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# Tolstoy Scholarship in Russia and Abroad

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## Doctoral Dissertations Written in the United States and Canada on Leo Tolstoy, 1913-1996

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No nineteenth-century Russian literature course at North American universities and colleges is complete without Tolstoy. Nevertheless, the bibliographic information available detailing the scholarship on this writer at North American academic institutions is incomplete.<sup>1</sup> The goal of the present survey is to provide a comprehensive list of doctoral dissertations written at U.S. and Canadian institutions for use as a research tool by scholars in the field.

The list of the dissertations has been compiled primarily from *Dissertation Abstracts International*. Also helpful were Alex Shane's article, which provides a list of dissertations on Tolstoy for the years 1961-72, Jesse J. Dossick's compilation of dissertations in the *Slavic Review*,<sup>2</sup> and Howard Aronson's "American Doctoral Dissertations in the Fields of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures."

To amend the information derived from *Dissertation Abstracts International*, all institutions which have accepted dissertations on Tolstoy were contacted. Most of them responded and many errors have been eliminated thanks to their cooperation.<sup>3</sup>

At present, a total of 81 PhDs had been granted in North American institutions for disserta-

tions on Tolstoy. Among these, 78 were defended in the U.S., and three in Canada (from a total of 40 colleges and universities in both countries). The first North American dissertation on Tolstoy, entitled "Tolstoy in Deutschland" by Charles Maltador Purin, was defended in 1913 at the University of Wisconsin, Madison; it also happens to be the first PhD thesis dealing with Russian literature on this side of the Atlantic. The second dissertation, "A Philosophic Study of Tolstoy," was defended fourteen years later, in 1927, by David Kvitko at Columbia University. In 1929, Helen Edna Davis completed the third dissertation, "Tolstoy and Nietzsche: A Problem of Biographical Ethics," also at Columbia.

During the five decades ending in 1960, only eight dissertations on Tolstoy were completed at North American universities. The discipline grew during the 1960s, and the number of dissertations increased to 13 between 1961 and 1970. Between 1971-80, the number peaked at twenty-nine—an increase of almost 225 percent over the previous decade.<sup>4</sup> In the following decade, the number declined to 15. In the present decade, however, the number seems to be increasing again. In the 1990s, a total of 14 dissertations have already been defended and it is expected that at least seven more will be defended in the next two to three years.<sup>5</sup>

The list shows that the length of dissertations on Tolstoy generally ranges between 150 to 350 pages: 25 dissertations out of 62 are between 201-300 pages, 19 dissertations are 301-400 pages, and 15 dissertations range between 100-200 pages.<sup>6</sup>

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Table 1 summarizes the topics that doctoral candidates have pursued in the United States and Canada. Most topics in the table have been somewhat generalized to cover the maximum number of dissertations in each category.

Some dissertations fall into more than one group. In Table 1, for example, "The Aesthetic

Treatment of Historical, Moral and Philosophical Themes in Leo Tolstoy's *Vojna i Mir* and Victor Hugo's *Les Miserables* has been included under the categories, "War and Peace," "Tolstoy and Foreign Authors," and "Tolstoy and Philosophy."

*Table 1*

Topics of Dissertations Written on Tolstoy	US / Canada
<i>War and Peace</i> , comparison with other works, etc.	4
<i>Anna Karenina</i> , comparison with other works, etc.	1
Science, Philosophy, Philosophers and Tolstoy	9
Literary Theory, Tolstoy and Tolstoy's works	6
Tolstoy, Tolstoy's work and philosophy and the outside world	5
Comparative Study: Tolstoy and Russian Works/Authors	15
Comparative Study: Tolstoy and Foreign Works/Authors	15
Linguistic Study on Tolstoy's works	3
Critical Study of Individual Works other than W&P, AK	6
Religion and Tolstoy	5
Tolstoy and Education	3
Tolstoy and Politics	6
General	12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>104</b>

The total number of dissertation topics in the Table is thus greater than the actual number of disserta-

tions defended. A number of dissertations which could not be grouped into any specific category, have been placed under "General." This group includes a wide range of topics such as aesthetics, psychology and sociology, etc.

