Irina Patkanian spent last September and October on Lesbos Island, Greece documenting the refugee crisis. She will show several excerpts from her observational documentary and offer an eye witness account of the crisis. She will talk about what happens before, during, and after rubber dinghies overloaded with 50-60 persons cross the Aegean Sea from Turkey to Greece. On average 70 boats (4,500 people) arrived every day on Lesbos in the fall of 2015. According to the United Nations Refugee Agency, this is the worst migrant crisis since World War II; more than one million refugees and migrants have reached Europe by sea in 2015. More than 80% of the 1,000,573 people arrived in Greece, with the majority landing on Lesbos island.

Born in St. Petersburg, Russia, Irina Patkanian is an award winning filmmaker, a Fulbright fellow, associate professor of television and radio at Brooklyn College, and the president of In Parenthesis, a NYC based nonprofit film, theater, and media arts company. Patkanian has shot documentaries in Armenia, France, Egypt, Italy, Russia, Mozambique, Cuba and Greece. She is a recipient of grants from the American Association of University Women, New York State Council of the Arts, Tow, Blaustein, Troy and Jerome Foundations.

Thursday, March 3, 2016
5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
Woody Tanger Auditorium
Brooklyn College Library

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