

## **Finding informality everywhere in the post-socialist space**

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What does it mean to talk about a ubiquity of 'informal economic practices' in post-socialist societies? In this talk I will explore how informality touches everything, from getting a plumber to fix a leaking tap, to ensuring a town's heating system doesn't break in the long cold Russian winter. Is this all-encompassing bypassing of formal economic relations - contracts, taxes, benefits - a symptom of a failed transition from the socialist era? Or is the picture more complicated than this - informality acting as a glue without which such societies would resemble even less a model of development we take as read in the west. And more so, is such a 'glue' more problematic than the system of exploitative economic relations we take as 'natural' in our own societies?

**Time:** September 11, 2013, 1pm – 3pm

**Venue:** Nobelparken, building 1467 - room 415