

NEWS

НОВОСТИ

**“A complete account of foreign impressions”:
The XVIII Symposium of the International Dostoevsky Society
in Retrospect**

**“Полный отчет о заграничных впечатлениях”:
XVIII Симпозиум Международного Общества Достоевского
в ретроспективе**

(edited by Raffaella Vassena & Katya Jordan)

From August 24 to 28, 2023, the XVIII Symposium of the International Dostoevsky Society took place in Nagoya, Japan. The main organizers of the Symposium, dedicated to the 150th anniversary of the publication of Dostoevsky’s novel *Demons*, were Professor Ikuo Kameyama and Professor Toshiko Ellis from Nagoya University of Foreign Studies, Professor Satoshi Bamba from Niigata University, and Professor Tetsuo Mochizuki from Chuo Gakuin University. Eighty-five scholars from nearly twenty different countries (Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Korea, Croatia, Russia, France, Germany, Japan, Italy, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States) presented their research on *Demons* and other topics relevant to Dostoevsky. Some regional coordinators of the IDS have shared their impressions from their time in Nagoya. We publish them here, in the belief that sharing with the community is the primary and fundamental duty of those dedicated to research. These accounts not only reveal the intellectual vitality and seriousness of the scientific discussion, but also the conviviality, mutual respect, and, above all, the excellent organization of the event and the extraordinary hospitality shown by our Japanese colleagues and their students. The latter transformed the Symposium into a living home, a warm and welcoming environment for all participants. This dialogue and spirit of cooperation has consistently characterized the International Dostoevsky Society since its foundation, making it a place where the shared passion for Dostoevsky’s work transcends linguistic and cultural barriers, fosters human relationships, and builds bridges for mutual understanding.

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Caros colegas,¹

Como representante regional da IDS no Brasil, venho participando de todos os nossos Simpósios desde o de Budapeste, realizado em 2007. Considero que o mesmo padrão elevado de organização tem sido mantido em todos, tanto em Nápoles, na Rússia, em Granada, Boston, e agora também em Nagoya.

Pela distância que o Japão se encontra do meu país, tive muitas dúvidas se deveria mesmo ir, se valeria a pena fazer uma viagem de 30 horas para participar do Simpósio, e relutei até o último momento para comprar as passagens e fazer as reservas de hotel. Devo dizer que não me arrependo absolutamente de ter optado por ir. Ao contrário, tudo me surpreendeu no país, principalmente a receptividade dos japoneses em geral, e dos nossos colegas da IDS em particular, assim como de toda a equipe que trabalhou na organização do Simpósio, todos sempre muito solícitos, prontos a ajudar em tudo. Acho que todos sem exceção nos sentimos em casa.

Uma impressão muito forte que permaneceu foi que no Japão tudo funciona bem, que tudo é muito bem planejado nos mínimos detalhes, o que se reproduziu na organização geral do nosso evento e nos deu conforto para aproveitarmos ao máximo a nossa estadia e os trabalhos do Simpósio.

Os encontros e as conversas com antigos colegas e com os novos que surgiram é sempre um dos pontos altos dos nossos encontros, e neste, não sei se pela quantidade menor de participantes, me pareceu que foi criado um ambiente muito aconchegante para todos.

Gostaria de dar um destaque ao trabalho primoroso de edição do caderno de resumos (*Book of Abstracts*), que estava muito fácil de manejar, de ler, e de encontrar as apresentações com os temas do nosso interesse. Destaco também a sensibilidade dos colegas pelo convite feito a escritores japoneses para apresentar seus trabalhos aos participantes do Simpósio, assim como a escolha de Kyoto para a excursão, além da gentileza de nos dar as boas-vindas com um presente tão inusitado. Acho que os colegas se superaram na preparação do Simpósio. Estava tudo realmente formidável.

No que se refere à organização das seções para apresentação de trabalhos, por temas afins, estava perfeita. No entanto, acho que essa divisão das seções em língua russa e em língua inglesa, se, por um lado, facilita para os falantes de cada língua, que não precisam ficar se deslocando de uma sala para outra, por outro cria uma certa dificuldade para uma maior interação entre os participantes. Isso eu já havia notado desde o Simpósio realizado em Boston, que teve uma tendência a ficar dividido em dois blocos, o de russos e o de língua inglesa.

