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## Reflections on Post-Baltic Identities A Symposium "Do the Baltic States Exist? Re-evaluations of Europe and the Post-Cold War World," at Yale University, April 17, 2013

By Mara Lazda and Bradley D. Woodworth  
AABS Board Members

Several leading historians of the Baltic region gathered at Yale University on April 17 at a symposium titled "Do the Baltic States Exist? Re-Evaluations of Europe and the Post-Cold War World." The historians assessed current issues in Baltic historiography and in the relationship between states and populations.

The authors of three new books on the history of the lands making up Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia — Andrejs Plakans (Iowa State University), Andres Kasekamp (University of Tartu); and Aldis Purs (University of Washington) — participated in a panel discussion. Responding to their remarks and adding her own comments on post-Baltic identities

and history was Mara Lazda (Bronx Community College, The City University of New York).

The event was hosted by the European Studies Council and the Baltic Studies Program at the MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies at Yale University. The Baltic Studies Program at Yale is an interdisciplinary forum that fosters study of the Baltic Sea region, particularly the lands that are today Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia.

Welcoming the group and presenting introductory remarks was Bradley Woodworth, Coordinator of Baltic Studies at Yale and Assistant Professor of History at the University of New Haven. Woodworth suggested that the stability and economic growth that the three Baltic

(Continued on page 4)

## In this Issue

Reflections on Post-Baltic Identities.....1

### Reports from AABS Grant Recipients

Sustainable Architecture: Theory and Practice.....2  
Researching Innovation in the U.S. and the Baltic Countries.....2

### U.S. Student Programs in Estonia

Exploring the Singing Revolution in Estonia.....6  
New Exchange Program with University of Tartu.....7

2014 AABS Conferences .....9

Food as a Lens for Studying the Baltic Region.....10  
Member News.....11

# Sustainable Architecture: Theory and Practice

By Matiss Zemītis

2013 AABS Grundmanis Postgraduate Fellowship Recipient

There are different definitions of the term “sustainability,” but the most commonly accepted one describes it as something “that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

In the case of Latvia, the existing conditions for “sustainability” are quite complex. Firstly, with the closure of the Ignalina nuclear power plant in Lithuania, which produced 45 percent of all electrical energy used in the Baltic States region, Latvia (and the whole Baltic States region) has become more energy dependent on other regions. Secondly, most of the built environment in Latvia (as well as in Estonia and Lithuania) is very energy inefficient—especially houses built during Soviet times. Build-

ings built in the past 15 to 20 years also barely satisfy heating insulation norms, which should be revised anyway given new energy efficiency standards. Thirdly, architects, engineers and builders lack knowledge and experience in carrying out sustainable development projects.

For my master thesis project, I intend to come up with an individual approach to sustainable architecture in Latvia. As the social, economic and ecological situation in Latvia is context-specific, the approach also should be specific. During my studies at the Pratt Institute in the first-professional Master of Architecture program, I have been able to investigate numerous successful praxis of sustainable design implementation in the U.S. under one of the leading sustainability rating systems, LEED. I have also been able to compare them to other standards and praxis used in EU.



Matiss Zemītis

With the support of the Jānis Grundmanis Postgraduate Fellowship, I was able to carry out my second year studies at Pratt Institute. In the first semester, I had the oppor-

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Researching Innovation in the U.S. and Baltic Countries

By Ilona Dubra

2013 AABS Saltups Postgraduate Fellowship Recipient

For her doctoral research, Ilona Dubra investigated human capital, research and development, enterprise cooperation with universities, knowledge-research centers, state innovation policy, innovative organizational culture, and market orientation impact on product innovation, process innovation, marketing innovation and organizational innovation in Baltic countries at the enterprise level. Through the Saltups Postgraduate Fellowship, she was able to further her research at the University of California Berkley, Haas School of Business in November 2012. The Thomas J. Long Business Library provided the books, archives and scientific journals for a deep analysis of influential factors on innovative USA enterprises.



Ilona Dubra at UC Berkeley in November 2012

Ilona benefited highly from the opportunity to attend special sessions of the Lester Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation Berkeley Entrepreneurs Forum and at the Center for Responsible Business. She

was able to question representatives of U.S. innovative enterprises during the Haas Institutes & Centres special sessions in order to compare the results of influential factors on inno-

*(Continued on page 6)*



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## Reflections on Post-Baltic Identity, continued from page 1

states have achieved during the past two decades of independence now provides historians the opportunity to reflect deeply on the region's history, to arrive at new assessments and to develop new, more encompassing narratives.

