DAY ONE | Thursday, May 26

8:00 – 11:30 AABS Board Meeting

10:00 – 5:00 Conference Registration

12:00 – 5:00 Museum Displays: Pirma Banga (The First Wave) and Latviešu Pasaulē (Latvians in the World) in Houston Hall

12:00 – 5:00 Book exhibit in Houston Hall

Complimentary beverages available throughout the day in Houston Hall

12:45 - 2:15 | Session One


Chair: Kaarel Piirimäe (University of Tartu)

Respondent: Andrejs Plakans (Iowa State University)


Arūnas Antanaitis (Vytautas Magnus University), “The Lithuanian Diaspora’s Involvement in the Creation of Diplomatic Relations with the Western World, 1990-1991”


2. The Baltic German Experience: New Perspectives

Chair: Bradley Woodworth (University of New Haven/Yale University)


Feliks Gornischeff (University of Tartu), “The Baltic Germans in the Diplomatic Service of the Russian Empire During the Reign of Alexander I (1801-1825)”

Peter Wörster (Herder-Institut, Marburg) “Residential Town Between Königsberg and St. Petersburg: Mitau, the Ducal Court, and Its Aftermath”

Dorothee Goeze (Herder-Institut, Marburg), “Nobility at Home: Heredity and the Task of the Nobility in the Baltic”

3. Internationalism, Emigration, and Diaspora: Musical Expressions

Chair: Kevin C. Karnes (Emory University)

Maarja Merivoo-Parro (Tallinn University), “Exploring the Cold War Estonian Diaspora through Popular Music”


4. Communication and Identity
Chair: Asta Zelenkauskaite (Drexel University)

Bjorn Ingvoldstad (Bridgewater State University), “Sangailė and Sundance: How a Lithuanian Film Parlayed US Funding into an International Success”

Liene Ločmele (Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences) and Nadezhda Sotirova (University of Minnesota, Morris), “‘Don’t Tell Them I’m Leaving’ vs. ‘Don’t Tell Them I’m Staying’: Identity Negotiations within Recent Emigration Discourses in Latvian and Bulgarian Speech Communities”

Andris Straumanis (University of Wisconsin-River Falls), “Jaunā Tēvija and the Latvian Baptists of West Philadelphia, 1913-1917”

5. Language, Literature, and Identity
Chair: Maija Burima (Daugavpils University/University of Latvia)

Laura Laurusaite (Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore), “Relics of Soviet Mentality in Contemporary Lithuanian and Latvian (E)migration Literature”

Natalija Sroma and Anastasija Vedela (University of Latvia), “Minority Literatures in Latvia: Between the Locality of Diaspora and Globalism in International Russian Literature”

Eneken Laanes (Tallinn University), “Broken Lineages, Impossible Affiliations: The Russian Baltic Subject in Andrey Ivanov’s Ash and A Handful of Dust”

2:30 - 4:00 | Session Two

1. Exiles as Sources of Knowledge and Action
Chair: Edward Cohn (Grinnell College)

Arta Ankrava (University of Minnesota), “From Displaced Persons to Exiles: Latvian Language Publications in Austria”

Ginta Remeiiks (Independent Scholar), “Baltic DP Camp Phenomena and the Psychodynamic of the ‘Lucky’ Ones”


Giedrius Janauskas (Vytautas Magnus University), “Demos Diplomacy of Lithuanians in the USA: From Cold War Strategic Model to Mass Movement”
2. Media and Ideology
Chair: Liene Ločmele (Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences)
Laura Ardava (University of Latvia), “Social Memory and Commemoration of the Tšd Latvian National Awakening (1988-2014) in Media”
Kristina Juraitė (Vytautas Magnus University), “Living in the World of Curved Mirrors: Critical Readings of Soviet Propaganda”
Asta Zelenkauskaite and Brandon Niezgoda (Drexel University), “Situating the Rhetoric of Trolling on Lithuanian Online News Comments”

