The CEU Summer University Religion and Realism in Political Thought course cordially invites you to a

PUBLIC LECTURE

on

Pre-Christian, Christian and post-Christian Varieties of Realist ‘Prudence’

by

Alexander Astrov, Central European University, Hungary

Date and time: 4:30-6:00 pm, Wednesday, July 17
Location: Nador street 13, #001

Without doubt ‘prudence’ is one of the central notions in realist thinking: realists of all kinds routinely make reference to it. At the same time, it is severely undertheorised: it is not really clear where prudence comes from theoretically, how does it work in practice or what does it mean to begin with. Perhaps, this is not so surprising. Realist thinking purports to uncover timeless, ahistorical patterns in politics. Prudence, on the other hand, is all about specific situations. Moreover, even the meaning of prudential action as such has changed dramatically throughout history. The lecture traces some of these changes and their implications for realist thinking by comparing pre-Christian, Christian and post-Christian views on prudence in the writings of Cicero, St, Augustine and Machiavelli.

Alexander Astrov is an associate professor of International Relations and European Studies at Central European University, Budapest. He received his PhD from the Department of International Relations at the London School of Economics and Political Science. His research is situated at the intersection of International Relations Theory and Political Theory, focussing mainly on the ideas of order and politics. He published two monographs on the subject and edited a volume exploring the idea of ‘great power management’ as it appears in the writings of the English School of International Relations and contemporary state-practices.