Writing in a Time of War: A Conversation with Ukrainian Historian and Novelist Olena Stiazhkina

Monday, November 20, 2023 | 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.
Zoom | Register Here

Moderator:
Amelia Glaser, UC San Diego

Discussants:
John Connelly, UC Berkeley
Taras Tsymbal, UC Santa Barbara

A historian by training, Olena Stiazhkina is a prolific Ukrainian writer and journalist with numerous scholarly publications and eleven books of fiction. Until the occupation of the city of Donetsk, she taught Slavic history at the Vasyl Stus National University in Donetsk (1993–2015) and then at the Mariupol State University (2015–2016). Her scholarly interests focus on women's history, life in the Soviet Union, and the history of the Donbas. Since 2016, she has served as the senior research fellow at the Institute of History of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. Her works of fiction comprise collections of short stories, novels, and detective stories (under the pen name Olena Iurska). Having written almost exclusively in Russian before, Stiazhkina has been transitioning to writing in Ukrainian following the Russian aggression against Ukraine in 2014. Most recent scholarly book: The Stigma of Occupation: Self-Perception of Soviet Women in the 1940s (in Ukrainian, 2019). Most recent book of fiction: Cecil the Lion Had to Die (in Ukrainian; English translation forthcoming from Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute (2023).