One distinctive feature that characterizes dissertation topics on Tolstoy is their comparative nature. More than one-third (28 dissertations) compare Tolstoy's works with one or more of the following non-Russian authors, politicians, and philosophers (mostly Western, with two exceptions: Gandhi and Zeromski): Appia, Augustine, Bernanos, Coleridge, Crosby, Darwin, Dickens, Eliot, Eotvos, Flaubert, Galdos, Gandhi, Goethe, Hardy, Hauptmann, Howell, Hugo, Hawthorne, Kierkegaard, Lawrence, Mann, Manzoni, Newton, Nietzsche, Rolland, Rousseau, Schopenhauer, Scott, Sophocles, Stendhal, Sterne, Stowe, Thackeray, Trollope, Wagner, Werfel, Wittgenstein, Zola, and Zeromski.

Fifteen dissertations compare Tolstoy's work with one or more of the following Russian authors: Aksakov, Dostoevsky, Goncharov, Gorky, Kemény, Leont'ev, Lermontov, Marlinsky, Pisemsky, Prokofiev (composer), Pushkin, Shestov, Soloukhin, Solov'ev, Turgenev and Zedergol'm. Tolstoy's philosophy and his attitude toward science appear to have attracted more candidates than many other areas; nine dissertations have been written here. More dissertations have been written on Tolstoy and politics (six dissertations) than on *War and Peace* (four dissertations) or *Anna Karenina* (one dissertation).

With regard to the number of dissertations produced at individual U.S. and Canadian institutions, Table 2 shows Columbia and University of Wisconsin at Madison at the top with a total of six each, University of California at Berkeley and University of Chicago in second place (five each), and University of Pennsylvania and Yale in third (four each). Most other universities and colleges have produced one or two dissertations over the years.

A rough comparison of the numbers of dissertations written on other nineteenth-century Russian authors (i.e., Pushkin, Gogol, Dostoevsky, Turgenev, Chekhov and Tolstoy) shows Tolstoy to be

*Table 2*

<b>US/Canadian University</b>	<b>Years Dissertations Written</b>	<b>Total</b>
Boston University	1982	1
Brigham Young University	1971	1
Brown University	1989	1
City University of New York	1972, 1974, 1979	3
Columbia University	1927, 1929, 1957, 1965, 1972, 1974, 1982	7
Cornell University	1936	1
Drew University	1994	1
Florida State University	1969	1
George Washington University	1968	1
Harvard University	1961, 1979, 1986	3
Indiana University	1964, 1977 (2)	3
Kent State University	1973	1
New York University	1942, 1981	2
Northwestern University	1976	1
Ohio State University	1973	1
Princeton University	1982	1
Stanford University	1973, 1992, 1994	3
University of British Columbia (Canada)	1978	1
University of California, Berkeley	1957, 1966, 1969, 1972, 1980	5
University of California, Irvine	1987	1
University of California, Los Angeles	1992	1
University of Chicago	1973, 1978, 1982, 1984, 1985	5
University of Colorado at Boulder	1984	1
University of Illinois, Chicago	1995	1
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign	1939, 1987, 1989	3
University of Iowa	1959	1
University of Kansas	1984	1
University of Michigan	1965, 1992	2
University of Missouri-Columbia	1978	1
University of Montreal (Canada)	1966, 1974	2
University of Ottawa (Canada)	1970, 1994	2
University of Oregon	1978	1
University of Pennsylvania	1965, 1973, 1979, 1985	4
University of Southern California	1964 (2)	2
University of Texas at Dallas	1995, 1996	2
University of Washington	1971	1
University of Virginia	1994	1
University of Wisconsin, Madison	1913, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1995, 1996	6
Vanderbilt University	1977	1
Yale University	1969, 1973, 1980, 1994	4
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>81</b>

second only to Dostoevsky in popularity among U.S. and Canadian PhD candidates (a total of 180 dissertations have been written on Dostoevsky at U.S. and Canadian institutes and 191 have been generated in the former Soviet Union and present day Russia).<sup>7</sup>

## DISSERTATIONS ON TOLSTOY

1913. 1. Purin, Charles Maltador. *Tolstoi in Deutschland*. University of Wisconsin-Madison.

