

THE PAST AND FUTURE OF PUBLIC HISTORY

Vilnius, 9–11 October 2025

Venue: **Institute of International Relations and Political Science of Vilnius University (IIRPS VU)**,
10 Vokiečių street, Vilnius

Note: Conference registration will take place on both days from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm on the ground floor.

DAY 1 – OCTOBER 9

8.30 – 9.00	Room 401	Welcome coffee
9.00 – 9.30	Room 402	Welcome addresses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Artūras Vasiliauskas (Vilnius University) · Margarita Šešelgytė (Vilnius University) · Violeta Davoliūtė (Vilnius University / Lithuanian Institute of History)
9.30 – 10.30	Room 402	Keynote speech <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Jan Kubik (Rutgers University), <i>Says who? Ideological and political policing in history-making and collective memory entrepreneurship</i> Moderator: Barbara Törnquist-Plewa (Lund University)
10.30 – 10.45	Room 401	Coffee break
10.45 – 12.15	Room 402 Online	Narratives and Agency in Public History <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Joella van Donkersgoed (University of Luxembourg), <i>Embracing Polyvocality and Uncertainty Through Public History Practices</i> [online] · Marko Demantowsky (University of Vienna), <i>MELPAUMENE. About Monument Practices: Heuristics, Methods, Observations</i> · Cira Pallí-Asperó (Ghent University), <i>State Sanctioned Narratives: The Institutionalization of Historical Commissions as Public History</i> Chair: Dovilė Budrytė (Vilnius University / Georgia Gwinnett College / Vytautas Magnus University)
10.45 – 12.15	Room 302 Online	Identity and Representation of a Difficult Past <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Lea Garcia (University of Greifswald), <i>Narrative Diversity in Museum Representations of the Soviet Past</i> [online] · Barbara Pavlek Löbl (University of Vienna), <i>Uncomfortable Memory: Remembrance of the NS Past at the Gates of Wachau</i> [online] · Eveline Buchheim, Ralf Futselaar (NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies), <i>Truth on Demand? Commissioned Research at the State Institute for War Documentation 1945 – 2025: the Case of the National Railway Company</i> Chair: Rūta Vyšniauskaitė (Vilnius University)
12.15 – 13.15	Room 401	Lunch break

13.15 – 14.45	Room 402	<p>Cemeteries, Mass Graves and Mine fields as European Memory Sites: Creating, Experiencing and Reshaping the Legacy of the WWII in Past and Present</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Odetta Rudling (Lund University), <i>Dark Tourism to the Soviet Periphery? Experiencing Memory Sites of the WWII in Soviet Lithuania during the 1960s and 1970s</i> · Rūta Matimaitytė (Vilnius University), <i>Between History and Oblivion: German Children's Memorial Sites</i> · Tomas Sniegon (Lund University), <i>Czech(oslovak) Shadows of Hiroshima and the Gulag</i> · Wiebke Kolbe (Lund University), <i>(West) German War Grave Journeys to Western and Eastern Europe, 1950-2010</i> <p>Chair: Barbara Törnquist-Plewa (Lund University)</p>
13.15 – 14.45	Room 302 Online	<p>Public History in the Age of AI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Elizabete Grudovska (Latvian Academy of Culture), <i>Usable Pasts in The Age of Immersive Technologies for Difficult Heritage</i> [online] · Tural Asgarli (University of Silesia in Katowice), <i>AI as a Tool for Historical Manipulation and Misinformation: The case study Russia</i> · Vanessa Prattes (University of Marburg), <i>Antisemitism Instead of Reeducation: Media Reproductions of Liberation Images Between Historical Remembrance and Digital Reinterpretation</i> [online] <p>Chair: Liucija Vervečkienė (Lithuanian Institute of History / Vilnius University)</p>
14.45 – 15.00	Room 401	Coffee break
15.00 – 16.30	Room 402	<p>Rethinking Collective Memory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Georgiy Kasianov, (Maria Curie – Skłodowska University), <i>Discipline and Punish“: A Punitive Turn in the Politics of Memory (Ukraine and Beyond, 2015 – 2025)</i> · Agneška Avin, Gopalas Michailovskis (Lithuanian Center for Social Science / Lithuanian Roma History and Memory Archive and Library), <i>Our Lives – Whose Lives? A Critical Reflection on Roma History and Public Memory in Lithuania</i> · Rūta Vyšniauskaitė, Ignė Rasickaitė (Vilnius University), <i>Voices of Public History at the National and Local Levels: the Case of the Vilnius Region</i> · Douglas Ong (University of Greifswald), <i>Forging Identities for City and Nation: Analyzing Selected Museal Depictions of the Kresy Expulsions in Present-day Wrocław</i> <p>Chair: Tomas Balkelis (Lithuanian Institute of History)</p>
15.00 – 16.30	Room 302 Online	<p>Holocaust Remembrance and Public History in Europe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Michael Hollogschwandtner (University of Vienna), <i>Beliefs in ‘Holocaust Education’. An Interview Study of Tour Guides at Memorial Sites</i> · Adina Marincea (“Elie Wiesel” National Institute for the Study of the Holocaust in Romania), <i>Contemporary Challenges to Public History Institutes and Holocaust Remembrance in Romania</i> · Hannah Lahti (University of Nebraska at Kearney), <i>Recovering Oshpitzin: Complicating Holocaust Public History Between Oświęcim and Auschwitz</i> [online] <p>Chair: Stanislovas Stasiulis (Lithuanian Institute of History)</p>
16.30 – 16.45	Room 401	Coffee break

