

***Havoc and Healing:  
Insights into Human Action in Tolstoy and Dostoevsky  
Conference at Uppsala University, March 26–27, 2020***

In the novels of Tolstoy and Dostoevsky, human action is frequently destructive, leading collectively to war and individually to murder or other forms of social and familial disruption. Concomitantly these authors offer some of the most incisive psychosocial insights available in cultural discourse into the motivations and dynamics of such behavior. Focussing on **Tolstoy's *War and Peace*** and **Dostoevsky's *The Brothers Karamazov***, this conference will examine the full complexity of these insights, explicit in philosophical statements and implicit in the embodied human experience of the fictional characters. This includes:

- Depictions of war, crime and injustice
- Depictions of family, domestic happiness and discord
- Existential questions such as free will and the existence of God
- The relation of these questions to such formal aspects as narratorial and textual structures and the question of “polyphony”.

The conference is organized by Julie Hansen (Dept. of Modern Languages) and Torsten Pettersson (Dept. of Literature) and generously funded by the Dept. of Modern Languages.

***THURSDAY, MARCH 26 (Campus Engelska parken, room 7-0043)***

**10.15 WELCOME!**

**10.25–10.55 Donna Tussing Orwin:** Current Trends in Tolstoy Scholarship

**11.00–12.30 Paper Session 1: Cultural and Linguistic Patterns**

**Helen Tolstoy:** The Mythic Layer in *War and Peace*: Personages

**Julie Hansen:** Who Speaks What Language, and How, in *War and Peace*?

**Karin Beck:** How Pierre Bezukhov Learned to Listen

**12.30 LUNCH**

**13.30–14.30 Keynote 1**

**Donna Tussing Orwin:** The Politics of Tolstoy and Dostoevsky

**14.45–15.45 Paper Session 2: Free Will in Theory and Practice**

**Torsten Pettersson:** Are You a Bee or Free?

Determinism and Free Will in *War and Peace*

**Yulia Krasnoselskaya:** The Depiction of the Militia Gathering in *War and Peace*  
and “The Representative Question” in Reform-Era Russia

**15.45 COFFEE**

**16.00–17.30 Paper Session 3: Human Dignity and Immortality**

**Dirk Falkner:** The Antagonism Between Criminal Law and Human Dignity  
in Leo Tolstoy's Philosophy

**Inga Matveeva:** The Conception of Immortality in Leo Tolstoy's Creativity:  
From *War and Peace* to Late Religious Teachings

**Ruth Karin Lévai:** The Divine Mortal in *The Brothers Karamazov*:  
Suicidal, Insane or Hopeful?

**17.30–17.45 Concluding Remarks**

**19.00 DINNER**

***FRIDAY, MARCH 27 (Campus Engelska parken, room 6-0022)***

**10.15–10.45 Robin Feuer Miller:** Current Trends in Dostoevsky Scholarship

**10.45–11.45 Paper Session 4: Havoc and Healing**

**David G. Molina:** Cannibal Metaphysics: Anthropophagy in *The Brothers Karamazov*

**Arpi Movsesian:** "The Heart of the Whole": Holy Foolishness and  
the Problem of Dis-integralism in *The Brothers Karamazov*

**12.00–13.00 Keynote 2**

**Robin Feuer Miller:** Suffer the Children in Dostoevsky's Created World

**13.00 LUNCH**

**14.00–15.30 Paper Session 5: Tolstoy and Dostoevsky Juxtaposed**

**Igor I. Evlampiev:** Leo Tolstoy's Views on History in *War and Peace*  
and their Criticism in Fyodor Dostoevsky's Creative Work

**Vladimir Paperni:** Dostoevsky contra Tolstoy (*The Diary of a Writer*  
and *The Brothers Karamazov*)

**Olga V. Pchelina:** Insights into Human Action in Tolstoy and Dostoevsky:  
An Interpretation by Dmitry Merezhkovsky

**15.30 COFFEE**

**15.45–17.00 Concluding General Discussion**

**19.00 DINNER**