3. Liturgical Art and Aesthetic Theory
Chair: Milda Richardson
Lehti Mairike Keelmann (University of Michigan), “Fashioning Livonia with the Wealth of the World: The Brotherhood of the Black Heads and Reval’s Artistic Landscape”
K. Paul Žygas (Arizona State University), “St. Casimir’s Chapel’s Design Sourcebooks”
Robert R. Clewis (Gwynedd Mercy University), “Immanuel Kant’s Theory of the Fine Arts”
Lindsey Woolcock (Vytautas Magnus University), “Aesthetics and Historiography of Wayside Shrines in the University of Pittsburgh’s Lithuanian Room”

4. Policy Change in the Baltic Region
Chair: Aušra Park (Siena College)
Joseph Ellis (Wingate University), “A Culture of Policy Innovation in Estonia”
Kazimierz Musiał (University of Gdańsk/Södertörn University), “How Epistemic Communities Frame the Baltic Sea Region”
Renata Blumberg (Montclair State University), “Scaling Food Safety in the European Union”

5. Crossing Linguistic, Geographic, and Cultural Boundaries
Chair: Daiva Markelis (Eastern Illinois University)
Jurate Motiejunaite (University of Alberta), “Mothers, Wives, and Whores: Transnational Women’s Subjectivities in Margaret Atwood’s The Robber Bride and Jurga Ivanauskaite’s Miegancių nu Drugelio tvirtove”
Hazel Frankel (University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa), “David Fram’s Yiddish Poems of Lithuania and South Africa”
4:15 - 5:45 | Session Three

1. Relations Between Jews and Non-Jews Between the Wars

Chair: Ellen Cassedy

Valters Ščerbinkskis (National Library of Latvia), “The Educated Class and the University: Jewish Students and Their Societies at the University of Latvia Between the Wars”

Lara Lempert (Vilnius University), “Lithuanian and Jewish Intelligentsia in Dialog in Interwar Independent Lithuania”

Ēriks Jēkabsons (University of Latvia), “Jewish Soldiers in the Latvian Army During the War of Independence, 1918-1920”

Michael Casper (University of California, Los Angeles), "A King Travels: Antanas Smetona and the Jews, 1926-1940"

2. Baltic Literature Hour

Readings and talks by selected authors.

3. Roundtable: The Baltic States in European Security

Chair: Chris Miller (Yale University)

Ron Granierie (University of Pennsylvania)

John Haines (Foreign Policy Research Institute)

Mitchell Orenstein (University of Pennsylvania)

Mindaugas Jurkynas (Vytautas Magnus University)

Andres Kasekamp (University of Tartu)

Karl Altau (Joint Baltic American National Committee)

4. Identity Formation in the Tsarist and Interwar Periods

Chair: David Feest (Nordost-Institut Lüneburg)

Ivars Ījabs (University of Latvia), “The Man with a Plait and Other: Political Satire in Early Latvian Nationalism”

Toivo Raun (Indiana University), “Imagining the Fatherland and the Homeland: The Estonian Sense of Space in the Late Tsarist Era”

Mark Moll (Indiana University), “University as Site and Source of Social Communication: Dorpat-lur’ev-Tartu in the Nineteenth Century”

Jüri Kivimäe (University of Toronto), “Socialism, Nationalism, and History: An Intellectual Portrait of Hans Kruus”
5. Roundtable: Media, Language and Politics: How Should Baltic Media Speak to the Russian Minority?

Chair: Andris Straumanis (University of Wisconsin-River Falls)
Ainārs Dimants (Turība University)
Anda Rožukalne (Rīga Stradiņš University)
Guna Spurava (University of Latvia)

7:00 | Keynote Address by President Toomas Hendrik Ilves
Followed by a Reception in the Hall of Flags, Houston Hall, University of Pennsylvania

DAY TWO | Friday, May 27

8:00 to 3:30 Conference Registration
12:00 – 5:00 Museum Displays: Pirma Banga (The First Wave) and Latviešu Pasaulē (Latvians in the World) in Houston Hall
9:00 – 5:00 Book exhibit in Houston Hall
Complementary beverages available throughout the day in Houston Hall