18.00 – 19.45 CAC*



[More info](#)

[Online](#)

Roundtable discussion: *Contested Pasts, Public Futures: Who Governs Historical Memory?* [\[open to the public\]](#)

- Arūnas Gelūnas (Lithuanian National Museum of Art)
- Eglė Grėbliauskaitė (Vilnius University)
- Barbara Törnquist-Plewa (Lund University)
- Marko Demantovsky (University of Vienna)

Moderator: **Violeta Davoliūtė** (Vilnius University / Lithuanian Institute of History)

*Venue: Contemporary Art Centre (CAC), 2 Vokiečių str.

19.45 – 21.45 CAC*

Reception and networking

*Venue: Contemporary Art Centre (CAC), 2 Vokiečių str.

DAY 2 – OCTOBER 10

8.30 – 9.00 Room 401 **Welcome coffee**

9.00 – 10.00 Room 402 **Keynote speech**

- **Eneken Laanes** (Tallinn University), *Public History In the Times of War*

Moderator: **Violeta Davoliūtė** (Vilnius University / Lithuanian Institute of History)

10.00 – 10.15 Room 401 **Coffee break**

10.15 – 11.45 Room 402 **War, Memory, and Memorial Landscapes in the 21st Century**

[Online](#)

- **Christopher Carl** (University of Vienna), *The Votivkirche in Vienna: A National Place of Remembrance in the 21st Century?* [\[online\]](#)
- **Andrey Suslov** (Leibniz Centre for Contemporary History), *Public History in Progress: Activity of Memorial in Russia*
- **Klara Valentina Fritz** (University of Vienna), *Memory Practices in Austrian War Cemeteries: The Case of "Gruppe 97" in Vienna's Central Cemetery* [\[online\]](#)
- **Corinna Kuhr-Korolev, Vasco Kretschmann** (Leibniz Center for Contemporary History Potsdam / German War Grave Commission), *German War Graves: From Memorials to Heroism and Sacrifice to Places of Reflection and Exchange Today*

Chair: **Marko Demantovsky** (University of Vienna)

10.15 – 11.45 Room 302 **Rewriting the Past, Defending the Future**

[Online](#)

- **Marina Bantiou** (University of Thessaly), *Public History and the Shaping of Post – World War II Greek National Memory: The Role of Contemporary History Institutes* [\[online\]](#)
- **Dilan Ciftci, Filiz Soyer** (Cyprus International University), *Public History in Transition: Digital Memory – Making and Contested Heritage in Cyprus*
- **Tetiana Belimova** (Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv), *(Re-)Reading History: The Reconstruction of Soviet World War II Monuments* [\[online\]](#)
- **Dovilė Budrytė** (Vilnius University / Georgia Gwinnett College / Vytautas Magnus University), *"Proper" Historical Remembrance? Memorialization Practices in the 21st Century Lithuania*

Chair: **Dora Komnenovic** (University of Luxembourg)

