



BROWN BAG LECTURE SERIES

February 10 at 12:30 p.m.

Arlington campus, Truland building
Conference Room (7th floor)

For further information email akurze@gmu.edu.

The Social Theory and Globalization working group—a platform for interdisciplinary scholarship to analyze the evolution of social change in light of globalizing processes—is proud to announce the launch of its brown bag lecture series. The monthly talks by Mason faculty and students aim at stimulating scholarly discussions on the effect of new global configurations on theory, including, for instance, development, nationalism, neoliberalism, social movements, and urbanism. Moreover, it is an opportunity to foster a critical, interdisciplinary perspective among Mason's faculty members and students, as well as collaboration among students and scholars.

Speakers

Kate Romanova, Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution

Immigration and the Growing Nationalist Violence in the Post-Soviet Russian Federation

Global migration has increasingly affected more countries around the world. Many non-traditional destination countries face a dilemma about effective immigration policies and preservation of national cohesion. Looking at post-Soviet Russian Federation Kate Romanova argues that the perception of national identity moderates the interaction between in-group's attitudes toward the out-group and immigration policies. Immigration policies, in turn, shape immigration patterns, demonstrating continuous dynamics between immigration, national integrity and sociopolitical choices of the country. The causal nexus of these phenomena define attitudinal relationships between communities and shape intergroup dynamics, at the same time forming the level of tolerance in society.

Arnaud Kurze, Department of Public and International Affairs

EU Politics of Foreign Aid in the Balkans: Development, Integration and Reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina

In his talk, Arnaud Kurze discusses different variables that affect the European Union's (EU) foreign assistance decisions, including regional economic growth, EU enlargement factors, and EU capacity. Contrary to conventional reasoning, he argues that the EU does not pursue altruistic goals by promoting economic development in the Balkans. Also, by using conditionality, the EU pursues a double strategy. On the one hand, it puts pressure on the recipient countries to adhere to liberal trade policies, diffusing its free market ideology. On the other hand, the EU is "buying time" in order to reform its institutions and implement structural adjustments, a sine qua non not only for future enlargements, but also for its ontological survival.