Past President of AABS (1988-1990) and Professor of History (emeritus) at Iowa State University, Andrejs Plakans is the author of *A Concise History of the Baltic States*, published in 2011 by Cambridge University Press. This book was co-winner of the Best Book Prize awarded by AABS for books published in 2010 and 2011. Professor Plakans is also author of *Kinship in the Past: An Anthropology of European Family Life 1500-1900*, published in 1984 and then again in 1986 by Basil Blackwell; *The Latvians: A Short History* (Hoover Institution Press, 1995); and *Historical Dictionary of Latvia*, published in 1997 with a second edition in 2008.

Professor Plakans began the panel discussion by examining the relationship between History and Memory

in recent Latvian historical research. Plakāns identified two parallel “research trajectories” that have framed scholarship: the first “extroverted, [directed] toward the Baltic region, northern Europe, and the EU,” and the second “introspective, [focused on] national identity, historical memory, and national traumas.” To consider these trajectories more closely, Plakāns analyzed the results of the “Social Memory and Identity in Latvia” project, a four-year study directed by historian Dr. Vita Zelče at the University of Latvia’s Department of Communications Studies. University of Latvia graduate students in the Faculty of Social Sciences make up the research team. This effort is just one component of the Latvian National Research Program’s project “National Identity,” which brings together researchers and students from several Latvian colleges and universities. Project researchers also regularly comment on public commemorations on its website <http://www.nacionalaidentitate.lv>.

In his remarks at Yale, Plakans discussed eight book-length publications that have resulted from the “Social Memory and Identity” project. All focus on introspection and twentieth-century tragedy, including the loss of independence, Soviet and Nazi wartime occupations, partisan resistance, and deportations. What is notable about this project—and what sets it apart from the histories and memoirs that line the shelves of Riga bookstores since the early 1990s—is its explicit engagement with the construction of memory, its malleability, and the ongoing social negotiation with the past. The common thread through all the studies is the contested nature of the past and how it continues to shape Latvian and European identity. For example, one of the volumes, *(Two) Sides: Latvian War Stories* edited by Uldis Neiburgs and Vita Zelče, illustrates how memories of the past inform identities in Latvia today. Neiburgs and Zelče collected and edited the diaries of three Latvians who served in the Soviet Army,

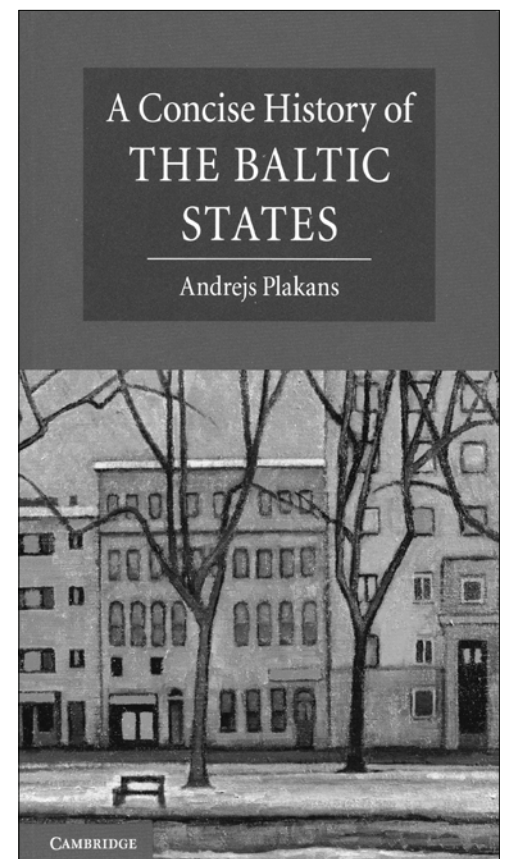
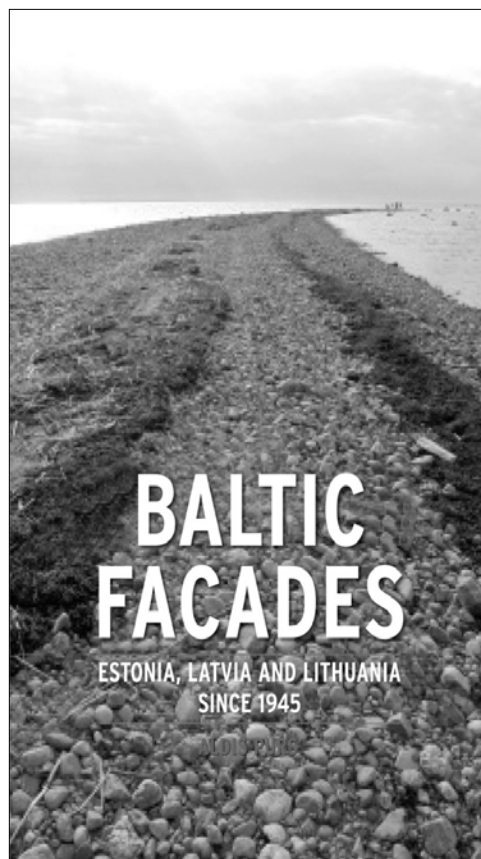
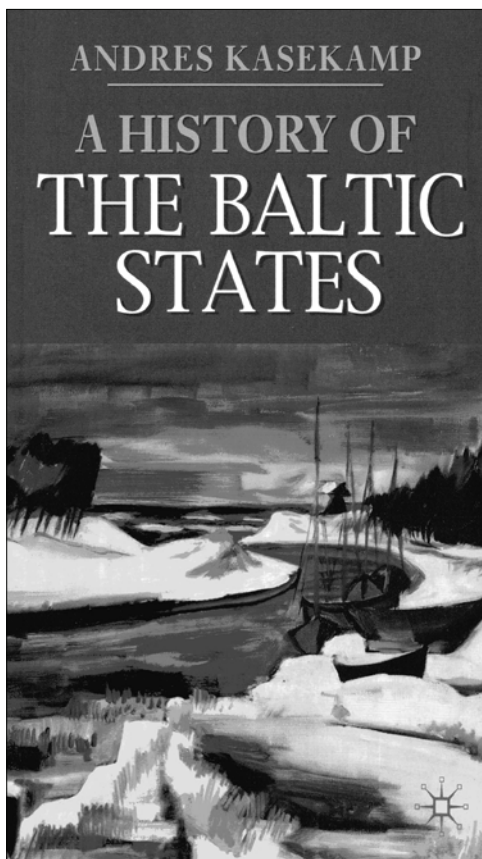






