



VYTAUTAS
MAGNUS
UNIVERSITY
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Turning Points: Values and Conflicting Futures in the Baltics

**15th Conference
on Baltic Studies
in Europe**



Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas 2023

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CONFERENCE PROGRAM

THURSDAY, JUNE 15

- 8:00 – 18:00 **Registration/ Info Desk**
V. Putvinskio 23, 1st floor
- 9:00 – 10:30 **Session 1**
V. Putvinskio 23 (for rooms see the full program)
- 10:30 – 11:00 **Coffee Break**
V. Putvinskio 23 (3rd and 4th floor)
- 11:00 – 12:30 **Session 2**
V. Putvinskio 23 (for rooms see the full program)
- 12:30 – 14:00 **Lunch Break**
See recommendations
<https://aabs-balticstudies.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Restaurants-1.pdf>
- 14:00 – 15:30 **Session 3**
V. Putvinskio 23 (for rooms see the full program)
- 15:30 – 16:00 **Coffee Break**
V. Putvinskio 23 (3rd and 4th floor)
- 16:00 – 17:30 **Session 4**
V. Putvinskio 23 (for rooms see the full program)
- 17:45 – 19:00 **Welcome Address and Plenary**
Ineta Dabašinskienė, Chair of the Conference, Vytautas Magnus University
Vilma Bijeikienė, Vice-rector for Communication, Vytautas Magnus University
- Plenary Talk I**
Dovilė Budrytė, Georgia Gwinnett College
“A Decolonizing Moment: Vicarious Identification with Ukraine in the Baltic States and Beyond”
- Moderators: *Ineta Dabašinskienė*, *Andžej Pukšto*, Vytautas Magnus University
S. Daukanto 28, VMU Great Hall
- 19:00 – 21:00 **Welcome Reception**
S. Daukanto 28, VMU Great Hall Lobby

FRIDAY, JUNE 16

- 8:00 – 18:00 **Registration/ Info Desk**
V. Putvinskio 23, 1st floor
- 9:00 – 10:30 **Session 5**
V. Putvinskio 23 (for rooms see the full program)
- 10:30 – 11:00 **Coffee Break sponsored by the *Journal of Baltic Studies* (JBS)**
Announcement by *Matthew Kott*, editor of JBS, Uppsala University
S. Daukanto 28, VMU Great Hall Lobby
- 11:00 – 12:15 **Plenary Talk II**
Arūnas Gelūnas, Director General of the Lithuanian National Museum of Art
“Museums at War, Museums Near War. Memory Institutions as
Humanitarian and Diplomatic Agents in the Event of Armed Conflicts”

Moderators:
Jurgita Staniškytė, Ignas Kalpokas, Vytautas Magnus University
S. Daukanto 28, VMU Great Hall
- 12:15 – 14:00 **Lunch Break**
See recommendations
<https://aabs-balticstudies.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Restaurants-1.pdf>
- 14:00 – 15:30 **Session 6**
V. Putvinskio 23 (for rooms see the full program)
- 15:30 – 16:00 **Coffee Break**
V. Putvinskio 23 (3rd and 4th floor)
- 16:00 – 17:30 **Session 7**
V. Putvinskio 23 (for rooms see the full program)
- 17:45 – 20:00 **Film Screening and Discussion: *Mariupolis 2***

Discussants: *Jurgita Staniškytė, Edgaras Klivis, Gintautas Mažeikis*, Vytautas
Magnus University, *Kateryna Horiunova*, Mariupol State University / Vytautas
Magnus University
S. Daukanto 28, VMU Great Hall

SATURDAY, JUNE 17

- 9:00 – 14:00 **Registration/ Info Desk**
V. Putvinskio 23, 1st floor
- 9:00 – 10:30 **Session 8**
V. Putvinskio 23 (for rooms see the full program)
- 10:30 – 11:00 **Coffee Break**
V. Putvinskio 23 (3rd and 4th floor)
- 11:00 – 12:30 **Session 9**
V. Putvinskio 23 (for rooms see the full program)
- 12:30 – 14:00 **Lunch Break**
See recommendations
<https://aabs-balticstudies.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Restaurants-1.pdf>
- 14:00 – 15:30 **Session 10**
V. Putvinskio 23 (for rooms see the full program)
- 15:30 – 16:00 **Coffee Break**
V. Putvinskio 23 (3rd and 4th floor)
- 16:00 – 17:30 **Session 11**
V. Putvinskio 23 (for rooms see the full program)
- 19:00 – 22:00 **Closing Remarks**
Concert: NICO – *New Ideas Chamber Orchestra*
<https://www.nicomusic.eu/>
- Gala Reception**
Restaurant *SALA* in Žalgiris arena, Karaliaus Mindaugo 50

PLENARY SESSIONS

PLENARY I



Dr. Dovilė Budrytė, Georgia Gwinnett College

A Decolonizing Moment: Vicarious Identification with Ukraine in the Baltic States and Beyond

Moderators: *Ineta Dabašinskiėnė*, *Andžej Pukšto*, Vytautas Magnus University

Thursday, June 15 / 17:45 – 19:00 / S. Daukanto 28, VMU Great Hall

When the war in Ukraine started last year, Maria Mälksoo argued that this war has become a “decolonizing moment of sorts” as Central and Eastern European states have started taking the “moral and practical lead” in supporting Ukraine and thus asserting their own agency. Following this line of argumentation, I assert that this war has indeed become a decolonizing moment for the Baltic states and other actors, both in Central Eastern Europe and beyond. I will explore the Baltic states’ vicarious identification with Ukraine, defining multiple ways in which these actors have initiated policies to support Ukraine internationally and the ways in which solidarity with Ukraine has been received by various domestic constituencies, including ethnic minorities.

By vicariously identifying with Ukraine, the Baltic states have continued their transformation from “policy-takers” to “policy-makers” in the European security landscape that can be traced back to 2004, when they joined the transatlantic community and the European Union. At the same time, similarly to the 2014 crisis in Ukraine, the trauma of the war has become an engine of new discourses and new divisions within the Baltic states, prompting societal debates about the legacy of the Soviet Union associated with Russia (including the fate of monuments to Soviet soldiers) and the relationship with Russian culture. Similar processes are noticeable in other Central and Eastern European states, empowering these actors and turning them into real policy-makers in the region and even changing the nature of transatlantic relations.

PLENARY II



Dr. Arūnas Gelūnas, Director General of the Lithuanian National Museum of Art

Museums at War, Museums Near War. Memory Institutions as Humanitarian and Diplomatic Agents in the Event of Armed Conflicts

Moderators: *Jurgita Staniškytė, Ignas Kalpokas*, Vytautas Magnus University
Friday, June 16 / 11:00 – 12:15 / S. Daukanto 28, VMU Great Hall

The presentation deals with the experience of the Lithuanian National Museum of Art and its partner institutions in Ukraine since the beginning of the Russian invasion of Ukraine on February 24th, 2022. What new roles can memory institutions adopt in times of armed conflict? Can the museums that usually plan their activities long in advance generate urgent responses to emergencies? Can art become a powerful way to counterbalance brainwashing and propaganda? What is the role of cultural diplomacy? What are the museum communities' and visitors' reactions and participatory modes? The concrete examples of specially designed spontaneous exhibitions, humanitarian aid, rescue operations and communication strategies will be presented and analyzed.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION. On the Border: Baltic Transitions from One Front to Another in 1917-1920 **History, Memory, Identity (Room 110)**

Thursday, June 15 / 16:00 – 17:30/ V. Putvinskio 23

Chair: Liisi Esse, Stanford University

Participants:

Mart Kuldkepp, University College London

Toivo Kikkas, University of Tartu

Mari-Leen Tammela, Estonian War Museum

Aigi Rahi-Tamm, University of Tartu

Liisi Esse, Stanford University

For the Baltics, WWI did not end in 1917-1918; instead, it continued in continuation wars, including the Estonian War of Independence (EWI), which lasted until 1920. This roundtable focuses on transitions of the Estonian war experience between 1917 and 1920, encompassing a range of transformations, such as the transition of Estonian service members from the multinational Imperial Russian Army to specifically Estonian national units and from there to Estonia's national army, following a period of German occupation until the autumn of 1918, their transition from active service to desertion or imprisonment as POWs, the post-war transition from the front to the home front, and the social and political situation there.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION. Many Regions in the Baltic Sea Area **Higher Education, Science Policy, and Knowledge Management (Room 110)**

Friday, June 16 / 14:00 – 15:30/ V. Putvinskio 23

Chair: Emilija Pundziūtė-Gallois, Vytautas Magnus University

Participants:

Kazimierz Musiał, University of Gdańsk

Alexander Drost, University of Greifswald

Damian Szacawa, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin/ Institute of Central Europe

The Russian invasion of Ukraine brought changes inside the BSR and its environs. What was framed as new regionalism and underpinned by friendly narratives, including Russian partners and Russia, is now questioned; a new way of being-in-the-(Baltic) world is emerging. The roundtable will diagnose the current state of “regionness” and put it in a perspective of multiple region-building narratives that contribute to our understanding of the BSR today. Theories, issues and practical efforts to construct the region in the Baltic Sea area will be discussed, interrogating the tension between narratives that favour the interpretative understanding of concrete, specific events and processes and the alternative nonnarrative explanations that seek explanations based on structure, power relations and systemic dependencies.

**ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION. Resistance and Collaboration in 20th Century Latvia:
Toward a New Biography of Vilis Samsons
History, Memory, Identity (Room 311)**

Friday, June 16 / 16:00 – 17:30/ V. Putvinskio 23

Chair: Matthew Kott, Uppsala University

Participants:

Mike Loader, University of Glasgow

Paula Oppermann, University of Munich

Harry Merritt, Brown University

The name ‘Vilis Samsons’ evokes contradictory images among Latvians today. Honored as a Hero of the Soviet Union, this important figure within Latvia’s Soviet partisans in WWII is also known as a troublemaker for defending Latvian interests under Soviet rule in the 1950s. This roundtable explores the usefulness of writing a biography of this controversial figure who shaped Latvian history and historiography. New sources will be presented, including the latest research on 20th Century Latvia, featuring questions such as: What impacts did his upbringing in a middle-class family and socialization in rural Latvia of the 1930s have? Can recent studies on the history of Latvian soldiers in WWII and their commemoration in (post-) Soviet Latvia inform the analysis of his actions? Does his story challenge dominant narratives about the agency and identity of politicians in Soviet Latvia?

**ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION. On the Boundary of Two Worlds – Legacy and New Perspectives
Anthropology, Sociology, and Religion (Room – Leonidas Donskis Library)**

Friday, June 16 / 16:00 – 17:30/ V. Putvinskio 23

Chair: Jörg Hackmann, University of Szczecin

A relaunch of the book series *On the Boundary of Two Worlds. Identity, Freedom, and Moral Imagination in the Baltics* (edited by Leonidas Donskis)

Participants:

Kristina Jõekalda, Estonian Academy of Arts

Andres Kasekamp, Toronto University

Dainius Genys, Vytautas Magnus University

In 2004, Leonidas Donskis launched the book series “On the Boundary of Two Worlds. Identity, Freedom, and Moral Imagination in the Baltics” with Rodopi. More than 40 volumes have been published since then. After Donskis’ untimely passing away and the change of the publishing house to Brill, a relaunch of the series is underway and will be presented by the previous and current editors.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION. The Impact of the Russia-Ukraine War on Right-Wing Populism in the Baltic States
International Law, Economics, and Political Studies (Room 106)

Saturday, June 17 / 09:00 – 10:30/ V. Putvinskio 23

Chair: Matthew Kott, Uppsala University

Participants:

Daunis Auers, University of Latvia

Andres Kasekamp, Toronto University

Mindaugas Jurkynas, Vytautas Magnus University

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has profoundly impacted Baltic politics, economics and societies. This roundtable focuses on the reaction of Right-Wing Populist parties and organizations in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania to the war in Ukraine. It seeks answers to several vital questions: What was the programmatic impact on parties competing in parliamentary elections in Latvia and Estonia? What are the similarities and differences between the responses of Right-Wing Populists in the three Baltic states? Have party attitudes to Russia shifted? Has the war emboldened new, pro-Kremlin populists such as the Stability (Stabilitāte) party in Latvia? Are Baltic Right-Wing Populists out of step with their brother and sister parties elsewhere in the EU?

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION. Urban Collective Action around Public and Green Spaces
Anthropology, Sociology, and Religion (Room 002)

Saturday, June 17 / 14:00 – 15:30/ V. Putvinskio 23

Chairs: Paul Draus, University of Michigan-Dearborn; Jūratė Imbrasaitė, Vytautas Magnus University

Participants:

Ed Carroll, Žemieji Šančiai community

Vita Gėlūnienė, Žemieji Šančiai community

Evelina Šimkutė, Kultūros Dirbtuvė

Jūratė Tutlytė, Vytautas Magnus University

This interactive roundtable discussion will explore common themes of urban collective action related to the development, preservation and transformation of urban public and green space in the context of the Baltic region, focusing on Vilnius and Kaunas. This panel will consider the role of social and cultural networks in the city of Vilnius and within three distinct Kaunas neighborhoods – Šančiai, Šilainiai, and Aleksotas – where various assemblages of community, state and academic actors have engaged in projects related to urban public and green space. The roundtable seeks to share experiences and perspectives across different Baltic contexts represented by the case study examples; to explore the dynamics of post-socialist politics, culture and civil society, as well as the influence of Western planning paradigms and neoliberal market models within and across these case studies; to consider the contributions of Baltic cities to global discussions of equitable, sustainable and community-driven redevelopment.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION. Machines with a Human Touch: Conversation-Based Solutions for Chatbot User Experience Enhancement Communication, Media, and Journalism (Room 220)

Saturday, June 17 / 14:00 – 15:30/ V. Putvinskio 23

Chair: Igors Gubenko, University of Latvia

Participants:

Normunds Grūzītis, University of Latvia

Aleksandrs Aleksandrovs, University of Latvia

Marta Valdmane, University of Latvia

Non-human agents have long become our cognitive and communication partners in various everyday contexts. In the project “Humanizing chatbots: conversation-based solutions for chatbot user experience enhancement” (HumBots), an interdisciplinary team of computer scientists, philosophers, and sociologists from the University of Latvia engage in developing recommendations for enhancing the experience of chatbot users. The focus is the HUGO family of customer service chatbots or virtual assistants representing Latvian government institutions. Cognitive, communicative, and emotional aspects of human interactions with various chatbots are studied, including AI-based conversational bots. The issues for discussion are: The meaning and criteria of humanness in communication with non-human agents; Can a chatbot’s feelings be hurt? The ethical dimension of human-chatbot interactions; The HUGO chatbot family as an example of digitalization of state services; Human-chatbot communication: preliminary findings of sentiment and discourse analysis; Provisional recommendations for chatbot-user experience enhancement.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION. Baltic States, the Baltic Sea Region, and New Security Challenges in Flux International Relations and Regional Security (Room 103)

Saturday, June 17 / 14:00 – 15:30/ V. Putvinskio 23

Chairs: Aleksandra Kuczyńska-Zonik, Tomasz Stępniewski, John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Institute of Central Europe

Participants:

George Soroka, Harvard University

Mariusz Antonowicz, Vilnius University

Zdzisław Śliwa, Baltic Defence College

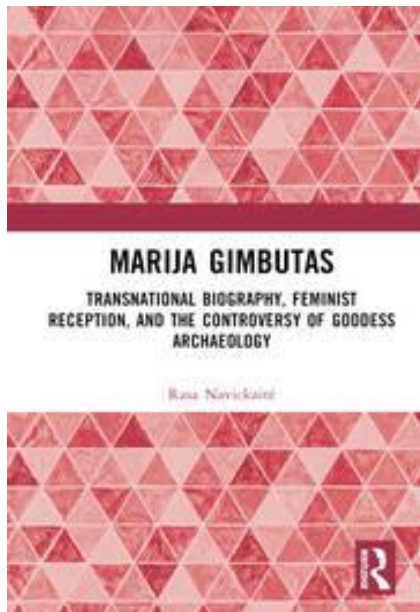
Russia’s attack on Ukraine was highly destructive, destabilizing the regional security environment. The rapid increase in fears about the future of the Baltic states and the awareness of the scale of the threat led to actions aimed at strengthening our security. The unique geopolitical situation and the accompanying aggressive statements from the Kremlin have paradoxically created the conditions for undertaking activities that boost cooperation between them. The authorities in the Baltic states, reacting to the Russian sabotage activities, unanimously took decisive steps to make the economy, the energy sector and the information sphere independent from Russia. The panel aims to show the evolution of the perception of the security of the Baltic states in connection with Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. The optimal way to increase and maintain the region’s stability will be offered, including political, military, economic and information dimensions and strategies for dealing with Russia in a new security reality.

