance and a reception. This conference was part of the IERES/CAP goal of relinking knowledge on Eurasian societies with the study of their cultures. Cultural issues are sometimes considered to be of lesser relevance for the study of international affairs. IERES’s Central Asia Program hopes to contribute to the study of the cultures of Eurasia as living dynamic entities, functioning in interaction with politics and the economy, and reflecting contemporary social changes in the region.
IERES Explores Conflict over Maritime Oil Deposits

In 2010, Russia and Norway signed a treaty ending a 40-year dispute over where to set their maritime boundary. Drawing the line had significant implications for the two countries in terms of dividing up valuable resources, such as fishing rights and access to undersea deposits of oil and natural gas. Russia was able to come to an agreement despite President Vladimir Putin’s reputation for aggressively pursuing Russian interests abroad and the possible objections of nationalists at home who could accuse the president of ceding Russian territory without a fight. Russia and Norway were able to reach an agreement at the same time that similar disputes over maritime boundaries in other parts of the world lead to conflict.

Such battles are prominent in the South China Sea, where China has difficult relations with many of its neighbors regarding where to establish national boundaries in waters that likely contain valuable energy deposits. Additionally, similar disputes mar relations between neighboring countries in the Arctic, Caspian Sea, and eastern Mediterranean. This project, led by IERES Assistant Director Robert Orttung, will seek to explain why some of these disputes have been resolved peacefully, while others remain mired in conflict. In mid-2014, using funds from a generous grant from the Elliott School SOAR Project Initiation Fund, IERES will bring together a group of scholars working on these issues in a variety of different national contexts. Comparing the situations across different cases will provide insight into which conditions lead to more cooperative outcomes.

Projects such as this reflect IERES’s commitment to scholarly endeavors that have practical implications for addressing real-world problems. The research conducted as part of the project should produce material not only for academic articles and books, but also newspaper analyses and policy briefs that will reach an audience of government policymakers and corporate managers.

Understanding the Cross-Border Character of the “Far Right” in Europe and Eurasia

Professor Marlene Laruelle’s new research project investigates the connections between the European and Eurasian far right. Throughout the 20th century, ideologues of the European far right have constructed a complex perspective on the Eurasian space. Despite the Communist experience and the Nazi discourse on “inferior races,” many fascist movements have projected their ideologies onto Eurasia and hope to find strategic success there.

Today’s far right parties attempt to create a unifying front in Europe. The extent of their success in the next European Parliament elections, to be held in May 2014, will be a key metric for measuring the progress of radical populism and the risk it bears for European values. Although the far right is currently trying to reshape the anti-European scene, there is a large knowledge gap regarding the history and current development of fascism. Analysis often is limited to the country level, and cross-border features remain understudied.

Dr. Laruelle’s research aims to fill this gap by providing an in-depth analysis of these unknown Eurasian connections to European fascism that looks at fascism from the 1930s to today. It also hopes to raise awareness of these evolutions for an international audience. To this end, Laruelle’s research assistant Marcin Bylica worked during the Fall Semester to create a database of far right political parties and groups in Europe and Eurasia and of the watchdogs and academic resources monitoring them, which will be put online in 2014. Laruelle’s research is funded thanks to a grant from an anonymous donor.
PONARS Eurasia Holds Timely Policy Workshop in Chisinau, Moldova

In order to better understand the future of the EU-Russia neighborhood, PONARS Eurasia held a policy workshop and met with officials and experts in Chisinau, Moldova, on December 5-7, 2013. The PONARS Eurasia trip took place shortly after the EU’s Eastern Partnership (EaP) Summit in Vilnius, Lithuania. The EaP partners are Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine.

At the Vilnius Summit, Moldova and Georgia initiated EU association agreements, which involve a series of political and economic reforms in exchange for stepped-up collaborations across numerous issue areas, including free trade, and, potentially, visa-free travel. In Chisinau, the mood was festive and somewhat anxious. Moldovans expressed their long-awaited pleasure at entering into the EU orbit but acknowledged that the population is still divided in its attitude toward closer integration with the EU. Whether the ruling coalition that initiated the agreement will even stay in power long enough to finalize it remains an open question.