1927. 2. Kvitko, David. *A Philosophic Study of Tolstoy*. Columbia University.

1929. 3. Davis, Helen Edna. *Tolstoy and Nietzsche: A Problem in Biographical Ethics*. Columbia University.

1936. 4. Moore, Arthur U. *Art, Community, and Theatre: A Study of the Theories of Five Nineteenth Century Artists; Tolstoy, Wagner, Nietzsche, Appia, Rolland*. Cornell University.

1939. 5. Smith, J. Allan. *Tolstoy's Fiction in England and America*. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

1942. 6. Bakst, James. *A Comparative Study of Philosophies of Music in the Works of Schopenhauer, Nietzsche and Tolstoi*. New York University. 252 pp.

1957. 7. Abcarian, Gilbert. *Political Romanticism: Coleridge and Tolstoy*. University of California, Berkeley. 8. Rudy, Peter. *Young Leo Tolstoy and Laurence Sterne*. Columbia University. 332 pp.

1959. 9. Rempel, Margareta. *Leo Tolstoy, Gerhart Hauptmann and Maxim Gorky: A Comparative Study*. University of Iowa. 186 pp.

1961. 10. Zimmerman, John F. *Leo Tolstoy and the Period of Liberation, 1894-1910*. Harvard University.

1964. 11. Ater, Leroy Earl, Jr. *An Examination of Three Major Novels in World Literature in the Light of Critical Precepts Derived from Tolstoy's What is Art?*. University of Southern California, 397 pp. 12. Goldfarb, Clare Rosett. *Journey to Altruria: William Dean Howell's Use of Tolstoy*. Indiana University, 233 pp. 13. Tumas, Elena Valiute. *The Literary Kinship of Leo N.*

*Tolstoy and Romain Rolland: A Comparative Study of the Epic Dimensions of War and Peace and Jean-Christophe*. University of Southern California, 297 pp.

1965. 14. Feuer, Kathryn Beliveau. *The Genesis of War and Peace*. Columbia University. 15. Key, William Chiles. *The Use of the Future Tense in Leo Tolstoy's War and Peace*. University of Pennsylvania, 125 pp. 16. Krzyzanowski, Jerzy Roman. *Turgenev, Tolstoy and William Dean Howells: Transitions in the Development of A Realist*. University of Michigan, 220 pp.

1966. 17. Maurer, Sigrid Helga. *Schopenhauer in Russia: His Influence on Turgenev, Fet and Tolstoy*. University of California, Berkeley, 382 pp.

1968. 18. Gasster, Susan C. *Point of View in the Novels of Zola, Galdos, Dostoyevsky and Tolstoy: A Study in the Development of the Novel*. George Washington University, 273 pp.

1969. 19. Benson, Ruth Crego. *The Ideal and the Erotic: Tolstoy's Heroines in Love and Marriage*. Yale University, 191 pp. 20. Schulz, Robert Kenneth. *The Changing Portrayal of the German as a Character in the Prose Works of I.A. Goncarov, I.S. Turgenev, F.M. Dostoevskij, and L. N. Tolstoj*. Florida State University, 221 pp. 21. Zborilek, Vladimir. *Tolstoy and Rousseau: A Study in Literary Relationship*. University of California, Berkeley, 308 pp.

1970. 22. Buyniak, Victor. *Leo Nikolaevich Tolstoy and the Early English Victorian Novelists: William Makepeace Thackeray, Charles Dickens, Anthony Trollope and George Eliot*. University of Ottawa (Canada).

1971. 23. Freling, Roger Norman. *A Critical Study of Two Tolstoy Plays: The Power of Darkness and The Live Corpse*. University of Washington, 160 pp. 24. Gubler, Donworth V. *A Study of Illness and Death in the Lives and Representative Works of Leo Tolstoy and Thomas Mann*. Brigham Young University, 363 pp. 25. Matual, David Michael. *Tolstoj's Vlast' T'my. History and Analysis*. University of Wisconsin-Madison, 364 pp.

