

***Chronicle of the International Conference
“Humanness, Godness, and the Universe
in Dostoevsky’s Work” (Athens, 16-18 October 2025)***

From 16 to 18 October, 2025, the first Greek International Conference dedicated to F. M. Dostoevsky took place at the University of Athens under the title “Humanness, Godness, and the Universe in Dostoevsky’s Work” (In Greek: *Ο Άνθρωπος, ο Θεός και ο Κόσμος στο έργο του Φ. Δοστογιέφσκι*). The symposium was organized by Zorka Šljivančanin,¹ Markos Galounis² and Christina Karakepeli³ in close collaboration with Stefano Aloe, professor at the University of Verona and current president of the *International Dostoevsky Society* (IDS).

The theme of the conference stirred interest and drew participation from almost all regions of the world: Hungary, Italy, Spain, France, Turkey, The United States, The Russian Federation, the People’s Republic of China, Japan, Cyprus and, of course, Greece.

Organized in work sessions (presentations) together with film screenings and cultural activities, the symposium began on Thursday, October 16 with a brief presentation by the organizers, followed by the first panel. This session (“Reading Dostoevsky Philosophically: Reception Issues and Interpreta-

¹ Šljivančanin, a professor at the University of Cyprus is the author of “Dostoevsky in Greece. A Brief History of Reception (1877-1929)”, *Dostoevsky Studies*, 27, 2024, pp. 145-158.

² This Athens-based philologist and philosopher has published (together with Zorka Šljivančanin) “Books on Dostoevsky in Greece: An Overview”, *Dostoevsky Studies*, 27, 2024, pp. 181-202, as well as “On the Sources of Nihilism in Dostoevsky’s *Crime and Punishment*”, *Journal of Russian Literature and Culture*, vol. 11, № 16, 2020, pp. 237-257. He is also known for his papers on “The Aesthetics of Dostoevsky’s *Idiot* in Tarkovsky’s *Sacrifice*”, presented at the XIV Symposium of the International Dostoevsky Society “Dostoevsky Philosophical Mind, Writer’s Eye”, held in Naples between 13-20 June, 2010; on “Political Nihilism in Dostoevsky’s *Crime and Punishment*”, presented at the XV International Dostoevsky Symposium, “Dostoevsky and Journalism”, held in Moscow between 8-14 July, 2013; and on secularism in *The Idiot*, presented at the Conference *Dostoevsky Anthropology. Man as a problem and object of representation in Dostoevsky’s world*, which took place in Sofia between 23-26 October, 2018.

³ See her publication “Ares Alexandrou: The Balancing Act of Translating Dostoevsky into Greek”, *Dostoevsky Studies*, 27, 2024, pp. 159-179.

tive Debates") dealt with topics as diverse as the application of Artificial Intelligence to understanding Dostoevsky's work (Carol Apollonio); whether the Russian writer can be described as a philosopher and theologian (Jordi Morillas); or the reception and interpretation of Dostoevsky in Greece at the beginning of the 20th century (Zorka Šljivančanin).

After a propitious break of about 15 minutes, the morning continued with speakers addressing philosophical and theological issues in Dostoevsky's work ("Approaching the Dostoevskian Philosophical Concept"); especially noteworthy here was Markos Galounis's presentation on the *kenosis* of Christ in *The Idiot*.

The theme for the afternoon session was "Exploring the World of Dostoevsky's Characters," including a presentation from Northwestern University professor Susan McReynolds, "Dostoevsky's Scapegoats". The first day finished with the screening of the short film *The Yellow Ticket* (2025) by Piotr Toczyński, as well as the classic *Nastazja* (1994) by Andrzej Wajda.

The second day (October 17) was fully dedicated to the main theme of the conference, namely "Humanness, Godness and the Universe in Dostoevsky's Work", focusing first on *The Brothers Karamazov* and then on the other novels. Topics ranged widely, particularly in the second session, from the writer's religious biography (Sabri Gürses) to a linguistic analysis of *The Adolescent* (Natalia Bulgakova-Fréval) to an interesting reflection on the concept of beauty from an economic point of view in *The Idiot* (Shingo Shimizu).

The first afternoon session was equally extensive in terms of topics discussed ("Comparative Perspectives on Dostoevsky's Creative Thought"). The second session again focused on philosophical issues both in Dostoevsky's work and, above all, in Asian thought, with presentations from Chinese and Japanese colleagues ("Cross-Cultural Dialogues in Philosophy and Literature: From Dostoevsky to East Asian thought").

