



Prosthetic Manhood in Late Stalinist Russia

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**Friday, November 15
3-5pm - 532 Park Hall**

Millions of Soviet soldiers were disabled as a direct consequence of their service in the Great Patriotic War. This paper focuses on prostheses as one strategy for erasing the scars of war. Offering the possibility of elevating the wounded from the ranks of the childlike invalids to which they would otherwise be consigned, these devices served a variety of objectives, at once aesthetic, political, and cultural. Employing the same modern technology that helped win the war to engineer masculinity, the bodies of soldiers, like the country itself, could be made whole again.

Professor Bernstein is a specialist in Russian history, the history of medicine, and the history of sexuality. She is the author of *The Dictatorship of Sex: Lifestyle Advice for the Soviet Masses*. She is currently preparing a book on Russian disabled veterans after World War II.