8:30 – 10:00 | Session One
1. Dealing with the Enemy: Baltic Economic Relations after 1917
Chair: Joachim Tauber (Nordost-Institut Lüneburg)
Respondent: Olavi Arens (Armstrong State University)
David Feest (Nordost-Institut Lüneburg), "‘Gold Laundering’: The Tallinn Bank Georg Scheel & Co. as Intermediary in Soviet Gold Trade”

2. Gender in Activism and War
Chair:
Virginija Jurėnienė (Vilnius University), “Jewish Women’s Activity in the Lithuanian Women’s Movement in the First Half of the 20th Century”
Rasa Navickaitė (Central European University), "Bringing Women's Emancipation Back Home? Émigré Influences in Developing Feminism in Post-Socialist Lithuania”
Tiina Ann Kirss (University of Tartu), “Masculinity and World War I: Memoirs of Estonian Soldiers in the Tsar’s Army”
3. Teaching Identity and Language
Chair: Rimante Navickaite (Temple University)
Motti Zalkin (Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Israel), “Sola Education: The Emergence of Modern Jewish Education in Interwar Lithuania and Its Impact on Local Jews’ Civic Identity”
Iveta Grinbergā (University of Washington), “The Art of Teaching Latvian as Heritage Language: Research and Practice”

4. Literature, Trauma, and Healing
Chair: Nora Teikmanis (City University of New York, Queens College)
Dalibir S. Sehmby (University of Alberta), “Teaching Grey: Revealing Soviet Deportation through Between Shades of Grey”
Daiva Markelis (Eastern Illinois University), “The Life You Save May Be Your Own: Teaching the Literature of Suicide”

5. Museums in Dialogue with Society: The Baltic Diaspora Story in Museum Expositions
Chair: Ralph Tuchtenhagen (Humboldt University of Berlin)
Maja Hinkle (Latvians Abroad Museum and Research Center), “Refugees and Emigrants: The Latvian Diaspora Story as Told by the Latvians Abroad Museum and Research Center”
Piret Noorhani (Estonian Studies Centre/VEMU, Toronto), “Museum of Estonians Abroad: The Enduring Estonian Footprint in the Centre of Toronto”
Audrius Plioplys (Independent Scholar), “Hope and Spirit: Informing the Public of Stalin’s Atrocities”
Irene Chambers (Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture), “Gathering Memories for Future History”

10:15 – 11:45 | Session Two
1. Advancing Baltic Studies
Chair:
Clydette Wantland (Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study), “University of Illinois Press and SASS”
David Barclay (German Studies Association), “Journal Publishing and the German Studies Association”
2. Reimagining Baltic Histories in Sound
Chair: Ilze Šarkovska-Liepiņa (Jāzeps Vītols Latvian Academy of Music)
Ilze Šarkovska-Liepiņa (Jāzeps Vītols Latvian Academy of Music), “Gustov von Mengden and Songwriting in Livonia”
Kevin C. Karnes (Emory University), “The Invention of Baltic Europe in the Ear of the Enlightenment”
Danutė Petrauskaitė (Klaipėda University), “Music in the Kaunas Ghetto against the Background of Vilijampolė (Slabodka) History”
Iivi Zajedova and Stanislav Nemeržitski (Tallinn University), “Dance and Sing for a Better Life: Estonia in XXVI Song and XIX Dance Celebrations”

3. Perspectives on the Holocaust in Lithuania
Chair: Christopher Gennari (Camden County College)
Saulius Sužiedelis (Vytautas Magnus University), “Why the Holocaust? Searching for Answers in the Lithuanian Experience, 1934-1941”
Joachim Tauber (Nordost Institut), “Hitler, Stalin, and Anti-Semitism in Lithuania, 1939-1941”
Violeta Davoliūtė (Yale University), “Native Narratives: Soft Power and Cultural Collaboration in Lithuania under Nazi Rule”

4. Domestic Politics in Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania
Chair: Rita Peters (University of Massachusetts at Boston)
Andres Kasekamp (Tartu University), “The Electoral Breakthrough of the Populist Far-Right in Estonia”
Daunis Auers (University of Latvia), “The Consolidation of the Populist Radical Right in Latvia”
Aušra Park (Siena College), “A Crises Prime Minister: Global Leader, Local Implications”