The third and final day (October 18) had a distinctly national flavour, as all presentations were made in Greek ("Humanness, Divinity and the Universe in Greek Scholarship"). However, it should be noted that the organizers politely attenuated the language barrier by sending English abstracts of the papers presented. Here are some of the titles: "God, World and Man to *Poor Folk* by F. Dostoevsky", "The Theologian Listens to Non-Theologians Who Read Dostoevsky", "Crime as an Act of Ontological Transcendence and Self-Deification (*isotheia*). The Case of Raskolnikov", "The Anthropology of Dostoevsky in the Age of Transhumanism", and "Love and Beauty in Dostoevsky".

The day ended with an organized visit to both the Acropolis and its Museum. Despite understandable fatigue, the visit stirred great interest and pro-

voked more than a few discussions that continued into the next day. On Sunday, October 19, an excursion to the city of Delphi took place, though, unfortunately, only a few were present. On the journey from Athens to Delphi, however, the guide wanted to clarify certain questions that had been left open the previous day, such as, for example, the story of the sacking of the Parthenon by the Englishman Lord Elgin and the refusal of the *British Museum* to return everything to Greece that had been plundered.

Despite the bad aftertaste left by the outrageous behaviour of the English, the visit to the temple of Apollo and the adjacent Museum was an unforgettable experience, especially considering the fog and cold that accompanied us, which lent an even more mysterious and disturbing aspect to the home of the Pythia. The day culminated in lunch at a typical Greek restaurant, closing a series of meals that had begun with dinner on Friday night.

In this way, with this combination of academic work, cultural visits and communal meals, all the participants of this first Greek International Conference on Dostoevsky, held in the beautiful city of Athens, left with an excellent impression, as evidenced by the fact that the vast majority promised to return soon to a place that, despite the millennia, continues to be the focus of Culture.



Humanness, Godness, and the Universe in Dostoevsky's Work

International Conference
16th-18th October, 2025
University of Athens, Panepistimiou 30, Athens

THURSDAY, 16 TH OCTOBER, 2025			
09:00-09:30	REGISTRATION		
09:30-10:00	WELCOME ADDRESS		
10:00-11:45	FIRST SESSION (chair: Stefano Aloe)	Reading Dostoevsky Philosophically: Reception Issues and Interpretative Debates	
	Carol Apollonio	Man vs machine: applying AI to interpretations of Dostoevsky's fiction	Duke University, US
	Romilo Aleksandar Knežević	Nikolai Berdyaev's reading of Dostoevsky. An absolutely new stage in anthropological knowledge	University of Niš, Serbia
	Jordi Morillas	Достоевский как философ? Достоевский как богослов? Конец недоразумения!	University of Lübeck, Germany
	Zorka Šljivančanin	Early Interpretations of Dostoevsky as a Religious Thinker in Greece	University of Cyprus
	Анна Резниченко	Достоевский на философском пароходе	Russian State University for the Humanities, Moscow, Russia
11:45-12:00	COFFEE/TEA BREAK		

12:00-13:45	SECOND SESSION (chair: Carol Apollonio)	Approaching the Dostoevskian Philosophical Concept	
	Иван Есаулов	Иерархия и полифония как Божественное и человеческое в мире Достоевского	Maxim Gorky Literature Institute, Moscow, Russia
	Katalin Kroó	Полнота в смысле синтеза компонентов универсума в творчестве Достоевского	Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary
	Arpi Movsesian	Dostoevsky's Androgynous God	University of Notre Dame, US
	Markos Galounis	The self-emptying of God (Kenosis) in <i>The Idiot</i>	Researcher, Greece
13:45-15:15	LUNCH BREAK		
15:15-17:00	THIRD SESSION (chair: Anna Reznichenko)	Exploring the World of Dostoevsky's Characters	
	Susan McReynolds	Dostoevsky's Scapegoats	North-Western University, US
	Наохито Саису	Пощечина и дуэль в творчестве Достоевского: защита чести или испытание для обретения смирения?	Nagoya University of Foreign Studies, Japan
	Katherine Sinyavin	“Through a Blazing Furnace of Doubt”: Marya Timofeevna Lebyadkina as Dostoevsky’s Reponse to Holbein’s Dead Christ	University of California, Berkeley, US
17:00-17:20	Pre-screening talk	Stefano Aloe, President of the International Dostoevsky Society	

