

“Rape, Revenge, an Unrequested Gift”

**Carol Reed’s film ‘The Third Man’ and the
Symbolic Economy of the European
Post-WW2 Reconstruction**

The Department of Germanic &
Slavic Languages & Literatures
welcomes

Irina Sandomirskaya,

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

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

in McKenna 112

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



Prof. Sandomirskaya will read *The Third Man*, set in 1946 and shot on location in Vienna in 1949, as a truthful and intelligent witness of Europe’s post-war anxieties and divisions.

In the film Vienna becomes the apocalyptic landscape of Europeanism, with its corrupt ambiguity, its underground economy, and the adult sophistication of its morals. A Europe after Europe, this Vienna is a political paradigm testifying to the state of things on the verge of the Cold War, a grotesque transformation of Plato’s polis-- criminal, prostituted, and waiting to surrender either to the order of Western liberalism or to the order of Stalin’s terror.

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