

Title: Identifying Emotional Communities in the Age of Pushkin

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Abstract:

This paper examines how Barbara Rosenwein's notion of the "emotional community" might be applied to the various literary subcultures of the Pushkin era. While many thinkers operated in what William Reddy would call an "emotional refuge" from official court culture, organizing private clubs and societies in which they developed new ways of thinking, feeling, and socializing, sometimes contradictions arose when individuals in the same circles developed separate -- and sometimes contradictory -- emotional worldviews. In particular, this paper will consider how disagreements between Pushkin and the Decembrist poets Kiukhel'becher and Ryleev helps us discern the distinctive communities to which these figures belonged.