

Bicentenary events in North America

The North American Dostoevsky Society has facilitated many bicentenary events through a virtual speaker series, a virtual outreach program, and a blog series. The 2020 online pivot caused by the Covid-19 pandemic created an opportunity for collaboration and discussion using video conferencing software. In the 2020-21 academic year, we launched our Bicentennial Speaker Series, a series of virtual talks co-hosted with academic units at universities. The events are held online, feature Dostoevsky scholars speaking about their research, and are promoted both by the hosting unit and across NADS's social media and blog. In the first year, we co-hosted talks with Harvard University, the University of British Columbia, the University of Toronto, and Fordham University featuring talks by Jonathan Paine, Barbara Henry, Katherine Bowers, and Paul J. Contino, respectively. The Bicentennial Speaker Series continues in 2021-22 with virtual talks by Chloë Kitzinger, Andrew D. Kaufman, Kate Holland, and Vadim Shneyder, co-hosted by the University of Toronto, Brandeis University, the University of Bristol, and the University of British Columbia, respectively. Registration links for all upcoming talks are available on the Society's blog, *Bloggers Karamazov* (<https://bloggers-karamazov.com/>) and all the past talks are recorded and available on the NADS YouTube channel.

A major NADS-sponsored bicentennial outreach program, "Dostoevsky at 200", was organized by Bowers and Holland in collaboration with Sarah Hudspith, Katya Jordan, and Sarah J. Young, with support from a Connection Grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. "Dostoevsky at 200" includes public roundtables where scholars share contemporary research on Dostoevsky, one focused on the recent book *Dostoevsky at 200: The Novel in Modernity* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2021), co-edited by Bowers and Holland, and a second on *Dostoevsky and Nationalism in the Global Era* coming up in late November as well as two student research panels focusing on graduate and undergraduate research, respectively. In addition to these scholarly events, "Dostoevsky at 200" includes an open call for blog posts on the topic "Global Dostoevskys: Influences and Receptions". Posts in the series will be published on *Bloggers Karamazov* later this year and continuing into 2022. A major event in the bicentenary program is a virtual birthday party for Fyodor Mikhailovich, taking place on Zoom on 11 November 2021. The birthday party will include fan art, fan poetry, readings of favorite passages from Dostoevsky's works, video tributes, testimonials, and a

celebratory toast. The full schedule with all of the NADS bicentennial events can be found on *Bloggers Karamazov*.

Beyond the NADS-sponsored events, there are a number of other events organized across North America to mark the bicentenary in 2021. The conference *Funny Dostoevsky*, co-organized by Irina Erman and Lynn Ellen Patyk and held virtually at Dartmouth College in May 2021, brought scholars to come together to focus on humor in Dostoevsky's works. Throughout 2021, Anton Fedyashin at the Carmel Institute of American University has hosted a series of virtual book talks to mark the bicentenary, featuring talks by Thomas Gaiton Marullo, John Givens, Susanne Fusso, Kitzinger, and Holland.

Katherine Bowers
University of British Columbia
&
Kate Holland
University of Toronto