17:00-19:00	MOVIE SCREENING	“The Yellow Ticket”, by Piotr Toczyński “Nastasja”, by Andrzej Wajda			
FRIDAY, 17TH OCTOBER, 2025					
09:00-09:30	REGISTRATION				
09:30-11:15	FIRST SESSION (chair: Jordi Morillas)	Humanness, Godness and the Universe in <i>Brothers Karamazov</i>			
	Zhou Qichao	Представление вихрей симбиоза сознания, демонстрация энергии слияния идей - О создании характера Ивана в «Братьях Карамазовых»	Zhejiang University, China		
	Alina Wyman	Are Ivan Karamazov's Existential Grievances no Longer Relevant? Dostoevsky in Light of Lydia Ginzburg's Socio-Philosophical Critique	New College of Florida, US		
	Zhang Lei	The Triple Images of Ivan Karamazov	Anhui Normal University, China		
	Рицуко Кицэра	Варенье вишнёвое в романе «Братья Карамазовы»	Kyoto Sangyo University, Japan		
11:15-11:30	COFFEE/TEA BREAK				
11:30-12:45	SECOND SESSION (chair: Zorka Šljivančanin)	Humanness, Godness and the Universe in Dostoevsky's Novels			
	Sabri Gürses	From Human to God: The Doubles in Dostoevsky	Writer, Türkiye		

	Natalia Bulgakova-Fréval	The categories of order and disorder in F. Dostoevsky's Novel <i>The Adolescent</i>	Tomsk State University, Russia; University of Poitiers, France
	Shingo Shimizu	Князь Мышкин как человек без интереса: представление идеала красоты Ф. М. Достоевского в романе «Идиот»	The University of Tokyo, Japan
12:45-14:15	LUNCH BREAK		
14:15-16:00	THIRD SESSION (chair: Zhou Qichao)	Comparative Perspectives on Dostoevsky's Creative Thought	
	Zhang Xiaodong	On the Contingency in <i>The Idiot</i> and <i>Au hazard Balthazar</i>	Beijing Normal University, China
	Christina Karapeli	Revisiting Dostoevsky in Greek: Translation Histories and Reception in 21 st -Century Greece's Evolving Literary Landscape	National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece
	Ma Wenying	«Новое слово» Гражданина-Поэта: Н.А. Некрасов в «Дневнике писателя» Ф.М. Достоевского	Sichuan University, China
	Wang Kexin	Бунтарство кротких: Переписывание Достоевским пьесы «Гроза» в повести «Кроткая»	Beijing University, China
16:00-16:15	COFFEE/TEA BREAK		

16:15-17:30	FOURTH SESSION (chair: Naohito Saisu)	Cross-Cultural Dialogues in Philosophy and Literature: From Dostoevsky to East Asian Thought	
	Liu Na	Путь искупления Раскольникова и «закаливание через дела» в философии «сердца» Ван Янмина: сравнительный анализ	Tianjin Normal University, China
	Zonghu Wang	«Мудрость отказа от синтеза: Межкультурный диалог между полифоническим романом и даосской диалектикой»	Capital Pedagogical University, China
	Kodai Machida	Dostoevsky's Influence on Maruyama Masao: Religion and Democracy in Postwar Japan	Waseda University, Japan
17:30-17:45	CLOSING REMARKS OF THE SECOND DAY OF THE CONFERENCE		

SATURDAY, 18TH OCTOBER, 2025

09:00-09:15	REGISTRATION		
09:15-11:00	FIRST SESSION (chair: George Kythreotis)	Humanness, Godness and the Universe in Greek Scholarship	
	Δημήτρης Μπαλτάς	«Θεός - κόσμος - ἀνθρωπος στους “Φτωχούς” του Φ. Ντοστογιέφσκι».	Researcher, Greece
	Ελένη Λαδιά	Το πρόβλημα του τετάρτου στους Αδελφούς Καραμανόφ	Writer, Greece

	Μελίνα Κωνσταντινίδου	Το έγκλημα ως πράξη οντολογικής υπέρβασης και ισοθείας	Researcher, Greece
	π. Ευάγγελος Γκανάς	Ο θεολόγος αφουγκράζεται τους μη θεολόγους που διαβάζουν τον Ντοστογιέφσκι	Researcher, Greece
11:00-11:15	COFFEE/TEA BREAK		
11:15-12:45	SECOND SESSION (chair: Dimitris Baltas)	Humanness, Goddess and the Universe in Greek Scholarship	
	Σταύρος Γιαγκάζογλου	Έρως και Κάλλος στον Ντοστογιέφσκι	National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece
	Περικλής Αγγελόπουλος	Η ανθρωπολογία του Ντοστογιέφσκι υπό το φως της αισθητικής θεολογίας, στην εποχή του υπερανθρωπισμού	Researcher, Greece
	Γιώργος Κυθραιώτης	Η πόλη ως τρόπος. Η αισθητική του χώρου στον Πλάκτη του Ντοστογιέφσκι	Researcher, Cyprus
12:45-13:00	COFFEE/TEA BREAK		
13:00-13:20	Pre-screening talk	Markos Galounis	Researcher, Greece
13:20-15:50	MOVIE SCREENING	“The Sacrifice”, by Andrei Tarkovsky	
16:10-16:25	CLOSING REMARKS OF THE CONFERENCE		