Photo Neila Baumilienė | Woodworth, Plakans, Kasekamp, Purs, and Lazda discuss Baltic identities at Yale University

and three who served in the German Army during World War II. Significantly, two publication runs of this volume quickly sold out, a testimony to how memory is indeed very much a part of contemporary discussions.

But perhaps even more importantly, Plakans' analysis of this project demonstrated how the two parallel trajectories of research—extroverted and introspective—intersect. While this project focuses on Latvian memory, the project scholars apply a “Western” or “European” theoretical framework (the work of Pierre Nora and Maurice Halbwachs is notable in this context in emphasizing the collective and social nature of memory). The Latvian struggle with divisive memories also plays into its European identity.

Former editor of the *Journal of Baltic Studies*, Andres Kasekamp is Professor of Baltic Politics at the University of Tartu. From 2000 to 2013 Professor Kasekamp was Director of the Estonian Foreign Policy Institute in Tallinn. His book *A History of the Baltic States* was published in 2010 by Palgrave Macmillan in 2010. This book shared the AABS Best Book Prize for books published in 2010 and 2011 with Andrejs Plakans' survey. He is also author of *The Radical Right in Interwar Estonia* (Macmillan, 2000).

Kasekamp took a broad approach in addressing the question of identity in the Baltic region in his remarks at Yale, examining the evolution of Baltic cooperation in the twentieth century. Kasekamp continued the theme of externally and internally driven influences shaping Baltic identity. He emphasized the “Baltic states” tend to comprise a negative concept, bring-

ing Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia together by external forces during tragic times of their history, most notably during World War II and the Cold War. (“Baltic states” should never be capitalized, Kasekamp noted, as in the “United States,” nor referred to as the “Baltics.”) During the first interwar independence period, Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia proactively pursued a coordinated Baltic policy. However, Kasekamp pointed out, the particular concerns of each state limited unity, most notably the conflict between Lithuania and Poland over Vilnius. During the struggles for independence in the 1980s and 1990s Baltic cooperation was driven more out of internal concerns and was the most successful manifestation of Baltic unity. Since 1991, however, this collective identity has been pulled apart. The Estonians have looked to their northern neighbors, the Finns, and the Lithuanians to Central Europe; it is for the Latvians that the Baltic concept has retained the most relevance.

