



**The Princess Dashkova Russian Centre  
Conference Room, Ground Floor  
14 Buccleuch Place**

**Public lecture  
Thursday 3 May 2012, 5:15pm**

**‘I AM THE PRISONER OF FRIENDSHIP’  
(Ekaterina Dashkova)**



**Dr Michelle Lamarche Marrese (University of Münster)**

The talk explores the role of female friendship in the life of Princess Dashkova within the wider European and American context of the significance of affective ties among women in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. It seeks to explain the relative absence of “romantic” friendship among Russian noblewomen, in contrast to their European contemporaries, and why Dashkova deviated from the pattern of her Russian counterparts. It also examines the limits of female patronage networks during the era of female rule, which historians have depicted as an era of women’s predominance at court, and whether Dashkova proved the exception to this rule.

Michelle Lamarche Marrese is the author of *A Woman’s Kingdom: Noblewomen and the Control of Property in Russia, 1700-1861* and numerous articles on gender and Russian noble culture. She has taught at the University of Delaware, the University of Toronto, Northwestern University, and the University of Münster (Germany), and is the recipient of numerous fellowships, including grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Fulbright Foundation. She is currently working on a biography of Princess E.R. Dashkova and a social and political history of noblewomen at the Russian court, titled *Queen of Spades: Princess Dashkova and the Politics of Gender in the Era of Female Rule*.