5. Memory and Trauma in Baltic Literature
Chair: Ginta Remeikis (Independent Scholar)
Nora Teikmanis (City University of New York, Queens College), “Memory, Trauma, and Identity in Contemporary Latvian Literature”
Liina-Ly Roos (University of Washington), “Traumatized Bodies in the Baltic Imagination”
Maarja Hollo (University of Tartu), “Remembering and Forgetting in the Works of Bernard Kangro: From Personal Remembering to Moral Witness”
12:00 – 1:30 | Lunch

Foreign Policy Research Institute Sponsored Luncheon, Houston Hall

Members of FPRI, a prominent think tank located in Philadelphia, will explain their new initiative centered on the Baltic states and Eurasian policy issues to which AABS members are invited to contribute.

Session Three, 1:45 – 3:15

1. History and Memory in Nineteenth-Century and Twentieth-Century Lithuania

Chair: Anastassia Zabrodskaja (Tallinn University)

Diana Vidutis (Lithuanian-American Community, Inc.), “The Thread Throughout: Gabrielė Petkevičaitė-Bitė and Lithuania’s Rebirth”

Vasilijus Safronovas (Klaipėda University), “Remembrance of a Non-National War in a Heterogeneous State: The Case of Interwar Lithuania”


Ann Traitor (State University of New York, Albany), “Gruto Parkas, Ariogala, and the Control of Lithuanian Historical Memory”

2. Speaking Languages: Grammar, Sound, and Usage

Chair: Dzintra Bond (Ohio University)

Linda Zalite (Graduate Center of the City University of New York), “The Incidence and Evolution of Palatalized Consonants in Latvian”

Renate Pajusalu and Karl Pajusalu (University of Tartu) and Andra Kalnāca, Birute Klaas-Lang, Ilze Lokmane (University of Latvia), “Politeness and Grammar in Requests: Evidence from Estonian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Finnish, and Russian”

Pärtel Lippus, Uldis Balodis, Karl Pajusalu, Pire Teras, Tuuli Tuisk (University of Tartu), “Broken Time in the Finnic Varieties of Latvia”

Violeta Kalėdaitė (Vytautas Magnus University), “Specificity of a Lithuanian Modal Existential Wh-construction”

3. Economic Policy

Chair: Kenneth Smith (Millersville University)

Hilmar Hilmarsson (University of Akureyri), “IMF and the Use, Overuse, and Abuse of the Government Ownership Concept in the Cases of Iceland and Latvia”

Raul Eamets (Tartu University), “The Labour Market and Labour Market Policies During the Great Recession: The Case of Estonia”
Morten Hansen (Stockholm School of Economics in Riga), “An Optimal Fiscal Council for Latvia”
Lisa Wilder (Albright College), “Social Capital and Confidence in Estonia: An Analysis by Demographics and Geography”

4. Crossing Cultures: Estonia
Chair: Eneken Laanes (Tallinn University)
Katre Talviste (University of Tartu), “Latvian Literature in Estonian School Textbooks”
Marin Laak (Estonian Literary Museum), “Global Networks of Local Literature: Estonian Literatures in Books Abroad”
Tiina Kattel (University of Tartu), “Translations of Lithuanian Literature in Soviet Estonia”

5. The Baltic Stage and Contemporary Latvia
Chair: Milda Richardson (Northeastern University)
Martynas Petrikas (Vilnius University), “At the Crossroads of Culture: A Case Study in Popular Entertainment of Interwar Lithuania”
Jurgita Staniškytė (Vytautas Magnus University), “(Re)imagined Pasts: Performing Histories and Reinventing Identities on the Baltic Stage”
Ina Pukelytė (Vytautas Magnus University), “Yiddish Actors in Lithuania: Vagabonds, Nomads, Networkers, Globalists?”
Mark Allen Svede (The Ohio State University), “Has Gender Parity Been Achieved in Latvian Contemporary Art?”

