

"The evolution of gun control policies in post-Maidan Ukraine"

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Abstract:

The presentation will outline ongoing research in Ukraine on debates about gun policy there since the political events of 2013-14. Influenced by the policy legacy of the Soviet Union, Ukraine, like most post-Soviet states, strictly regulates civilian ownership of firearms. However, some evidence suggests unlawful possession of such weapons has risen sharply since the "Euro-Maidan" revolution and subsequent onset of armed conflict with Russia and its separatist allies in Eastern Ukraine. At the same time, a vocal gun rights movement has emerged in Ukraine to advocate for regulatory liberalization of private gun ownership. These developments offer an opportunity to analyze the bases of public order and its resilience in the face of political instability, in Ukraine as well as the broader post-Soviet region.

Matthew Light is associate professor of criminology and European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies at the University of Toronto. Light received his doctorate in political science at Yale University in 2006. His research focuses on migration, policing, and criminal justice in the post-Soviet region.