BOOK PRESENTATION

BOOK PRESENTATION

History, Memory, Identity (Room 310)

Thursday, June 15 / 09:00 – 10:30/ V. Putvinskio 23



Navickaitė, R. 2023. *Marija Gimbutas: Transnational Biography, Feminist Reception, and the Controversy of Goddess Archaeology*. Routledge.

Presenter:

Rasa Navickaitė, University of Vienna

Discussants:

Dovilė Budrytė, Georgia Gwinnett College

Viktoras Bachmetjevas, Vytautas Magnus University

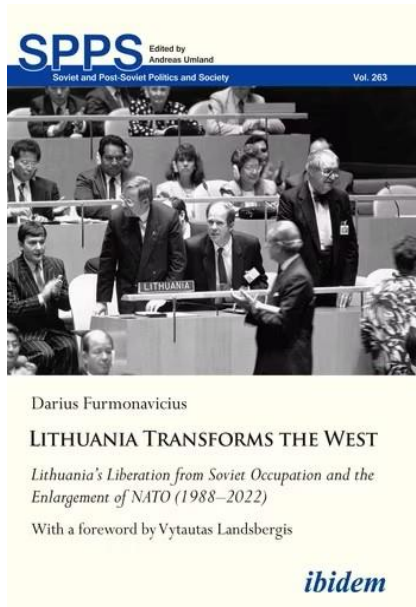
Aušra Park, Siena College

The book is a biography and reception history of the Lithuanian – American archaeologist Marija Gimbutas (1921–1994). It presents a success story of an Eastern European woman who survived both Soviet and Nazi occupations of her homeland, lived as a displaced person in postwar Germany, and built her career and scholarly authority within the androcentric American academia by introducing her theory of Old Europe – a prehistoric civilization characterized by peacefulness, egalitarianism, women’s leadership, and the worship of the Great Goddess.

BOOK PRESENTATION

History, Memory, Identity (Room 101)

Thursday, June 15 / 11:00 – 12:30/ V. Putvinskio 23



Furmonavičius, D. 2023. *Lithuania Transforms the West. Lithuania's Liberation from Soviet Occupation and the Enlargement of NATO (1988–2022)*. Columbia University Press.

Presenter: *Darius Furmonavičius*, Lithuanian Research and Studies Centre (UK)

Discussant: *Šarūnas Liekis*, Vytautas Magnus University

The author analyzes security developments in Lithuania since 1988, a period marked by liberation from nearly fifty years of Soviet occupation, the collapse of the USSR, and the integration of the country into NATO. The focus is on how Lithuania achieved freedom and how the country's integration into the European and Transatlantic security framework has influenced both its own and transatlantic security development.

BOOK PRESENTATION

Anthropology, Sociology, and Religion (Room 002)

Thursday, June 15 / 16:00 – 17:30/ V. Putvinskio 23



Čiubrinskas, V., Gečienė-Janulionė, I., Hornstein-Tomic, C., and V. Parutis (Eds.). 2023. *Returning-Remitting-Receiving. Social Remittances of Transnational (Re)Migrants to Croatia, Lithuania, and Poland*. Berlin: LIT Verlag.

Discussants:

Caroline Hornstein -Tomic, Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar

Ingrida Gečienė-Janulionė, Vilnius University

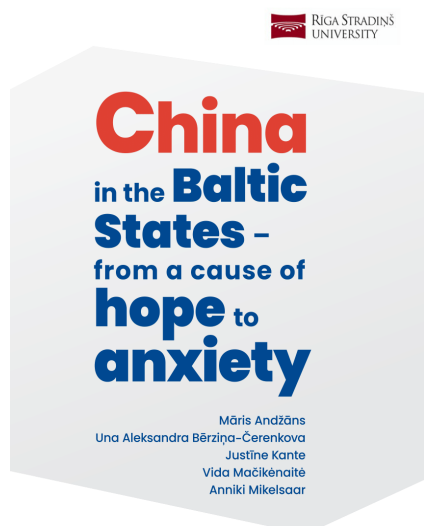
Vytis Čiubrinskas, Vytautas Magnus University

In the last few decades and especially since the enlargement of the European Union to formerly socialist countries in Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, most of the new EU member states have experienced high levels of emigration. However, recent studies show increasing numbers of returnees who bring not only financial resources but also valuable human capital, progressive thinking and innovative ideas. This under-researched phenomenon of social remittances by (re)migrants to Croatia, Lithuania, and Poland over the last 30 years is analyzed by the authors of the volume employing diverse research methods.

BOOK PRESENTATION

International Relations and Regional Security (Room 220)

Friday, June 16 / 14:00 – 15:30/ V. Putvinskio 23



 This publication is sponsored by
NATO's Public Diplomacy Division

Andžāns, M. and U. A. Bērziņa-Čerenkova (Eds.). 2022. *China in the Baltic States – from a Cause of Hope to Anxiety*. Rīga Stradiņš University.

Presenter:

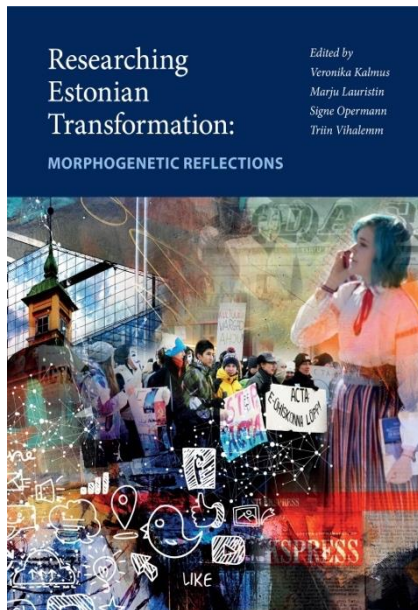
Una Aleksandra Bērziņa-Čerenkova, Rīga Stradiņš University

The publication assesses the perception and the role of the People's Republic of China (China) in Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania, focusing on the implications of China for the national security of the three states and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Following a review of three decades of bilateral engagement between the Baltic states and China, the publication offers an analysis of the results from nationally representative surveys on Baltic attitudes toward China.

BOOK PRESENTATION

Anthropology, Sociology, and Religion (Room 002)

Friday, June 16 / 14:00 – 15:30/ V. Putvinskio 23



Kalmus, V., Lauristin, M., Opermann S., and T. Vihalemm (Eds.). 2020. *Researching Estonian Transformation: Morphogenetic Reflections*. Tartu University Press.

Discussants:

Veronika Kalmus, Tartu University

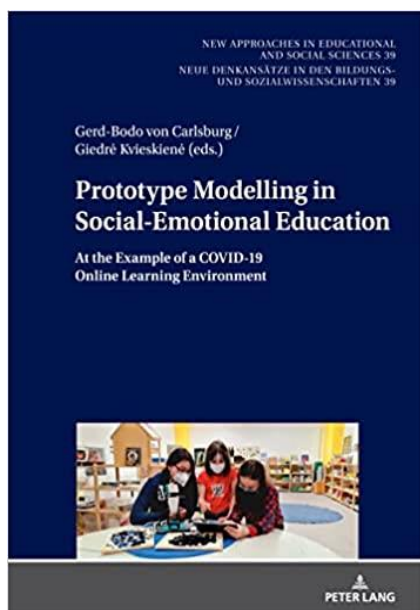
Signe Opermann, Tartu University

The presentation will introduce a collective monograph by the Estonian research group “Me. The World. The Media” (abbr. MeeMa). The book offers a reflexive review of the long-term experience of researching the transformations in Estonian society by synthesizing different theoretical perspectives on social change. It provides a re-conceptualization of the main results of the empirical studies conducted in the first two decades of the 21st century and discusses the perspectives and affordances of the social morphogenetic analysis for empirical explorations and theoretical explanations of ongoing changes in contemporary societies.

BOOK PRESENTATION

Language Studies, Education, and Psychology (Room 104)

Friday, June 16 / 16:00 – 17:30/ V. Putvinskio 23



Von Carlsburg, G.-B. and G. Kvieskienė (Eds.). 2022. *Prototype Modelling in Social-Emotional Education: At the Example of a COVID-19 Online Learning Environment*. Berlin: Peter Lang.

Discussants:

Alvyra Galkienė, Vytautas Magnus University

Stefanija Ališauskienė, Vytautas Magnus University

Participants:

Nijolė Čiučiulkienė, Vytautas Magnus University

Iona Tandzegolskienė, Vytautas Magnus University

Giedrė Kvieskienė, Vytautas Magnus University

In the monograph, the authors' analyses of social and socio-emotional education innovations help systematize distance learning, analyze the socio-emotional competencies of children and young people, and model how to develop them. Low social capital (recorded in the well-being index) and poor mental health, a vital feature of the COVID-19 pandemic, led to increasing youth and adolescent suicides. These factors require a new vision and support for learning methods. In their research and analyses, the authors seek a resolution of making SEEP suitable for every child through family therapy, school practice, and comprehensive support in everyday social-emotional well-being for children, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds and NEETs.

BOOK PRESENTATION

International Relations and Regional Security (Room 106)

Friday, June 16 / 16:00 – 17:30/ V. Putvinskio 23



Česnakas, G. and J. Juozaitis (Eds.). 2023. *European Strategic Autonomy and Small States' Security in the Shadow of Power*. London-New York: Routledge

Discussant: *Dovilė Budrytė*, Georgia Gwinnett College

Participants:

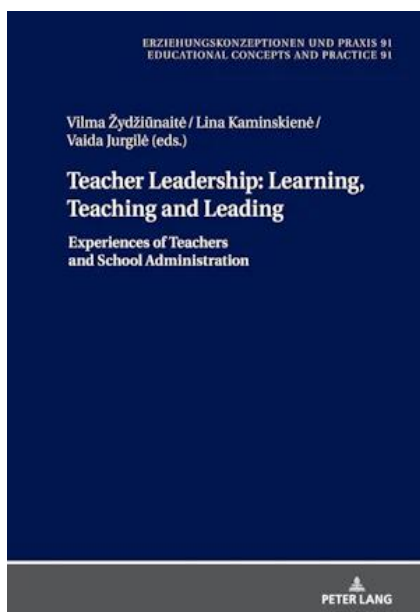
Giedrius Česnakas, Ieva Gajauskaitė, Gerda Jakštaitė-Confortola, Justinas Juozaitis, Ieva Karpavičiūtė, General Jonas Žemaitis Military Academy of Lithuania

This book analyzes whether the EU's drift towards European strategic autonomy presents a challenge or a window of opportunity for its small member states to advance their security interests. The volume presents perceptions of small states regarding European strategic autonomy highlighting their expectations and concerns, national security considerations, assessment of the impact on transatlantic relations, and its potential impact on the EU's institutional structure. It also shows how systemic circumstances and the interests of powerful states, either belonging to the EU (France, Germany, and Poland) or having a significant say in European security architecture (the US), establish opportunities and constraints for the small states to shape European strategic autonomy.

BOOK PRESENTATION

Higher Education, Science Policy, and Knowledge Management (Room 110)

Friday, June 16 / 16:00 – 17:30/ V. Putvinskio 23



Žydžiūnaitė, V., Kaminskienė, L. and V. Jurgilė (Eds.). 2022. *Teacher Leadership: Learning, Teaching and Leading. Experiences of Teachers and School Administration*. Frankfurt/ Bern/ New York: Peter Lang.

Discussant: *Inga Minelgaitė*, University of Iceland/ Honorary Consul of Lithuania in Iceland, Visiting Professor at the University of Johannesburg

Participants:

Vilma Žydžiūnaitė, Vytautas Magnus University

Vaida Jurgilė, Vytautas Magnus University

Rasa Nedzinskaitė-Mačiūnienė, Vytautas Magnus University

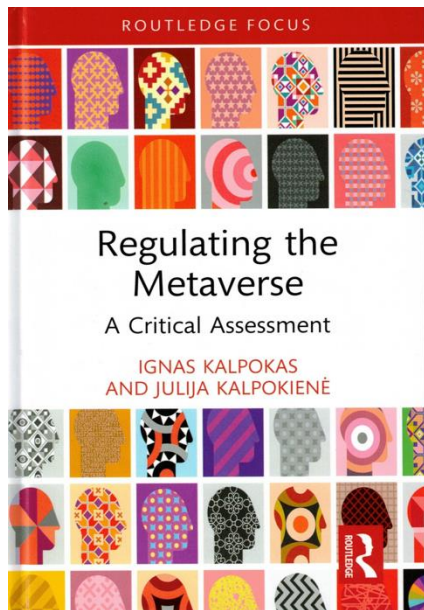
Nijolė Putrienė, Lithuanian Ministry of Education, Research and Sports

The monograph answers the following questions: What connects a good teacher, a great teacher and a teacher leader? How does the school administration perceive the link between teacher leadership and learning co-creation? What roles and functions of the teacher does the school administration see in implementing shared and distributed leadership? How is teacher leadership implemented through educational interactions with students in the classroom environment? How are teacher leadership and creativity interrelated? How learning co-creation through teacher and student educational interactions in a classroom is connected to teacher leadership?

BOOK PRESENTATION

Communication, Media, and Journalism (Room 220)

Saturday, June 17 / 16:00 – 17:30/ V. Putvinskio 23



Kalpokas, I. and J. Kalpokienė. 2023. *Regulating the Metaverse: A Critical Assessment*. New York: Routledge.

