The Zhivago Affair:
The CIA and the Kremlin in a Cold War Battle over a Book

with

authors Peter Finn (The Washington Post) & Petra Couvée (St. Petersburg State University)

moderated by Prof. Hope M. Harrison

Drawing on newly declassified government files, Peter Finn and Petra Couvée tell the dramatic story of how a forbidden novel became a secret CIA weapon in the ideological battle between East and West. Pasternak believed Dr. Zhivago was unlikely ever to be published in the USSR. The CIA, recognizing that the Cold War was above all an ideological battle, published a Russian-language edition and smuggled it into the Soviet Union. First to obtain CIA files providing concrete proof of the agency’s involvement, Peter Finn and Petra Couvée give us a literary thriller taking us back to a fascinating period of the Cold War when literature had the power to stir the world. Peter Finn is the National Security Editor for The Washington Post. He joined the paper in 1995, working initially in Virginia for the Metro section. Beginning in 1998, Finn spent 10 years overseas for the paper as the bureau chief in Warsaw, Berlin and then Moscow. Petra Couvée is a writer, translator and teacher who has translated the work of numerous Russian writers into Dutch. A former affiliated researcher at Leiden University in the Netherlands, she now teaches Dutch at St. Petersburg State University.

Wednesday, March 25, 2015
12:30 pm – 2:00 pm
Conference Room 505
1957 E St. NW, Washington, DC 20052
Please RSVP at http://go.gwu.edu/zhivago
This event is on the record.