Maya Kucherskaya is a prominent Russian literary critic, literary scholar, novelist, biographer, and professor of literature at the National Research University Higher School of Economics in Moscow. Her works include the enormously popular and controversial Современный патерик: Чтение для впавших в уныние, the novels Бог дождя and Тетя Мотя, and a biography of Grand Duke Konstantin Pavlovich. She contributes a column to the daily Ведомости, has served several times as judge for Русский Букер, Russia’s most prestigious literary award, and is a nominee for this year’s Большая книга prize to be announced in late November. In her talk she will discuss the ways in which the institution of literary prizes, so-called “thick” journals, and the community of experts shape contemporary Russian literature.

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