In *The Collapse*, prize-winning historian Mary Elise Sarotte reveals how a perfect storm of decisions made by daring underground revolutionaries, disgruntled Stasi officers, and dictatorial party bosses sparked an unexpected series of events culminating in the chaotic fall of the Wall. With a novelist's eye for character and detail, she brings to vivid life a story that sweeps across Budapest, Prague, Dresden, and Leipzig and up to the armed checkpoints in Berlin.

**Professor Mary Elise Sarotte** is Visiting Professor of Government and History at Harvard University and Dean’s Professor of History at the University of Southern California. A former White House Fellow and Humboldt Scholar, she is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the author, most recently, of *1989: The Struggle to Create Post-Cold War Europe*, a Financial Times Book of the Year. She lives in Boston and Los Angeles.

**Friday, November 7, 2014**

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

1957 E St. NW, Room B17

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