Professor
Anne Eakin Moss
will read from and discuss her new book

**Only Among Women:**
Philosophies of Community in the Russian and Soviet Imagination, 1860–1940

**Thursday, February 6, 7 PM, 2020**

*Only Among Women* examines idealized relationships between women in Russian literature and culture from the age of the classic Russian novel to socialist realism and Stalinist film. It reveals how the idea of a community of women—a social sphere ostensibly free from the taint of money, sex, or self-interest—originates in the classic Russian novel, fuels mystical notions of unity in turn-of-the-century modernism, and finally assumes a place of privilege in Stalinist culture, especially cinema. Rethinking the significance and surprising continuities of gender in Russian and Soviet culture, Eakin Moss relates this tradition to Western philosophies of community developed by thinkers from Jean-Jacques Rousseau to Jean-Luc Nancy. She shows that in the 1860s friendship among women came to figure as an organic national collectivity in works such as Tolstoy’s *War and Peace* and a model for revolutionary organization in Chernyshevsky’s *What Is To Be Done?* *Only Among Women* also traces how women’s community came to be connected with new religious and philosophical notions of a unity transcending the individual at the fin-de-siècle. Finally, in Stalinist propaganda of the 1930s, the notion of women’s community inherited from the Russian novel reemerged in the image of harmonious female workers serving as a patriarchal model for loyal Communist citizenship.

Anne Eakin Moss is Assistant Professor in the Department of Comparative Thought and Literature at Johns Hopkins University. She received her PhD in Slavic Languages and Literatures from Stanford University and has held postdoctoral positions at Harvard University and Johns Hopkins.

“This book is a fascinating, mature, and thoughtful study of the ways in which women characters and women’s communities figure in the Russian imagination. It demonstrates how central women and the idea of women have been to the ways primarily male Russian writers, thinkers, and film directors have conceived of society across almost a century.” —Angela Brintlinger, author of *Writing a Usable Past: Russian Literary Culture, 1917–1937.*

D.G. WILLS BOOKS
7461 Girard Avenue, La Jolla * (858)456-1800
www.dgwillsbooks.com

Cosponsored with UCSD’s Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies Program