Despite the weakness of a common Baltic identity in the past and present, Kasekamp holds hope for the future of the Baltic idea, particularly if it is opened to include the states' neighbors around the Baltic Sea—Finland, Sweden, and Norway—and moves away from a cultural definition. While the peoples of the Baltic region may not share a common cultural identity, their paths overlap, especially in European politics, especially in energy and security concerns.

While Kasekamp identified a future for a more regionally defined Baltic identity, perhaps one that

blends internally and externally driven forces, Aldis Purs was critical of external influences in his remarks titled “The History of the Baltic that's Not Being Written and Why It Isn't.” An Affiliate Assistant Professor in the Department of Scandinavian Studies at the University of Washington in Seattle, Aldis Purs is the author of *Baltic Facades: Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania Since 1945*, published by Reaktion-books in 2012. He is also co-author, with Artis Pabriks, of *Latvia: The Challenges of Change* (Routledge, 2001).

Adapting President Eisenhower's idea of the “military industrial complex,” Purs identified signs of a “traumatized history-funding complex” in the Baltic states. Focusing on Latvia, Purs noted that there was a “great temptation for scholars to [conduct] research where the money is, even more so in days of general austerity across the European Union.” And the money—in the form of both EU and national funding—is in trauma, in examining controversial topics such as the Soviet occupation under Stalin, the Nazi occupation, and the Holocaust. As a result, time periods both before and after (the medieval period, the nineteenth-century, the interwar period, and post-Stalin, post-National Communist) have been neglected, as have certain types of history (social, gender, demographic, and comparative). Purs noted the exception to this “Baltic” trend in historical writing—the shelves of Vilnius bookstores are lined with histories of medieval Lithuania—the “triumphant” rather than “traumatic” past, which characterizes much of historical writing in both Latvia and Estonia. Still, Purs argued, the focus on the contro-

(Continued on page 8)

# Exploring the Singing Revolution in Estonia

By Joe Ellis

Wingate University

Since 1978, Wingate University (NC) students have had the opportunity to travel abroad after a semester-long course study of a locale and topic. In 2012, I offered a course entitled "Estonia: How the Singing Revolution Ended the Communist Era," which highlighted the song festival and choral tradition with special attention paid to the antecedents of the Singing Revolution. We also had a campus-wide showing of documentary film *The Singing Revolution*.

At the conclusion of the class in mid-May, we began a ten-day journey to Estonia, touring Tartu, Pärnu, and Tallinn. The trip was unbelievable. We experienced the university town of Tartu, the outlying Old Believers communities, and Lake Peipus.

The students even enjoyed a night at the Gunpowder Cellar. On our journey back to Tallinn we stopped in Pärnu and dipped our toes in the Baltic Sea. Our time spent in Tallinn was very memorable. We climbed St. Olaf's, caught a FC Flora soccer match, guarded the gates of the Riigikogu, and were fortunate enough to experience a mini-Song Festival at the Song Festival grounds. We even met Hirvo Surva, whose role as a conductor in the Laulupidu song festival served as an inspiration for our own journey.

It was an incredibly successful trip, and the students had many positive things to say. Morgan Burch, a senior from Wagram, North Carolina gave a touching tribute to Estonia in her final assignment for the course. Her comments (see box to the right) echo the sentiment of many of our students.

*Joe Ellis is an AABS member and Assistant Professor of Political Science at Wingate University in North Carolina.*

(j.ellis@wingate.edu)



Photo Joe Ellis | Wingate students dip their toes in the Baltic Sea at Pärnu, Estonia.

*For what seemed like months, I wondered what the journey to Estonia would be like. Having never traveled farther than the states bordering North Carolina and only by car, I was anxious, excited, and completely nervous. The friends that would be accompanying me on this trip, I'm sure, worried about just how well I'd be able to hold it together on the long plane rides and ferry rides to and from our destination. I listened to numerous travel stories told by friends, family, and sometimes even complete strangers. However, while working through all of the anxiety and nerves, I kept repeating to myself that this would be a once-in-a-lifetime experience and would prove to be one of the most rewarding experiences of my college career. I must say, I was completely correct.*

*It proved a little difficult to explain not only where I would be taking my WInternational trip to but why I would be traveling to this country as well. Many people had never heard of the small country of Estonia. They had quite a hard time understanding why this was my first choice to visit. I took the time with each person to explain that while this country was small in size and rather unknown throughout the world, the people living in this country had experienced a past worth learning about.*

