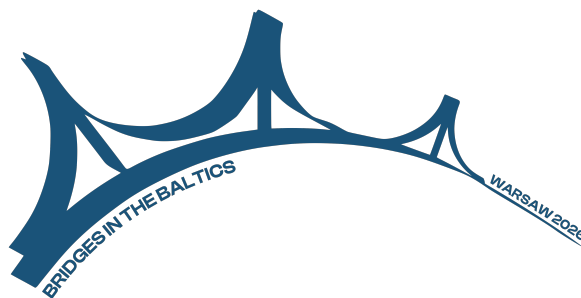


# BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



## **Arčis Auštras**

Vilnius University

### *Between Mother and Rebel: Paula Meehan's Ecofeminist Mary as an Alternative to the Baltic Virgin*

The present paper focuses on the literary techniques and poetic choices that shape the titular character of the Virgin Mary in Paula Meehan's poem *The Statue of the Virgin at Granard Speaks* (1991). The paper aims to occupy a niche in existing research by analysing the text from a literary perspective, shifting away from its sociohistorical context, and to provide insight into a portrayal of the Virgin Mary that drastically diverges from the expectations in culturally Catholic countries. Theoretical concepts from ecofeminist literary criticism are employed in a close reading of voice, space, time and identity within the poem. In particular, the analysis focuses on the positioning of the speaker, the spatial and temporal effects of nature imagery, and the contrast between Christian and pre-Christian ideas of autonomy.

The present research strongly suggests that Meehan's Mary resembles an ecofeminist rebel rather than the holy Mother of God worshiped by the Catholic Church.

## **Justīne Barkova**

University of Latvia, Museum of the History of Riga and Navigation

### *Social Identity and Corporate Affiliation of the Riga Rope-Makers' Guild: Aspects of Symbolic Communication, from the Second Half of the 17th Century to the Second Half of the 19th Century*

The origins of the rope-making craft in the German lands can be traced to the second half of the 12th century, while the earliest known written references to the

craft of rope-making date from the second half of the 13th century. The statutes of the Riga rope-makers' guild have survived from 1665, although evidence indicates that the craft had been practised in the city much earlier. Rope-making comprised two specialisations: *Seiler*, who produced ropes for domestic and agricultural use, and *Reepschläger*, who specialised in the manufacture of large ropes primarily intended for maritime purposes. The *Reepschläger* were the first rope-makers whose activity is documented in Riga. Their presence was closely connected to Riga's position as one of the leading port cities in the Baltic Sea region, where shipping and trade created a constant demand for ropes used in ships' rigging.

The paper examines how the rope-makers constructed, maintained, and represented their collective identity through various forms of symbolic communication. Particular attention is devoted to signs and symbols, including emblems, master's marks, house marks, and other visual representations, as well as rituals, songs, verses, and related expressions of corporate culture. The study explores the functions, dissemination, and significance of these communicative forms both within the guild community and in its external representation. It also analyses the impact of political, social, economic, and other external factors on the content, forms, and uses of symbolic communication.

**Vaiva Barzdaitienė**

Vilnius University

### [Against Hierarchy: Angels, People and Animals in Contemporary Lithuanian Poetry](#)

In his analysis of Thomas Aquinas's philosophy, Etienne Gilson draws attention to the hierarchical structure of being, a characteristic feature of medieval philosophy. Within this structure, animals occupy a higher position than plants, humans than animals, and angels than humans (1956). Beings are thus arranged hierarchically according to their varying degrees of perfection. This paper analyses the relationship between Thomas Aquinas's classical concept of the hierarchy of being and four poems by contemporary Lithuanian poets, in which angels, humans, and animals are represented in relation to one another.

The paper examines how this classical hierarchical structure is transformed in contemporary poetry into a horizontal, and perhaps even inverted, image of the hierarchy of being.

## **Gabrielė Brazaitytė**

Vilnius University

### **The Phonological Regularities of Clipping in Lithuanian**

The study analyses formal characteristics of clipping, a word-formation process in which a new word is created by shortening an existing one, retaining its meaning but shifting its stylistic value (Bauer 1994: 40), in Lithuanian. As Lithuanian word formation is treated as a strictly morphological process, clipping is currently excluded from the word-formation system. By analysing the phonetic regularities, semantics, and usage of clippings, this study argues for their integration into the Lithuanian word-formation system. A structural analysis of 160 clippings from Kudirka's (2012) *Dictionary of Lithuanian Slang and Non-Standard Vocabulary* was conducted, examining clipping type, the retained word structure, syllable count, and break-point placement.