1972. 26. Jahn, Gary Robert. *L. N. Tolstoj's Stories for the People on the Theme of Brotherly Love*. University of Wisconsin-Madison, 259 pp.

27. Karapinka, Orysia. *The Idea of the City in Russian Letters From Pushkin to Tolstoy*. University of California- Berkeley. 28. Lewis, Robert Peter. *Deception and Revelation: A Study of Three Systems of Characterization in Tolstoy's War and Peace*. Columbia University, 246 pp. 29. Low, Frederick E. *The Troubled Heroine: Flaubert's Emma, Tolstoy's Anna, Goethe's Gretchen, and the Condition of Feminine Fulfilment*. City University of New York.

1973. 30. Adams, Eleonora Karpinicz. *Franz Werfel and L. N. Tolstoy: Affinities and Contrasts*. University of Pennsylvania, 202 pp. 31. Cohen, Elliot Franklin. *The Genre of the Autobiographical Account of Childhood—Three Test Cases: The Trilogies of Tolstoy, Aksakov, and Gorky*. Yale University, 224 pp. 32. Eros, Carol Carbone; *Tolstoj's Tales of the Caucasus and Literary Tradition*. University of Wisconsin, Madison, 384 pp. 33. Kornman, William Raymond. *Tolstoy and the Drama*. Stanford University, 314 pp. 34. Kuk, Zenon Michael. *Tolstoj's War and Peace and Zeromski's Ashes: A Comparative Study*. Ohio State University, 253 pp. 35. Murphy, Terry Wade. *Dostoevsky and Tolstoy on Dickens' Christianity*. Kent State University, 237 pp. 36. Sorokin, Boris. *Lev Tolstoj in Pre-revolutionary Russian Criticism*. University of Chicago.

1974. 37. Bradshaw, David Gerald. *The Aesthetic Treatment of Historical, Moral, and Philosophical Themes in L. N. Tolstoy's Vojna i Mir and Victor Hugo's Les Miserables*. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 225 pp. 38. Goreloff, Boris. *L'Influence de la Pensee et de la Langue Francaise dans La Guerre et La Paix de Leon Tolstoi*. University of Montreal. 39. Hecht, Leo. *Freedom for the Individual: Tolstoj's Struggle Against Authority*. Columbia University, 317 pp. 40. Tekiner, Roselle Martin. *The Panpipe as Indicator of Culture Contact: A Test of Tolstoy's Method in Long Range Comparison*. City University of New York, 301 pp.

1976. 41. Bakalar, Paul Francis. *A Critique of Leo Tolstoy's What is Art?* Northwestern University, 112 pp.

1977. 42. Fleetwood, Janet Rye. *The Spiderweb and the Beehive: A Study of Multiplicity in George Eliot's Middlemarch and Tolstoy's*

*Anna Karenina*. Indiana University, 191 pp. 43. Mitchell, Paul MacArthur, Jr. *Lev Nikolaevich Tolstoy in Pre-Soviet Russian Literary Criticism*. Indiana University, 342 pp. 44. Swint, Margaret Ann. *Tolstoy's Views on Education*. Vanderbilt University, 177 pp.

1978. 45. Bell, John Boyd, III. *Incarnate Freedom and the Poetics of Grace: Autonomy and Limit in the Fiction of Stendhal, Tolstoy, and Dostoevsky*. University of Chicago. 46. Holmes, Patricia Hunt. *Leo Tolstoi as a Theorist of Non-Violent Social Revolution and His Relationship with Mohandas Gandhi*. University of Missouri-Columbia, 337 pp. 47. Patterson, David Alan. *The Literary and Philosophical Expressions of Existential Faith: A Study of Kierkegaard, Tolstoi, and Shestov*. University of Oregon, 274 pp.

1979. 48. Gurley, Robert Eugene. *The Diaries of Leo Tolstoy: Their Literariness and their Relationship to his Literature*. University of Pennsylvania, 165 pp. 49. Orwin, Donna Louise Tussing. *The Relation of Nature and Morality in the Early Works of Lev Tolstoj*. Harvard University. 50. Silberman, Marsha. *Tolstoy and America: A Study in Reciprocal Influence*. City University of New York, 792 pp.

