Dr. Florian Bieber
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Presents

“The Balkans: Promotion of Power-Sharing By Outsiders”

Tuesday, April 15th, 2008
12:00PM
Conference Room, Penn Program in Ethnic Conflict
St. Leonard’s Court
3819-33 Chestnut Street, Suite 130
Philadelphia, PA 19104

Florian Bieber is Lecturer of East European Politics at the University of Kent and Senior Research Associate at the European Center for Minority Issues. His research interests include institutional design in multiethnic states, nationalism and ethnic conflict, as well as the political systems of South-eastern Europe.

Dr. Bieber will argue that power-sharing has been a central feature of post-conflict peace agreements and other externally imposed state reforms in former Yugoslavia. However, despite pre-existing traditions, power-sharing has been imposed by third parties rather than having emerged as a domestic institutional settlement. In a number of cases, such external imposition has been insufficient to create consensus. The system, in fact, is not operational without continued external intervention. The degree to which groups hold control over alternative power-structures is essential in understanding the success or failure of power-sharing.

The Andrew W. Mellon Sawyer Seminar on Power-Sharing in Deeply Divided Places explores power-sharing and evaluates its role as a standard prescription for protracted conflicts in deeply divided territories, especially when there are antagonistic self-determination claims.