The findings show that most clippings are nouns, that one or two initial syllables are retained regardless of the length of the source word, and that the break point typically falls at the onset-nucleus boundary. Four types of clipping are identified: structural, compound, suffixed, and phonetic. These regularities demonstrate that clipping may be a part of the Lithuanian word-formation system.

## **Hilda Bružaitė**

Vilnius University

### **The Use of Diminutives in Works by Šatrijos Ragana Vincas Stonis and Sename dvare**

The main focus of this presentation is the use of diminutives in Marija Pečkauskaitė's (known as Šatrijos Ragana) literary works *Vincas Stonis* and *Sename dvare*. Even though Lithuanian linguists have analysed the autobiographical and cultural aspects of Pečkauskaitė's literary works, further research into their language features, especially the application of diminutives, can be conducted. The aim of this study is to analyse diminutives based on these suffixes: -elis, -ė, -ėlis, -ė, -ikas, -ė, -(i)ukas, -ė, -(i)utis, -ė, -aitis, -ė, -ytis, -ė, -ulis, -ė. The selected texts were analysed using the AntConc programme in order to identify relevant data. During the analysis, the words were divided into semantic groups and examined

according to grammatical gender. The study revealed that the suffixes -elis, -ė were used most frequently, whereas -ikas, -ė were observed only rarely.

## **Mila Burchart**

University of Warsaw

### **The Limits of Responsibility: Negotiating the Boundaries of Moral Community in Lithuanian Memory Debates**

This paper investigates the relationship between recognition and responsibility in Lithuanian memory culture. Focusing on debates surrounding Lithuanian participation in the Holocaust and the gradual recognition of the genocide of the Roma alongside persistent forms of social exclusion, I ask what happens after historical injustice has already been acknowledged but before responsibility for it is accepted. Through readings of texts by Shmerke Kaczerginski, Abraham Sutzkever, Tomas Venclova and Mykolas Jurgis Drunga, alongside selected press materials and public debates, I explore how the recognition of violence becomes entangled with questions of collective responsibility.

Drawing on the work of Aleida Assmann, Michael Rothberg, Sara Ahmed and Ariella Azoulay, I approach memory not simply as a relation to the past but as a practice that defines the scope of present-day responsibility. I argue that the crucial question is not whether violence is recognized, but what happens in the interval between recognition and the acceptance of responsibility. Revisiting Walter Kaufmann's notion of decidophobia, I propose to read this interval as a constitutive feature of Lithuanian memory culture: a moment in which historical knowledge becomes politically and ethically consequential precisely because acknowledging it entails obligations toward others.

## **Jindřich Čeladín**

Charles University, Vytautas the Great War Museum

### **František Hiksa, a Forgotten Czech in Lithuania**

In the mid-19th century, the family of Czech forester Jan Hiksa moved to the estate of Prince Peter Wittgenstein in Verkiai in Lithuania, then part of the Russian Empire. Jan Hiksa settled there with his entire family, and his descendants remained in

Lithuania even after it became an independent state. The most famous descendant of this family was the adventurer, engineer, aviator, entrepreneur, and racer František (Pranas) Hiksa (1897–1966), who was born in Verkiai and died in Kaunas, where he is buried.

This presentation briefly examines the life and work of this Lithuanian-Czech adventurer, who left a lasting mark on the history of Lithuanian aviation as the first professional Lithuanian pilot. Particular attention is devoted to the period when Hiksa returned to the land of his ancestors, Czechoslovakia, in the 1920s, where he studied engineering and subsequently ran a business. The presentation seeks to determine whether Hiksa identified with the Czech nation or whether he continued to regard himself as Lithuanian, having grown up and spent most of his life in Lithuania.

### **Jan Chraplak**

Adam Mickiewicz University

### **Relations between the Baltic Assembly and the Nordic Council: Between Inspiration and Cooperation**

Both during the process of leaving the USSR and after regaining independence, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia received significant support from the Nordic countries. Cooperating within the framework of the Nordic Council, the Nordic countries served as an important point of reference for the Baltic states in terms of institutional arrangements and regional cooperation. In this context, the Baltic states established the Baltic Assembly, whose functioning was largely inspired by Nordic experience. The two institutions subsequently developed their cooperation, building on historical ties and strengthening relations between the Nordic and Baltic countries.

The aim of this paper is to present the origins and development of the Nordic Council and the Baltic Assembly, and to analyse the relationship between these organisations. The paper also seeks to identify the main determinants of regional cooperation in the Baltic, Nordic and Baltic-Nordic dimensions. The study employs institutional, comparative and historical analysis.

