

Presenter: Jonathan Platt

Title: Rape of the Amazons: *Écriture féminine* and Contemporary Russian Poetry

Abstract:

A new *écriture féminine* has quickly become the most vibrant engaged poetry in Russia today. As part of a general explosion of feminist theories and practices during Putin's third term (2012-present), these poets are cultivating new forms of writing that escape the confines of patriarchy to fight it head on.

In my talk, I will examine works by Oksana Vasyakina, Luba Mukarevskaya, and Elena Kostyleva that engage the phenomenon (extremely widespread in Russia) of sexual violence against women.

Several of the poems under discussion were written as reactions to my on-going project, *Zoya: The Last Soviet Militant*, in which I examine the legacy of the 18-year old partisan Zoya Kosmodemianskaya, who was captured, tortured, and executed by German forces in 1941. My talk will address the militant subtext of this new feminist poetry, its treatment of themes of victimization and vengeance, and its broader political implications in contemporary Russia.