Moldova shares a border with Ukraine, and eyes were often on the latest news from Kyiv’s Maidan. As many of us saw in the news, and as we closely monitored from Chisinau, the large-scale protests in Ukraine were sparked when Viktor Yanukovych rather suddenly walked away from the Vilnius agreement and engaged in financial and strategic dealings with Russia’s Vladimir Putin.

During one of the workshop sessions, participants held a video conference call with Oleksiy Haran in Kyiv. He provided analysis and updates and answered questions live from Ukraine. PONARS Eurasia held two public sessions featuring Tamar Khuntsaria (Tbilisi State University/EU-Georgia Business Council), Arkady Moshes (Finnish Institute of International Affairs), Viorel Cibotaru (European Institute for Political Studies, Chisinau), Juliet Johnson (McGill University, Montreal), Andrey Makarychev (University of Tartu, Estonia), and Yulia Nikitina (MGIMO).

The smaller workshop sessions covered topics such as “Migration and Minorities in Russian Public Opinion” (Mikhail Alexeev, Theodore Gerber, Henry Hale), “Between the EU and Russia” (Eiki Berg, Yulia Nikitina), “On the Way to EU Association—Moldova and Georgia” (Ludmila Coada, Andrey Makarychev, Andrey Deviatkov, Tamar Khuntsaria), “Trade and Porous Borders—EU-Russia and Moldova” (Sergei Golunov, George Gavrilis), “Tacking to the Center—Ukraine and Azerbaijan” (Yurly Matsuievsy, Anar Valiyev), and “Clients and Patrons?—Armenia, Belarus, and the Caucasian ‘Lobby Hobby’” (Sergey Minasyian, Arkady Moshes, Scott Radnitz).

In Chisinau, the group had private meetings with Vlad Filat (Liberal Democratic Party chairman and former Moldovan Prime Minister), Dumitru Diacov (Democratic Party), and Igor Dodon (Socialist Party). They received insights about the Association processes from EU delegation head Pirkka Tapiola and analyst Olga Shumylo-Tapiola who joined the PONARS group for a lively dinner and discussion, which featured classic local decor and food.

During the trip, some participants travelled to Tiraspol, the capital of breakaway Transnistria, where they met with local officials and saw the sights, which include a still-standing statue of Lenin. There was also a visit to the Moldovan Milestii Mici wine complex, which has the largest underground wine storage caverns in the world (wine is the primary industry and export of Moldova).

Visit www.ponarseurasia.org for the latest policy memos, including memos from the Moldova workshop, which are in the process of being published.

New: PONARS Eurasia is reaching wider audiences—select policy memos are now available at openDemocracy Russia (English) and at Эхо Москвы and Son (Russian).
Former IERES Fellow Appointed Minister of Agriculture and Food in Norway

Sylvi Listhaug, a former Ambassador Robert D. Stuart fellow at IERES, was appointed as the Minister of Agriculture and Food in the Norwegian cabinet in October 2013. Another Ambassador Stuart Fellow, Hans F. Asmyhr, was a finalist for this position. Congratulations!

The Ambassador Robert D. Stuart Fellowship, coordinated by the Norway-America Association, is named for the man who served as US ambassador to Norway from 1980 to 1986. The fellowship brings to IERES young Norwegians who are interested in American politics and have been active in a Norwegian political party. The recipients learn first-hand about US politics by participating in an internship (usually on Capitol Hill), attending lectures at the Elliott School of International Affairs, and actively engaging in a variety of IERES events.

Naomi Poling Warbasse Award

The fall 2013 Naomi Poling Warbasse Award, given to an outstanding second-year female graduate student studying Central or Eastern European Studies, was awarded to Rodica Tomescu-Olaru. Ms. Tomescu-Olaru is a student in the European and Eurasian Studies MA program, and is taking courses while serving as first secretary at the Embassy of Romania.

Visiting Scholars

Christofer Berglund is a Ph.D. candidate at the Department of Government at Uppsala University in Sweden. His dissertation investigates the attempts of the Georgian government following the Rose Revolution to integrate two borderland regions, one populated by Armenians (Javakheti) and the other by Azerbajians (Kvemo Kartli). In order to shed light on these nation-building processes, he has conducted elite interviews and implemented a large-scale, socio-linguistic experiment among high school aged respondents in Tbilisi and the two ethnoregions. Beyond his dissertation project, Christofer has researched issues related to hybrid regimes, democratization, and state-building in the South Caucasus. (March 2014 – May 2014)