Discussant: *Donata Bocullo*, Vytautas Magnus University

Presenters: *Ignas Kalpokas, Julija Kalpokienė*, Vytautas Magnus University

The metaverse seems to be on everybody's lips, yet very few people can explain what it means or why it is important. This book aims to fill this gap from an interdisciplinary perspective informed by law, media, and communications studies. The authors critically evaluate the antecedents and the building blocks of the metaverse, the design and regulatory challenges that need to be solved, and commercial opportunities that are yet to be fully realized. While the metaverse is poised to open new possibilities and perspectives, it is also dangerous, with threats ranging from disinformation to intellectual property theft to sexual harassment. The book offers a useful guide to the legal and political governance issues ahead, contextualizing them within the broader domain of governance and regulation of digital technologies.

EXHIBITIONS

EXHIBITION

Indiana Dream (2007-2016)

Mindaugas Kavaliauskas



"Indiana Dream" is photographic research by Mindaugas Kavaliauskas portraying the golden age of roadside advertising in Lithuania. It emerged from an earlier series, "inCARnation", depicting Lithuania as the home of the car cult.

The exhibition is displayed in V. Putvinskio str. 23, 1st floor.

EXHIBITION

Crazy Sculptures in the Nevada Desert

Romualdas Požerskis



Since 2009, VMU professor Romualdas Požerskis has presented the unique festival "Burning Man" to the audience at photography exhibitions in Lithuania and abroad. This new exhibition is a continuation of the previous exhibitions presenting stories about the multifaceted uniqueness of the festival.

The exhibition is displayed in S. Daukanto str. 28, 2nd floor.

EXHIBITION

Sharing Our Stories: The Baltic Diaspora at Home in Canada



Through photos, documents and life stories, *Sharing our Stories: The Baltic Diaspora at Home in Canada* profiles the age-old story of people forced to leave their homeland due to the Second World War and political oppression and start a new life elsewhere. This exhibit is based on a series of interviews with seniors from Ontario's Estonian, Latvian, Lithuanian and Baltic German communities. Their personal 'snapshot stories' shed light on what it means to be Baltic, and on the universal experiences of migration and settlement.

Opening of the Exhibition *Sharing Our Stories: The Baltic Diaspora at Home in Canada*
Introduction: *Petra Grantham*, President, Canadian Baltic Immigrant Aid Society

Thursday, June 15 / 12:45 – 13:00/ Room 310/ V. Putvinskio 23

The exhibition is displayed in V. Putvinskio 23, 3rd and 4th floor.

FILM SCREENING AND DISCUSSION



Film Screening and Discussion: Mariupolis 2

Discussants: *Jurgita Staniškytė, Edgaras Klivis, Gintautas Mažeikis, Vytautas Magnus University, Kateryna Horiunova, Mariupol State University/ Vytautas Magnus University*
S. Daukanto 28, VMU Great Hall

Mariupolis 2 (2022) by Mantas Kvedaravičius is a document of the war in Ukraine that is as raw and real as it comes. The initial documentary, *Mariupolis*, was made in 2016. *Mariupolis 2* focuses on everyday life in a city that is being destroyed as we watch.

‘You know what was absolutely incredible in Mariupol? Nobody was afraid of death, even though they thought they were. Death was already here, and everybody wanted to die meaningfully. People even risked their own lives to help each other. They smoked outside and talked, even while bombs were falling. Money no longer existed because life had become too short to think about it. Everyone was happy with what they had, becoming a better version of themselves; there was no past, no future, no judgement, no ambiguity! It was paradise in hell. The touching, fragile wings of a butterfly. The smell of the true value of death. That’s what life was like there’, reads the presentation of the film.

M. Kvedaravičius (1976-2022) was a Lithuanian filmmaker with a degree in social anthropology from Cambridge University. His films *Mariupolis* (2016) and *Parthenon* (2019) were selected at the Berlinale and the Venice International Critics’ Week, respectively. Mantas Kvedaravičius was captured and killed by Russian Forces at the end of March 2022 in Mariupol while documenting Russia’s invasion of Ukrainian territory.

The main producers of *Mariupolis 2* are the Lithuanian film production companies Extimacy Films and Studio Uljana Kim. Nadia Turincev (Easy Riders Films, France) and Thanassis Karathanos (Twenty Twenty Vision, Germany), the producers of Kvedaravičius’ earlier film *Mariupolis*, were also involved in the production.

The documentary *Mariupolis 2* by M. Kvedaravičius won a European Film Award as the best documentary of 2022 and received the jury’s Special Award at the Cannes Film Festival.

Based on the Lithuanian Film Centre information

CONCERT

NICO – the New Ideas Chamber Orchestra



PRINCIPAL MEMBERS:

AUGUSTA JUSIONYTĖ (violin,
concertmaster)
DALIA KONTUTĖ (violin)
JULIJA IVANOVAITĖ (violin)
AGATA URSUL (violin)
LIUDVIKAS SILICKAS (cello)
AUGUSTINAS SOKALSKI (cello)
GEDIMINAS GELGOTAS (founder |
artistic director | composer)

It was back in 2006 when Lithuanian composer Gediminas Gelgotas came up with an idea to find an ensemble to perform his music and translate his artistic visions into reality. Today, this embodiment of ‘one-artist-vision’, called the **New Ideas Chamber Orchestra NICO**, brings the composer’s music to the leading classical and contemporary music venues, and reaches new and young audiences of classical music with their highly attractive, captivating, and original music performances.

The uniqueness of the NICO concept is highly determined by Gelgotas’ musical language, in which the classical music idiom is mixed with the light hints and influences of popular music. The composer’s vision of integrating minimalistic choreographic details into performances while the musicians play music by heart, using non-traditional string instrument techniques and voice, all of it combined is what creates the exciting concert experiences that are reinventing the borders between experimental, minimal, contemporary art and more popular, mainstream music forms. Their shows also often incorporate stunning transcriptions of the most beloved classical works by Bach, Vivaldi, and Mozart, as well as new music of other minimalists such as Riley, Glass, Tavener, Pärt, Richter and others. When listening to NICO, you may want to turn inward and meditate or just get up and dance - the effect is mesmerizing, and the result is inspiring to all ages.

Having received the attention of critics and professionals, the New Ideas Chamber Orchestra received the title of Vilnius City Ensemble in 2022. NICO is making appearances at prestigious concert venues and festivals, including Leipzig Gewandhaus, St. Martin-in-the-Fields and Roundhouse in London, Odesa, and St Petersburg Philharmonic Halls, Usedomer (Germany), Toulon (France), Odesa Classics (Ukraine), Ventura (USA) music festivals. NICO is also capturing the attention of the international press – Classic FM radio station with 5.5 million listeners have presented NICO live from their studios, whilst BBC World Service named NICO “truly worth attention” during a 10-minute special on Gelgotas and his ensemble. Besides appearing across Europe, Asia and the United States, NICO has performed for His Holiness Dalai Lama, Pope Francis, and Queen Sonja of Norway. Their recording session took place at the prestigious Real-World Studios in the United Kingdom, Paramount (Los Angeles), Metropolis (London), and Peermusic Classical (Hamburg) studios and was released by Peermusic Classical. NICO collaborates with such performers as Kristjan Järvi, David Geringas, Roman Patkoló, Mari Samuelsen, Avi Avital, Ksenija Sidorova, Kiril Troussov, Ole Edvard Antonsen, Alexey Botvinov, Janusz Wawrowski among others.

ACADEMIC SESSIONS

The program of the conference is arranged in 11 academic divisions.

Anthropology, Sociology, and Religion
Communication, Media, and Journalism
Digital Humanities, Museums, and Libraries
Environment, Resources, and Sustainability
Migration, Diasporas, and Public Diplomacy
Higher Education, Science Policy, and Knowledge Management
History, Memory, and Identity
International Law, Economics, and Political Studies
Literature, Arts, and Culture Studies
Language Studies, Education, and Psychology
International Relations and Regional Security

001. GEOPOLITICAL SHIFTS IN THE BALTICS FROM HISTORICAL AND MODERN PERSPECTIVES

History, Memory, Identity (Room 311)

Chair: Vaida Kamuntavičienė, Vytautas Magnus University

Baltic Colonialism or European Colonialism: The Duchy of Courland as a Part of Europe's Atlantic Expansion – *John Freeman*, University of Greifswald

The Strategic Dilemmas of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and Ukraine in 1654–1667 – *Peter Brown*, Rhode Island College

Shifting Strategies: Russo-Danish Relations and Copenhagen's Shift from Baltic to Arctic Geostrategic Aims – *Earl Hodil*, Northern Arizona University

002. BALTIC POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE WARS

History, Memory, Identity (Room 103)

Chair: Kristo Nurmis, Tallinn University

Latvians in the Spanish Civil War (1936–1939): The Group Named after Janis Jansons-Brauns – *Ginta Ieva Bikše*, University of Latvia

Military Policy of the Third Reich Towards the Baltic States in the Late 1930s – *Igor Kopotin*, Estonian Military Academy

Latvian-Lithuanian Economic Relations 1918–1940 – *Viesturs Pauls Karnups*, University of Latvia

Bachelorhood on Trial: Eugenics, Pronatalism, and Local Responses in Authoritarian Estonia – *Paris Pin-Yu Chen*, University College London

003. BOOK PRESENTATION

History, Memory, Identity (Room 310)

Navickaitė, R. 2023. *Marija Gimbutas: Transnational Biography, Feminist Reception, and the Controversy of Goddess Archaeology*. Routledge.

Presenter:

Rasa Navickaitė, University of Vienna

Discussants:

Dovilė Budrytė, Georgia Gwinnett College

Viktoras Bachmetjevas, Vytautas Magnus University

Aušra Park, Siena College

004. NOVEL PERSPECTIVES ON BUILDING CIVIC RESILIENCE AND ADVANCING ACCOUNTABLE COMMUNICATION

Communication, Media, and Journalism (Room 220)

Chair: Kristina Juraitė, Vytautas Magnus University

Three Types of Knowledge Gaps Concerning the Practice of Public Communication Ethics.

The Overall Objectives of the Diacomet Project – *Epp Lauk*, Vytautas Magnus University/
University of Tartu; *Kristina Juraitė*, Vytautas Magnus University

Theoretical Foundations of the Diacomet Project: The Application of the Concept of Dialogic Communication – *Halliki Harro-Loit*, University of Tartu

All Together Now: Fostering Inclusive Practices of Media Accountability – Lessons from a Comparative Study – *Tobias Eberwein*, Austrian Academy of Sciences; *Colin Porlezza*, Università della Svizzera Italiana; *Krisztina Rozgonyi*, Austrian Academy of Sciences

Toward an Open and Free Public Debate: Epistemic Agency as a Factor for Civic Resilience Development – *Auksė Balčytienė*, Vytautas Magnus University

005. LANGUAGE, HERITAGE, AND CHANGE IN THE LATVIAN AND LITHUANIAN DIASPORAS

Language Studies, Education, and Psychology (Room 104)

Chair: Anna Verschik, Tallinn University

Diagnosing Latvian Language Change in Sweden – *Signe Rirdance*, Stockholm University

Raised in the Diaspora and Parenting as (still) Lithuanian – *Jogilė Teresa Ramonaitė*, Institute of the Lithuanian language; *Meilutė Ramonienė*, Vilnius University

Lithuanian Heritage Language: Grammar Acquisition in Children – *Skirmantė Gribauskienė*, Vytautas Magnus University

Voice of the Youth in Riga: Democracy, Gender Rights and Green Politics. School Survey: A Case Study – *Kaspars Zalāns*, Greifswald University

006. CULTURAL MEMORY AND IDENTITY IN LATVIAN AND LITHUANIAN LITERATURE

Literature, Art, and Culture (Room 102)

Chair: Rūta Eidukevičienė, Vytautas Magnus University

Expressions of Cultural Memory in Lithuanian Diaspora Memoirs by Daiva Markelis and Antanas Šileika – *Laima Vince Sruoginis*, University of Southern Maine

Troubling the Notion of Nation: Questions of Identity and Belonging in Giedra Radvilavičiūtė's Writing – *Adelheid Rundholz*, Johnson C. Smith University

The Shifting Latvian Identity in Contemporary Historical Fiction: 13 Authors, One Novel Series – *Madara Stāde*, University of Latvia

Identity in Transition: The Years 1918 and 1990 in the Lithuanian and Latvian Cultural Press – *Viktorija Jonkutė*, Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore

007. THE INTERSECTION OF DIASPORA AND NATIONAL MINORITIES

Migration, Diasporas, and Public Diplomacy (Room 312)

Chair: Egidijus Balandis, Vytautas Magnus University

Imagined Futures: Latvian Roma Sense of Home and Belonging in Migration – *Ieva Garda-Rozenberga, University of Latvia*

Diaspora, Identity, Integration: Georgians in Latvia – *Zane Varpina, Stockholm School of Economics in Riga*

Understanding Immigrant Identity. The Transnational Connections of Lithuanian Americans – *Ann Senn, Bethel University; Daiva Kuzmickaitė, Mykolas Romeris University*

Travel Behaviour of the Latvian Diaspora in Latvia – *Aija van der Steina, University of Latvia*

008. SOCIETIES AND RELIGION

Anthropology, Sociology, and Religion (Room 313)

Chair: Inese Runce, University of Latvia

Religious Politics in Lithuania: Competing Claims on National Identity – *Michael Strmiska, State University of New York*

“All God’s Children Need Traveling Shoes”: The Missionary Life of Sister Aldona Kezyte – *Ann Traitor, University at Albany*

Restoring Traditions of Religious Education: The Case of Cooperation of Latvian, Lithuanian and Polish Old Believers in the 1920s and the 1930s – *Maija Grizāne, Daugavpils University*

Lithuanian Catholics in the Diaspora in Relations with the Roman Catholic Church in Soviet-Occupied Lithuania from the 1960s to the 1980s: Problems and Obstacles – *Ignas Stanevičius, Vilnius University*

009. CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF TRANSNATIONAL MIGRATION: ANTHROPOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES (I)

Anthropology, Sociology, and Religion (Room 002)

Chair: Maja Povržanović Frykman, Malmö University

Remigration, Development, and Social Change in Lithuania and Croatia – A Nexus (Un-) Wanted? – *Caroline Hornstein Tomic, Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar*

Challenging Assimilation: Strategies and Experiences of Reclaiming Diasporic Heritage by the Descendants of Lithuanian Exiles in Trans-Volga Russia – *Vytis Čiubrinskas, Vytautas Magnus University*

Political and Civic Remittances: Impact of Time, Place and Ties with Countries of Origin – *Ingrida Gečienė-Janulionė, Vilnius University*

Profitization of Ethnicity: A Case of Lithuanian Diaspora in Kazakhstan – *Jolanta Kuznecovienė, Lithuanian University of Health Sciences*

010. SOVIET PERIOD IN THE BALTICS**History, Memory, Identity (Room 103)**

Chair: *Margaret Comer*, University College London/ Tallinn University

Resistance and Collaboration in Latvia during the Second World War and Post-War Years: History, Memory, and Politics – *Uldis Neiburgs*, University of Latvia

Social Adaptation of the Youth in Eastern Latvia after the Second World War – *Irena Saleniece*, Daugavpils University

Everyday Life Practices in Soviet Estonia – through the Example of Dvigatel Plant – *Ivan Lavrentjev*, University of Tartu

Captive and Soviet Partners. Cooperation between Estonian and Ukrainian Emigrants, 1973–1991 – *Pauli Heikkilä*, University of Helsinki

011. BOOK PRESENTATION**History, Memory, Identity (Room 101)**

Furmonavičius, D. 2023. *Lithuania Transforms the West. Lithuania's Liberation from Soviet Occupation and the Enlargement of NATO (1988–2022)*. Columbia University Press.

