The Polish Studies Programs at
Loyola University Chicago and the University of Illinois Chicago
Present
A Book Reading and Discussion with

Olga Tokarczuk

Author of the 2015 Nike Award-Winning novel
Księgi Jakubowe / The Books of Jacob

in conversation with Michał Paweł Markowski, Karen Underhill
and translator Jennifer Croft
Sunday, April 10\textsuperscript{th} at 5:30 PM

Lewis Tower, 16th Floor
Loyola University Chicago
820 North Michigan Ave, Chicago, IL
Admission: Free & Open to the Public

For more information contact: Bożena McLees
Director, Interdisciplinary Polish Studies Program
bmclees@luc.edu / 312-804-1305

In October of 2015, Polish writer and essayist Olga Tokarczuk was awarded Poland’s highest literary award, the Nike, for the second time – this time for her 1000-page bestselling work of historical fiction on the life of 18\textsuperscript{th} century mystic and “false messiah” Jacob Frank, entitled The Books of Jacob. Tokarczuk, nominated for the Nobel Prize in Literature in 2012, is one of the most critically acclaimed and most translated modern Polish writers, whose best known works include House of Day, House of Night and Primeval and Other Tales. In 2016 the script she wrote based on her novel Drive Your Plow over the Bones of the Dead will be filmed by Agnieszka Holland.

The long-awaited novel The Books of Jacob was published by Wydawnictwo Literackie in 2014, and is currently being translated into English by American translator Jennifer Croft (Northwestern University). Almost a thousand pages in length and containing several dozen narrative threads and characters, the novel depicts 18\textsuperscript{th}-century Poland with meticulous care. Set in 1752, in the region of Podolia, its plot revolves around a Jew named Jacob Leibowitz Frank – a mysterious newcomer from remote Smyrna who begins to preach ideas that quickly introduce discord into the Jewish community. Considered a heretic by some and a savior by others, he is soon surrounded by a circle of devoted disciples, and the unrest he induces may change the course of history irreversibly.

This event will open the 3r International Polish Jewish Studies Workshop -- "Doikeyt, Diaspora, Borderlands: Imagining Polish Jewish Territories" hosted by the University of Illinois at Chicago, April 10-12, 2016.

Subsequent Scholarly Panels and Public Events will take place on the UIC Campus April 11-12, and are Open to the Public.
For more information and to view the full program, please visit:
http://polishjewishstudies.uic.edu/