3:30 – 5:00 | Session Four
1. Soldiers in the Baltic in the Twentieth Century: Social Realities Seen and Created
Chair: Saulius Sužiedėlis (Millersville University)
Mart Kuldkepp (University College London), “A Resource or a Threat? The Attempts at Repatriating Estonian World War I POWs During the Estonian War of Independence”
Liisi Esse (University of Tartu/Stanford University), “The Forgotten Soldiers? The Fate of the Estonian World War I Veterans During the Interwar Period”
Harry Merritt (Brown University), “Civil War in the Borderlands? Latvian Soldiers in Nazi German and Soviet Service in World War II”
Oskars Gruziņš (University of Latvia), “Children of War in the Baltics: Sources, Challenges, and Limitations”

2. Heritage, Identity, and the Nation-State
Chair: Eriks Selga (Temple University)
A. Lorraine Weekes (Stanford University), “Expanding and Protecting the Nation in Estonia”
Loreta Martynėnaitė (Lithuanian Institute of History), “Landscape Construction in Rural Lithuania in the 20th to Early 21st Centuries: An Anthropological Approach”

Emilia Pawłusz (Tallinn University School of Governance, Law and Society), “Scandinavia’s Best Kept Secret’—Imagining the Estonian Nation in Tourism and Nation-Branding”

Aleksandras Gedmintas (State University of New York, Delhi), “The Kibinas as a Cultural Marker for Karaim/Lithuanian Identity”

3. Diplomacy in the Twentieth Century Seen from East and West

Chair: Jürgen Warmbrunn (Herder-Institut, Marburg)

Simonas Jazavita (Vytautas Magnus University), “Lithuania’s Military Attaché in Berlin: Kazys Škirpa in Baltic Diplomacy and Neutrality (1928-1937)”

Ville Laamanen (University of Turku), “Soviet Cultural Diplomacy with Scandinavians: VOKS as Guardian of Moscow’s Interests, 1939-1940”


Pauli Heikkilä (University of Tartu), “Baltic among Europeans: Regional Cooperation in the Cold War Diaspora”

4. Russia and the Baltic States

Chair: Daunis Auers (University of Latvia)


Rita Peters (University of Massachusetts at Boston), “Coercive Diplomacy and Small Powers: The Case of the Baltic States and Russia”

Emilija Pundzuite-Gallois (Sciences Po, France), “An Unusual Advocate of International Society: Lithuanian Russia Policy as a Means to Uphold International Liberal Democratic Values”

Mārtiņš Hiršs (Center for Security and Strategic Research, Latvia), “The Extent of Russia’s Influence in Latvia”

5. Teaching and Learning: Trauma, Nursing, and Employment

Chair:

Dovile Budryte (Georgia Gwinnett College), “Collective Traumas, Memory Politics, and Teaching Political Science: Insights from Classrooms in Lithuania and the United States”

Vilma Žydžiūnaitė and Ričardas Butėnas (Vytautas Magnus University), “Internalization of Values While Training General Practice Nurses in College Level Studies: Case of Lithuania”

Anders Paalzow and Zane Cunska (Stockholm University of Economics in Riga), “Do Study Connections Matter for Future Careers? Application of Network Analysis to University Graduates”
7:00 | Concert and Dance at the Philadelphia Society of Free Letts (Seventh Street and Spring Garden)
Shuttle bus will run between the Sheraton Conference Hotel and the dance.
Pēdējais Vīliens (The Last Train) will perform.
Cold food (aukstais galds) will complementary. Cash bar.

DAY THREE | Saturday, May 28
8:00 to 3:30 Conference Registration
12:00 – 5:00 Museum Displays: Pirma Banga (The First Wave) and Latviešu Pasaulē (Latvians in the World) in Houston Hall
9:00 – 5:00 Book exhibit in Houston Hall
Complimentary beverages available throughout the day in Houston Hall

8:30 – 10:00 | Session One
1. ROUNDTABLE “Economic Crisis in Latvia: A Grassroots Experience”
Chair: Sergei Kruk; Panelists from Rīga Stradiņš University
Sanita Vasiljeva, “The Relevance of Social Capital in Overcoming the Crisis”
Sergei Kruk and Anda Rožukalne, “Civil Society and Public Communication”
Klāvs Sedlenieks, “The Vernacular Concept of State in Latvia: Some Anthropological Insights”

2. Transborder Nationalism and Identity in the Baltic States
Chair: Marina Germane (University of London)
László Kövecses (University of Glasgow), “Ethnic Dimensions of Estonian Foreign Policy”
Marianne Leppik (University of Tartu), “Multilingualism, Media-Related Practices, and Civic-Involvement of the Estonian Russian-Speakers”
Keven M. F. Platt (University of Pennsylvania), “The Baltic ‘Near Abroad’: Culture Across Borders or Borders Across Culture?”

