

Title: Dostoevsky's Petersburg—Space and Mythology of the City in the Novel *Crime and Punishment*

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The image of Petersburg occupies an important place in Russian literature and is displayed prominently in the creative works of such 19<sup>th</sup> century Russian authors as Pushkin, Gogol, Tolstoy and Dostoevsky. The descriptive spectrum of the “Petersburg text,” as depicted by these writers, varies significantly and shifts from the city-embracing representations of imperial Petersburg to the unofficial Petersburg of “malen’kie liudi.” Dostoevsky’s unique portrayal of Petersburg as one of the characters of *Crime and Punishment* is going to be the focus of this presentation. This essay attempts to examine the role of space in the novel in terms of its micro and macro layers, and to illustrate how Dostoevsky’s Petersburg simultaneously exists as a background against which the characters stand out and as a character in its own right. In connection to the latter notion, a part of the presentation will be devoted to the mythology of Petersburg, (in particular its founding and the role of Peter the Great), and its influence on the narrative of *Crime and Punishment*.