

'West Coast Seminars'
on
Economic and Social Change in Russia and Eastern Europe
(Glasgow, West of Scotland [Paisley campus] and Strathclyde Universities)
Sixteenth Annual Series 2009-2010

'A reluctant troika? US, EU and Russian perceptions of European security'

Dr Derek Averre
CREES, University of Birmingham

Wednesday 17 March 2010
at 5.30 pm

University of Glasgow, CEES Seminar Room, 8-9 Lilybank Gardens

Tea and coffee will be available from 5.00

All Welcome

Abstract:

The focus of Russia's foreign policy discourse is on revisiting, and in some cases revising, post-Cold War security arrangements at a time when the international order is undergoing change. This presents the US and Europe with a dilemma. One view is that henceforth efforts should be directed towards a 'transactional' relationship, defining interests and seeking compromises, in the interests of the stability of Europe and securing Moscow's cooperation in global security matters; this détente-like 'minimalist' goal of reducing mutual antagonism undermines many of the underlying assumptions of the West's policy towards Russia over the last two decades. Others argue that, since the US (including through its leading position in NATO) and the EU constitute a 'community of values', they can not engage in a genuine 'strategic partnership' with Russia if a common value base is missing. The dilemma is exacerbated by divisions between the US and Europe, and within Europe itself, over how best to advance relations with Russia. Following Russia's conflict with Georgia and recognition of the separatist territories of South Ossetia and Abkhazia there appears to have been a return to 'business as usual', yet few if any of the differences over key aspects of security governance in the wider Europe have been properly addressed. This paper examines the issues at stake, in particular analysing President Dmitrii Medvedev's ambitious proposals for a new Euroatlantic security pact, which aims to reposition Moscow firmly at the centre of European security affairs; assesses the respective roles of the US, NATO and the EU as security 'providers' in the wider Europe, and what form any response to Medvedev's proposals might take; and considers the impact of Russia's internal governance and domestic vulnerabilities on its external policy and on its own future role in European security governance.

Dr Derek Averre is Director of the Centre for Russian and East European Studies, University of Birmingham. His main research interests centre on Russian foreign and security policy, Russia-Europe relations and arms control/non-proliferation issues, and he has written numerous journal articles and book chapters and presented widely in the US and Europe on these topics. He is the manager of an ongoing project on arms control and economic transition, funded externally by the UK government. Dr Averre also serves as a member of the Editorial Board of the journal *European Security*.