

**Title:** Dismantling the Intersubjective Self in Dostoevsky's "A Weak Heart"

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"A Weak Heart" (1848) offers a rich depiction of intersubjective identity in Dostoevsky's early writing. The work has been consistently read as "a story of social protest" (Terras, Leatherbarrow, Frank) in its illustration of how a lowly civil servant is crushed by the hierarchical rank and file nature of imperial Russia. This paper suggests instead that the relationship between the two protagonists reveals a re-imagining of *The Double*, in the portrayal of how a friendship comes to enact the architecture of a single personality. The story is Dostoevsky's first sustained study of an individual self, which, having been subsumed by a colonizing consciousness, rebels against its annexation, waking up and attempting to express on its own the full arc of human personality. The paper will suggest how the images depicting the escape from the extended personality resonate throughout Dostoevsky's work and provide valuable insight into his conception of the self.