



How Russia Really Works: Informal Practices in Politics and Business



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Wednesday, April 2, 2008

12:10 – 1 pm

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In a famous 1939 broadcast, Winston Churchill told his audience: “I cannot forecast to you the action of Russia. It’s a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma.” Communism has long gone but is Russia becoming more transparent? In tackling this question my recent book *How Russia Really Works* presents a novel approach. Rather than looking at what does not work in Russia and why, I focus on what does work and how. By analyzing post-Soviet politics and business from the perspective of informal practices, I discover rarely visible forms of activity and dispel a number of commonly held stereotypes about corruption and illegality.

Prof. Ledeneva received her undergraduate degree in economics at Novosibirsk State University (1986) and her M.Phil. (1992) and Ph.D. (1996) in social and political theory at Cambridge University. She is author of *Russia’s Economy of Favours: Blat, Networking and Informal Exchange* (Cambridge University Press, 1998) and *How Russia Works: The Informal Practices That Shaped Post-Soviet Politics and Business* (Cornell University Press, 2006) and co-editor of *Bribery and Blat in Russia* (Macmillan, 2000) and *Economic Crime in Russia* (Kluwer Law International, 2000).

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