Big Brother, Where Art Thou?
Conspiracy theories in politics and culture of Putin’s Russia

with

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In post-Soviet Russia, the idea that the country is besieged by external enemies has been gradually gaining prominence and reached its climax during the conflict in Ukraine in 2014. Whilst the popularity of conspiracy theories is on the rise globally, observers and scholars in the field of Russian studies debate on the factors that make conspiracy theories especially appealing to Russians. What role do these theories play in political discourse and nation-building, and how do these theories reflect socio-economic and political problems of the post-communist Russian society?

In this presentation, Dr. Yablokov presents a methodological approach to studying conspiracy theories in the post-Soviet space, discusses the origins and development of the most prominent conspiracy theories which emerged in the post-Soviet period, and considers the impact that these theories have on the political development of the country.

Dr. Ilya Yablokov holds an MA in Nationalism studies from Central European University, Hungary (2009) and received his PhD from the University of Manchester, UK (2014). His research interests include conspiracy theories, nation building and politics in post-Soviet Russia, the history of post-Soviet journalism and international broadcasting. He has published in peer-reviewed journals (Nationalities Papers, Politics, Democratizatsiya). In 2015, he won the BASEES Prize for the best peer-reviewed article published by a post-graduate student. At the moment, Ilya teaches Russian politics, history and media at the University of Leeds (UK).

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4:30 pm – 6:00 pm
Voesar Conference Room
1957 E St. NW, Suite 412

Please RSVP at http://go.gwu.edu/yablokov