

Title: Faddey Bulgarin's Statistics and the Provincial Novel
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In my presentation, I would like to attempt a reading of Faddey Bulgarin's *Ivan Vyzhigin* from two points of view that, for this particular writer, have certain literary relationships. On one hand, I intend to place this work in the context of the rise of the Russian provincial novel, exemplified by Vasily Narezhny and leading up to Gogol. On the other hand, I will investigate how our understanding of this novel may benefit from reading it through the lens of descriptive statistics, one of the newest epistemological pursuits and literary frameworks in the early 19th century.

Descriptive statistics, a new discipline that was actively supported by the Russian government, initially grew out of geography and cartography. Given the proliferation of geographical detail in *Ivan Vyzhigin*, I intend to study how this novel fits into Bulgarin's interest in statistics and geography. I will also discuss the 1837 statistical treatise *Rossiia v istoricheskikh, statisticheskikh, geograficheskikh i literaturnykh otnoshenijakh* (a work for which Bulgarin's claimed authorship has been disputed) and how it relates to the regionalist focus of Bulgarin's oeuvre.

Finally, with Bulgarin's work in mind, I will discuss some stylistic and structural points of possible intersection between the provincial novel as a genre and the descriptive statistics as a textual and literary pursuit.

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