1980. 51. Guffee, Ruth Meyer. *The Yasnaya Polyana School 1859-1862: Its Place in Leo Tolstoy's Development as Writer and Thinker*. Yale University, 234 pp. 52. Robinson, Harlow Loomis. *The Operas of Sergei Prokofiev and their Russian Literary Sources (Dostoevsky, Tolstoy)*. University of California, Berkeley, 428 pp.

1981. 53. Brown, Leon. *Tolstoy and Flaubert as Inner Monologists and Creative Portraitists in their Major Novels*. New York University, 221 pp.

1982. 54. Angell, Jeanine. *Compassion in Health Care: A Study of Sources of Compassion as Seen in Selected Writings of Sophocles, Tolstoi, Bernanos and Its Implications for Health Care Professionals*. Boston University, 99 pp. 55. Csicsery-Ronay, Istvan, Jr. *The Realistic Historical Novel and the Mythology of Liberal Nationalism: Scott, Manzoni, Eotvos, Kemeny, Tolstoy*. Princeton University, 364 pp.

56. Grimes, William H. *The Critical Reception of Tolstoy in England, 1880-1910*. University of Chicago. 57. Naginski, Isabelle Hoog. *Stendhal and Tolstoy: A Study in Literary Kinship*. Columbia University, 331 pp.
1983. 58. Johnson, Janette Suzanne. *Mother Love and Mothers in Love: The Novel of Adultery (Flaubert, Hawthorne, Tolstoy)*. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 351 pp.
1984. 59. Girona, Ilse. *Tolstoy on Art: A Study of His Fiction and His Essays in Criticism*. University of Chicago. 60. Hogan, Rebecca S. H. *The Wisdom of Many, the Wit of One: The Narrative Function of the Proverb in Tolstoy's Anna Karenina and Trollope's Orley Farm*. University of Colorado at Boulder, 283 pp. 61. Stanton, Leonard Joseph. *Optina Pustyn' in Russian Secular Literature: Backgrounds, Sources and Legacy. A Study of the Monastery, Its Elders, and Monks in Dostoevskij's The Brothers Karamazov and Works by Konstantin Leont'ev, Kliment Zedergol'm, Vasilij Rozanov, Lev Tolstoj, and Vladimir Solouxin*. University of Kansas, 285 pp.
1985. 62. Boyd, Joan. *Patterns of Imagery in Tolstoy's Major Fiction: A Phenomenological Study*. University of Chicago.
1986. 63. Chester, Pamela Grace Arline. *Hagiography in the Prose of Tolstoj and Leskov*. Harvard University, 322 pp.
1987. 64. Kasprzykowska, Marta Beata. *The Love Ethic in Selected Works of Gustave Flaubert, Leo Tolstoy, and D. H. Lawrence*. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 180 pp. 65. Wessell, Eva Maria. *Thomas Mann's Essay "Goethe und Tolstoi:" Sein Literarhistorischer Kontext*. University of California, Irvine, 190 pp. (German text).
1989. 66. Alexander, David Charles. *The Implications of Leo Tolstoy's What is Art? for Music in the Evangelical Church*. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 328 pp. 67. McAulley, Tatyana K. *The Tradition of Christian Non-Resistance in Russian Spirituality with a Special Focus on the Writings of Count Lev N. Tolstoy*. Brown University, 186 pp.
1992. 68. Bernstein, Mark Harry. *Lev Nikolaevich Tolstoi and the Inherence of Belief*. University of California, Los Angeles, 275 pp. 69. Sankovitch, Natasha. *Creating and Recovering Experience: Repetition in Tolstoy*. Stanford University, 294 pp. 70. Smith, Karen Ruth. *Pain into Sympathy: Ethical Realism and the Conversion of Feeling in Eliot, Tolstoy, and Stowe*. University of Michigan, 186 pp.
1994. 71. Hokanson, Katya Elizabeth. *Empire of the Imagination: Orientalism and the Construction of Russian National Identity in Pushkin, Marlinskii, Lermontov, and Tolstoi*. Stanford University, 320 pp. 72. Metzeler, Josef. *The Presentation of Death in L. N. Tolstoy's Prose*. University of Ottawa (Canada), 250 pp. 73. Olson, Laura Jean. *Exploring the Boundaries of Realism and Romanticism: Myth, Sententiousness, and Irony in Tolstoy's War and Peace*. Yale University, 364 pp. 74. Stauber, Rory William. *Lifting the Banner of Tolstoyan Non-Resistance in America: Ernest Howard Crosby's Lonely Quest, 1894-1907*. Drew University, 194 pp. 75. Thompson, Caleb. *Wittgenstein's Confessions: A Study of the Influence of Augustine's and Tolstoy's Confessions on the Philosophy of Wittgenstein*. University of Virginia, 238 pp.
1995. 76. Donohue, Joanne Mary. *Leo Tolstoy's Curriculum Perspectives: A Contemporary Retrospective*. University of Illinois at Chicago, 173 pp. 77. Poulin, Francis Peter. *The Creation of a Russian Moral Law in Philosophy and Fiction: The Cases of Dostoevskij, Solov'ev, and Tolstoj*. University of Wisconsin-Madison, 279 pp. 78. Schimelpfenig, Sharla, J. *The Kitchen, the Bedroom, and the Garden: Domestic and Aesthetic Crises in the Nineteenth-Century Novel (Flaubert, Tolstoy, Zola, Eliot, Hardy)*. University of Texas at Dallas, 253 pp. 79. Vaganova, Zinaida. *Of Newton and Darwin: Scientific Metaphors and the Endings of Leo Tolstoy's Novels*. University of Pennsylvania, 149 pp.
1996. 80. Jasin, Soledad Herrero-Ducloux. *Sex and Suicide in Madam Bovary, Anna Karenina, The Awakening, and The House of Mirth*. University of Texas at Dallas, 293 pp. 81. Matveyev, Rebecca Epstein. *Reworkings of the Society Tale in the Nineteenth-century Russian*