*... This trip helped me to grow as a student and as a person. Not only do I consider myself a rookie turned "well-seasoned" traveler all because of one trip, but I am now more appreciative and accepting of others. Estonia helped me to realize that we need to not take for granted what we have today, because chances are, others in our nation's past worked very hard and sacrificed quite a bit so that we would get to experience our country as we all know it today. I feel that as Americans, we sometimes forget our past, tucking it away and not utilizing it as a reminder of how we have grown. This is why it was so entirely refreshing to see a country such as Estonia that remembers their struggles and does not use them as a crutch for sympathy but as a tool of encouragement to continue to grow as a nation. Every five years Estonians from all over gather at the country's song festival grounds to celebrate the remembrance of their past with the promise that they will use it to grow even more independent as a nation. Estonia taught me to utilize my past as a measure of my successes and be more willing to accept others who may not be so similar to me. I have grown in ways that I may never have if it wasn't for this opportunity and I am greatly appreciative for those who have made this experience possible. The memory of my experiences in Estonia, I'm certain, will never fade.*



# New Exchange Program with University of Tartu

By Daniel C. Ryan

College of Charleston

On April 21, 2013, the University of Tartu and the College of Charleston finalized an agreement that will lead to an exchange program between the two institutions. Delegations from the University of Tartu, Nebraska Wesleyan University (already partnered with the University of Tartu), and the Harry and Reba Huge Foundation mingled with College of Charleston faculty and administrators at a lively reception at the home of College of Charleston President P. George Benson and wife Jane in honor of the exciting new relationship. A variety of events continued over the next few days.

Estonia's Ambassador to the United States, Marina Kaljurand, attended the opening ceremony, underscoring the importance of the undertaking. When Ambassador Kaljurand spoke of the exchange program, she was quite clear in explaining that she was not in Charleston merely to represent the Estonian State—rather she proudly insisted that “the University of Tartu is also my alma mater” in her moving remarks about the new exchange program.

The Huge Foundation is providing generous support for the exchange program, offering eight scholarships to College of Charleston students for study at the University of Tartu over a four year period. The University of Tartu offers over 200 courses in English, opening up study abroad opportunities for students of virtually every major and area of study: EU-Russia Studies, Baltic Sea Region Studies, Estonian Studies, Semiotics, Russian Language and Literature, Folklore, Business Administration, Financial Mathematics, Computer Science, Chemistry, Health and Wellness, and more.

The Huge Foundation played an essential role in the partnership that has emerged between the College of Charleston

and the University of Tartu. Mr. Huge, Honorary Consul of Estonia in South Carolina, a native Nebraskan and an alumnus of Nebraska Wesleyan, along with his wife Reba, also a native Nebraskan, have supported exchanges of students and faculty between Nebraska Wesleyan and the University of Tartu since 2007 through their foundation. Now the foundation has helped to create ties between the University of Tartu and the College of Charleston by supporting the exchange program with student scholarships.

A panel discussion on April 22 allowed delegates from Nebraska Wesleyan to share with the College of Charleston community numerous positive experiences from their exchange program with the University of Tartu. Nebraska Wesleyan History Professor Meghan Winchell described the lively classroom discussions she found in an African American History course she taught in Tartu as a Fulbright recipient. For example, Winchell explained that Estonian students in her course on African American history drew important parallels between conditions of serfdom in Estonia and those of slavery in the United States. She also spoke of the wonderful experiences her children had in the local school system in Tartu (and of their desire to return soon!)

Undergraduate Nebraska Wesleyan student Jessica Preston, a communications major minoring in both marketing and global studies spent a year at Tartu. She eloquently spoke to the lively international culture of the University of Tartu and the positive learning experiences she had. She noted that her dormitory consisted of about 50 percent international students and 50 percent Estonian students—and that she felt well integrated with both Estonian and foreign student communities at the host University.

Provost George Hynd of the College of Charleston expressed the wish that 40 percent of undergraduates at the College would study abroad before graduating—presently 28 percent of students do so. The availability of English-language courses at Tartu across so many disciplines makes for a promising start in that larger action plan. For example, College of Charleston Freshman Mathematics major Ariail Harrison plans to study abroad in Tartu next year due to the opportunity to pursue coursework in her major abroad in English.

The relationship between the College of Charleston, Nebraska Wesleyan University, and the University of Tartu is just unfolding, and the possibilities are many. Sirje Üprus, Head of International Cooperation at the University of Tartu, noted that the partnership with the College of Charleston will open doors to collaboration once better understanding of curriculum between the institutions grows. Potential faculty exchanges and academic collaboration will surely emerge in the future alongside the undergraduate student exchange program.

