What impact did the last quarter century have on the nonprofit sector in Eastern Europe, Russia, and Central Asia (EERCA) after the dissolution of the Soviet Union? What explains regional variations in nonprofit sector developments? And why did the growth in the quantity of formal organizations not bring about the much anticipated qualitative outcomes? This presentation offers some tentative answers to the questions about the development of civil society and nonprofit sector in the EERCA region and its effect on the democratization processes, and suggests new research questions and directions that will be of interest to scholars of the region, as well as others researching similar comparative contexts.

The presentation showcases a co-edited book, The Nonprofit Sector in Eastern Europe, Russia, and Central Asia: Civil Society Advances and Challenges, the inaugural volume in the nonprofit research series published by Brill Publishers in 2018. The book features contributions by fourteen nonprofit and civil society scholars from eleven countries of the EERCA region, as well as introductory and concluding chapters by the editors setting the whole volume in several, relevant, larger intellectual contexts. The many post-Soviet countries show much variety in their current situation, ranging from democratic to totalitarian regimes.

Alisa V. Moldavanova is an Assistant Professor of Public Administration in the Political Science Department at Wayne State University. Dr. Moldavanova’s research areas include public and nonprofit management, organization theory, comparative civil society, and ethics and sustainability studies.