What happens when new international boundaries appear? The example of Central Asia’s Ferghana Valley

with Nick Megoran (Newcastle University)

Central Asia’s Ferghana Valley has historically been a mosaic of social groups and identities. The emergence of international boundaries with the break-up of the Soviet Union imposed a new political geographical logic on the social fabric of the Valley. This talk explores the tensions between these two logics of ordering territory, and the effects on inter-ethnic relations. Focussing on ethnically-mixed rural villages along the Uzbekistan-Kyrgyzstan boundary, it traces the fate of communities whose existence challenged both the new ideologies of nationalism and the analytical narratives of inter-communal tension.

Nick Megoran is a political geography lecturer at Newcastle University. His research includes the political geographies and geopolitics of post-Cold War inter-state relations, focusing on the building of nation-states in modern Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, with particular attention paid to border regions, boundary disputes and geopolitics, and the place of religion and the church in war and peace.

Thursday, May 12, 2016
4:30pm - 6:00pm
1957 E St, NW, Room 505
Please RSVP at go.gwu.edu/megoran
This event is on the record.