Aurelie Biard is a researcher at the Centre for International Studies and Research (CERI) in Paris and an associated researcher at the Centre for Turkish, Ottoman, Balkan, and Central Asian Studies (CETOBAC, CNRS). She works on the contemporary uses of Islam in Eurasia. Her Ph.D. in political science and political anthropology at Sciences-Po Paris (defense in December 2013) analyzes interactions between the Kyrgyz national context and global religious evolutions. Her post-doctoral research focuses on the systems of interdependencies (at the individual, relationship, and structural levels) between various Islamic actors and the local power adjustments in Kyrgyzstan. biaraurelie@gwu.edu (September 2013 – August 2014)

Ketevan Chumbadze is a lecturer at Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University and works at the Political Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia. She received her M.A. in International Relations from MGIMO and her B.A. in Social and Political Sciences from Tbilisi State University. Her research interests include conflict, transitions, and politics in post-Soviet countries as well as security issues in US-Russian relations. Her research topic is titled “Two Decades of Transition in Georgia - Promoting and Hindering Factors.” k.chumbadze@gmail.com (January 2014 – May 2014)
Markian Dobczansky, the Mellon fellow in contemporary history, is a Ph.D. candidate in Soviet and East European history at Stanford University. His dissertation project, "From Soviet Heartland to Ukrainian Borderland: Searching for Identity in Kharkiv, 1943-2004," is a case study of the multiple and overlapping identities generated in this large urban center in the Soviet and post-Soviet periods. Other academic interests include nationalism, urban history, and socialist culture. He received a B.A. in History and German Studies from the University of Pennsylvania and an M.A. in History from Stanford University. dobczansky@gwu.edu (September 2013 – June 2014)

Ahmad Guliyev is a research scientist at the Institute of History of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences, where he defended his Ph.D. in 2007. He is also a chairman of the non-governmental organization Development in Science and Education. He is at IERES on a Fulbright grant to research ethnic identity among Azerbaijani immigrants in the US. His research interests include national and ethnic identity issues, nation and state-building in the South Caucasus and Turkey, international relations in Europe and the Middle East, Ottoman-Safavid relations, and the Sufi orders of Islam. aguliyev@gwu.edu (October 2013 – May 2014)

Mami Hamamoto is a research fellow at the Graduate School of Humanities and Sociology of the University of Tokyo, where she specializes in the history of Russian Muslims, especially Tatars. At IERES she is researching Tatar merchants and their relationship with the government of the Russian Empire. She received her Ph.D. in 2006 from Kyoto University (Japan) and audited classes at the Institute of Russian History of the Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow from 1999 to 2001. hamamoto@gwu.edu (Sept. 2011 – Sept. 2014)

Taulant Hasa is a Ph.D. student at the University Complutense of Madrid. He will be at IERES to research the integration of the western Balkans into the European Union. tauhasa@gwu.edu (December 2013 – May 2014)

Nariya Khasanova graduated from the University of World Economy and Diplomacy, where she studied International Economic Relations. She has held two UN internships - at the UNDP Office in Uzbekistan and at the UNDP Bratislava Regional Center, and she has been working on an Asian Development Bank Project in Uzbekistan. Her interest in development, peace, and conflict studies led her to the UN-mandated University for Peace (UPEACE), where she obtained her master's degree in Sustainable Urban Governance and Peace. During her fellowship she will be studying the complexity of the Rogun Issue between Uzbekistan and Tajikistan from an environmental security/common ground perspective. nariya.uwed@gmail.com (February 2014 – June 2014)

Vera Kuklina is a post-doctoral student at the V. B. Sochava Institute of Geography of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, where she received her Ph.D. in 2003. She is currently pursuing her Doctor of Science degree (a post-Ph.D. degree), studying the issues of peripheral local communities in Russia and the US. She recently published an article "Construction of Homeland among Buriats in Irkutsk" and organized a special forum on Baikal Issues in Sibirica: Interdisciplinary Journal of Siberian Studies (Vol. 12, Issue 2). kuklina@gwu.edu (October 2013 – May 2014)

Solomiya Ohinok is a Ph.D. student in International Relations at the Ivan Franko National University in L'viv, Ukraine. She is focusing on the features and spreading of Western systems of values and standards. During her stay at IERES, she will be working on a project titled "Franchising as a Tool for Promoting European Standards beyond the EU." ohinok.solomiya@gmail.com (February 2014 – May 2014)