3. ROUNDTABLE “The AABS as Constituent Members of the ACLS”
Chair:
David Barclay (Kalamazoo College)
Irena Blekys (University of Washington)
Janis Chakars (Gwynedd Mercy University)

4. Politically Active Diasporas
Chair: Katja Wezel (University of Pittsburgh)
Amanda Swain (University of California, Irvine), “Igniting a Generation: Romas Kalanta and the Lithuanian Diaspora”
Silke Berndsen (Zweigbibliothek Geistes und Sozialwissenschaften der MLU Halle), “Networks across Borders: The Interconnection of Baltic Émigré Engagement and Resistance in the Baltics from the mid-1970s to the late 1980s”
Tina Kirss (University of Tartu), “Beyond the Blue Gate: Contested Memory and Estonian Homeland/Diaspora Relations in the Soviet Era”

5. Language and Society: Past, Present, and Future
Chair: Karl Pajusalu (University of Tartu)
Kerttu Kibbermann and Gunta Kļava (University of Latvia), “Language Attitudes and Behaviors Among Russian Speaking Minorities in Latvia: On the Thresholds of Changes”
Dzintra Bond (Ohio University), Dace Markus (Riga Teacher Training and Education Management Academy), and Verna Stockmal (Ohio University), “Voices from the Past: Latvian Recordings in the POW Camps During WWI”

10:15 – 11:45 | Session Two
1. The Global Baltic: Migration, Diasporas, Minorities
Chair: Aaron Bateman (University of Nottingham)
Ausra Bremner (Brooke House College, UK), “The Impact of Migration to the UK on Lithuanian Migrant Family relationships”
Inta Mieriņa (University of Latvia), “The Transnational Latvian”
Liene Salmina (Vidzeme University), “Interaction between Latvian Diaspora Communities and the Republic of Latvia”
2. Soviet Actions and Institutions of Oppression, Social and Information Control

Chair: Ieva Zake (The College of New Jersey)

Respondent: Melissa Chakars (Saint Joseph's University)

Edgars Engīzers (Baltic International Academy), “Latvia in the Shadow of Soviet Military Bases”

Rosario Napolitano (Università degli Studi di Napoli “l'Orientale”), “The KGB Building in Latvia: The Years of Fear”

Jürgen Warmbrunn (Herder-Institut, Marburg), “Libraries and Politics in Latvia, Czechoslovakia and Poland after 1945”

Edward Cohn (Grinnell College), “Prophylactic Policing and the KGB’s Struggle with the Baltic Dissident Movement in the 1970s and 1980s”

3. Minority Rights: Past and Present

Chair: Kevin M.F. Platt (University of Pennsylvania)

Indra Ekmanis (University of Washington), “Unwilling Host or Welcome Home? Emerging and Persistent integration Issues in Latvia”

Marina Germane (University of Glasgow), “Max Laserson: Zionist, Latvian Statesman, and European Minority Thinker”

Katherine Vachawski (University of Denver), “The Calculus of Structural Barriers: The Polish Effort for Rights in Lithuania”

Elena Keidošiūtė (Center for Jewish History, New York City), “Becoming a Catholic, Becoming a Lithuanian: Shifting Trends of Jewish Assimilation in Modern Lithuania”

4. Latvian Literature and Culture

Chair: Katre Talviste (University of Tartu)

Maija Burima (Daugavpils University/University of Latvia), “Culinary Texts in Contemporary Latvian Literature in the Context of Elite/Mass Culture”


Ilze Kacane (Daugavpils University) and Alina Romanovska (Daugavpils University), “The Hybrid Identity of Latvian Culture: Cultural, Historical, and Literary Aspects”

5. Media Development and Values

Chair: Andris Straumanis (University of Wisconsin-River Falls)

Ainārs Dimants (Turība University), “Latvian PBS on the Media Policy Crossroads to PSM”

Guna Spurava (University of Latvia), “Privacy and Openness of Children in Local Social Network Sites in Latvia”

12:00 – 1:30 | AABS LUNCHEON

Keynote speech by in-coming AABS President Giedrius Subačius (University of Illinois, Chicago)

Houston Hall; Pre-registration required.