Presenter: *Darius Furmonavičius*, Lithuanian Research and Studies Centre (UK)

Discussant: *Šarūnas Liekis*, Vytautas Magnus University

**012. WHERE DOES DISINFORMATION START, AND WHERE DOES IT END? THE BALTIC-NORDIC EXPERIENCE IN COMBATING INFORMATION DISRUPTIONS
Communication, Media, and Journalism (Room 220)**

Chair: *Auksė Balčytienė*, Vytautas Magnus University

Microinterventions: Testing Information Activism as a Media and Information Literacy Tool – *Maia Klaassen*, University of Tartu

Libraries as Promoters of Societal Resilience Towards Disinformation – *Agnese Dāvidsone*, Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences

Digital Disinformation and Structural Resilience: Lithuania in a Regional Context – *Ignas Kalpokas*, Vytautas Magnus University

Comparative Analysis of Fact-Checking Practices and Genres – *Marju Himma-Kadakas et al.*, University of Tartu / BECID Consortium

013. BALTIC DIPLOMACY, SOFT POWER AND POLITICS OF MEMORY: FROM POST-SOVIET TRANSFORMATION TILL THE EUROPEAN UNION

International Relations and Regional Security (Room 311)

Chair: Ginta Palubinskas, West Virginia State University

Soviet Monuments as a Security Threat: Insights from Central and Eastern Europe –

Aleksandra Kuczyńska-Zonik, John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Institute of Central Europe; Dominika Czarnecka, John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Institute of Central Europe

Decolonizing Diplomacy: Bringing Postcolonial Perspective into the Post-Soviet Studies. The Case of the Baltic States. – *Emilija Pundziūtė-Gallois, Vytautas Magnus University*

Women in the Baltic States' Diplomacy (1991–2021): Changes, Disparities, and Challenges Ahead – *Aušra Park, Siena College*

The Spartan Way: Wings and Lithuanian Foreign Representations Flying to Official Visits – *Mindaugas Kavaliauskas, Vytautas Magnus University*

014. BALTIC STUDIES AND LANGUAGES

Language Studies, Education, and Psychology (Room 104)

Chair: Meilutė Ramonienė, Vilnius University

Baltic Studies at Stockholm University: A Historical Retrospective – *Lilita Zaļkalne, Stockholm University*

Teaching of Baltic Languages in Finland: Traditions and Innovations – *Laimutė Balode, University of Helsinki/ University of Latvia*

The National Language Encounters Soviet Russian and Global English at the University of Tartu – *David Ilmar Beecher, University of Tartu; Kerttu Rozenvalde, University of Tartu*

Chernivtsi Baltic Studies Centre: Challenges of Work during the War Period – *Alona Shyba, Yuriy Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University*

015. POLISH PERSPECTIVES ON LITHUANIAN INDEPENDENCE AND BILATERAL RELATIONS DURING THE INTER-WAR PERIOD

Migration, Diasporas, and Public Diplomacy (Room 312)

Chair: Halina Parafianowicz, University of Białystok

The Independence of Lithuania in Political Concepts of Polish Politicians and Decision-Makers in the Early 1920s – *Vadzim Pauliuchuk, Independent Scholar*

Lithuanian Americans' Support for Lithuanian Territorial Claims to the Vilnius Region (1918-1922) – *Piotr Szlauzys, University of Białystok*

Searching for Allies: Baltic Republics in "Kurier Białostocki" – *Łukasz Niewiński, University of Białystok*

016. SOCIETIES, RELIGIONS, AND SHIFTING IDENTITIES

Anthropology, Sociology, and Religion (Room 313)

Chair: Jurga Bučaitė-Vilkė, Vytautas Magnus University

Human Agency, Religion and Socialism: Construction of the Soviet Past by Russian Orthodox Community Members in Post-Socialist Lithuania – *Kristina Šliavaitė, Vytautas Magnus University*

The Specific Features of the Theology of History of the Chronicle of Henry – *Guntis Kalme, Luther Academy*

Curonian/ Latvian-Speaking Maritime Communities in Lithuania: Historical Background, Identity and Research Problems – *Krišs Kapenieks, University of Latvia*

017. CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF TRANSNATIONAL MIGRATION: ANTHROPOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES (II)

Anthropology, Sociology, and Religion (Room 002)

Chair: Vytis Čiubrinskas, Vytautas Magnus University

Discussant: Maja Povržanović Frykman, Malmö University

The Role and Meaning of Post-War Resettlement of Poles from Lithuania to Poland in the Contemporary Construction of the Polishness in Both Countries – *Anna Pilarczyk-Palaitis, Vytautas Magnus University*

“Even if You Have All the Money but Your Family Is Not with You, You Won’t Be Happy Anyways”: Lithuanian Roma (Im)mobility Experiences and Family Relations on the Move – *Agnieška Avin, Lithuanian Centre for Social Science*

The Impact of the Contemporary Uncertainty and Insecurity Situation on the International Migrant Students in Lithuania: Ambivalent Identities and Life Trajectories – *Iлона Kazlauskaitė, Vytautas Magnus University*

Different Narratives and Attitudes Towards Refugees and Other Immigrants in Lithuania – *Rūta Dapkūnaitė, Vytautas Magnus University*

018. ECONOMIC CRISES, ELECTIONS, AND DEMOCRATIC REPRESENTATION IN THE BALTIC STATES

International Law, Economics, and Political Studies (room 110)

Chair: Małgorzata Myśliwiec, University of Silesia

Economic Adaptability in the Absence of Democratic Corporatism: Explaining Lithuania’s Export Performance – *Vytautas Kuokštis, Vilnius University; Ramūnas Vilpišauskas, Vilnius University*

Do Populists in Power Influence Civic Culture? Evidence from Hungary, Estonia and Beyond – *Denis Ivanov, Corvinus University*

First Democratic Elections in Post-Communist Lithuania – *Mindaugas Jurkynas, Vytautas Magnus University*

019. HISTORY OF RELIGION: FROM THE MIDDLE AGES TILL THE 20th CENTURY**History, Memory, Identity (Room 103)***Chair: Donatas Kupčiūnas, University of Cambridge***‘Counter-Baptism’: Rejections of Christianity in Henry of Livonia’s Chronicle** – *Ido Kons, University of Cambridge***The Importance of the Kaunas Dominicans to the Life of Kaunas in the Early Modern Times**– *Vaida Kamuntavičienė, Vytautas Magnus University***Nature, Nationalism, Catholicism: A Comparison of Lithuanian and German Inter-War Youth Organizations** – *Indrė Čuplinskas, University of Alberta***Perceptions of Religious Festivities in Latvian Exile Periodicals in Latgalian (1940-1980)** –*Oksana Kovzele, Daugavpils University***020. SOVIET OCCUPATION****History, Memory, Identity (Room 311)***Chair: Liisi Esse, Stanford University***Discovering Russia: Estonian Communist Evacuees in Soviet Rear, 1941-1942** – *Kristo Nurmis, Tallinn University***“Stalin Died Yesterday”: Discriminatory Pension Policy against the “Former People” in the Baltic Soviet Socialist Republics, 1956-1990** – *Elmar Gams, Estonian Institute of Historical Memory/ University of Tartu***Prague Spring and Kremlin Frost: The Case of Latvia 1968** – *Luboš Švec, Charles University***The Road to Global Conquest. Stalinist Expansionism and the Baltic Region, 1917-1953** – *Alexander Gogun, Freie Universitaet Berlin***021. CRISES AS TRIGGERS FOR FEMALE SELF-EMPOWERMENT AND VALUE CHANGE IN THE 20th CENTURY BALTIC SEA REGION****History, Memory, Identity (Room 101)***Chair: Elke Bauer, Herder Institute***The 1905 Revolution as a Starting Point for Women’s Emancipation? The Attempt to Implement New Gender Constructions in Baltic-German Society. A Case Study of the Journal “Baltische Frauenzeitschrift. Monatsschrift zur Förderung der Frauenbildung und der Frauenarbeit”** – *Anja Wilhelmi, Nordost-Institut Lüneburg***Did 1905 Cause a Turning Point in the Aspirations of Baltic German Women in Estonian and Livonian Governorates?** – *Lembi Anepaio, Tallinn University*

Family Crises: Domestic Violence and Birth Control in Soviet Lithuania – *Ieva Balčiūnė*, Lithuanian Institute of History

Activism through Publications? Female Self-Empowerment through Moral Reform in Early 20th Century Poland – *Heidi Hein-Kircher*, Herder Institute

Activities of Temperance Movement in Inter-War Latvia in the Context of Gender Roles during the 1920s and 1930s – *Guntis Vāveris*, University of Latvia

022. TRADITIONAL AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY IN THE INTER-WAR PERIOD: THE CASES OF ITALY, THE UNITED STATES, AND THE BALTIC STATES

Communication, Media, and Journalism (Room 220)

Chair: Rosario Napolitano, Riga Technical University/ Art Academy of Latvia

The Diplomatic Relationships between Italy and Lithuania during the Inter-War Period: From de jure Recognition (1922) to the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact (1939) – *Alessandro Vitale*, University of Milano

The Looped Road to the Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Consular Rights between Latvia and the United States – *Marika Selga*, University of Latvia

The Italian Diplomatic Corps in Latvia during the Inter-War Period – *Rosario Napolitano*, Riga Technical University/ Art Academy of Latvia

023. THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR AS AN IMPETUS FOR A NEW EU NEIGHBOURHOOD AND ENLARGEMENT POLICY

International Law, Economics, and Political Studies (Room 106)

Chairs: Tomasz Stepniewski, John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Institute of Central Europe

Discussants: Louis John Wierenga, Baltic Defence College; *Aleksandra Kuczyńska-Zonik*, John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Institute of Central Europe

Evolving Ontological Security Dilemmas in Central Europe in Light of the War in Ukraine – *George Soroka*, Harvard University

Eastern Partnership as a Geopolitical Hostage between the EU and Russia – *Tomasz Stepniewski*, John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Institute of Central Europe

Russia's Aggression against Ukraine and the Question of Further Enlargements in the Balkans: Polish Perspective – *Artur Adamczyk*, University of Warsaw; *Kamil Zajackowski*, University of Warsaw

Internal and External Drivers of Lithuania's Foreign and Security Policy Change – *Ieva Karpavičiūtė*, Vytautas Magnus University

024. FUTURE SCHOOLING

Language Studies, Education, and Psychology (Room 104)

Chair: Stefanija Ališauskienė, Vytautas Magnus University

Future Classrooms and Ed-Tech Imaginaries: Visual and Discursive Analysis of Innovativeness in Tomorrow's School – *Signe Opermann, Michael Forsman, Ingrid Forsler, Emanuele Bardone*, University of Tartu

Creativity Development Strategies: Orientation towards the Evaluation of Creativity – *Tandzegolskienė-Bielaglovė, Nijolė Čiučiulkienė, Irena Raudienė*, Vytautas Magnus University

Augmented Reality as a Teaching Tool in Preschool Education: Teachers' Points of View – *Monika Kelpšienė, Vytautas Magnus University; Ona Monkevičienė, Vytautas Magnus University*

Developing Eco-Literacy through a Curriculum of Gardening and Art: A Pedagogy of Eco-Poetic Inquiry and Engagement between North American and Latvian Local Places – *Andrejs Kulnieks*, University of Saskatchewan

025. BALTIC LITERATURE AND PHILOSOPHY

Literature, Art, and Culture (Room 102)

Chair: Ingrida Žindžiuvienė, Vytautas Magnus University

Dimensions of Syncretic Spirituality in the Prose Work *When Water Shimmers* by Nora Ikstena – *Ilze Jansone*, University of Latvia

Worlds in Conflict: Oppression and Subversion in Andrus Kivirähk's Book *The Man Who Spoke Snakish* – *Alfie Howard*, University of Leeds

The Popularity of Existentialism in Soviet Lithuania: Early Works of Arvydas Šliogeris – *Ramūnas Čičelis*, Vytautas Magnus University

026. COOPERATION, CULTURAL DIPLOMACY, AND THE BALTIC DIASPORA

Migration, Diasporas, and Public Diplomacy (Room 312)

Chair: Arūnas Antanaitis, Vytautas Magnus University

Tālvāldis Keņiņš and Canadian Cultural Diplomacy within the Latvian SSR (1973-1991) – *Daniel Jordan*, University of Toronto

Attempts to Achieve Radio Free Europe Broadcasts in the Latvian Language in the Context of Latvian Diaspora Political Activities – *Kristine Bekere*, Institute of Latvian History, University of Latvia

In the Service of the Dutch VOC – Origin Riga – *Mirjam van Immerzeel*, Independent Scholar

Baltic Athletic Cooperation in North America (1950-1990): Baltic Diaspora or a Coalition of Diasporas? – *Egidijus Balandis*, Vytautas Magnus University

**027. RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES,
(NON)EFFECTIVE TACTICS, AND EMERGING CONSEQUENCES**

Anthropology, Sociology, and Religion (Room 313)

Chair: *Tadas Šarapovas*, University of Management and Economics, ISM

Faith Transmission Tendencies in Lithuanian Families – *Vincentas Vobolevičius*, ISM University of Management and Economics

Religiosity Habits: Lithuanian Catholic Online Media's Role in Education – *Judita*

Kasperūnienė, Dainius Genys, Vilma Žydžiūnaitė, Vytautas Magnus University

Forced Migration and Religion: Ukrainian Families' Case in Lithuania – *Natalia Poda*,

Kaunas Archdiocese Caritas; *Daiva Kuzmickaitė*, Mykolas Romeris University

Rethinking Folktale: From the Personality to the Modern Society in Ethnographic Research –

Akvilė Sadauskienė, Lithuanian Institute of History

Religious Education and Dynamics of Religiosity: Parent-Offspring Differences – *Dainius*

Genys, Vytautas Magnus University

028. SECURITY AND POLITICS

Anthropology, Sociology, and Religion (Room 002)

Chair: *Viktoras Bachmetjevas*, Vytautas Magnus University

Geopolitical Identity of the Inhabitants of the Baltic Countries in the Face of Current Security Threats – *Aida Savicka*, Lithuanian Culture Research Institute

The Conflict between Traditional and Progressive Values in Lithuanian Society – *Rūta*

Žiliukaitė, Vilnius University

The Old New Politics of Imitation: Ironic Paradoxes of Neoliberal Higher Education

Reforms within a Post-Communist Context – *Rūta Petkutė*, Kaunas University of Technology

