

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
THE ELLIOTT SCHOOL
OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

The Institute for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies (IERES)
is pleased to invite you to:

Permafrost, Society and Climate Change: Implications for the Russian Arctic

with

Nikolay I. Shiklomanov

Assistant Professor of Geography, GWU

Many of the potential environmental and socio-economic impacts of global warming in the high northern latitudes are associated with permafrost, or perennially frozen ground, which occupy more than 50% of the land area of Russia. The approximately 5% of the population living in the Russian Arctic regions provide about 11% of the country's GDP mainly due to extraction of mineral resources. In Russia, 93% of natural gas and 75% of oil are produced in permafrost-affected areas. Overall, Russian permafrost regions contribute up to 70% of Russia's total exports. Major permafrost-related impacts of climate change have already been detected in many Russian regions. These include changes in the properties and distribution of permafrost. Such changes in natural systems affect the human environment and have direct and immediate implications for land use, the economy, and human life. They also threaten the normal functioning of communities and economic development. This presentation addresses the effects of climate change on Russian permafrost regions and their implications for socio-economic development. It also provides an overview of permafrost-related research conducted in GWU's Department of Geography.

Dr. Nikolay Shiklomanov is assistant professor of Geography at GWU. His main area of research is the response of the Arctic environment to climatic variability and change. He is also interested in Geomorphology, the history of Arctic research, and socio-economic problems associated with development in Arctic regions. Dr. Shiklomanov's NSF- and NASA-sponsored projects include both field-based investigations in northern Alaska, Siberia, Mongolia, and China and simulation studies at regional and circumarctic scales. He has authored or co-authored 39 peer reviewed publications and has contributed to several books and reports, including IPCC and Arctic Climate Impact Assessments. A native of St. Petersburg, Russia, Dr. Shiklomanov maintains close personal and professional ties with his home country. In the course of his research he has developed productive relationships with scientists from a wide range of Russian research and educational institutions. Dr. Shiklomanov actively involves students at both the graduate and undergraduate levels in his research, including summer field work in the remote areas of the Arctic. He teaches a range of Physical Geography courses.

Tuesday, April 19, 2011

3:00-4:30 p.m.

1957 E Street, NW, Suite 412

Please RSVP with your name and affiliation to ieresgwu@gwu.edu.

This event is on the record.