*Novel (Goncharov, Pisemski, Tolstoy, Dostoevskii)*. University of Wisconsin-Madison, 310 pp.

### Author Index:

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### Notes

1. Professor Alex M. Shane discusses some of the problems relating to the organization and management of information in the profession.

2. *Slavic Review* 23 (1964): 797-812; 24 (1965): 752-61; 25 (1966): 710-17; 26 (1967): 705-12; 27 (1968): 694-704; 28 (1969): 699-708; 29 (1970): 766-76; 30 (1971): 927-41; 31(1972): 951-966. This list is available in Shane.

3. I wish to thank all Chairpersons who have taken the time to respond to my questionnaire. Despite efforts to eliminate them, inaccuracies may still persist in the data. Information on such errors or omissions will be

appreciated.

4. The highest number of dissertations defended in a single year (1973) was seven.

5. This number comes from the departments which responded to the questionnaire.

6. The longest dissertation on Tolstoy is 792 pages, by Marsha Silberman, "Tolstoy in America: A Study in Reciprocal Influence," defended in 1979 at City University of New York; the shortest, defended in 1982 at Boston University, is 99 pages, by Jeanine Angell. The length of a number of dissertations could not be ascertained, either because they are early ones, when *The Dissertation Abstract* did not list total pages, or because the universities did not report them. Canadian dissertations are generally listed in the *Abstract* without total pages.

7. For a complete list of dissertations on Dostoevsky, see Khan (forthcoming).

### Works cited

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Dossick, Jesse J. "Doctoral Dissertations on Russia and the Soviet Union Accepted by American, British, and Canadian Universities, 1960-1964." *Slavic Review* 23 (1964): 797-812.

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\_\_\_\_\_. "Doctoral Dissertations on Russia, the Soviet Union, and Eastern Europe Accepted by American, Canadian, and British Universities, 1965-1966." *Slavic Review* 25 (1966): 710-17.

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- Shane, Alex M. "American and Canadian Doctoral Dissertations in Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures, 1961-1972." *Slavic and East European Journal* 17, no. 2 (1973): 184-216.