Solidarity in Europe: Mapping Perceived Roles of and between the EU Member States – *Inga*

Gaižauskaitė, Technical University of Darmstadt

029. SOCIETAL DIVERSITY AND RESILIENCE IN THE BALTIC STATES AND BEYOND

International Law, Economics, and Political Studies (Room 110)

Chair: *Andžej Pukšto*, Vytautas Magnus University

Civil Union and Political Alliances in the Baltic: The Case of Latvia – *Uldis Ozolins*, Western Sydney University

Reimagining Baltic Space Following Russia's 24 February 2022 Invasion of Ukraine – *Sandra Hagelin*, University of Tartu; *Catherine Gibson*, University of Tartu

Sustaining the Resilience to Disinformation as an Instrument of National Security: The Cases of the Baltic Region and Ukraine – *Dmytro Iarovyj*, Vytautas Magnus University

030. THE BALTICS AND THE WORLD DURING THE SOVIET OCCUPATION**History, Memory, Identity (Room 311)**

Chair: Šarūnas Liekis, Vytautas Magnus University

Propaganda vs Reality: Latvian Armed Anti-Soviet Resistance of 1941 in the Light of the Latvian Printed Press in Nazi-Occupied Latvia – *Janis Tomaševskis, University of Latvia/ Latvian War Museum*

“Dahomey Has No Position”: Baltic Appeal to the United Nations (BATUN) from Decolonization to Human Rights – *Kaarel Piirimäe, University of Tartu/ University of Helsinki*

Responses to the Prague Spring in Lithuanian Society in 1968 – *Jindrich Čeladin, Charles University/ Vytautas the Great War Museum*

Big Data – The Challenge in Maritime and Migration History – *Teele Saar, Estonian Maritime Museum*

031. INDEPENDENCE AND EMPOWERMENT OF THE BALTIC STATES IN THE 1920s AND 1930s. CONTINUITIES AND DISCONTINUITIES OF ECONOMIC POLICIES IN ESTONIA, LATVIA, AND LITHUANIA AFTER WWI**History, Memory, Identity (Room 103)**

Chair: Tomas Balkelis, Lithuanian Institute of History

Taking Over the Economy. “Ethnic Business,” “Economic Empowerment,” and their Limits in Inter-War Estonia – *David Feest, Nordost-Institut Lüneburg*

The Inter-War Period as Catalyst of Economic Empowerment in Lithuania – *Klaus Richter, University of Birmingham*

Promoting the Economic Agency of Latvians. Policies of the National Government of Latvia and Its Effect on Riga’s Merchants and Entrepreneurs (1921–1939) – *Katja Wezel, University of Latvia*

032. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION. On the Border: Baltic Transitions from One Front to Another in 1917-1920**History, Memory, Identity (Room 110)**

Chair: Liisi Esse, Stanford University

Participants:

Mart Kuldkepp, University College London

Toivo Kikkas, University of Tartu

Mari-Leen Tammela, Estonian War Museum

Aigi Rahi-Tamm, University of Tartu

033. TACKLING FALSE NARRATIVES: HOW MEDIA LITERACY AND ART CAN FIGHT DISINFORMATION

Communication, Media, and Journalism (Room 220)

Chair: Marju Himma-Kadakas, University of Tartu

Storytelling as a Legitimation Strategy in Disinformation Texts – Jūratė Ruzaitė, Vytautas Magnus University

Russian Propaganda and Disinformation Narratives in the Baltic Region and Ukraine: Current and Upcoming Challenges – Dmytro Iarovy, Vytautas Magnus University

Women's War Experience: Activism in the Baltic States as Transgressive Artistic Practice – Riina Oruaas, University of Tartu

Development of Media Literacy Projects and Initiatives in Latvia – Klinta Locmele, University of Latvia

034. THE PAST AND FUTURE OF REGIONALISM FROM THE PERSPECTIVES OF POLAND AND THE BALTIC COUNTRIES

International Relations and Regional Security (Room 106)

Chair: Donatas Kupčiūnas, University of Cambridge

Small State in an Unstable Region (2020-2022)? The Example of Lithuania – Wojciech Łysek, Polish Academy of Sciences

Transformation of Global Order or a New Opportunity for Regionalism? – Ieva Karpavičiūtė, Vytautas Magnus University

What do We Expect from Strategic Partners? Map of Expectations of Lithuania's Strategic Partnerships Foreign Policy and Representations of Otherness – Ieva Gajauskaitė, General Jonas Žemaitis Military Academy of Lithuania

Between Future and Political Tradition: Lithuanian Foreign Policy in 2020-2022. The Contexts of Lublin Triangle and the Three Seas Initiative – Andžej Pukšto, Vytautas Magnus University

035. EDUCATION AND LANGUAGE POLICY

Language Studies, Education, and Psychology (Room 104)

Chair: Ineta Dabašinskienė, Vytautas Magnus University

Education Policy and the State Language: Preschool – Tija Ziriņa, Dace Markus, Agrita Tauriņa, University of Liepaja

New Educational Spaces in a Double Minority Context: An Analysis of the Narva State Gymnasia Online Identity Construction – Kara Brown, University of South Carolina/ University of Tartu; Kadri Koreinik, University of Tartu

Estonian in the Family of Ethnic Russians: Changing Values – Anna Verschik, Tallinn University; Reili Argus, Tallinn University

Homeschooling and Functions of Parents-Educators: The Case of Lithuania – *Edita Naidaitė*, Kaunas Maironis University Gymnasium; *Eglė Stasiūnaitienė*, Vytautas Magnus University

036. BALTIC LITERATURE AND ITS EUROPEAN CONTEXTS

Literature, Art, and Culture (Room 102)

Chair: Rūta Eidukevičienė, Vytautas Magnus University

**“Wo die Seele jauchzt / Where the soul rejoices” – Italy in the Eyes of Baltic Germans
Perceptions of North and South in the Frame of Cultural Belonging** – *Anja Wilhelmi*, Nordost-Institut Lüneburg

Lithuanian Literature and French Romanticism: A Daina in Victor Hugo – *Claudio Barna*, University of Milano

Eco-Poetic Inquiry to Inspire Relationships with Local Places: A Curriculum of Visual and Avant-Garde Poetry – *Andrejs Kulnieks*, University of Saskatchewan; *Karlis Jirgens*, University of Windsor

037. FROM HOMELAND LOSS TO INDEPENDENCE: EXILES' VOICES, THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, AND POLITICAL AND CIVIC REMITTANCES

Migration, Diasporas, and Public Diplomacy (Room 312)

Chair: Daiva Kuzmickaitė, Mykolas Romeris University

To Learn and Pray in Lithuanian Chicago – *Liutauras Nekrošius*, Vilnius Gediminas Technical University

**From Homeland Loss to Independence: Writing Silenced Trauma Expressively through
Recuperating Exiles' Voices, Oral Traditions, and Photography** – *Eve Puodžiūnaitė Wicks*, Griffith University

The Renewing of the Catholic Church in Eastern and Central Europe: US Conference of Catholic Bishops' Aid to the Post-Soviet Countries in 1990-2004 – *Arūnas Antanaitis*, President Valdas Adamkus Library and Museum/ Vytautas Magnus University

038. MIGRATION PROFILES IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY

Anthropology, Sociology, and Religion (Room 313)

Chair: Rūta Dapkūnaitė, Vytautas Magnus University

At Home or in Tension with “EU Values”? Analyzing Lithuanian Catholic Discourse – *Rosita Garškaitė-Antonowicz*, Vilnius University

Refugees in Lithuania: The Experiences of Muslim Women in Asylum System – *Raminta Jakucevičienė*, Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore

Who's in the Forest Dark and Deep? Lithuania's Illiberal Response to Migration – *Aimee Herring*, University of South Carolina

039. BOOK PRESENTATION

Anthropology, Sociology, and Religion (Room 002)

Čiubrinskas, V., Gečienė-Janulionė, I., Hornstein-Tomic, C., and V. Parutis (Eds.). 2023.
*Returning-Remitting-Receiving. Social Remittances of Transnational (Re)Migrants to Croatia, Lithuania,
and Poland.* Berlin: LIT Verlag.

Discussants:

Caroline Hornstein -Tomic, Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar

Ingrida Gečienė-Janulionė, Vilnius University

Vytis Čiubrinskas, Vytautas Magnus University

040. HISTORY OF LITHUANIAN JEWRY

History, Memory, Identity (Room 311)

Chair: Saulius Sužiedėlis, Millersville University of Pennsylvania

Urbanization in a “White Gown” – Jews in Inter-War Kaunas Medical System – Mordechai Zalkin, Ben-Gurion University

Perspectives of Outside – JDC Archives on the Situation in Lithuania 1940 – Linas Venclauskas, Vytautas Magnus University

Prosecuting War Crimes Suspects: The Problem of Lithuanian-Jewish Relations in the United States during the Cold War – Justas Stončius, Klaipėda University

041. RUSSIAN-SOVIET LEGACY IN THE BALTICS

History, Memory, Identity (Room 103)

Chair: Charles Perrin, Georgia Gwinnett College

Soviet Reassessment of 19th-Century Romanticism: A Reception History of Architectural Conservation in Estonia – Kristina Jõekalda, Estonian Academy of Arts

The Role of Kaliningrad Oblast in the Memory Politics of Russian Authorities. The Case of the ‘Russian Prussia’ Movie – Miłosz Jeromin Cordes, Lund University

The Occupied Königsberg Region: Stalin’s Legacy within the Enlarged NATO – Darius Furmonavičius, Lithuanian Research and Studies Centre

Russian Research Centre’s Role in Spreading False Myths about the Baltic Countries – Algo Rammer, Estonian Academy of Security Sciences

042. COLONIAL LEGACY (I)

History, Memory, Identity (Room 310)

Chair: Bradley Woodworth, University of New Haven / Yale University

“Critical Situations” and Mnemonic Legislation: Memory Politics in the Baltic States and the War in Ukraine – Dovilė Budrytė, Georgia Gwinnett College

Russophone Estonians and the State, 1990-1993: Lessons for Today – Samuel Kramer, University of St. Andrews

“Quieter Than Water, Lower Than Grass”: On Silence in a Former Socialist Town in the Baltics – Marija Norkūnaitė, University of Oxford

The New Wave of Iconoclasm in the Post-Soviet Baltic States: Debates, Methods, Responses – Kristina van Kuyck, Dublin City University

043. BALTIC INDEPENDENCE IN 1918

History, Memory, Identity (Room 106)

Chair: Klaus Richter, University of Birmingham

Escaping the Prison: Experience of Latvian Prison Administration during Latvian War of Independence, 1919–1920 – *Aiga Berzina-Kite, University of Latvia*

The Lithuanian Council (Taryba) and the Mass Return of WWI Refugees to Lithuania in 1918 – *Tomas Balkelis, Lithuanian Institute of History*

Between the Lines: The Idea of a Latvian-Lithuanian State in Lithuanian-American Public Diplomacy, 1918–1919 – *James Montgomery Baxenfield, Tallinn University*

The Development of Naval Strategic Thought in the Estonian Navy, 1920–1940 – *Arto Oil, Estonian Maritime Museum*

044. MEDIA AS ARENA AND CHANGE AGENTS: TRANSFORMING THE CHARACTER OF INSTITUTIONS

Communication, Media, and Journalism (Room 220)

Chair: Halliki Harro-Loit, University of Tartu

Lithuanian Journalism in the Vortex of Economic Risks – *Deimantas Jastramskis, Vilnius University*

They Tried to Explain: The Latvian Government's Communication about Covid-19 and the Publics Assessment of It during the Three Waves of Covid-19 – *Mārtiņš Pričins, University of Latvia*

Institutionalization of Media and Communication Research in Smaller Countries in Europe – *Anda Rožukalne, Ragne Kõuts-Klemm, Zrinjka Peruško, Dina Vozab, Alnis Stakle, Ilva Skulte, Tobias Eberwein, Rīga Stradiņš University*

045. CHILD LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

Language Studies, Education, and Psychology (Room 104)

Chair: Tija Ziriņa, University of Liepāja

The Effect of Different Pedagogical Strategies on the Development of Metacognitive Self-Monitoring and Control Processes in 5-7-Year-Old Children – *Jelena Vildžiūnienė, Vytautas Magnus University; Ona Monkevičienė, Vytautas Magnus University*

Macrostructure and Microstructure Measures of Narratives in Young Lithuanian-Speaking Children – *Laura Kamandulytė-Merfeldienė, Ineta Dabašinskienė, Ingrida Balčiūnienė, Vytautas Magnus University*

Teaching Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders in Primary Schools in Israel and Lithuania: The Personalized Learning Approach – *Julija Grigėnaitė, Vytautas Magnus University; Stefanija Ališauskienė, Vytautas Magnus University; Yael Kimhi, Bar Ilan University*

Lithuanian Non-Word Repetition Test. Experimental study: Typical Language Development vs Developmental Language Disorder – *Eglė Krivickaitė-Leišienė, Vytautas Magnus University*

046. THE ROLE OF INTELLECTUALS, GROUPS, AND INSTITUTIONS UNDER CHANGING HISTORICAL CONTEXTS

Literature, Art, and Culture (Room 102)

Chair: *Miglė Munderzbakaitė*, Vytautas Magnus University

Rethinking Theater Identity in Wartime: The Case of Balys Sruoga – *Vitalija Truskauskaitė*, Vytautas Magnus University

Between East and West: Worldview and Cultural Priorities of Juozas Žilevičius – *Danutė Petrauskaitė*, Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre

Kaija Saariaho: A Composer of Many Semiospheres – *Benjamin Schweitzer*, University of Greifswald

Latvian Poet Imants Ziedonis: The Leader and Driving Force of a Long-Term Social Group – *Jānis Oga*, University of Latvia

047. SOCIOCULTURAL TRANSITIONS AND THEIR REPRESENTATION IN THE ARTS

Literature, Art, and Culture (Room 110)

Chair: *Liisi Esse*, Stanford University

Mythologizing Independence: Lithuania's Reverberating Singing Revolution and Generational Fissures Beyond the Post-Soviet Urge – *Živilė Arnašiūtė*, University of Chicago

“Rock March” Festivals in Photography: Rock Subculture and Symbolic Representation of Political Changes – *Tomas Pabedinskas*, Vytautas Magnus University

In Search of Identity: How and Why Traditional Baltic Culture Appears in Contemporary Music – *Eglė Gelažiūtė-Pranevičienė*, Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore

Folklore Revival in the World Tour of Latvian Folklore Ensemble “Mičotāji” – *Ilga Vālodze Ābele*, University of Latvia

048. POLITICS, MINORITIES, AND MEMORY IN THE BALTIC STATES

Migration, Diasporas, and Public Diplomacy (Room 312)

Chair: *Małgorzata Myśliwiec*, University of Silesia

Political Support Instruments and Policy Barriers to Migrants' Knowledge Transfer in Latvia – *Zane Melke*, University of Latvia

National Minorities in Political Discourse: Cases of Lithuania and Latvia – *Aistė Žemaitytė*, Vytautas Magnus University

