

**The Bill and Carol Fox Center  
for Humanistic Inquiry  
Emory University  
2015-2016 Great Works Seminar**



**Sergei Eisenstein's  
*Ivan the Terrible***

**(begins September 8, 2015)**

Soviet film director Sergei Eisenstein made *Ivan the Terrible Parts I and II* between 1942 and 1946 at the request of Joseph Stalin. Stalin admired the sixteenth-century tsar for his popularity with the people and his establishment of a more centralized Russian state through the curtailment of feudal power. Part I, released in 1944, won a Stalin Prize; but Part II, which emphasizes Ivan's increasingly violent rule, was banned until 1958. To this day, the film stands as a unique and powerful prism onto the intricacies of its historical moment.

For students of film theory and aesthetics, *Ivan's* interest extends beyond its historical relevance to its style. While Eisenstein was making the film, he was also working on several theoretical texts, including a book called *Method*, which asks how people make and experience art. *Method* and *Ivan* mutually inform one another, and the prescient speculative thinking that emerges out of their intersection speaks directly to contemporary moving image culture. This seminar will offer an opportunity for close analysis of the film with reference to its historical context and Eisenstein's theoretical preoccupations. We will also consider the continuing relevance of those preoccupations for film theory and aesthetics.

The seminar will be moderated by Karla Oeler, Associate Professor of Film and Media Studies at Emory University, and will meet from **7pm to 9pm** for four consecutive **Tuesday evening** sessions during the **2015 fall semester: September 8, 15, 22 & 29**. The film screenings (weeks one and three/September 8 and 22) will be held **on campus** in the **Rich Building, Room 103** and the course sessions (weeks two and four) will be held at the Fox Center. Everyone from the Atlanta community is welcome and invited to join us for this free seminar. For further information and to reserve seating on a "first-come basis," email the Fox Center at [foxcenter@emory.edu](mailto:foxcenter@emory.edu), or call 404.727.6424.

*We are grateful to the National Endowment for the Humanities for its support of this program. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in these seminars do not necessarily reflect those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.*