1 English translation follows.

Percebi também que a IDS está dando uma ênfase muito grande à filiação de jovens pesquisadores. O simpósio contou com uma presença massiva de jovens participando pela primeira vez. Acho muito positivo e precioso esse interesse dos pesquisadores mais jovens de se incorporar à Sociedade. Me incomodou, no entanto, o fato de os nossos membros mais antigos, que sempre desempenharam um papel altamente relevante na construção da nossa Sociedade e contavam com um destaque merecido para apresentação de suas pesquisas, dessa vez terem tido um espaço bastante reduzido. Me refiro principalmente aos rusos, ou pelo menos aos dois mais antigos estudiosos da obra de Dostoiévski presentes no simpósio, Igor Volgin e Vladímir Zakharov, que tiveram um espaço de fala restringido a 20 minutos para apresentação de trabalhos em seções.

Espero que este breve relato sobre as minhas impressões possa de alguma forma contribuir para a organização dos próximos simpósios.

Com os melhores sentimentos.

Fátima BIANCHI
IDS Regional Coordinator, Brasil

Dear colleagues,

As regional representative of IDS in Brazil, I have been participating in all our Symposia since the one in Budapest in 2007. I consider that the same high standard of organization has been maintained in all of them – in Naples, Moscow, Granada, Boston, and now also in Nagoya.

Due to the distance that Japan is from my country, I had many doubts about going, whether it would be worth a 30-hour trip. I hesitated until the last moment to buy plane tickets and make hotel reservations.

But I have to say that I absolutely do not regret choosing to go. On the contrary, everything in Japan surprised me, especially the receptivity of the Japanese people in general, and of our colleagues at IDS in particular, as well as the entire support team that worked on organizing the Symposium, all of whom were always ready to help with everything. I think all of us, without exception, felt at home.

A very strong impression that remains with me is that everything in Japan seems to work well; everything is very well planned down to the smallest detail. I could feel that in particular in the organization of our Symposium. It made us comfortable and allowed us to make the most of our stay and the works of the Symposium.

I would like to highlight the excellent work of editing the *Book of Abstracts*,

which made it very easy to use and to find the presentations of interest to us. I want to mention the sensitivity of the colleagues who thought to invite Japanese writers to present their work, as well as the choice of Kyoto for the excursion.

Our Japanese colleagues did a truly exceptional job in organizing a splendid Symposium.

Meetings and conversations with colleagues and acquaintances with new ones are always a highlight of our meetings, and so it was this time. Perhaps because of the smaller number of participants, the atmosphere was particularly cozy.

The organization of the thematic sections for presenting work was also excellent. However, I think that the division into Russian and English presentations, although it obviously made easier for those who do not master the other language, who did not need to move from one room to another, made more difficult the interaction between participants. I had already noticed this at the Boston Symposium.

I observe that IDS is placing much emphasis on the membership of younger researchers. The symposium had a massive presence of young first-time participants. This is very positive and precious. But at the same time, I was surprised that our oldest members, who have always played an important role in the construction of our Society and have enjoyed deserved prominence in the presentation of their research, were this time given very limited space. I am referring mainly to the Russians, or at least to the two oldest scholars of Dostoevsky's work who attended – Igor Volgin and Vladimir Zakharov. They were allotted only twenty minutes to present their work.

I hope that this brief report will help in the planning of future Symposia.

With my sincerest greeting,

Fátima BIANCHI
IDS Regional Coordinator, Brasil

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Дорогие коллеги и друзья!

Это был очередной конгресс, на котором я присутствовал, и мне приятно отметить, что основные форумы МОД становятся все более ответственными, продуманными и хорошими.

Для меня, как участника такого мероприятия, всегда важны две вещи. Во-первых, как организована научная часть, точнее, какие доклады отбираются, ведь чтобы развиваться, Общество должно производить тезы, демонстрировать подходы и делать новые и неизвестные до сих пор в литературоведении анализы творчества Достоевского. Во-вторых, как сама организация обеспечивает легкую и коллегиальную атмосферу, чтобы каждый чувствовал себя вовлеченным, уважаемым и удовлетворенным.

И в первом, и во втором случае можно поздравить японских коллег, которые безупречно справились с непростой и ответственной задачей организации. Япония не является “легким” местом назначения, тем более – она редко связана с усвоением и распространением европейской литературы и культуры, и именно в этом отношении это было величайшим сюрпризом и открытием: все чувствовали себя как дома.

Мое огромное удовлетворение исходит еще от нескольких вещей.

1. Встреча с тремя современными японскими писателями. Очень сильное присутствие, энергия и предложение. Безупречная компетентность, их эссе были откровенны и представляют собой крупный вклад в современную интерпретацию Достоевского.