*Daniel C. Ryan is an AABS member and Visiting Assistant Professor at College of Charleston.*



Photo Leslie McKellar | Estonian Ambassador to the U.S. Marina Kaljurand

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## Reflections on Post-Baltic Identity, continued from page 5

versial past, while both valuable and necessary for the historical record and Baltic identity, has created new “blank spots.”

Purs explained that this concentration on trauma is also the result of internal factors, not just externally driven ones. In Latvia, history is considered by most to be a social science, and as such is too often linked closely to politics. Politicians hope that historians as social scientists may find “answers” to contemporary social tensions, such as the conflicting collective memories of World War II. History, however, is one of the humanities, Purs insisted. Its strength, he argued, is in offering differing interpretations and revealing contradictions, which can contribute to a broader sense of Baltic identity that includes the diverse experiences of Baltic peoples rather than focusing on the Baltic states.

Mara Lazda, Assistant Professor in the Department of History at Bronx Community College, The City University of New York, concluded the panel discussion by addressing the question set out by the panel: Do the Baltic states exist? Why continue to refer to Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania as though they shared some kind of common culture, history, when the people living in this region rarely identify themselves as “Balts,” she asked. In the introductions to their books, Andrejs Plakans, Andres Kasekamp, and Aldis Purs each addresses the problems of this concept, with Purs pointing to the “artificial nature of the term ‘Baltic states’.”

In considering the alternatives to naming the region, Lazda said, the panelists and many other scholars have suggested that the idea of a “Baltic (Sea) region” that expands the designation to Finland, Sweden, northeastern Russia, Norway, parts of Germany, and Poland may be more useful in tracing the interactions among histories, cultures, and peoples. As Marko Lehti has noted,

the Baltics are a “crossroads.” While scholars including Lehti, Jörg Hackmann, John Hiden, David Kirby, and David J. Smith have provided significant insights into the historical connections of the Baltic region, Lazda reflected on recent co-optation of the Baltic Sea region idea to emphasize business or economic potential. As an example she pointed to how One Baltic Sea Region, a EU-funded project has described the region as “the second most popular cruise destination in the world, right after the Caribbean. It may become even more popular if branded and promoted as one unity.” (<http://www.bdforum.org/bsr-searching-identity-baltic-sea-region/>). Lazda considered whether reshaping the “history of the Baltic states” to the “history of the Baltic sea region” may mean deemphasizing historical analysis.

Lazda concluded by considering how the history of the Baltic states is a useful concept and contributes to European unity and identity. She turned to the insights of Yale professor emeritus Thomas Venclova, who in his essay “The Best Way to Love our Identity,” published in *Lituanus* in 2006, addressed the fears that Lithuanian identity could be subsumed into a European monolith. He argued that these fears were unfounded, and that rather, Lithuania’s multi-layered history and culture would reinforce both Lithuanian and European identity:

In Soviet times, the reappearance of regional differences was a form of protest against Communist homogenization, and shook the regime; I think that this process could become even stronger in a unified Europe. Rocky, hilly, obstinate Žemaitija. Sūduva, with its fertile plains, which gave us the most celebrated minds of our national revival. . . all of this was and remains integrally part

of Europe. When we are Europeans not only in word but in deed ... then, more than ever before, we will be Lithuanians as well.

Other events hosted by the Yale Baltic Studies Program in the 2012-2013 academic year included a visit to Yale University by the President of the Republic of Latvia, Mr. Andris Bērziņš, on September 28, 2012, which included a faculty-student panel discussion with President Bērziņš on the theme “European and Latvian Economy and Finances.” The Baltic Studies Program also co-hosted a talk on November 12 by Professor of History at Yale Timothy Snyder titled “Latvia between the Two World Wars.” The talk coincided with an exhibition in the Yale Library titled “Latvian Publishing between the Wars,” which presented outstanding examples of book design and aesthetic distinction in other print media.

The Yale Baltic Studies Program features two new Yale fellowships for the 2013-2014 academic year. The fellowships are the Joseph P. Kazickas Post-Doctoral Fellowship at Yale for citizens of Lithuania and the Gita Padegs Research Fellowship at Yale for citizens of Estonia or Latvia. Both provide for the recipients to study at Yale for a period of four to nine months. The Joseph P. Kazickas Fellow for 2013-2014 is Irina Matijošaitinė (Kaunas University of Technology); her research project is titled “Urban Crime and Urban Social Spatial Structure.” The Gita Padegs Fellow is Eneken Laanes (Tallinn University); her research project is titled “Multidirectional Acts of Memory in Baltic Literature, Art, and Film.” More about the Yale Baltic Studies Program is available here: <http://www.yale.edu/macmillan/balticstudies/>