War as the Content and Context: Museum Anthropological Fieldwork among the Russian-Speaking Veteran Mining Workers – *Terje Anepaio*, Estonian National Museum

Estonian Refugees and German-Language Refugees, 1933-1945. Embeddedness or Fruition in Scholarly Worlds and Multiple Representations of “the German University” – *Ragnar Björk*, Södertörn University

049. HISTORICAL PROFILES AND CURRENT EXPERIENCES

Anthropology, Sociology, and Religion (Room 002)

Chair: Jurga Bučaitė-Vilkė, Vytautas Magnus University

Ontological Security during Crisis and the Times of Change – *Ausrine Bremner*, Brooke House College

“And I Also Remember How People Were Tracked Back Then”: Experiences and Imaginaries of Surveillance in a Cross-Cultural and Generational Perspective – *Veronika Kalmus*, University of Tartu

Turning Points in Historical Narration: An Aristotelian Story about Latvians and Emotion – *Krista Anna Zalāne*, University of Greifswald

The Pious Muslim Women Finding Agency in Islam as Individuals, Wives, Mothers and Sisters in the Changing Baltic Societies – *Morta Vidūnaitė*, Vytautas Magnus University

SESSION 6

14:00 – 15:30

050. POST-HOLOCAUST ISSUES IN THE BALTICS

History, Memory, Identity (Room 311)

Chair: Linas Venclauskas, Vytautas Magnus University

Perceptions of the Holocaust East and West: Problems in the Case of Independent Lithuania – *Saulius Sužiedėlis*, Millersville University of Pennsylvania

Zellis and the Holocaust in Rēzekne, Latvia – *Peters Vecrumba*, Independent Scholar

Preservation of the Holocaust Memorial Sites in Latvia: Example of Latgale – *Kaspars Strods*, University of Latvia

Young People’s Attitudes, Visiting, and Information-Seeking Practices of Holocaust Sites in Latvia – *Diana Popova*, University of Latvia/ Latvian Academy of Culture

051. WORLD WAR I IN THE EASTERN BALTIC AREA (I)

History, Memory, Identity (Room 103)

Chair: Vasilijus Safronovas, Klaipėda University

Discussant: Mart Kuldkepp, University College London

New Land in the East: German Colonization Plans in the Baltic, 1914–1919 – *Ron Hellfritzsch*, Optical Museum Jena/ University of Greifswald

Encountering Heimat in Occupied Land: Cultural Perceptions, Front Experiences, and the German Military Administration in Latvia in 1915 – *Klāvs Zariņš*, University of Latvia/ Latvian War Museum

The Treaty of Brest-Litovsk and the Repatriation of East Prussian Deportees from Simbirsk during World War I – *Charles Perrin*, Georgia Gwinnett College
Supplying Lithuanian Army with Weapons at the Clashes of Interests between Entente and Germany in 1919-1920 – *Kęstutis Kilinskas*, Vilnius University

052. THEORIES AND PHILOSOPHIES IN BALTIC HISTORY-WRITING IN THE 21st CENTURY

History, Memory, Identity (Room 310)

Chair: Rytis Bulota, Vytautas Magnus University

Renegotiating the Value of Presentism – *Juhan Hellerma*, Tallinn University

Welcome to Twin Peaks: Writing History in the 21st Century – *Aurimas Švedas*, Vilnius University/ Lithuanian Institute of History

Ideas behind Latvian History-Writing in the 21st Century – *Edgars Engīzers*, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Latvia/ The College of Law/ University of Latvia

053. BOOK PRESENTATION

International Relations and Regional Security (Room 220)

Andžāns, M. and U. A. Bērziņa-Čerenkova. 2022. *China in the Baltic States – from a Cause of Hope to Anxiety*. Rīga Stradiņš University.

Discussant:

Giedrius Česnakas, General Jonas Žemaitis Military Academy of Lithuania

Participant:

Una Aleksandra Bērziņa-Čerenkova, Rīga Stradiņš University

054. LEXICOGRAPHY, ORTHOGRAPHY, AND ATTITUDES

Language Studies, Education, and Psychology (Room 104)

Chair: Laimute Balode, University of Helsinki/ University of Latvia

The First Edition of the Latvian Bible (1685-1694) – Changing the Principles of Orthography – *Pēteris Vanags*, Stockholm University/ University of Latvia

Bilingual Dictionary or Machine Translation? – *Aušra Valančiauskienė*, Vilnius University

Towards the Concept Construction: Image Component in a Latvian Concept ‘Mokas’ Structure – *Jekaterina Tasireva*, University of Latvia

Attitudes towards Personal Names in Latvia: Looking for a Turning Point – *Dace Strelēvica-Ošiņa*, Independent Scholar

Inclusive Language in Latvia: Recent Development and Attitude of Linguists and Language Users – *Aiga Veckalne*, Ventspils University of Applied Sciences

055. PERFORMANCE AND POLITICS

Literature, Art, and Culture (Room 102)

Chair: *Anneli Saro*, University of Tartu

Traviata as a Figure of Political Awareness in the Context of Lithuania – *Justina*

Paltanavičiūtė, Vilnius University

“I Am a Human, I Am Free”: Speaking of Freedom in Lithuanian Operas (1990–2022) – *Rasa*

Murauskaitė-Juškienė, University of Cambridge

Prose Dramatizations in Professional Theatres in Latvia: The 21st Century – *Evija Laganovska*,

University of Latvia

A Moving Target: Performance as a Tool of Socio-Political Activism. A Lithuanian Case –

Jurgita Staniškytė, Vytautas Magnus University

056. BALTIC GERMAN WOMEN’S CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE LOCAL CULTURAL PROCESSES IN THE 19th AND FIRST HALF OF THE 20th CENTURY

Literature, Art, and Culture (Room 313)

Chair: *Eva Eglāja-Kristsone*, University of Latvia

Women’s Participation in the Work of the Riga Art Society in the Late 19th and Early 20th Centuries – *Baiba Vanaga*, Rundāle Palace Museum

Baltic German Female Musicians in Latvia: Outside the Canon – *Ilze Šarkovska-Liepiņa*,

University of Latvia

Publicist Laura Marholm’s Contribution to the Discourse of Women’s Emancipation in the

Latvian German Press at the Turn of the 19th and 20th Centuries – *Rasa Pārpuce-Blauma*,

University of Latvia

Baltic German Women Between Two Cultures: The Translators of Latvian Fiction – *Māra*

Grudule, University of Latvia

057. TEACHERS’ LEADERSHIP IN DEVELOPING CURRICULUM FOR THE EDUCATION OF LEARNERS’ POLITICAL LITERACY COMPETENCES

Higher Education, Science Policy, and Knowledge Management (Room 312)

Chair: *Rasa Nedzinskaitė-Mačiūnienė*, Vytautas Magnus University

Teacher Leadership and Educational Policy – *Judita Kasperūnienė*, Vytautas Magnus University;

Vilma Žydžiūnaitė, Vytautas Magnus University

Curriculum Development within the Educational System and Policy – *Vilma Žydžiūnaitė*,

Vytautas Magnus University; *Lina Kaminskienė*, Vytautas Magnus University

Teacher Competences and Their Role in Educational Policy – *Vaida Jurgilė*, Vytautas Magnus

University; *Rasa Nedzinskaitė-Mačiūnienė*, Vytautas Magnus University

Political Literacy and Its Index in Relation to Teacher Training and Educational Policy –

Vilma Žydžiūnaitė, Vytautas Magnus University

**058. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION. Many Regions in the Baltic Sea Area
Higher Education, Science Policy, and Knowledge Management (Room 110)**

Chair: Emilija Pundziūtė-Gallois, Vytautas Magnus University

Participants:

Kazimierz Musiał, University of Gdańsk

Alexander Drost, University of Greifswald

Damian Szacawa, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin/ Institute of Central Europe

059. BOOK PRESENTATION

Anthropology, Sociology, and Religion (Room 002)

Kalmus, V., Lauristin, M., Opermann S., and T. Vihalemm (Eds.). 2020. *Researching Estonian Transformation: Morphogenetic Reflections*. Tartu University Press.

Discussants:

Veronika Kalmus, University of Tartu

Signe Opermann, University of Tartu

SESSION 7

16:00 – 17:30

060. WORLD WAR I IN THE EASTERN BALTIC AREA (II)

History, Memory, Identity (Room 103)

Chair: Charles Perrin, Georgia Gwinnett College

Discussant: Halina Parafianowicz, University of Białystok

Controversy among Politicians over the Building of the Lithuanian State during the First World War and its Long-Lasting Impact – *Vasilijus Safronovas*, Klaipėda University

Bolshevism in Estonia, 1917-1919 – *Olavi Arens*, Georgia Southern University

The Repatriation of Estonian Prisoners of War during the Estonian War of Independence – *Mart Kuldkepp*, University College London

Romanian Foreign Policy and the Construction of the Baltic Region in the Early 1920s – *Silviu Miloiu*, Valahia University of Targoviste

061. COLONIAL LEGACY (II)

History, Memory, Identity (Room 310)

Chair: Rosario Napolitano, Riga Technical University/ Art Academy of Latvia

The Meaning of May 9 in the Baltic States after February 24, 2022 – *Tomas Kavaliauskas*, Vytautas Magnus University

The Memory of Pride in the Narratives of Post-Communist Transformation in Lithuania –
Jogilė Ulinskaitė, Vilnius University

Western Tools Short of War: Impact Assessment of Selected Use Cases in Ukraine –
Eglė Murauskaitė, University of Maryland

Afghanistan War (1979-1989). Veterans Community in Post-Soviet Lithuania –
Gabija Strumylaitė, Vilnius University

062. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION. Resistance and Collaboration in 20th-Century Latvia: Toward a New Biography of Vilis Samsons

History, Memory, Identity (Room 311)

Chair: Matthew Kott, Uppsala University

Participants:

Mike Loader, University of Glasgow

Paula Oppermann, University of Munich

Harry Merritt, Brown University

063. EMERGENT DIGITAL DISCOURSES: NEW INSIGHTS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Communication, Media, and Journalism (Room 220)

Chair: Jūratė Ruzaitė, Vytautas Magnus University

**The Energy Trilemma in the Baltic Sea Region: A Methodology for an Index Assessing the
Discursive Environment of Energy Security, Energy Equity and Environmental Sustainability**
– *Judith Kärn*, University of Greifswald; *Vineta Kleinberga*, Rīga Stradiņš University

The Role of Emojis in Multimodal Posts on Social Networks –
Sintija Ķauķīte, University of Latvia

**Partnered Latvian and US students in Media Studies – Changing Enthusiasm for
International Online Collaborations –**
Liene Ločmele, *Barbara Ruth Burke*, Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences/ UMass-Amherst/ University of Minnesota-Morris

064. BOOK PRESENTATION

Language Studies, Education, and Psychology (Room 104)

Von Carlsburg, G.-B. and G. Kvieskienė (Eds.). 2022. *Prototype Modelling in Social-Emotional Education: At the Example of a COVID-19 Online Learning Environment*. Berlin: Peter Lang.

Discussants:

Alvyra Galkienė, Vytautas Magnus University

Stefanija Ališauskienė, Vytautas Magnus University

Participants:

Nijolė Čiučiulkienė, Vytautas Magnus University

Iлона Tandzegolskienė, Vytautas Magnus University

Giedrė Kvieskienė, Vytautas Magnus University

065. “DO NOT FORGET, YOU ARE NOT IN LITHUANIA” (“Nepamiršk, čia jums ne Lietuva”)

Literature, Art, and Culture (Room 102)

A Visual and Musical Performance about a Child’s Experience Growing Up in Siberia – artists *Martha Thomas*, Seattle, WA; *Gabija Vačekonytė*, Vytautas Magnus University

Discussant: Daina Klimauskaitė, writer (Kaunas, Lithuania)

066. **TRAUMAS, MEMORIES, AND CONFLICTS**

Literature, Art, and Culture (Room 312)

Chair: Laima Vince Sruoginis, University of Southern Maine

Shared Memory in Inara Strungs’ Novel *Sydney Via Siberia* – *Ingrida Žindžiuvienė*, Vytautas Magnus University

Translations of Aspazija’s Poetry into Russian in Inessa Latysheva’s Book *Солнце с нами* – *Andrejs Daņiļins*, University of Latvia

Changes in Literature Adaptation: Between Dialogue and Conflict – *Miglė Munderzbakaitė*, Vytautas Magnus University

067. **ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION. On the Boundary of Two Worlds – Legacy and New Perspectives**

Anthropology, Sociology, and Religion (Room – Leonidas Donskis Library)

Chair: Jörg Hackmann, University of Szczecin

Participants:

Kristina Jõekalda, Estonian Academy of Arts

Andres Kasekamp, Toronto University

Dainius Genys, Vytautas Magnus University

068. **BOOK PRESENTATION**

International Relations and Regional Security (Room 106)

Česnakas, G. and J. Juozaitis (Eds.). 2023. *European Strategic Autonomy and Small States’ Security in the Shadow of Power*. London-New York: Routledge

Discussant: Dovilė Budrytė, Georgia Gwinnett College

Participants:

Giedrius Česnakas, Ieva Gajauskaitė, Gerda Jakštaitė-Confortola, Justinas Juozaitis, Ieva Karpavičiūtė, General Jonas Žemaitis Military Academy of Lithuania

069. **BOOK PRESENTATION**

Higher Education, Science Policy, and Knowledge Management (Room 110)

Kaminskienė, L., Žydzūnaitė, V. and V. Jurgilė (Eds.). 2022. *Teacher Leadership: Learning, Teaching and Leading. Experiences of Teachers and School Administration*. Frankfurt/ Bern/ New York: Peter Lang.