11.45 – 12.45 Room 401 **Lunch break**

12.45 – 14.15	Room 402	<p>Visual Memories and Public History</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Emilia Sánchez González (University of Luxembourg), <i>Embracing, Rejecting, and Nationalizing Postwar Visual Memories through Photographic Exhibitions</i> · Brigita Valantinavičiūtė (Loughborough University), <i>Generations of Remembering: Video Elicitation Interviews with Lithuanians</i> · Viktorija Rimaitė-Beržiūnienė (Vilnius University / Vilnius Academy of Arts), <i>The Duality of De-Sovietization and Different Regimes of Art: A Lithuanian Case</i> · Giorgio Ruggeri (Lithuanian Institute of History / Vilnius University), <i>Between Visual Canon and Archival Oblivion: The Uneven Fates of Documentary Footage of the Nazi Occupation of Lithuania</i> <p>Chair: Natalija Arlauskaitė (Vilnius university)</p>
12.45 – 14.15	Room 302	<p>Remembering Conflict: Narratives and Practices of Public History</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Nerija Putnaitė (Vilnius University), <i>The Contested Personalities of 1989: Irreconcilable Collective Memory and the Impossibility of Forgetting</i> · Rasa Navickaitė (Vilnius University), <i>“They even accused him of homosexuality”: The Limits on Re-considering Soviet Political Homophobia in Lithuanian Public History</i> · Laurențiu Viju (“Elie Wiesel” National Institute for the Study of the Holocaust in Romania), <i>The Role of Memory Institutions in Promoting Public History. A case study: The “Elie Wiesel” National Institute for the Study of the Holocaust in Romania</i> · Liucija Vervečkienė (Lithuanian Institute of History / Vilnius University), <i>With or Without the Public? Debates on Past Collaboration(ism) in Times of Geopolitical Uncertainties</i> <p>Chair: Corinna Kuhr-Korolev (Leibniz Center for Contemporary History)</p>
14.15 – 14.30	Room 401	Coffee break
14.30 – 16.00	Room 402 Online	<p>Emotions Legacies and Future Challenges for Legacy and Public History</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Jogilė Ulinskaitė (Vilnius University), <i>Temporal Emotions: Chronopolitical Strategies, and Affective Governance in Central and Eastern Europe</i> · Tereza Begović Gudelj (University of Zagreb), <i>Memory, Myth, and the State: The Role of Public History in Shaping New Russian National Identity</i> [online] · Iryna Ramanava (European Humanities University), <i>The Genocide of the Belarusian people during the Great Patriotic War”: Useful Concept For Lukashenka’s regime</i> · Aviezer Tucker (The University of Ostrava), <i>Historical Lessons: What can be learned from history and how?</i> <p>Chair: Dora Komnenovic (University of Luxembourg)</p>
14:30 – 16:00	Room 302 Online	<p>Archival Research and Public History</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Sacha van Leeuwen (Erasmus University Rotterdam), <i>Archivists As Memory Agents: How NIOD’s War Diary Collection (1944 – 2010) Influenced Dutch Collective Memory of The Second World War</i> · Carlijn Keijzer, Milan van Lange (NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies / Royal Academy of Arts and Sciences), <i>“Niet weggooien!”: How The Early History (1945-1960) of NIOD Inspires Documenting and Studying War and Violence in The Twenty-First Century</i> · Robert Obermair (University of Salzburg), <i>Active Activism</i> [online] · Salvijus Kulevičius (Vilnius University), <i>Local Code: The Role of Cultural Heritage for Local Communities in Lithuania. Between Significance and Irrelevance</i> <p>Chair: Lina Strupinskienė (Vilnius University)</p>

16.00 – 16.15 Room 401 **Coffee break**

16.15 – 17.45 Room 402 **Historical Lessons and Memory Wars**

 [Online](#)

· **Philippe Perchoc** (Institute for Strategic Studies – French Ministry of Defence), *Brussels: politically crafting a European narrative both in the minds and in the urban landscape* [\[online\]](#)

· **Małgorzata Pakier** [\[online\]](#), **Monika Haber** (European Network Remembrance and Solidarity), *Negotiating The Meanings of The XX Century European Past: The Role of the European Network Remembrance and Solidarity*

Chair: **Dovilė Budrytė** (Vilnius University / Georgia Gwinnett College / Vytautas Magnus University)

16.15 – 17.45 Room 302 **Public History in Postcolonial and Post-Conflict Societies**

 [Online](#)

· **Dennis Okenwa** (University of Nigeria), *Contested Memories: The Politics of Public History in Postcolonial Nigerian Museums (1960–2020)* [\[online\]](#)

· **Petra Hudek** (Institute of History of the Slovak Academy of Sciences), *Public History and Collective Memory in Czechia and Slovakia*

· **Sarah Ritt** (University of Vienna), *Rituals and Identity Around Belfast's Easter Rising Comemmorations*

Chair: **Barbara Törnquist-Plewa** (Lund University)

18.00– 18.30 Room 402 **Final remarks**

19.00– 21.30 Grey*

Closing event

Only for the conference participants and organizers

*Venue: Grey restaurant, 2 Pilies str.

DAY 3 – OCTOBER 11

11.00 IIRPS VU*

City tour with historian Andrius Povilas Stepavičius:

City of Seven Faiths and Five Languages: The Story of Vilnius

Note: Those who wish to participate are kindly asked to contact us by email: ruta.matimaityte@tspmi.vu.lt by the 15th of September.

The tour is free of charge.

*Meeting point: Institute of International Relations and Political Science of Vilnius University (10 Vokiečių street).