2. Выбор нового председателя МОД профессора Стефано Алоэ. Достойный учёный, талантливый и последовательный. Толерантный и объединяющий. Профессионал.

3. Профессор Кэрол Аполонио и профессор Икуо Камяма заслуживают искренних аплодисментов за проделанную ими потрясающую работу при подготовке форума и во время его проведения.

4. Испытываю большое удовлетворение от встреч региональных координаторов и редакции *Dostoevsky Studies*. Надеюсь, что в ближайшие годы журнал будет распространяться и продвигаться значительно лучше, ради чего мы все готовы работать. Я – в частности.

5. Очень важным и позитивным сигналом является выбор места проведения следующего конгресса – в Южной Америке. Это действительно повышает авторитет МОД среди местных сообществ, до сих пор удаленных и действовавших в изоляции и безвестности.

С наилучшими чувствами,

Людмила ДИМИТРОВ
IDS Regional Coordinator, Bulgaria

The 2023 IDS Symposium in Nagoya, Japan, was worth the long wait. Postponed twice as a result of the COVID-19 global pandemic, rendered even more complicated and fraught as a result of the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine, the Symposium was anticipated with some trepidation by scholars in North America. It turned out to be a conference for the ages, in which scholars from all over the world were able to spend four days engaging with Dostoevsky's works and exchanging ideas in an unprecedentedly well-organized, friendly, collegial, and warm atmosphere. Such an atmosphere inspired excellent papers, rich discussions at panels, and extremely fruitful transnational scholarly exchange. This is perhaps all the more surprising given that the conference was dedicated to what is perhaps Dostoevsky's darkest novel, *Demons*.

The conference program was a wonderful mixture of sessions with papers and discussion, round tables, plenary sessions, and a book presentation session, with presentations in both English and Russian, as well as a round table in Japanese. This produced a diverse set of presentations which varied enormously in approach, methodology, scholarly context, and disciplinary or ideological orientation. One set of panels focused specifically on *Demons* in its time and 150 years later, with papers focusing on that novel's formal and narratological complexity, the multifaceted and complex nature of its ideology, the existential and ethical alienation of its protagonist, Nikolai Stavrogin, the vexed textual relations between the censored section, "At Tikhon's", and the larger novel, as well as questions of genre. There were very many points of contact between papers from different scholars, from different continents, in different languages, with different disciplinary histories. The question period at the *Demons* sessions was particularly rich, in my view, with those who have grappled with the novel individually, in our teaching and our research, finally coming together to discuss this novel and its transnational legacy. Another set of panels focused on Dostoevsky's works in intramedial contexts, in music and cinema, and yielded papers on such topics as Kurasawa's and Wajda's adaptations of *The Idiot*, theatrical stagings of Dostoevsky's works, and Dostoevsky in manga. The location of the conference, the first IDS in Asia in the organization's history, inspired a stream of panels on Dostoevsky's reception in Asia, which yielded some fascinating material such as Dostoevsky's influence on Japanese Modernism and the reception of *Demons* in China. Another richly suggestive stream dealt with Dostoevsky and Catastrophe, and gave rise to papers on Dostoevsky as dystopian as well as messianic nationalist, Ivan Karamazov's Devil, and the depiction of executioners. And finally a looser panel dealing with many different topics allowed for more particular individual panel topics.

Plenary sessions and round tables allowed for larger group settings and more exchange between scholars from different continents. We heard about the latest research on Dostoevsky from North America, especially since his bicentenary, about his influence on contemporary Japanese writers, on temporal collapse in *Demons*, and on Chinese scholarship on the novel, as well as about forgiveness in Dostoevsky, and the latest work on Dostoevsky's notebooks by our colleagues in Russia. The conference also allowed the IDS to collect many of its members for a general meeting, and for IDS President Carol Apollonio to pass the torch to new President Stefano Aloe. In brief, the conference provided its participants with the unusual chance to stop everything and focus entirely on thinking about Dostoevsky's novels in a beautiful setting with colleagues from all over the world for a few short days.

