



**Special Lecture:**

## **Vigilante Justice in Post-communist Europe**

**Lavinia Stan**

Chair of the Department of Political Science at St. Francis Xavier University, Canada

**7<sup>th</sup> September 2017, 3-5pm**

West Wing Council Room

Access of ordinary citizens to the secret files compiled by the communist-era state security forces is seen as a transitional justice method capable of setting the record of the past straight. However, not all those who access secret information have taken the time to interpret the data. Five cases in which the names of former secret informers who supplied information to the communist secret political police were unofficially disclosed are discussed in terms of the motivations of their authors, their timing relative to 1989 and their countries' lustration and file access legislation, and the information they make available to the general public. After contrasting them with civil society efforts to promote transitional justice and unofficial truth projects, it becomes evident that these unofficial disclosures were animated by revenge as much as the quest for unveiling the truth about communist repression.

**Lavinia Stan** is Professor of Political Science at St. Francis Xavier University, Canada, and President of the Society for Romanian Studies. A Comparative Politics specialist, she has published on democracy and democratization, especially religion and politics, as well as transitional justice, with a focus on post-communist Eastern Europe. She is the author or editor of eleven books, including *Encyclopedia of Transitional Justice* (CUP, 2013), *Transitional Justice in Post-Communist Romania* (CUP, 2013), *Church, State and Democracy in Expanding Europe* (OUP, 2011), *Religion and Politics in Post-Communist Romania* (OUP, 2007), as well as three edited volumes dealing with transitional justice in Central and Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union (published with Routledge and CUP). She regularly serves as an expert in court cases involving deportation and asylum, as well as property restitution in Romania and Moldova.



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