

“Horizons of Knowledge Lecture”

Understanding Early Postcommunism: A Historico- Sociological Approach

by Venelin Ganey

Monday, March 7, 2005

5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Woodburn Hall 218

The presenter will discuss the periodization of postcommunist development and propose a vantage point that may help us distinguish between various “phases.” He will offer an analytical interpretation of the first “phase,” which he calls “early postcommunism.” This interpretation revolves around one central theoretical theme: the reconfiguration of state structures in the formerly socialist countries. He argues that a clearer understanding of the ways in which infrastructures of governance evolves would enable us to grasp the dynamic and general directionality of political and institutional changes in Eastern Europe after 1989.

Venelin Ganey is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science at Miami University. His primary research interests include postcommunist politics, the historical sociology of state-building, constitution-making and judicial review, and the political evolution of ethnic minority parties in the Balkans.

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