

Title: Dressing in a man's world: the power of clothing in women's writing, 1825-1855
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Abstract:

In the era of the society tale, dress plays a key role in Russian literature in establishing hierarchies both among women and between the sexes. In this paper I examine how two female authors, Elena Gan and Karolina Pavlova, use clothing in their writing to expose the limited position of women in society and to push against the boundaries which restrict women's behaviour. I discuss the ways in which these writers navigate the predominately male space of Russian letters and how their self-fashioning as writers is echoed in how they fashion their characters and stories.