

Keeping the Road Open:

Waiting, Migrating and the Domestication of Hope in Kyrgyzstan



MADELEINE REEVES

(School of Social Sciences, University of Manchester)

**THURSDAY,
MARCH 24th**

5:00 - 6:30 pm

Coach House,
Green College UBC
6201 Cecil Green Park Road

This talk explores the relationship between waiting, leaving, house-building and hope in the context of contemporary Kyrgyz transnational migration. How and why is it, I ask, that despite the very real hardship that is recognized to accompany migration and the ever-present risk that after years of work abroad one might still return empty handed, migration nonetheless comes to be seen as the necessary precondition for a properly future-oriented existence in Kyrgyzstan? Critically engaging debates about hope, futurity and temporal agency, I argue that part of the appeal of migration for families in rural Kyrgyzstan is that it serves to expand the horizons of possibility in a context where the immediate future is envisioned as radically unstable.

Madeleine Reeves is Senior Lecturer in Social Anthropology at the University of Manchester. Her recent publications include *Border Work: Spatial Lives of the State in Rural Central Asia* and *Ethnographies of the State in Central Asia: Performing Politics*.

Co-Sponsored by: Department of Anthropology and Eurasian States and Societies: Past and Present Lecture Series at Green College