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Marlene Laruelle has been the principal investigator or co-investigator on multiple projects on Russian think tanks and political networks, and on Central Asia's neighborhood. Since 2009, she has been working on the Central Asia-Afghanistan's relationship, and is a Subject Matter Expert at the ISAF Independent Assessment Group at NATO Central Agency. Before taking her current position at George Washington, Dr. Laruelle was a Visiting Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars from 2005 to 2006.

She has co-authored Globalizing Central Asia. Geopolitics and The Challenges of Economic Development (M.E. Sharpe, 2013); and The 'Chinese Question' in Central Asia. Domestic Order, Social Changes, and the Chinese Factor (Hurst and Oxford University Press, 2013), and co-edited China and India in Central Asia. A new "Great Game"? (Palgrave Macmillan, 2010), and Mapping Central Asia: Indian Perceptions and Strategies (Ashgate, 2011).

Dr. Laruelle received her Ph.D. at the National Institute for Oriental Languages and Cultures in Paris.