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The European Studies Council  
at Yale University is pleased to host  
the second Joint Conference of

The Association for the Advancement  
of Baltic Studies (AABS)



The Society for the Advancement of  
Scandinavian Study (SASS)

**March 13-15, 2014  
at Yale University**

Linsly-Chittenden Hall  
63 High Street  
New Haven, Connecticut

<http://www.yale.edu/macmillan/balticstudies/ybss>

**Save the Date**

## 2014 AABS Conferences in Australia and U.S.

The Australasian Chapter of the  
Association for the Advancement of  
Baltic Studies (AABS)  
will host its next conference  
in Fall 2014

For more information, contact  
Delaney Michael Skerrett, PhD  
[d.skerrett@griffith.edu.au](mailto:d.skerrett@griffith.edu.au)

For a report on the 2012  
Australasian AABS Conference,  
visit the AABS website at  
[http://depts.washington.edu/  
aabs/announcements.html](http://depts.washington.edu/aabs/announcements.html)

The Second Joint Conference of  
The Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies (AABS)  
and The Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study (SASS)  
will be held at Yale University on March 13-15, 2014.

The conference will feature concurrent panels interspersed with  
thematic lunches, concerts, tours, and more.

Call for Proposals will be announced on June 24, 2013.  
Deadline for submitting proposals will be November 1, 2013.  
Conference registration will open November 1, 2013  
with early bird registration ending on February 1, 2014.

**For detailed information, please visit the conference website:**  
<http://www.yale.edu/macmillan/balticstudies/ybss>

# Food as a Lens for Studying the Baltic Region

By Renata Blumberg

University of Minnesota

This past August, scholars gathered together at the Institute of History of Tallinn University for a two-day conference entitled “Turning Points in Baltic and Central East European Food History: Knowledge, Consumption, and Production in Changing Environments.” This first conference on interdisciplinary Baltic food studies and history attracted participants from across Europe, and from as far as North America (Canada). Over 20 papers and posters were presented, all of them focusing on food as a lens for studying broader processes, from regional integration through trade to the politics of heritage preservation.

The first papers were largely historical and archaeological, bringing to light how early Livonian towns were integrated within complex and extensive trading networks that brought spices from distant places. Food served to mark social distinction and economic wealth, and food production practices delineated differences between residents. However, food practices also permeate cultural divides, requiring regulations and enforcement to maintain divisions. This was evident with Medieval Livonian bakers’ guilds, which were regulated to exclude non-Germans. However, as



Renata Blumberg conducting interviews at the Riga Farmers Market in Spring 2011.

subsequent papers argued, no community, whether Jewish or Latvian, can be viewed as homogenous and devoid of conflict. For example, communities are differentiated by gender and class, and food production and consumption practices often demarcate these differences. However, as the theme of the conference suggests, history is filled with turning points, when food-related practices are challenged, transformed, and invested with new meaning. Thus, this gathering of scholars in Tallinn marks in itself another turning point in Baltic food history giving a positive impulse on further research. Following the conference, participants created

a listserv as a forum for communication between scholars involved in the emerging field of ‘Baltic Food Studies.’ Anyone who is interested in the food cultures of the Baltic region is welcome to join at: <http://groups.google.com/group/balticfoodstudies?hl=en>.

The conference was organized by The Estonian Center for Environmental History, financed by the Estonian Science Foundation, The Under and Tuglas Literature Center of the Estonian Academy of Sciences, and the Institute of History, in cooperation with The Herder Institute for Historical Research on East Central Europe at Marburg.

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## Researching Innovation, continued from page 2

vation in U.S. innovative enterprises with enterprise data in Baltic countries. She also conducted interviews with experts on the topic of influential factors on innovative activities in U.S. enterprises. Ilona presented key results from her dissertation “Innovation Success Factors: A Case Study in Latvia” at the Fourth International Conference on Science in Society at UC Berkeley, where she received valuable suggestions and positive evaluations. She has presented her research at three conferences in Riga

and will present again at a conference in Istanbul in June.

She successfully submitted her dissertation thesis at the University of Latvia, Faculty of Economics and Management. Taking into account successful innovation policy and state leader positions in the sphere of innovation in the U.S., she conducted thorough research of enterprises’ innovation experience in the U.S. in order to bring to light influential determinants on innovation creation. She plans to apply the gathered data on

influential factors on innovation and make use of the research through corroboration of her research results in order to foster innovative activities in enterprises in the Baltic countries.

