

Title : « Why Russian military recent intervention are perceived by the West as being groundless and immoral ? »

The speaker, Dr Arnaud Leclercq is pursuing simultaneously two careers, one a banker in charge of Eastern Countries, the Middle East and Turkey, the other as Professor of geopolitics at the MBA program of HEC Paris. He published a number of articles and interviews in various media which include in Russia and RT television channels, Vestifinance, Focus magazine or Vedomosti. His last book published in Russia in 2014 is a history of Russia's geopolitics « Русское влияние в Евразии Геополитическая история от становления государства до времен Путина. Альпина Паблишер, 2014 г. 368 стр. ». He was invited in Russia to give lectures e.g. at the the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or at the University of Krasnoyarsk at the occasion of the Russian Economic Forum.

Dr Leclercq's presentation will focus on the origins of Western misperception of Russia's legitimacy to intervene militarily, be in in its « near-abroad » or more recently in the Near East. What are the respective roles of matter of facts, value judgements, interests, bandwagoning, prejudices, rational criticism, media, politicians, spiritual leaders in molding a certain Russophobia ? More specifically, why is there a dire relationship with the European Union and, as the case may be, why would Russia shift its geopolitical interests to the East and Asia ?