

# Note on Translation, Transliteration, and Referencing

Our volume is intended primarily for Anglophone readers, and we assume no knowledge of the Russian language. As such, all the Dostoevskii texts and much of the secondary literature in this volume are presented in English translation. As editors, we wish to acknowledge the generations of translators whose work we have excerpted here. Too often their labor is invisible. Moreover, we would point out to our readers that any encounter with Dostoevskii in English is always mediated through translation; that is, translation shapes how we understand and interpret Dostoevskii. Thankfully, Dostoevskii has been well served by translators, with new versions of major works like *Crime and Punishment* still appearing at regular intervals in the twenty-first century. While each reader will have his or her favorite translation, many instructors find it rewarding to bring a variety of translations into the classroom and discuss the different variants with students. Even for students without knowledge of Russian, this exercise can make visible the work of translators and the decisions they make, while also showing the multiplicity of possible meanings and interpretations inherent within a Dostoevskii text.

While we encourage instructors to experiment with multiple translations in the classroom, we also wanted to provide as much consistency for the reader as possible within this volume. Therefore, when we include excerpts from Dostoevskii's own works, we most often use the Constance Garnett translations, which remain generally reliable and nearly all volumes have the significant advantage of being out of copyright.

In the contemporary criticism reproduced here, most scholars refer to the Russian texts of Dostoevskii, usually relying on the standard scholarly

edition: F. M. Dostoevskii, *Polnoe sobranie sochinenii v tridtsati tomakh*, 30 vols. (Leningrad: Nauka, 1972–90). Rather than repeat this full reference multiple times, we use the abbreviation PSS throughout the book to refer to this edition.

As for transliteration, we have chosen to use the Modified Library of Congress system for transliteration (Dostoevskii, not Dostoevsky; Gogol', not Gogol), again for reasons of consistency. The exception is in bibliographic references in footnotes and the lists of further reading; here it is necessary to reproduce the exact title of published works, such as Richard Peace's *Dostoyevsky: An Examination of the Major Novels*. Where possible, we have standardized the referencing throughout the volume to accord with the *Chicago Manual of Style* to provide consistency for the reader and updated the spelling to American English.