Jean-François Ratelle completed his Ph.D. at the University of Ottawa in 2012. At IERES, he is researching “Mapping and Theorizing Identity Variations in Intrastate Wars.” His main research interests include the micro-dynamics of violence, civil wars, terrorism, Islamic radicalization, the North Caucasus, and the Balkans. His Ph.D. dissertation addresses the recent upsurge of insurgent violence in the North Caucasus. He engaged in ethnographic-based research that focused on the pathways toward insurgent participation in Dagestan and in the North Caucasus,
conducting 13 months of ethnographical research in Russia, including 6 months in the North Caucasus (Dagestan, Chechnya, and Kabardino-Balkaria). ratelle@gwu.edu. (September 2012 – August 2014)

Agustin Rossi Silvano is a Ph.D. student at the European University Institute in Florence, Italy. At IERES he is working on his dissertation on the online privacy regimes of the EU and US. He argues that, due to historical and cultural reasons, the regimes are very different in kind, but poor implementation and business power make their results equivalent. He also studies the political effects of the corporate invasions of privacy. agustinrossi@gwu.edu (January 2014 – June 2014)

Elana Wilson Rowe’s research interests center around international relations in the Arctic and the role of experts and science in global governance more broadly. Her Ph.D. dissertation examined the relationship between indigenous peoples, oil companies, and the state in northern Canada and Russia. She is the author of Russian Climate Politics: When Science Meets Policy (Palgrave, 2013) and editor of Russia and the North (University of Ottawa Press, 2009), The Multilateral Dimension in Russian Foreign Policy (Routledge, 2009, with Stina Torjesen) and Russia’s Encounter with Globalization (Palgrave, 2011, with Julie Wilhelmsen). elanarowe@gwu.edu (July 2013 – June 2014)

Lars Rowe, a senior research fellow at the Fridtjof Nansen Institute, has mainly worked on the bilateral relationship between Norway and the Soviet Union/Russia, and has published widely on these topics. During his stay at IERES, he will be working on a project that explores the metallurgical sector in the Russian Arctic, with an emphasis on how the Soviet production base and Soviet governance traditions still influence and hamper development within this field. He will also co-edit and co-author a 200-year history of Russian-Norwegian relations to be published in the spring of 2014. larsrowe@gwu.edu (July 2013 – June 2014)

Albert Schmidt is professor emeritus in law from Quinnipiac College of Law and professor emeritus in history from the University of Bridgeport. At IERES, he is working on the town planning and architecture of provincial Russia and the history of English law firms in the 18th and 19th centuries. albsch@gwu.edu

Said Yakhyoev holds master degrees in Political Science from the OSCE Academy and in International Peacebuilding from the University of Notre Dame. Said’s interests are in good governance in the extractive industries and its linkages to conflict. He worked at the non-profit Bank Information Center in Washington, DC, where he promoted transparency and sustainable policies of the international financial institutions investing in extractive industries. He currently works at the OSCE Office in Tajikistan promoting development policies and cross-border trade. At IERES, his research will address the ongoing energy crises in Tajikistan’s rural and mountainous communities. (February 2014 – June 2014)

Sufian Zhemukhov is the PONARS Eurasia visiting scholar and Russian-language editor for 2013-2014. He defended his Ph.D. at the Institute of Ethnology of the Russian Academy of Sciences in 1997, and has worked in Nalchik as director of the Teacher Training Institute (2000-2004), and editor-in-chief of the newspapers Kabardino-Balkarskaia Pravda (2006-2007) and Voice of Kabarda (since 2011), zhemukho@gwu.edu (May 2011 – July 2014)

IERES Publications

Books


Articles & Book Chapters


Policy Papers


Commentary


IERES Events - Fall 2013

Arctic Working Group
“Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change: Bridging the Gap between Science and Policymaking,” Oleg Anisimov, Professor of Physical Geography, Hydrological Institute, co-sponsored with: GW Geography Department, 12/6/2013.

Behind the Headlines
“Environmental Crime and Corruption in Russia,” Sally Stoecker, Scholar in Residence, American University, 11/12/2013.

“Crisis in the European Periphery,” Kostas Vergopoulos, Professor of Economics, University of Paris VIII, co-sponsored with: Onassis Foundation (USA) and the Hellenic Society of Washington, DC, 11/6/2013.

