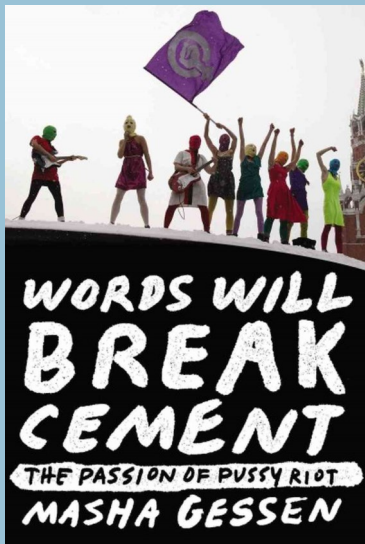


Masha Gessen

Putin's Challenge to the West: From Pussy Riot to Crimea



Over the last two and a half years, since returning to the office of president of Russia amid mass protests, Vladimir Putin and the country he leads have undergone a profound transformation which has affected the place of gender, sexuality, the arts, and freedom of speech in Russia, not to mention foreign policy. Putin, who was a post-ideological president for the first dozen years of his rule, has acquired an ideology. The country has claimed a national idea and more - a civilizational mission. The talk explores this concept of a civilization of traditional values and the implications it has for Russian culture and Russia's relationship to the US in the coming months and years.

Monday
November 24, 2014
11:00am
UCSD Geisel Library,
Seuss Room

Masha Gessen is the author of the book *Words Will Break Cement: The Passion of Pussy Riot* and the national bestseller *The Man Without a Face: The Unlikely Rise of Vladimir Putin*, as well as four other books. Born in Moscow, she emigrated to the United States in her teens, then returned to Russia a decade later and stayed for twenty years before moving back to New York last December. Writing in both Russian and English, she has covered every major development in Russian politics and culture of the past two decades, receiving numerous awards and fellowships in the process. She writes a monthly column for The New York Times and also contributes regularly to The Washington Post, The New York Review of Books, Harper's, Slate, and other publications.

Please RSVP: Megan Murphy, mem001@ucsd.edu

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