Discussant: *Inga Minelgaitė*, University of Iceland/ Honorary Consul of Lithuania in Iceland,
Visiting Professor at the University of Johannesburg

Participants:

Vilma Žydžiūnaitė, Vytautas Magnus University

Vaida Jurgilė, Vytautas Magnus University

Rasa Nedzinskaitė-Mačiūnienė, Vytautas Magnus University

Nijolė Putrienė, Lithuanian Ministry of Education, Research and Sports

070. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION. The Impact of the Russia-Ukraine War on Right-Wing Populism in the Baltic States

International Law, Economics, and Political Studies (Room 106)

Chair: Matthew Kott, Uppsala University

Participants:

Daunis Auers, University of Latvia

Andres Kasekamp, Toronto University

Mindaugas Jurkynas, Vytautas Magnus University

071. EDUCATION DURING TRANSFORMATION TIMES: EXPERIMENTS OF THE 20th AND THE 21st CENTURIES

History, Memory, Identity (Room 311)

Chair: Giedrius Kviklys, Vytautas Magnus University

The First Belarusian State Gymnasium in Daugavpils in Its Early Years (1922-1927) – Tomasz Blaszczyk, Vytautas Magnus University

School for Democracy: Cooperation Movement as a Platform for Democratic Opposition in Estonia in 1934–1940 – Liisi Veski, University of Tartu/ University of Glasgow

Seeking a Sustainable Proliferation of AI in the Creative Industries: An Exploration of CSR and ESG Measures – Julija Kalpokienė, Vytautas Magnus University

How Not to Lose Yourself in Times of Uncertainty in Higher Education? In Search of a Researcher's Identity – Marius Daugėla, Vytautas Magnus University; Vilma Žydzūnaitė, Vytautas Magnus University

072. REGIONAL ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC DISPARITIES IN THE BALTIC STATES IN 100 YEARS (I)

History, Memory, Identity (Room 110)

Chair: Gatis Krūmiņš, Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences

Regional Economic Productivity Disparities in the Inter-War and Restored Independent Latvia: A Cross-Time Comparison – Ola Honningdal Grytten, Norwegian School of Economics; Jurgita Markevičiūtė, Vilnius University; Zenonas Norkus, Vilnius University

Perceptions and Attempted Solutions to Regional Disparities in Inter-War Latvia: The Case of Latgale Region – Jānis Šiliņš, Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences

Demographic Trends in Latvian Regions in the Inter-War Period – Ilmārs Mežs, Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences

073. MEDIA HISTORIES, TIMELINE, AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: PERCEPTIONS OF CHANGE

Communication, Media, and Journalism (Room 220)

Chair: Jaq Greenspon, Vytautas Magnus University

Formation of Advertising in the Latvian Press from 1822 to 1839 – *Gunta Ločmele, University of Latvia*

Indiana Dream – Outdoor Advertising Culture in Lithuania – *Mindaugas Kavaliauskas, Vytautas Magnus University*

A chapter in Latvian Cinema History: The Process of Cinefication (1940-1941; 1944-1953) –

Rosario Napolitano, Riga Technical University/ Art Academy of Latvia; Epp Lauk, Vytautas Magnus University/ University of Tartu

074. FEMINISM AND ITS CULTURAL REPRESENTATIONS

Literature, Art, and Culture (Room 102)

Chair: Rūta Eidukevičienė, Vytautas Magnus University

Waves of Feminism in Islam as a Woman's Search for Identity – *Inese Davidsons, University of Latvia*

Spatial Autobiography and Bildungsroman in Latvian Women Writing – *Zita Kārkle, University of Latvia; Eva Eglāja-Kristsons, University of Latvia*

Beauty and the Beast: The Case of Medusa – *Dina Eiduka, University of Latvia*

075. COMMUNITIES AND CITIES

Anthropology, Sociology, and Religion (Room 312)

Chair: Paul Draus, University of Michigan-Dearborn

When Symbolic Border Becomes a Real One: A Regional Identity in Southeastern Lithuania – *Vidmantas Vyšniauskas, Vytautas Magnus University*

Anchoring the Šančiai Identity to the Nature in the Neighbourhood – “The Only Untouched Nature in the City” – *Mykolė Lukošienė, Vytautas Magnus University*

Affective Contradictions in the Making of a City of Literature: The Case of Vilnius – *Vaiva Aglinskas, Graduate Center CUNY/ Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore*

The Notion of Territorial Capital and Location: Implementation of Childcare Policy in Rural Municipality in Lithuania – *Jurga Bučaitė-Vilkė, Vytautas Magnus University*

076. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND BEHAVIOR OF ORGANIZATIONS

Environment, Resources, and Sustainability (Room 313)

Chair: Vaiva Kazanavičiūtė, Vytautas Magnus University

Measurement of Corporate Sustainability Maturity of Organisations Based in Lithuania – *Joana Ramanauskaitė, Kaunas University of Technology*

Intentions Towards Pro-Environmental Behaviour Concerning Household Waste Management Practices: The Perspective of Social Cognitive Theory – *Agnese Davidsons*, Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences; *Linda Veliverronena*, Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences

Common Sense in the Competing Discourses of Nature in Contemporary Latvia – *Artis Svece*, University of Latvia

077. MUSEUM PRACTICES AS MEMORY WORK

Digital Humanities, Museums, and Libraries (Room 104)

Chair: Ene Kõresaar, University of Tartu

How to Remember? Memory Mediation in Baltic Museums – *Linara Dovydaitytė*, Vytautas Magnus University/ University of Tartu

Dark Heritage in Tallinn: Memory Narratives at Museums of Soviet and Nazi Repression – *Margaret Comer*, University College London/ Tallinn University

Curator as a Mnemonic Agent: How Baltic Curators Position Themselves in the Field of Remembering – *Ene Kõresaar*, University of Tartu

The Position and Practice of Baltic History Museums in the Collecting Work – *Jana Reidla*, University of Tartu

SESSION 9

11:00 – 12:30

078. TRAUMA, MEMORY, IDENTITY

History, Memory, Identity (Room 311)

Chair: Bradley Woodworth, University of New Haven/ Yale University

“You Are Expelled...”: Female Students Offenses in the Study Process of the University of Latvia (1919–1940) – *Zane Rozīte*, University of Latvia/ National Library of Latvia

Women Thinking about Women’s Rights and Opportunities in Estonia between 1905 and 1914 – *Janet Laidla*, University of Tartu

Estonian State Propaganda's Policies Regarding Minority Groups in Estonia and Latvia During the Silent Era (1934–1940) – *Marju Meschin*, Estonian Institute of Historical Memory

Reworking Trauma: Ignas Šeinius’ *Raudonasis tvanas* – *Audronė Raškauskienė*, Vytautas Magnus University

079. CONTEMPORARY BALTIC IDENTITY, FOREIGN POLICY, AND POLITICS OF MEMORY

History, Memory, Identity (Room 103)

Chair: Kazimierz Musiał, University of Gdańsk

Illiberal Democracy and Conservative Nationalism: The Eastern European Destiny? – *Rytis Bulota*, Vytautas Magnus University

Constructing European Values as Cultural Heritage: Citizens' Perspective – *Sigrid Kaasik-Krogerus*, University of Helsinki

“Baltic Identity” and Lithuanian Foreign Policy – *Katażyna Berštanska*, University of Warsaw

Guiding Jewish Latvia after 1991: Social Transformations, Private Challenges, and Reshaping of Memories – *Inese Runce*, University of Latvia; *Aija van der Steina*, University of Latvia

080. POST-SOVIET TRANSFORMATION (I)

History, Memory, Identity (Room 101)

Chair: Viesturs Rasnacis, Latvian War Museum/ University of Latvia

Military Security of the Baltic States after the Collapse of the Soviet Union: The Case of the Republic of Latvia (1991–1994) – *Viesturs Rasnacis*, Latvian War Museum/ University of Latvia

Lessons from the Baltic Countries' NATO Path – *Natia Latsabidze*, Tbilisi Technical University

Decolonization of Law? Crime and the Criminal Justice System's Transformation in Post-Soviet Lithuania – *Monika Rogers*, Lithuanian Institute of History

081. BETWEEN “COMMUNIST MORALITY” AND THE POST-SOCIALIST “TRADITIONAL FAMILY” DISCOURSE: GENDER, SEXUALITY, CHILDREN

History, Memory, Identity (Room 310)

Chair: Rasa Kamarauskaitė, University College London

Juveniles of “Immoral Lifestyle” in Soviet Lithuania: Cases, Stories, and Punishments – *Ieva Balčiūnė*, Lithuanian Institute of History

Homophobia as Positive Eugenics: From “Communist Morality” to Post-Socialist Right-Wing Discourses – *Rasa Navickaitė*, University of Vienna

Anti-Genderism in Right-Wing and Russian Propaganda and Their Usage of Sex Education Discourse in Lithuania – *Akvilė Giniota*, Vilnius University

Bad Feelings of Far-Right Masculinity in Lithuania – *Artūras Tereškinas*, Vytautas Magnus University

082. REGIONAL ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC DISPARITIES IN THE BALTIC STATES IN 100 YEARS (II)

History, Memory, Identity (Room 110)

Chair: Zenonas Norkus, Vilnius University

The Financial Policy of the USSR in the Baltics after the Second World War (1945 - 1950): Non-Existent Investments – *Gatis Krūmiņš*, Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences

Estimating the GDP of Soviet Lithuania (1940-1989) – *Adomas Klimantas*, Vilnius University/
Oxford University

Regional Differences in Latvian Agricultural Productivity after the Second World War (1945-1950) – *Baiba Kļaviņa*, Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences

083. ACCOUNTABILITY-FOCUSED APPROACH TO DIGITAL COMMUNICATION: TECHNOLOGIES AND HUMAN VULNERABILITIES

Communication, Media, and Journalism (Room 220)

Chair: Kristina Juraitė, Vytautas Magnus University

“Journalists Play Important Roles, but We Can Live without Them”. The Journalists’ Self-Conceptions vs Audiences’ Perceptions of Journalists’ Professional Roles – *Anda Rožukalne*, Rīga Stradiņš University

Accountability Gap: Social Media Platforms as Arbiters of the Public Sphere – *Ignas Kalpokas*, Vytautas Magnus University

The Social Obligations of Influencers in the Context of the War in Ukraine – *Marija Vorkule*, University of Latvia

Learning about Passive and Active Resilience Outcomes and Prospects in a Small State – *Auksė Balčytienė*, Vytautas Magnus University; *Kristina Juraitė*, Vytautas Magnus University

084. RUSSIAN AGGRESSION IN UKRAINE AND ITS INFLUENCE FOR NEW UNDERSTANDING OF GLOBAL SECURITY, NATIONAL THREATS, AND CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

International Relations and Regional Security (Room 106)

Chair: Tomasz Stepniewski, John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Institute of Central Europe

How Societal Resilience Supports National Security: Learning from Ukraine – *Oleksandra Keudel*, Kyiv School of Economics

Russia’s Containment Strategy during Biden’s Presidency and Its Implications to the Baltic States: Old Wine in New Bottles? – *Gerda Jakštaitė-Confortola*, General Jonas Žemaitis Military Academy of Lithuania

Lithuanian and Ukrainian Constitutionalism: Two Perspectives – *Vaidotas Vaičaitis*, Vilnius University

Ukraine War and Baltic Sea Region: An Indian Perspective – *Akanksha Singh*, Sri Guru Gobind Singh College, Punjab University

085. BALTIC MUSIC OF CHANGES AFTER THE 1990s (I)

Literature, Art, and Culture (Room 102)

Chair: Lauma Mellēna-Bartkeviča, Jāzeps Vītols Latvian Academy of Music

“One World, One Future”: Musical Exchange and Utopian Longing on the Transit Riga-Berlin, 1987–1992 – *Kevin C. Karnes*, Emory University

Lithuanian Music in Transition: From and After the Post-Soviet Condition – *Rūta Stanevičiūtė*, Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre

From New Festivals to New Opera – *Vita Gruodytė*, Independent Scholar

086. GENERATION RESEARCH

Anthropology, Sociology, and Religion (Room 312)

Chair: Jurga Bučaitė-Vilkė, Vytautas Magnus University

Lithuanian Students' Values in Contemporary Insecure Times – *Rasa Račiūnaitė-Paužuolienė*, Vytautas Magnus University

Family Structure and Wealth in 19th Century Lithuania: Findings from the Historical Demography Research – *Irma Dirsytė*, Lithuanian Centre for Social Sciences

The Arrangement(s) of Life Events in Contemporary Baltic Countries: The Occurred and Desired Transition to Adulthood Analysis – *Apolonijus Žilys*, Vytautas Magnus University

Intergenerational Communication of Values in Latvia: Qualitative Research Results – *Ilze Kacane*, Daugavpils University

087. TRANSFORMING CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE BALTICS

Digital Humanities, Museums, and Libraries (Room 104)

Chair: Jurgita Staniškytė, Vytautas Magnus University

Social Media Usage in Museums after the Pandemic: Thematic Analysis on Facebook Posts by the Lithuanian National and State Museums – *Aya Kimura*, Mejiro University

The Influence of Social Democrats in the Library Sector during the Parliamentary Period of the Independent Republic of Latvia: The Example of Liepāja City Library – *Jana Dreimane*, National Library of Latvia

Intersections and Parallel Paths: 6 Lithuanian Diaspora Cultural Memory Institutions in Today's Landscape – *Ramunė Kubilius*, Northwestern University/ Independent Scholar

SESSION 10

14:00 – 15:30

088. INTER-WAR PERIOD IN LITHUANIA

History, Memory, Identity (Room 311)

Chair: Donatas Kupčiūnas, University of Cambridge

“We Will Not Allow the Destruction of Our Vilnelė! [River]” – The Meanings of Nature Protection in Vilnius between the World Wars – *Viktorija Kurienė*, Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania

The Polish Ultimatum to Lithuania in the Spring of 1938 in Romanian Diplomatic Reports and Analyses – *Bogdan Alexandru Schipor*, Romanian Academy

Western Ukraine in 1921-1939 in Lithuanian Historiography – *Karolis Laurinavičius*, Vytautas Magnus University

Sport as National Identity during the Inter-War Period (1918-1940) in Lithuania – *Renata Rachmanovaitė*, Vytautas Magnus University

089. POST-SOVIET TRANSFORMATION (II)

History, Memory, Identity (Room 101)

Chair: Jörg Hackmann, University of Szczecin

A Baltic Tiger Teaches Abroad: Estonian Exportation of Neoliberal Thought, 1985-2008 – *Kevin Axe*, Free University of Berlin

Estonia's Decolonial Nation-Building in the Late 1980s: Neoliberal Revolutionaries – *Epp Annus*, Tallinn University

Political Trust, the Unity of 'The People', and Democratic Identity Construction in Latvia: A Reassessment – *Lelde Luik*, Södertörn University

090. IDENTITY OF KAUNAS FROM HISTORICAL AND MODERN PERSPECTIVES

History, Memory, Identity (Room 310)

Chair: Egidijus Balandis, Vytautas Magnus University

The Influence of the Nobility on Kaunas City in the Second Half of the 16th Century - the First Half of the 17th Century – *Ričardas Jaramičius*, Vytautas Magnus University

Legacy of Kaunas 2022: Co-Creating European Cultural Identity Narrative – *Donata Bocullo*, Vytautas Magnus University

Shock and Solidarity: The Temporary Transformation of the Urban Landscape of Kaunas in the Wake of the Russian Invasion of Ukraine in the Spring of 2022 – *Nicola Belli*, Kaunas University of Technology

091. GERMAN SETTLEMENT COLONIALISM IN THE BALTICS IN POSTCOLONIAL PERSPECTIVES

History, Memory, Identity (Room 110)

Chair: Tim Buchen, TU Dresden

Colonial Discourse and German Peasants in Estonian and Baltic German News Media (1900-1939) – *Kaisa Langer*, TU Dresden

The Making of the Russian-German Settler. Colonists, Refugees, and POWs as Pioneers for German Expansion – *Tim Buchen*, TU Dresden

The "Bermondts Adventure". Colonialist Ideas and Dynamics in the Civil War in the Baltics 1919 – *Thomas Rettig*, University of Greifswald

092. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION. Urban Collective Action around Public and Green Spaces

Anthropology, Sociology, and Religion (Room 002)

Chairs: Paul Draus, University of Michigan-Dearborn; Jūratė Imbrasaitė, Vytautas Magnus University

Participants:

*Ed Carroll, Žemieji Šančiai community
Vita Gélūnienė, Žemieji Šančiai community
Evelina Šimkutė, Kultūros dirbtuvė
Jūratė Tutlytė, Vytautas Magnus University*

