

Virginia Tech Politics and Planning Speaker Series

“The Caucasus: Old Conflicts and New Geopolitical Design”

By Sergey Markedonov

When: NEW DATE January 31 MONDAY, 7:00-8:30 pm

Where: 1021 Prince Street, Room 305

Co-Sponsored by the [Virginia Tech's Institute for Society, Culture and Environment \(ISCE\)](#),
Global Issues Initiative
and the [School of Public and International Affairs \(SPIA\)](#)

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Abstract—Dr. Markedonov will discuss the transformation of the Caucasus region from the periphery to one of the focal points of Eurasian, European and Transatlantic security. He will examine the basic reasons of that are relevant and concern different states (USA, Turkey, Iran), integration communities (European Union), and international organizations (OSCE, NATO and UN) in the Caucasus since the dissolution of the USSR. Dr. Markedonov pays special attention to Russia’s position and its desire for maintaining an exclusive role in Caucasus geopolitics. A special emphasis is on the new status quo shaping after the August War of 2008 (the new political agenda for South Ossetia and Abkhazia, new Western strategies on engagement/non-recognition, impact of the August war on Nagorno Karabakh conflict resolution and the Turkish-Armenian rapprochement).

Brief bio—Sergey Markedonov is a visiting fellow in the CSIS Russia and Eurasia Program. He is an expert on the Caucasus, as well as Black Sea, regional security, nationalism, interethnic conflicts and de-facto states in the post-Soviet area. His publications include several books and reports, 50 academic articles, and more than 400 press pieces. Recently published books and reports include *The Turbulent Eurasia* (Academia, 2010), *The Big Caucasus: Consequences of the “Five Day War,”* *New Challenges and Prospects* (International Centre for Black Sea Studies, 2009), and *The Ethno-national and Religious Factors in Social-political Life of the Caucasus Region* (Moscow State University, 2005).