## **Marius Danilevičius**

University of Oxford

### Who Spoils Their Ballot in Lithuania? An Analysis of the 2012-2024 Seimas Elections

The paper examines ballot spoiling in the 2012-2024 Seimas elections. Its main aim is to identify the characteristics of voters who spoil their ballots rather than cast a valid vote for mainstream or non-mainstream political parties, and to assess how they differ from citizens who do not participate in elections at all. Drawing on the literature on political behaviour and previous studies of ballot spoiling, the study identifies potential characteristics of the political attitudes and behaviour of voters who spoil their ballots, including assessments of the economic situation, political trust, party identification, interest in politics, political efficacy, and assessments of democracy. Individual-level data from post-election surveys conducted between 2012 and 2024 are used to test hypotheses derived from these factors.

The data are analysed using descriptive statistics and a multinomial logistic regression model, revealing significant differences between Lithuanian voters who spoil their ballots, those who vote for mainstream or non-mainstream parties, and those who do not vote.

## **Domantas Dimša**

Vytautas Magnus University

### Between Loyalty and National Identity: Changing Political Orientations among Lithuanian Poles (1933-1938)

The period between 1933 and 1938 marked an important transformation in the political life of the Polish community in Lithuania. Amid renewed efforts to establish a dialogue between Lithuania and Poland, the arrival of Tadeusz Katelbach in Kaunas as an unofficial Polish representative marked a new stage in Poland's engagement with Lithuania's Polish minority. At the same time, tensions emerged within the community between an older generation, which tended to emphasise loyalty to the Lithuanian state and the protection of minority rights through cooperation with its institutions, and a younger generation increasingly oriented towards Poland and placing greater emphasis on Polish national identity.

This paper examines the changing political orientations of Lithuanian Poles during this period and explores the factors that contributed to this transformation. Particular attention is paid to the role of Katelbach and the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the activities of Polish organisations in Lithuania, and generational tensions within the community. The paper argues that the growing orientation towards Poland cannot be understood solely as a result of Polish political intervention, but should also be considered in the context of the Lithuanian-Polish conflict, the position of the Polish minority within the Lithuanian state, the growing influence of nationalist ideas across Europe, and changing understandings of Polish identity and political loyalty.

**Maria Dreer**

Vilnius University

### [Living Together, Yet Apart: A Comparative Study of Lithuanian and International Female Undergraduate Students' Dormitory Experiences at Vilnius University](#)

This study investigates how roommate relationships shape the dormitory experiences of Lithuanian and international female undergraduate students at Vilnius University. Although previous research has explored student accommodation, roommate relationships, and international student adjustment, comparative research on interpersonal relationships in multicultural dormitories within the Baltic higher education context remains limited.

Adopting a comparative cross-sectional design, the study draws on questionnaire data collected between September 2024 and January 2025 from 50 participants, comprising 25 Lithuanian and 25 international female undergraduate students residing in university dormitories. Quantitative data were analysed descriptively, while qualitative responses were examined through thematic analysis to identify recurring patterns in students' experiences. The questionnaire explored roommate compatibility, communication, perceived safety, conflict, and the perceived influence of roommate relationships on academic performance.

The findings indicate that international students more frequently experienced communication difficulties, limited personal space, and challenges adapting to different living routines. Nevertheless, both cohorts reported comparable overall satisfaction with their roommates, and roommate relationships demonstrated little influence on academic performance. The study contributes to the limited body of research on cross-cultural co-living among female

undergraduate students in Baltic universities by highlighting the importance of communication and shared expectations in multicultural dormitory environments.

### **Dominyka Eidukevičiūtė**

Vilnius University

#### **Saussure's Law and Its Inactivity in Modern Spoken Lithuanian: Disyllabic Nominals**

The study analyses how Saussure's Law operates in contemporary spoken Lithuanian. The primary objective is to determine whether actual usage in contemporary language aligns with the codified norms of standard Lithuanian, which prescribe a stress shift to the word ending in certain forms, such as the instrumental singular or accusative plural, when the word has a non-acute root (e.g., *māžas* → instr. sg. *mažù*, acc. pl. *mažùs* 'small'). Although no stress shift is expected when the root is acute (e.g., *báltas* → instr. sg. *báltu*, acc. pl. *báltus* 'white'), final stress in such forms is becoming increasingly widespread in colloquial speech (e.g., instr. sg. *baltù*, acc. pl. *baltùs*).

For the study, 14 disyllabic adjectives and 23 disyllabic nouns with acute roots and diverse structures were selected. Some of these forms have a clearly audible tonal distinction between the acute and circumflex accents, whereas in others the distinction is not clearly audible. The findings are based on data from 48 informants in the adjective study and 49 informants in the noun study. The research revealed several tendencies: stress shift to the ending occurs more frequently in the speech of urban speakers (e.g. those living in Vilnius or Kaunas) and among younger speakers, as well as in adjectives with roots containing the so-called "mixed" diphthongs *il* and *in*. It also occurs more frequently in instrumental singular forms than in accusative plural forms.

