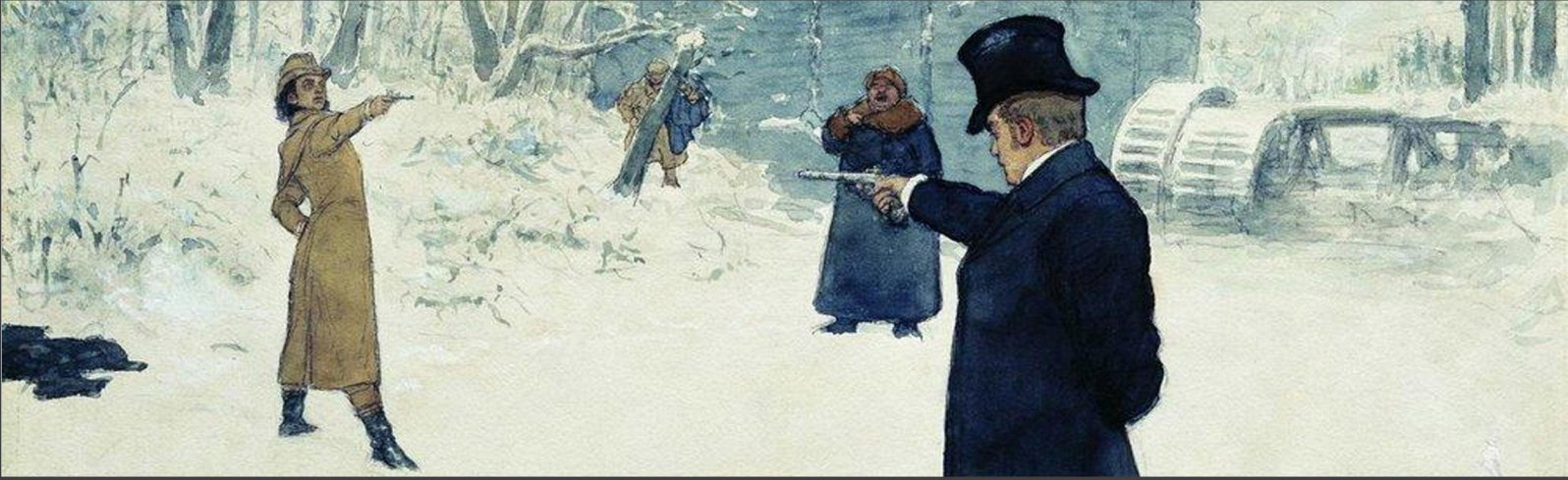


Research Talks



Nabokov, Pushkin, Shakespeare and the Cosmopolitan Ideal

Vladimir Nabokov's faith in the institution of the duel--indeed, his willingness to issue challenges on more than one occasion--is no unthinking legacy of his aristocratic upbringing in Russia. It was instead a deep ideological commitment rooted in the discourses of liberal rights and cosmopolitan ideals. The paper anatomizes these discourses by establishing a triangular conversation between Nabokov and the two writers he loved best: Pushkin and Shakespeare. Reading Nabokov's reflections on Shakespeare's Othello in conjunction with his numerous discussions of Pushkin's fatal duel with Georges D'Anthès, the talk will argue that Nabokov brings Othello, the Moor of Venice, face to face with Pushkin, the great-grandson of the Moor of Peter the Great, in order to explore questions pertaining to race, poetry, and cosmopolitanism.

Carleton University
Department of English
Language & Literature
Dana Dragunoiu

Friday, January 31, 2014
2:30 pm - 4:00 pm
1811 Dunton Tower