



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.

Adam Green

will present his work

**Which Way to Copenhagen? Mental Disability and
Human Rights in Central and Eastern Europe.**

On Tuesday, 28 October 2008, 5.00 p.m.

Room 432, 4th Floor.

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

Despite accession into the European Union in 2004 and 2007, many Central and Eastern European nations continue to operate large, dysfunctional psychiatric asylums for the mentally disabled, employing the use of padlocked cage-beds, arbitrary sedation and coerced abortion. Deprivations of legal rights occur frequently, and inadequate reform of pro-disability education and employment legislation further exacerbates the social exclusion of this vulnerable minority. Despite the obligations of the European Union's 'Copenhagen criteria', these failures have received little attention either from the Enlargement Commission or the wider media. Drawing from NGO research in the region and covering institutional, legal and legislative shortcomings, this presentation asks if the continued human rights abuses against the mentally disabled in new member states undermines the meaning of a common Europe and the value of membership itself - and calls for improved scrutiny in the accession process of official candidate members Croatia, Turkey and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and potential candidates including Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, Albania, Ukraine and Georgia.

Adam Green is Editor of *European Psychiatric Review*, a peer-reviewed journal in part assessing psychiatric care across the continent. He commissions and edits works from representatives of the Psychiatric Association of Eastern Europe and the Balkans, the World Health Organisation, and the Universities of Cambridge and Oxford, the Karolinska Institute, Institut Pasteur, the Norwegian Centre for Violence and Traumatic Stress Studies and the European Opiate Addiction Treatment Association (EUROPAD). He is a member of the European Association of Science Editors and the European Association for the Study of Science and Technology. He has also contributed editorial work to the United Nations as an online volunteer, and writes international health and development news for six European health journals.

The presentation will be followed by a glass of wine.

For additional information, please contact Benoit Mathivet: b.mathivet@ssees.ucl.ac.uk.