Kate HOLLAND
IDS Regional Coordinator, Canada

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我在梳理国际陀学会历史的时候发现,自1971年国际陀学会第一次会议以来,陀学会每三年举办一次,期间从未中断或者更改时间,2023年,半个多世纪以来大会第一次推迟,足以说明我们处在一个特殊的时代,也想象得到会议主办方为了大家的相聚所付出的艰辛努力。正如俄罗斯谚语所说:“迟到总比不到好。”在这个紧张和剑拔弩张的时代,阅读和阐释陀思妥耶夫斯基对我们来说更有现实意义。而来自世界各国、持有不同语言的学者,因陀思妥耶夫斯基齐聚一堂这一事实更加让人振奋。作为国际陀学会的一名地区协调员,作为陀思妥耶夫斯基的一名读者和研究者,我在日本名古屋的大会上众多与会专家的发言中感受到了巴赫金所言“多声部”的合唱和思想的狂欢,在陀学会全体会员的会议上,当大屏幕上出现这四年间离世的陀思妥耶夫斯基学者的名字,在座的各位起立回忆他们生前的点点滴滴,我感受到了家庭的氛围,——被尊重、被倾听、被怀念。而将所有这些具有不同背景的人、思想、活动联系起来的,是陀思妥耶夫斯基。

刘娜
IDS Regional Coordinator, China

2 English translation follows.

When I was combing through the history of the International Dostoevsky Society, I found that since the first IDS Symposium in 1971, the Symposium has been held every three years, during which time there has never been an interruption or a change of time. The year 2023 – the first time the Symposium has been postponed in the midst of these 50 years – witnessed a special and complicated era. As is seen clearly, amounts of painstaking efforts have been made by the organizers of the conference in order to bring us all together. As the Russian proverb says, “Better late than never”. Reading and interpreting Dostoevsky is all the more relevant for us in these tense and saber-rattling times. The fact that scholars from all over the world, speaking different languages, but united by Dostoevsky, have gathered together, is even more inspiring. As a regional coordinator of the IDS, and as a reader and researcher of Dostoevsky, I felt what M.M. Bakhtin called the “polyphonic” chorus and the ecstasy of ideas in the speeches of experts at the Symposium in Nagoya, Japan. At the meeting of all the members of the IDS, when the names of the Dostoevsky scholars who had passed away in the past four years appeared on the big screen, and everyone present stood up and recalled their lives, I felt an atmosphere of a family – respected, listened to, and remembered. Thus it was Dostoevsky who connected all these individuals, thoughts and activities with different backgrounds.

Liu NA
IDS Regional Coordinator, China

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Tras varios años sin poder participar en los simposios de la IDS, fue un placer asistir el que se celebró durante los días del 24 al 28 de agosto de 2023 en Nagoya, Japón, donde pude ver y, sobre todo, escuchar a colegas de los que hacía tiempo que no sabía nada.

Una de las cuestiones que más me sorprendió del simposio fue la extraordinaria organización de los camaradas japoneses: no sólo por la cuestión de las ayudas financieras, sino también por las modernas instalaciones donde se desarrolló el evento y la oferta de comidas gratuitas. Asimismo, digno de ser destacado fue el excelente trabajo de los jóvenes estudiantes (siempre dispuestos a

3 English translation follows.

ayudar de la mejor forma posible) y por una sala acondicionada, en la que se puso a disposición continua de todos los presentes agua, té, café y diversos tipos de pastas. Sin duda, lo más práctico.

Lo único que habría que lamentar fueron las importantes ausencias europeas (una tónica que se ha ido repitiendo desgraciadamente en los dos últimos simposios), pero que esperemos se subsane en el próximo simposio en Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Jordi MORILLAS
IDS Regional Coordinator, Spain

After several years without being able to participate in IDS Symposia, it was a pleasure to attend the one held on 24-28 August 2023 in Nagoya, Japan, where I had the opportunity to see and, above all, to listen to colleagues I had not heard from for a long time.

One of the things that surprised me most about the Symposium was the extraordinary organisation of the Japanese colleagues: not only in terms of financial support, but also in terms of the modern facilities where the event was held and the provision of free meals. Also worthy of note was the excellent work of the young students (always ready to help in the best possible way) and for the hall where water, tea, coffee and various types of pastries were continuously available to all those present. Without a doubt, this was the most remarkable thing.

My only regret was the absence of many of our European colleagues (a trend that has unfortunately been repeated at the last two Symposia), but which will hopefully be reversed at the next Symposium in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Jordi MORILLAS
IDS Regional Coordinator, Spain

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I appreciate the care with which our Japanese colleagues have prepared the XVIII IDS Symposium. Nothing was too little for their attention. From informative emails leading up to the event to the Kyoto excursion on the final day – everything was meticulously organized and thought through. I cannot imagine

the countless hours that went into the preparation for this event and the energy and attention necessary to conduct it. I am very grateful to the organizers for creating such a wonderful opportunity to meet colleagues from all over the world and to discuss intellectual matters in such a hospitable environment. As I've discussed with some of the participants at the Symposium, there is no way to show enough appreciation for all the work that was done on our behalf by Prof. Kameyama, Prof. Ellis, Prof. Mochizuki, and all the other colleagues and staff. Thank you for bringing us together and giving us this rare opportunity to make new professional, intellectual, and personal connections.

