



THE CENTRE FOR EAST EUROPEAN LANGUAGE BASED AREA STUDIES

A series of CEELBAS/CSESCE seminars on health and healthcare reform in CEECs, Russia and Central Asia.

Rachel Criswell

will present her work on

Planning Parenthood in Ukraine: Obstacles and Motivations for Use of Abortion and Contraceptive Services

On Monday, 15 September 2008, 4.30 p.m.

Room 432, 4th Floor.

UCL School of Slavonic and East European Studies,
16 Taviton Street London.

The status of reproductive health in Eastern Europe and Ukraine is unique because of a high abortion rate, a relatively low rate of modern contraceptive use, and a declining population. In spite of society's generally negative attitude towards abortion, many women turn to abortion as their primary form of fertility regulation. The reasons for such a contradiction are rooted in the health care system and in the economic status of the country, both of which are recovering from the Soviet era. Due to a highly medicalized Soviet health care system that focused on a curative approach to treating illness, preventative care measures, such as contraception, are not well received. This is reinforced by the fact that abortion services in Ukraine are officially free, whereas contraceptives must be paid for by the patient, meaning that many Ukrainians are more willing to pay the associated unofficial costs for occasional abortions rather than continually paying for contraception in anticipation of a problem. Health care workers and public health advocates face these obstacles as they work to promote modern contraceptive use in Ukraine.

Rachel Criswell is a 2007-2008 Fulbright Research Fellow in women's health with the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy School of Public Health in Kyiv, Ukraine. She works with USAID reproductive health and family planning project Together for Health as a Health Care Management Consultant.

The presentation will be followed by a glass of wine. For additional information, please contact Benoit Mathivet: b.mathivet@ssees.ucl.ac.uk.