

# INVITATION

## PUTIN'S RETURN – A CATASTROPHE FOR RUSSIA?

In a letter to her readers, Yevgeniya Albats wrote in late August that a return of Putin as president would be a national catastrophe for Russia. One month later Putin announced his candidacy for the 2012 presidential elections. In December this year parliamentary elections will take place in Russia and the Putin-loyal party, United Russia, looks set to win a majority in the Duma again. Later, in March 2012, presidential elections will follow and after Putin announced his intention to return to the post his victory appears certain.

With this seminar UI starts its seminar series on upcoming elections from around the world.

Date: **Tuesday November 15, 2011**  
Time: **17.00-18.30**  
Location: **Sverigesalen, The Swedish Institute of International Affairs, Drottning Kristinas väg 37, Stockholm**  
Registration: <http://www.ui.positionett.se/tillfalle.php?id=933>  
Language: **English**  
Seminar fee: **UI members – free of charge. Non members 100 SEK. Cash only.**

### Program:

**Yevgeniya Albats**, Chief Editor of the Russian political journal The New Times, Professor at Higher School of Economics (Moscow)

### Commentators:

**Lena Jonson**, Head of the Russia Research Program at UI  
**Carolina Vendil Pallin**, Head of the Russia Research Programme at FOI  
**Torbjörn Becker**, Director, Stockholm Institute of Transition Economics (SITE)

**Albats** is one of the sharpest and best-formulated critics of Putin. Chief editor of The New Times (a journal in the Russian language in spite of the name) since 2009, presenter at the outspoken radio channel Moscow Echo, professor at Higher School of Economics in Moscow and with a Ph D in political science from Harvard University - Albats' professional knowledge, journalistic background and civic courage makes her an astute analyst of the Russian political scene. Albats is also member of the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, a recipient of the major journalistic awards in her home country as well as in the US and Europe and the author of four books, including The State Within A State: KGB and Its Hold on Russia.

Moderator: **Nathalie Besér**, Advisor, UI

The seminar is a joint arrangement by UI and the Swedish Defence Research Agency (FOI)

*Welcome!*



YEVGENIYA ALBATS



CAROLINA VENDIL PALLIN



TORBJÖRN BECKER



LENA JONSON



NATHALIE BESÈR