Katya JORDAN
IDS Regional Coordinator, USA

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Уважаемые коллеги, дорогие друзья,

В японском городе Нагоя, в Университете иностранных языков (NUFS, Nagoya University of Foreign Studies) с 24 по 28 августа 2023 г. был организован XVIII Симпозиум МОД – Международного общества Достоевского.

Организовать настолько масштабный Симпозиум представляет собой настоящий профессиональный вызов для хозяев. Однако японские хозяева, в первую очередь, проф. Икуо Каменяма и проф. Тэцуо Мотидзуки, вместе с остальными организаторами, составившими “Офис МОД в Нагое”, сделали во многом шаг вперед в организации данного Симпозиума. Моя благодарность и председателю МОД проф. Кэррол Аполонио, и новому председателю проф. Стефано Алоэ, и всем директорам МОД. Это пишу не из-за простой вежливости, а потому, что организаторы в официальном, профессиональном, научном и человеческом смысле достойны названия Хозяев.

Программа Симпозиума была организована в секции по двум критериям: по критерию языка (английская и русская группы) и тематическом (*Бесы* в узком смысле, Достоевский и другие, адаптации, современный взгляд на роман Достоевского и др.). Поскольку тема *Бесов*, которые и являлись заглавной темой данного симпозиума, вызывает настолько много подтем, было очень трудно составить группы докладчиков. Так как сам роман *Бесы* является актуальным и до сих пор вызывает интерес исследователей, для меня занимательны были секции, непосредственно касающиеся

ся этого романа (секции «150 лет романа Достоевского» и «Достоевский – музыка и фильм»). Занимательными и продуманными были доклады, а вместе с ними и дискуссии. Поскольку председатели секций соблюдали регламент (поздравляю!), дискуссии продолжались в кулуарах. Вот здесь ставлю восклицательный знак. После работы в секциях, мы собирались в уютном зале Университета, где нас встречали с кофе и чаем. Паузы во время конференций являются ценными, и я очень признательна организаторам за эти кофе-брейки. Они мне дали возможность поговорить с коллегами, обсудить темы, ответить на неотвеченные в течение секций вопросы, задать новые, расширить дискуссию, обменяться мнениями о новых книгах и статьях, даже поспорить (если надо). Поэтому ритм Симпозиума был действительно человеческим и сугубо научным.

Спасибо организаторам за круглые столы, которые расширили наше (по крайней мере мое) знание о том, чем занимается Североамериканское общество Достоевского. Может быть, это станет традицией – представить отдельные части Общества, сравнить их, обсудить работу и т.п.

В узко литературоведческом смысле, после нашего Симпозиума на *Бесов* Достоевского я смотрю иначе, чем до Симпозиума. Для меня это является важнейшим фактом. Поскольку я занималась одним ракурсом в прочтении данного романа, в дискуссиях, разговорах и в обсуждении докладов коллег я раскрывала то, что перекликается с моей темой и вместе с тем, находила новые пути прочтения романа. Познакомилась и с новыми книгами, статьями и с новыми коллегами. Мы договорились об обмене книгами, статьями и договорились о встречах. Это я считаю самой значительной точкой Симпозиума.

Мне понравился тон Симпозиума. Все разговоры, обсуждения, которые я слушала или в которых участвовала были высокопрофессиональными, коллегиальными, а собеседники говорили, уважая друг друга.

Наши хозяева, кроме великолепного Симпозиума, организовали и другие мероприятия: интересные встречи с японскими писателями, организовали презентацию новых книг, отдельные заседания, а также и незабываемую поездку в Киото. Я очень благодарна симпатичным и отзывчивым проф. Тошико и проф. Кошино, которые были гидами в нашем автобусе. Киото просто очаровал меня и открыл мне новую, неизвестную и очаровательную Японию! Шикарный ресторан, в котором мы были (извините, название ресторана не помню), был не только великолепным, но сногсшибательным: пестрая посуда, еда с шиком, разнообразные вкусы, красивое пространство, изумительно красивый парк... Я была в восторге. Спасибо японским коллегам!

Каждый Симпозиум дает что-то новое. В научном смысле, это всегда открытие новых путей. Поэтому, радуюсь будущему Симпозиуму в Буэнос-Айресе!

С уважением,

Ясмينا Войводиц
IDS Regional Coordinator, Former Yugoslavia