

NEWS FROM THE DOSTOEVSKY SOCIETY OF JAPAN (DSJ)

The Dostoevsky Society of Japan (DSJ) is a non-profit academic network that connects researchers of Fyodor Mikhailovich Dostoevsky and lovers of his literature. Established in April 2017, it aims to expand its circle of Dostoevsky fans in Japan and overseas through activities such as symposiums, seminars, lectures, and websites. Mainly based at Nagoya University of Foreign Studies (NUFS), the number of registered web members is 325 (as of December 20, 2020). The mother of the association were nine researchers who participated in the scientific research project “Imagination of Catastrophe: Contemporary Meaning of Dostoevsky Literature and Its Global Expansion” supported by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (“Kakenhi”, code number 17H02329). Ikuo Kameyama (President of NUFS), who is its principal investigator, is the president of the association. The Vice Chairman is Tetsuo Mochizuki (Vice president of the International Dostoevsky Society) and listed as directors are Satoshi Bamba (Niigata University), Mitsuyoshi Numano (NUFS, Emeritus professor of the University of Tokyo), Go Koshino (University of Tokyo), Yuichi Isahaya (NUFS). Masako Umegaki (NUFS) is in charge of administrative work. The operation is covered by the above-mentioned “Kakenhi” and the support of Nagoya University of Foreign Studies, and there is no membership fee or other income. Its main activity, co-sponsored by “Kakenhi”, is the annual international symposium. In addition, seminar activities are held on an individual basis from time to time.

The following is a list of international symposiums organized by the association for the past three years.

First year (April 2017-March 2018)

The 1st Dostoevsky International Symposium was held on two days, March 10th and 13th, 2018. Deborah Martinsen, the former president of the IDS, was invited as the keynote speaker. At the international workshop entitled “Imagination of ‘Disease’ in Dostoevsky” held at Nagoya University of Foreign Studies on March 10, Go Koshino (The University of Tokyo) gave a keynote report “Disease and Fire images in Dostoevsky”. At the international symposium “Dostoevsky and *The Idiot* in World Literature” in the afternoon of the same day, Deborah A. Martinsen made a keynote speech “*The Idiot*: Tragedy of Unforgiveness”. At this symposium, as an attraction, actress Takabe Shigeko read “Ippolit’s Confession” from *The Idiot* (translated by I. Kameyama) with percussion

accompaniment by Nobuharu Yamada. At the international symposium “Good and Evil in Dostoevsky” held at the University of Tokyo on March 13, prof. Martinsen also made a keynote speech “Shame and Sin in Dostoevsky’s *Crime and Punishment*”. The writer Keiichiro Hirano gave a keynote speech on “Dostoevsky in the Zero’s generation”, and I. Kameyama and T. Mochizuki participated as commentators in this symposium. I’d like to express my special thanks to prof. Kiyotaka Kai (NUFS) for taking on the translation of D. Martinsen’s two treatises.

Second year (April 2018-March 2019)

The 2nd Dostoevsky International Symposium “Dostoevsky as Representational Culture” was held on February 16th at the University of Tokyo in 2019. We invited Stefano Aloe (IDS Vice President; Verona University) as a keynote speaker and he gave a keynote speech “Calligraphy and Creative Thinking in Dostoevsky’s Manuscripts”. At this symposium S. Bamba made a preparatory presentation entitled “Dostoevsky and Graphical Imagination” and T. Mochizuki made a comprehensive comment entitled “Letters and Pictures: Comments and Discussions on Dostoevsky’s Calligraphy Theory”.

At this symposium, the following research presentations were made: Yuichi Isahaya “The Bust of Dostoevsky and the Sculptor Bernstamm”, Yoichi Ohira (Tenri University) “Grigorij Musatov as an Emigrant Painter”, Tomoyuki Takahashi (Chiba University) “Dostoevsky and the Pictorial Imagination of Charles Dickens”, I. Kameyama “Bernardo Bertolucci’s *Patricide*. A hypothesis”, Go Koshino “Film Adaptation of *Crime and Punishment* in Contemporary Asia: Lav Diaz’s *Norte, the End of History*”, Masako Umegaki “Woody Allen and Dostoevsky”, Ryoji Hayashi (NUFS) “Robert Bresson and Dostoevsky”, Fumiaki Noya (NUFS, Emeritus professor of the University of Tokyo) “Dostoevsky in Argentine Films, or the Power of ‘Swirl’”, M. Numano “Variations on *Idiot*: From the Novel to the Stage: Yu. Olesha and A. Wajda”, S. Aloe “Some Notes on Akira Kurosawa’s *Idiot* (Hakuchi)”. I’d like to thank prof. Kiyotaka Kai for taking on the translation of S. Aloe’s treatise.

Third year (April 2019-March 2020)

The 3rd Dostoevsky International Symposium was held on two days, February 20, 2020 and February 22, 2020. We invited Pavel Fokin (the director of the Dostoevsky Museum in Moscow) as a keynote speaker. At the small symposium held in Tokyo (Tokyo-do Hall) on February 20, I. Kameyama made a re-

port entitled “Dostoevsky and Money” and Dr. Fokin made a keynote speech “*The Brothers Karamazov* as a ‘Confession of Faith’”. At the international symposium “Dostoevsky’s Globality” held at Nagoya University of Foreign Studies on February 22, the following research presentations were made: T. Mochizuki (“Dostoevsky and Tolstoy”) and R. Hayashi (“Dostoevsky in Gide”), M. Umegaki (“Repetition and Variations on the Surface: Dostoevsky, Woody Allen, and Hitchcock”), Olga Fokina (“Modern Russian Women and Dostoevsky”), I. Kameyama (“Dostoevsky’s *The Gambler*”), Kenichiro Takahashi (“Prokofiev’s *The Gambler*”; Osaka University). And at the Dostoevsky International Symposium “Global significance of Dostoevsky” held in this afternoon, P. Fokin made a keynote speech “*The Brothers Karamazov* as a ‘Confession of Faith’”. It should be noted that the symposium was held in an extremely tense atmosphere due to the world-wide spread of Covid-19. In addition we have to note that the main speech by P. Fokin and four comments by T. Mochizuki, S. Bamba, G. Koshino, I. Kameyama and special contribution by Toyofusa Kinoshita (former vice president of IDS) were posted on *Thought* (June 2020 issue), one of the leading magazines in the Japanese thought world.

The activities of DSJ reached its third anniversary in April 2020. Currently, the association is planning to publish a book entitled *Dostoevsky’s Imagination: Its Global Expansion*. Toward the commemorative international Symposium which will be held in November 2021, we are now planning to invite prof. Carol Apollonio (president of the International Dostoevsky Society) as a keynote speaker. However, in view of the current corona situation, we might have to keep in mind of possibility of holding it online. The DSJ invited the IDS Symposium 2022 to Nagoya and it was approved by the its general assembly of IDS 2019 in Boston. We would like to lead to success a cooperation with the “Japanese Dostoevsky Society” (JDS) led by prof. T. Kinoshita and prof. Seiichiro Takahashi (Tokai University).

Ikuo Kameyama
President of the DSJ