

The Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies and the Center for Middle Eastern Studies present:

“Transnational Religious Education and the Changing Face of Central Asian Islam: Impact and Prospects for Stability”

David Abramson
U. S. State Department

Wednesday, November 18, 2009
2:30 PM •
Chicano Culture Room
Texas Union 4.206

Since the breakup of the Soviet Union, thousands of Central Asians have been studying Islam in the Middle East and South Asia. Dr. David Abramson addresses how transnational religious education is affecting the current Islamic revival in Central Asia.



Dr. David Abramson is an analyst at the U.S. Department of State in the Bureau of Intelligence and Research. He recently completed a year of sabbatical leave as a Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars Public Policy Scholar working on transnational trends in Islamic education and their impact on the future of Islam in Central Asia.

Abramson received his doctorate in Cultural Anthropology from Indiana University where he specialized in community and conflict in post-Soviet Uzbekistan. Before coming to Washington, Dr. Abramson spent four years as a postdoctoral research fellow at Brown University's Watson Institute for International Studies and directed the undergraduate Development Studies major. Dr. Abramson has lectured and written on Islamic-secular tensions and the politics and culture of foreign aid in Central Asia, the role of religion in U.S. foreign policy, and the ethnography of foreign policy as constructed at the State Department. His most recent publication is "Sacred Sites, Profane Ideologies: Religious Pilgrimage and the Uzbek State" in the 2007 Indiana University Press volume *Everyday Life in Central Asia*.

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