1:45 – 3:15 | Session Three

1. Holocaust in Memory: Lithuania

Chair: Saulius Sužiedėlis (Millersville University)

Hannah Pollin-Galay (University of Pennsylvania), “Naming the Criminal: Lithuanian Jews Remember Perpetrators”

Charles Perrin (Kennesaw State University), “Jonas Šliūpas, Memoirs, and the Holocaust: Did an Anti-Semitic Lithuanian Mayor Try to Save Jews?”

Amira Eran (Hebrew University of Jerusalem), “Abba Kovner’s Concept of Heroic Death”

Ellen Cassedy (Independent Scholar), “Lithuania Looks at the Holocaust: Holocaust Remembrance in Lithuania Today”

2. The Construction of Images within and across National Boundaries

Chair/Respondent: Liisi Esse (University of Tartu/Stanford University)


Maira Bundža (Western Michigan University), “Web Archiving in the Baltic Countries”

Aiste Zalepuga (Yale University), “Preservation of Baltic Memory in a Digital Age”

Anastassia Zabrodskaja (Tallinn University), “The Perception of Russia Across Eurasia: Memory, Identity, and Conflict”

3. ROUNDTABLE: Returning Geopolitics and Past Futures of Baltic-Nordic Regionalism: Resilience or Marginalization?

Chair: Carl Marklund (Södertörn University)

Marta Grzechnik (University of Gdańsk/University of Greifswald)

Mart Kulkepp (University College London)

Kaarel Piirimäe (University of Tartu/Estonian National Defense College)
4. Emerging Cities and Their Know-How: Infrastructures of Supply and Communication in Baltic Cities, Late Eighteenth Century to the Present

Chair: Ivars Ījabs (University of Latvia)

Heidi Hein-Kircher (Herder-Institut, Marburg), “Emerging Cities in the Baltic Region Between Best Practices and National Movements”

Eszter Gantner (Herder-Institut, Marburg), “Transferring Best Practices: Eliel Saarinen Between Tallinn, Helsinki and Budapest, 1900-1914”


Vaike Haas (West Virginia University), “Marks on the City: Colonization, Planning, and Coastline Emergence in Tallinn, Estonia”

5. Business and Management Issues in the Baltics

Chair: Morten Hansen (Stockholm School of Economics)

Chutinon Putthiwanit (Turība University), “A Study of a Multinational Enterprise’s International Experience towards Export Volume in the Latvian Lumber Business”

Dainius Baliūnas (Vilnius University), “Innovative Strategic Initiatives in Pursuance Business Development in the Lithuanian Market”

Brent McKenzie (University of Guelph), “Retail Service Quality in Estonia, 1999-2014: A Longitudinal Study”

3:30 – 5:00 | Session Four

1. Writing the Lithuanian Experience

Chair: Daiva Markelis (Eastern Illinois University)

Jocelyn Bartkevicius (University of Central Florida), “The War after the War: Constructing Essays from Secrets and Lies”

Laima Vince (University of Maine), “Researching and Writing about Lithuania”

Violeta Kelertas (University of Washington), “Editing EuroEnglish”


2. Crossing Borders in the Medieval and Early Modern Eras

Chair: Mara Lazda (Bronx Community College, CUNY)
Kristina Markman (University of California, Los Angeles), “Hero or Villain? Mindaugas and the Image of Lithuanians in Medieval Chronicles”

Alexander Baranov (Freie Universität Berlin), “A ‘Russian Threat'? The Teutonic Order in Livonia and the Grand Duchy of Moscow at the End of the Fifteenth Century”