*I would like thank AABS for all efforts, input and support provided through Mudīte I. Zilīte Saltups Award that helped me to conduct research at University of California Berkeley Haas School of Business in November 2012.*

(ilona.dubra@inbox.lv)



## Sustainable Architecture, continued from page 2

tunity to work with architect James Garrison and to develop a carbon neutral modular residential building in New York City. In his architectural praxis outside of the institute, Garrison specializes in both energy efficient and carbon neutral modular construction. During the semester, he organized a field trip to one of his projects in New York City, where it was particularly helpful to see how designs and ideas are executed in real life conditions.

In the second semester, along with courses in the regular M.Arch degree sequence, I was able to carry out a

sustainable car showroom project in Tokyo under the guidance of architect Alexandra Barker and Adrian Allred. Working on a 50,000 square foot project and collaborating with four other structural and mechanical engineers revealed many peculiarities of a sustainable design in yet another urban location.

*I would like to thank AABS for its support of my studies and research through the Jānis Grundmanis Postgraduate Fellowship for Study in the U. S.*

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We invite members to contribute suggestions, articles, and short news items related to Baltic Studies to the AABS Newsletter. Contact the Newsletter editor at [ajswain@uw.edu](mailto:ajswain@uw.edu).

## Member News

**Marju Broder**, an AABS member based in Perth, Western Australia, presented a paper on Estonian Buddhism in Melbourne at AABS conference last September. Her research focuses on the project "Buddhism & Nordland" organized by Vello Väärtnõu from 2007-2011 in Estonia.

**Ivo Juurvee**, PhD student at the University of Tartu, will defend his PhD thesis "The Protection of Classified Information in Estonia (1918-1940)" at the University of Tartu on June 10, 2013. Beginning in September, he will teach a course, "History of Intelligence and Security Services in the 20th Century," focusing on the Baltic area at the University of Tartu.

**Delaney Skerrett** received his PhD from the University of Queensland in June 2012 for his dissertation entitled, "Discourses, Practices, and Behaviour: A Critical Study of Language Policy in Estonia." In December 2012 he also received his Bachelor of Behavioural Science (Honours Psychology) from the Queensland University of Technology for his thesis related to Estonian-English bilingualism: "Autobiographical Memory in Bilinguals: The Role of Language in

Determining the Expression of Kinship and Emotion." Dr Skerrett continues to teach Baltic Studies courses online at the University of Tartu and plans to publish both works. He has also recently been appointed Honorary Consul of the Republic of Estonia in Brisbane with jurisdiction over the State of Queensland.

**Amanda Swain** received her PhD in history from the University of Washington (Seattle) in March 2013 for her dissertation entitled "A Death Transformed: The Political and Social Consequences of Romas Kalanta's Self-Immolation, Soviet Lithuania, 1972." She is currently teaching Modern European history courses as a post-doctoral lecturer at the University of Washington.

**E. (Ted) Reilly**, MA PhD, writes from Geelong, Australia: Here, in Geelong, one is isolated from the rest of the world, passionate about tribal games and religious observances. It is remote and only partially civilised. A few years before the Wall came down, Geelong hosted a visitor from Lithuania, Dr. Adomas Butrimas. He helped spark a cultural renaissance in the local Lithuanian community. I soon discovered that he had much deeper interests, one of which was a shared pas-

sion for archeology and ancient history.

A local speleologist, offered to take us on an adventure. So one fine morning we headed westwards to the Princess Margaret Rose Caves near Naracoorte. In 1992, it was my turn to visit Lithuania. Adomas kindly took me to see the excavations under the Vilnius Castle Mount, where the team had discovered an ancient altar.

On later visits, my wife Jūratė and I have seen Kernavė and other ancient sites and have maintained correspondence by letters, e-mail and the exchange of books. Adomas currently holds the post of Pro-Rector for Research at the Vilnius Art Academy. He recently sent the book *Donkalnis ir Spigino Mezolito-NeolitoKapinynai/Mesolithic-Neolithic Gravesites at Donkalnis and Spiginas* (VDA, Vilnius 2012). This is a very detailed account of a series of exploratory and research excavations near lake Biržulis, situated about 30 km southeast of Telšiai, and a region known to be very rich in stone-age sites.

I am now scouring the local bookshops for some equivalent Australian (illustrated) archeological texts, as the pre-contact peoples of Australia had maintained a Neolithic mode of existence since their ancestors had arrived on these shores, parallel archeologies, perhaps.

AABS, University of Washington,  
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