

“The Cold War is a Film by Hitchcock”

Filmic Metaphors and Political Doctrines

The Slavic Discussion group
welcomes

Irina Sandomirskaya,

Professor of Cultural Studies at the
University College of
Södertörn (Sweden), Baltic and East
European Graduate School



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

in McKenna 112

Use the back entrance of McKenna
(northwest entrance by the patio)
to access room 112

Professor Sandomirskaya will analyze Alfred Hitchcock’s famous film *North by Northwest* as a work of political philosophy, and more precisely, as a filmic critique of the fundamental geopolitical doctrines of the Cold War, containment and deterrence.

She will do a comparative reading of the film in the context of a foundational document of the Cold War era, George F. Kennan’s fateful “Long Telegram.” This text, together with some other writing by Kennan, was highly influential in producing a vocabulary for the Cold War, a research agenda for Soviet Studies, and a curriculum for teaching Russian culture, history, and politics in the US of the Cold War period. Hitchcock’s film was no less influential in generating Cold War sensitivities.

Professor Irina Sandomirskaya is the author of numerous works on Russian and European culture of the 20th century, including such books as *Naïve Writing: An Essay in Linguo-Sociological Reading* (Moscow, 1996), *A Book about the Motherland: Analyzing Discursive Practices* (Vienna 2001), and *De Patientia, or Deeds as Passions: Essays in the Biopolitics of Cruel Language* (forthcoming in 2008).

The event is sponsored by the Graduate Committee on the Arts and Humanities, the Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures, and the Slavic Studies Discussion Group