Ralph Tuchtenhagen (Humboldt Universität zu Berlin), “A Take Off for Swedish Colonialism? The Royal Government’s Plans with ‘New Sweden,’ 1638-1655”

Christopher Gennari (Camden County College), “The Baltic Fault Line: Sweden and Russia’s War over the Baltic in the 1650s and Its Meaning for the Boundaries of Europe”

3. Ideals, Reality and Dreams Fulfilled
Chair: Milda Richardson (Northeastern University)

Vaike Haas (West Virginia University), “Communist Ideals vs. the Realities of Soviet-planned Public Space: Taamsaare Park, Tallinn, Estonia”


Milda Richardson (Northeastern University), “Jonas Mulokas and Gunnar Birkerts: Baltic Roots and Modernism”

4. Memory, Sovereignty and Political Belonging
Chair: A. Lorraine Weekes (Stanford University)
Discussant: Marina Mikhaylova (Temple University)

Neringa Klumbytė (Miami University), “Suffering, Sovereignty, and Commemoration of Soviet Terror in Lithuania”

Christine Beresniova (Indiana University), “Patriots and Traitors: How Holocaust Education in Lithuania became an International Battle for National Identity”

Frances W. Harrison (Binghamton University), “Perspectives on Cultural Memory and Security in Lithuania since the Ukraine Crisis”

5. Learning Languages
Chair: Delaney Skerret (Australian Catholic University)

Olga Urek (Arctic University of Norway) and Dace Markus (Riga Teacher Training and Education Management Academy), “Latvian Language Development Assessment Tools: Preliminary Results”

Ineta Dabašinskienė (Vytautas Magnus University), “Learning Lithuanian as L2: A Case Study of Minority Children”

Piibi-Kai Kivik (Indiana University) and Anne Tamm (Central European University), “Comprehensive and Learners’ Grammars of Estonian: New Users, New Research”
Victoria V. Kazakovskaya (Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg) and Reili Argus (Tallinn University), “Certainty and Uncertainty in a Development Perspective: Evidence from Estonian and Russian”

5:15 to 6:45 | AABS Member Meeting
Hall of Flags, Houston Hall

8:00 – 10:00 | Baltic Short Films Screening
Slought, 4017 Walnut Street

Series curated by Jule Rozite, a film programmer from Latvia who received her film education in Glasgow, Scotland, and Vienna, Austria. She moved to New York in fall 2011. Rozite's festival credits include the Glasgow Short Film Festival, the Stockholm Film Festival, the Hamptons Film Festival and the Tribeca Film Festival. Additionally, she has curated films for the Scandinavian House in New York.

Festival Order:

**Ten Minutes Older (Par desmit minūtēm vecāks), Herz Frank (Latvia, 1978), 10 min.**
Iconic Latvian documentarian, Herz Frank, captures all the emotions and joy that cinema can evoke by focusing solely on one young boy's face during a show.

**St. John’s Day (Jaanipäev), Andres Sööt (Estonia, 1978), 20 min.**
An insightful meditation on the loss of tradition during the stagnant Brezhnev years, filmed by Sööt on Midsummer’s Day in Tallinn.

**Hare Krishna, Jonas Mekas (Lithuania/USA, 1966), 5 min.**
Jonas Mekas observes New York street culture and traditions by featuring a group of Hare Krishnas in this kaleidoscopic short film.

**Ivan’s Day (Ivanipäev), Ivan Pavljutskov (Estonia, 2014) 30 min.**
Pavljutskov explores identity and traditions in modern day Estonia by following one couple over the course of Midsummer’s Day as they prepare for the evening’s celebration.

**Castratus the Boar (Kastrāts kuilis), Lauris Ābele & Raitis Ābele (Latvia, 2014), 21 min.**
The directors muse on life and masculinity in a small-town in Latvia, infusing their observations with choral music and an aesthetic that adds a beautifully surreal layer to the protagonist’s otherwise mundane existence.

**Cold Springs (Šalti šaltiniai), Giedrė Narušytė Boots (Lithuania, 2015), 5 min.**
Cold Springs is a peaceful experimental animation about the changing of seasons, infused with nostalgia and Lithuanian folk traditions.