



03:30pm | Fri. 02/09/2018

348 Humanities Building

Free & open to the public

Anxious Visions: Pushkin's 'The Bronze Horseman' and the Poetics of Late Romanticism

Few works have fired up the tragic imagination of Russian readers as much as Pushkin's narrative poem *The Bronze Horseman*. The tale of a Petersburg clerk who challenges a monument to Peter the Great after losing his fiancée (and his wits) in a devastating flood, *The Bronze Horseman* has haunted the pages of Russian literature for almost two centuries, inspiring not just a myriad new "Petersburg texts" but also a shift in the cultural mythology of Russia's northern capital. Critics have long read *The Bronze Horseman* through the prism of tragic theory, focusing primarily on Pushkin's portrayal of conflict. This talk will take a different approach. Setting the poem in the context of Romantic theories of symbol and allegory, I will focus on the problem of representation, locating the philosophical and emotional basis for a new tragic vision in the unstable nature of Pushkin's images.



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