“Georgia after the Presidential Elections: Is a Consolidated Democracy in Reach?” Martha Beard, Program Officer, Eurasia, National Endowment for Democracy, Cory Welt, IERES, co-sponsored with: National Endowment for Democracy, 10/29/2013.


The Need for Global Public Policy in the 21st Century,” Jack A. Goldstone, Hazel Professor of Public Policy, George Mason University, Robin J. Lewis, Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration, 10/3/2013.


Central Asia Program

Film Screening: “White Mountains,” 12/12/2013.

“Foreign Policy Doctrine and the Actions of Uzbekistan,” Farkhod Tolipov, Director, Non-Governmental Education and Research Institution Bilim Karvoni, 11/15/2013.

Conference: “Central Asia, Iran, and the Nuclear Landscape in Asia,” co-sponsored with: Sigur Center for Asian Studies, 11/14/2013.

Film Screening: “You Are Not an Orphan,” 11/14/2013.


“A musician performs traditional music at “Kazakh Culture: Legacies and Innovations.”


“The Family Business: Turkmenistan’s Economy Starts to Look Like its Neighbors,” Myles Smith, Senior Program Officer, IREX, 10/16/2013.

“Studying Central Asia: Looking at the Merits of ‘Eavesdropping’,” Svetlana Jacquesson, Director, Central Asian Studies Institute, 10/7/2013.


Cultural Initiative

“Incongruent Strategies: Engagements with Humor and Identity in Contemporary Azerbaijani Art,” Monica Steinberg, Ph.D. Candidate, City University of New York, 11/13/2013.

Eurasian Leadership


European Politics


“Law and the Eurozone Crisis,” Daniel Kelemen, Professor of Political Science, Rutgers University, 10/11/2013.


GW Cold War Group


PEERS

“Mistakes and Challenges that European and Russian IT Companies Face in the US Market,” Dmitri I. Dubograev, Founder, Managing Partner & CEO, femida.us (a/k/a Intl Legal Counsels PC), co-sponsored with: Russian American Youth Association, 9/17/2013.


Petrach Program on Ukraine

“Pavlo Lazarenko and the Current Political Situation in Ukraine,” Sergii Leshchenko, Journalist, Ukraïnska Pravda, 11/19/2013.


PONARS Eurasia

Panelists at the 2013 PONARS Eurasia Annual Policy Conference (Henry Hale, Kimberly Marten, Nikolay Petrov, James Richter, and Brian Taylor).

Book Incubator “Micromanaged Democracy in Russia,” Henry Hale, Associate Professor of Political Science, GW, Maria Lipman, Carnegie Moscow Center, Nikolai Petrov, Higher School of Economics, 9/21/2013.


Post-Soviet Politics Social Science Workshop
“Explaining Genocide: The Fate of the Armenians in the Late Ottoman Empire,” Ronald Grigor Suny, Charles Tilly Collegiate Professor of Social and Political History, University of Michigan, Evgeny Finkel, GW, 12/10/2013.

“Russia’s March From Sovereign Democracy to Sovereign Morality,” Gulnaz Sharafutdinova, Senior Lecturer, King’s Russia Institute, Sufian Zhemukhov, IERES, 11/12/2013.

“Colonial Legacies & Enduring Regional Voting Patterns in Ukrainian National Elections,” Keith Darden, Associate Professor of Political Science, American University, Erik Herron, University of Kansas, 10/8/2013.


“Local-Level Law Enforcement: Muscovites and their Uchastkovyi,” Lauren A. McCarthy, Assistant Professor of Political Science in Legal Studies, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Louise Shelley, George Mason University, 6/11/2013.

U.S.-Russia Working Group

Visiting Scholars Roundtable
“State-Business Relations in Russia: What Accounts for Regional Variation?”, Gulnaz Sharafutdinova, Senior Lecturer, King’s Russia Institute, 12/12/2013.


World Youth Democracy Forum
“The World Youth Democracy Forum Meeting with the 2013 Ion Ratiu Democracy Award Winner,” Dr. Angela Kocze, Roma rights activist and Visiting Assistant Professor of Sociology, Wake Forest University, Bliot Sorei, IERES, co-sponsored with: the Ion Ratiu Democracy Award at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and the League of Overseas Romanian Students, 12/6/2013.
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