

CENTER FOR ADVANCED STUDY
MILLERCOMM2017

Masha Gessen

Journalist and contributor to numerous publications including *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Harper's* and *The New York Review of Books*

RETROFITTING TOTALITARIANISM IN Putin's Russia

Tuesday
October 25, 2016
4:00 pm

Knight Auditorium, Spurlock Museum
600 South Gregory, Urbana
University of Illinois
at Urbana-Champaign



Since starting his third presidential term in March 2012, Vladimir Putin has refashioned himself as an ideological leader. His ideology is that of “traditional values.” Masha Gessen tells the story of the creation of that ideology, beginning with the antigay campaign, ballooning into a civilizational mission, and culminating with war—whether in Ukraine or in Syria, it is against the United States. The creation of ideology went hand-in-hand with a political crackdown—the arrests of peaceful protesters, the attack on NGOs—and together, they set in motion a process unlike any we have ever seen. The mechanisms of life under totalitarianism kicked back in, often apparently set in motion at the ground level rather than imposed from the top.

Masha Gessen is one of the world's leading journalists and critics of contemporary Russian culture and politics, including LGBT issues. She is the author of several books, including *Perfect Rigor*, *Blood Matters*, *Ester and Ruzya*, *Words Will Break Cement: The Passion of Pussy Riot* and *The Brothers: The Road to an American Tragedy*. Her most recent book is *Where the Jews Aren't: The Sad and Absurd Story of Birobidzhan*.



Hosted by:

The Program in Jewish Culture & Society/
Krouse Family Visiting Scholars in
Judaism and Western Culture Fund
Russian, East European, and
Eurasian Center

In conjunction with:

Center for Global Studies
Cline Center for Democracy
Department of Anthropology
Department of English
Department of Gender & Women's Studies
Department of History
Department of Journalism
Department of Slavic Languages
& Literatures
Department of Sociology
Hillel
Illinois Program for Research
in the Humanities
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender
Resource Center
Program in Comparative & World Literature
Spurlock Museum
Women & Gender in Global
Perspectives Program

Series support provided by:

Office of the Chancellor
Office of Diversity, Equity, and Access
Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor
for Academic Affairs
Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research
Office of the Vice Chancellor for
Student Affairs
Center for Advanced Study
George A. Miller Endowment
Ledyard R. Tucker Fund
Peggy Harris Memorial Fund
The Council of Deans
The David Gottlieb Memorial Foundation
The Graduate College

Gessen photo: Svenya Generalova

For background information, please
consult cas.illinois.edu or 333-6729