**093. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION. Machines with a Human Touch: Conversation-Based Solutions for Chatbot User Experience Enhancement
Communication, Media, and Journalism (Room 220)**

Chair: Igors Gubenko, University of Latvia

Participants:

*Normunds Grūzītis, University of Latvia
Aleksandrs Aleksandrovs, University of Latvia
Marta Valdmane, University of Latvia*

094. OLD AND NEW CHALLENGES FOR GLOBAL, AMERICAN, AND EUROPEAN SECURITY

International Relations and Regional Security (Room 106)

Chair: Giedrius Česnakas, General Jonas Žemaitis Military Academy of Lithuania

The Implications of Russia's War on Ukraine for Baltic Security and the Future of Transatlantic Peace – *Ginta Palubinskas, West Virginia State University*

When Crises Unite. Changing Party Positions on Foreign Policy during National Threats – *Christina Stremming, University of Greifswald*

The Turning Point in German Foreign and Security Policy? – *Justinas Juozaitis, General Jonas Žemaitis Military Academy of Lithuania*

Danish Exile Diplomacy during WWII: Lessons for Belarus – *Lizaveta Dubinka-Hushcha, European Humanities University*

095. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION. Baltic States, the Baltic Sea Region, and New Security Challenges in Flux

International Relations and Regional Security (Room 103)

Chairs: Aleksandra Kuczyńska-Zonik, Tomasz Stepniewski, John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Institute of Central Europe

Presenters:

George Soroka, Harvard University

Mariusz Antonowicz, Vilnius University
Zdzisław Śliwa, Baltic Defence College

096. MEDIA, TRUST CHALLENGE, AND JUSTICE

Anthropology, Sociology, and Religion (Room 313)

Chair: Emilija Pundziūtė-Gallois, Vytautas Magnus University

Security vs Civil Liberties: Dynamics of Public Opinion in Lithuania – *Diana Janušauskienė, Lithuanian Centre for Social Sciences*

Trust in Conspiracy Theories in Lithuania – *Arvydas Grišinas, Kaunas University of Technology; Ainius Lašas, Kaunas University of Technology*

Is Energy Justice Theory Applied for the Rights of Electricity Customers: A Case Study of Lithuania – *Saulė Milčiuvienė, Vytautas Magnus University; Julija Kiršienė, Vytautas Magnus University*

097. BALTIC MUSIC OF CHANGES AFTER THE 1990s (II)

Literature, Art, and Culture (Room 102)

Chair: Rūta Stanevičiūtė, Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre

Learning the “New Rules of the Game”: Social Change in the Early 1990s in the Narratives of Estonian Jazz Musicians – *Heli Reimann, Tallinn University*

The Prior Mainstream in the New Reality: Aesthetic Landmarks in the Academic Music of Latvian Composers during the Last Thirty Years – *Jānis Kudiņš, Jāzeps Vītols Latvian Academy of Music*

Breaking Soviet Canons: Changes in Opera Staging Aesthetics in Latvia in the Late 1990s and the Turn of the Millennium – *Lauma Mellēna-Bartkeviča, Jāzeps Vītols Latvian Academy of Music*

098. SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Environment, Resources, and Sustainability (Room 312)

Chair: Joana Ramanauskaitė, Kaunas University of Technology

Impact of Land Use Changes for Climate Change Mitigation Goals – *Vaiva Kazanavičiūtė, Vytautas Magnus University; Renata Dagiliūtė, Vytautas Magnus University*

Organic Granular Fertilizers from Bio-Waste for Sustainable Agriculture and Environment – *Eglė Jotautienė, Ramūnas Mioldažys, Raimonda Zinkevičienė, Vaidas Bivainis, Aloyzas Gaudutis, Vytautas Magnus University*

The Society Itself Has Not Yet Figured Out What It Wants: Nature Values of Gauja National Park Inhabitants – *Karina Ješkina, University of Latvia*

099. DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE WARS**History, Memory, Identity (Room 103)***Chair: Egidijus Balandis, Vytautas Magnus University***Between Experimental Internationalism and Old Diplomacy: The Vilnius Dispute in the League of Nations, 1920-1923** – *Donatas Kupčiūnas, University of Cambridge***“The Key to the Russian Problem Is in the Baltic States”:** The Ties between Lithuanian Agency and American National Interests from 1917 to 1940 and Its Impact on Today’s Geopolitics – *Mallory Needleman, American University***The Baltic Entente in Romanian Diplomatic Reports** – *Andreea Dahlquist, Romanian Association for Baltic and Nordic Studies***The Cooperation of Baltic Diaspora(s) in the USA: Lithuanian Citizen Diplomacy in the Cold War Politics** – *Giedrius Janauskas, Vytautas Magnus University***100. OPPOSITIONAL AGENCY IN LATE SOVIET LATVIA****History, Memory, Identity (Room 311)***Chair: Matthew Kott, Uppsala University**Discussant: Saulius Grybkauskas, Lithuanian Institute of History***Latvians in Severomorsk in 1960: Spreading Pro-Independence Ideas while Doing Military Service in the Soviet Army** – *Daina Bleiere, University of Latvia***“A Deliberate Act of Deceit”?** Television Editor Freinberga vs Latvian Glavlit in 1970 – *Toms Zariņš, University of Latvia***Breaking Frame: A Contemporary Man and the Party Apparatus in the Cultural Discourse of Late Soviet Latvia** – *Mārtiņš Kaprāns, University of Latvia***101. DEFENSE STRATEGIES OF SMALL STATES IN THE FACE OF RUSSIAN AGGRESSION****International Law, Economics, and Political Studies (Room 106)***Chair: Dovydas Rogulis, General Jonas Žemaitis Military Academy of Lithuania***Strategies of Small States: From Political Discourse to Doubtful Securitization** – *Dovydas Rogulis, General Jonas Žemaitis Military Academy of Lithuania***Defence of the Small States in the Initial Stage of the War: Lessons from Russia’s Invasion in Ukraine 2022** – *Giedrius Česnakas, General Jonas Žemaitis Military Academy of Lithuania***Comparative Analysis of Recent Military Strategies of the Baltic States** – *Andželika Blinovaitė, General Jonas Žemaitis Military Academy of Lithuania***Achieving Security through International Institutions: Baltic States and NATO’s Military Presence** – *Justinas Juozaitis, General Jonas Žemaitis Military Academy of Lithuania*

102. BOOK PRESENTATION

Communication, Media, and Journalism (Room 220)

Kalpokas, I. and J. Kalpokienė. 2023. *Regulating the Metaverse: A Critical Assessment*. New York: Routledge.

Discussant: *Donata Bocullo*, Vytautas Magnus University

Presenters: *Ignas Kalpokas, Julija Kalpokienė*, Vytautas Magnus University

103. BALTIC COUNTRIES AND NEW PARTNERSHIPS: VALUES ABOVE PRAGMATISM?

International Relations and Regional Security (Room 110)

Chair: *Una Aleksandra Bērziņa-Čerenkova*, Riga Stradins University

Transforming Baltic Networks into Hard Power – *Nathan Colvin*, Old Dominion University

What Is Behind the Lithuanian Decision to Open Up the Taiwanese Representative Office? – *Danguolė Bardauskaitė*, General Jonas Žemaitis Military Academy of Lithuania

China as a Geopolitical Factor in Lithuania's National Security – *Jiabin Song*, Vytautas Magnus University

Baltic States and Central Asia: Challenges and Perspectives for Cooperation – *Giedrius Kviklys*, Vytautas Magnus University

104. THE ARTISTIC AND SOCIAL POTENTIAL OF PERFORMATIVE TRANSGRESSIONS

Literature, Art, and Culture (Room 102)

Chair: *Jurgita Staniškytė*, Vytautas Magnus University

Sexuality and Transgression of Gaze in Theatre – *Anneli Saro*, University of Tartu

Early Modern Dance and Transgression. The Case of Elmerice Parts and Herman Kolt-Oginsky – *Anne-Liis Maripuu*, University of Tartu

Deconstructing Toxic Nationalism by Using the Symbols of Nationalism – *Hedi-Liis Toome*, University of Tartu

Discussing Suicide: Theatre That Does (Not?) Make Change – *Monika Jašinskaitė*, University of Tartu

105. MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY SOCIETIES

Anthropology, Sociology, and Religion (Room 313)

Chair: *Rasa Navickaitė*, University of Vienna

Adaptation Strategies for Recovering Addicts: “Wow, I Like My Life So Much Now” But “I Remember Who I Am Every Day” – *Juozapa Živilė Mieliauskaitė*, Vytautas Magnus University

Everything Is Getting Better and Better (But Not Fast Enough): Imagining the Past, Present, and Future of LGBTQ+ Friendly Lithuania – *Rasa Kamarauskaitė*, University College London

Entangled Modernity: Between the Project of Soviet Modernity and the Modern Society –
Vylius Leonavičius, Vytautas Magnus University

Revisiting Baltic Austerity Politics: The Buried Panoramas of Struggle and Resistance –
Jokubas Salyga, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

CONFERENCE LOGISTICS

The entire conference program will proceed at Vytautas Magnus University. Most conference events will be held at two locations, a 5-minute walk apart. A few other relevant venues are indicated below:

V. Putvinskio 23

All the Academic Sessions will be held here, including the Registration/ Information Desk (lobby), most of the Coffee Breaks (3rd and 4th floor), the Bookshop, and two exhibitions. *Leonidas Donskis Library* is also located in this building.

You will find relaxing terraces on the ground, third, and fourth floors to have coffee or chat with a colleague (June 15-17).

The schedule of the Bookshop (2nd floor) is as follows:

Kolibris

Thursday (June 15): 10.00-16.00

Friday (June 16): 10.00-16.00

Saturday (June 17): 10.00-14.00

<https://www.kolibrioknygos.lt/>

VMU Publishing Center

Friday (June 16): 8.30-14.00

<https://leidyba.vdu.lt/en/home/>

S. Daukanto 28, Great Hall

The Welcome address, both Plenaries, a Coffee Break sponsored by the JBS, and a Film screening and discussion of *Mariupolis 2* will be held here (June 15 and 16). R. Požerskis' exhibition is displayed in this building as well.

Karaliaus Mindaugo 50, Žalgiris Arena

Closing remarks, the Reception and a Concert by NICO will take place at this venue, at the restaurant SALA. The arena is named after a well-known legendary Lithuanian / Kaunas basketball team. The place is around a 20-min walk from V. Putvinskio 23.

K. Donelaičio 41, Kolibris

It is a small, independent bookshop in Kaunas, founded in 2021, focused on academic literature and independent publishers from Lithuania. It features a small selection of English and French books as well. Books will be sold on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday (June 15-17) at Putvinskio 23. You can also visit the bookshop during your stay in Kaunas.

Important information:

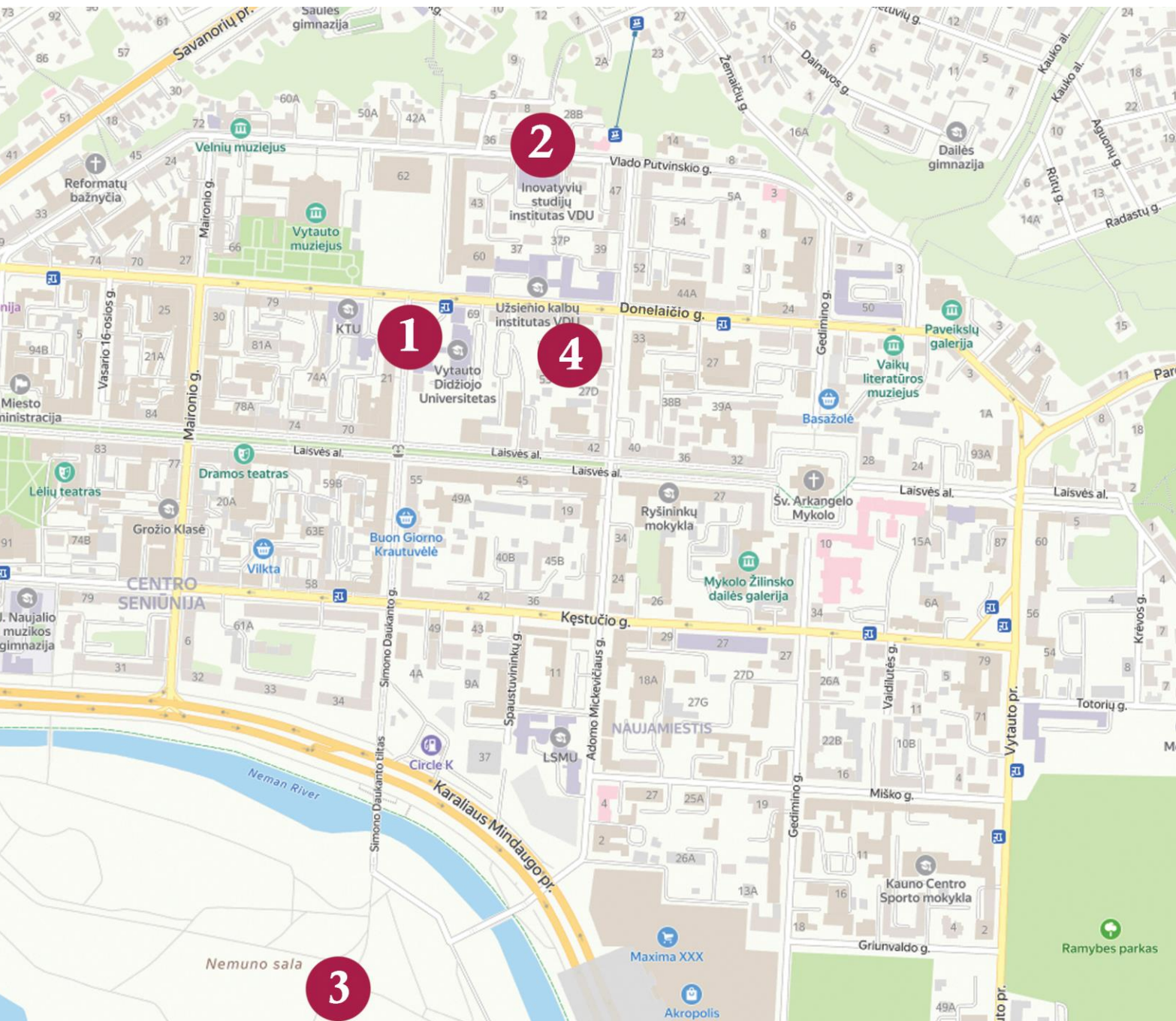
Free WIFI is available.

Please connect as: vdu-guest

Password: vdu-2023

For most European academics, we suggest using eduroam.

MAP OF VMU CAMPUS AND OTHER LOCATIONS



1. **VMU Great Hall**, S. Daukanto str. 28
2. **VMU Faculty of Humanities**, V. Putvinskio str. 23
3. **Restaurant Sala**, Karaliaus Mindaugo str. 50
4. **Bookshop Kolibris**, K. Donelaičio str. 41