### **Semjon Fedun**

Tallin University

#### **Gamification in Latvian Grammar Acquisition: Case System, Numeral Agreement and Verb Aspect after the 2025/2026 Reform**

The 2025/2026 academic year marked the completion of the transition to Latvian as the sole language of instruction. However, non-native speakers, particularly

those from Russian-speaking backgrounds, continue to face significant difficulties with several core grammatical structures.

This paper presents a contrastive linguistic analysis of three particularly challenging areas: the Latvian case system, especially genitive, dative and locative; numeral agreement with nouns; and verbal aspect, which functions differently in Latvian and Russian. Building on this analysis and my background in educational game development, I introduce a digital prototype set in Liepāja that serves as a practical pedagogical tool, enabling learners to actively apply the target grammatical forms in meaningful contexts.

The presentation focuses on the contrastive analysis of these grammatical challenges and reflects on the potential of gamified approaches in supporting Latvian language acquisition in the post-reform educational context.

**Abdullah Frogh**

Veer Narmad South Gujarat University

### [Cultural Identity and Memory: A Comparative Study of Baltic and Afghan Societies](#)

This paper examines the role of collective memory in shaping cultural identity in the Baltic states (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania) and Afghanistan. Drawing on theories of social and cultural memory (Halbwachs, 1992; Assmann, 2011), it adopts a qualitative comparative approach focusing on language, historical narratives, and cultural practices.

The study argues that both regions rely on memory as a key mechanism for preserving cultural identity following periods of occupation and conflict. In the Baltic states, institutional frameworks such as language policies and commemorative practices reinforce identity, whereas in Afghanistan, oral traditions and community-based narratives play a central role. The comparison highlights similarities in cultural resilience and differences in institutional support. The paper contributes to broader discussions of post-conflict identity formation and cultural continuity.

## Andrėja Frukacz

Vilnius University

### The Androgynous Figure of the Female Protagonist in Karolis Kaupinis' Film *Hunger Strike Breakfast*

The paper covers the absurdist comedy film *Hunger Strike Breakfast* (*Badautojų namelis*), directed by Lithuanian filmmaker Karolis Kaupinis and released in 2025. The story unfolds in the aftermath of the January events and presents a fictionalised account of the seizure of the national broadcast studio, focusing on three workers.

The paper centres on the female protagonist, Daiva (Ineta Stasiulytė), examining how she is portrayed in the plot, her perceived transformation from an active to a passive character, and the character tropes into which she might fall. Daiva's character is examined through the lens of Saint Mary and compared with the Soviet propaganda film *Marytė* (1947), directed by Vera Strojeva. The paper argues that the image of the fighting woman is paradoxically constructed through the portrayal of a passive, androgynous female figure.

## Dovilė Gavelytė

Vilnius University

### Manipulative and Causative Constructions in Lithuanian, Latvian, Livonian, and Estonian

This paper focuses on periphrastic manipulative and causative constructions in Lithuanian, Latvian, Livonian, and Estonian. Samples of constructions containing Lithuanian verbs such as *liepti*, *uždrausti*, *prašyti*, and *leisti*, *versti*, *duoti*, Latvian *pavēlēt*, *liegt*, *lūgt*, and *ļaut*, *likt*, *spiest*, Livonian *kāskō*, *kīeldō*, *pallō*, and *laskō*, *andō*, *vēļō*, as well as Estonian *käskima*, *keelama*, *paluma*, and *andma*, *laskma*, *panema* were collected. The constructions were grouped, analysed, and compared according to their functions and argument structure.

The analysis showed that the causee can be marked by the dative in all constructions in Lithuanian, Latvian, and Livonian, except for those based on Lithuanian *prašyti* 'ask' and Livonian *pallō* 'ask'. In Estonian, the causee is marked by the adessive in manipulative and permissive constructions and by the partitive form in factitive constructions, except in constructions based on *andma* 'give'.

## **Olga Gontarska**

University of Warsaw

### Multicultural History of Latgale: Conceptual and Methodological Frameworks

The paper introduces the conceptual framework of a research project adopting a *longue durée* perspective to investigate the cultural diversity of Latgale from the 18th century to the late 1950s. The study examines interethnic and intercultural interactions through the lenses of linguistic pluralism, religious diversity, and infrastructure, specifically communication routes, and their role in shaping social dynamics and mental maps.

Drawing on the works of Dace Dzenovska, Ilmārs Mežs, and Paweł Jeziorski, I discuss the project's academic inspirations and methodological challenges. Using a range of sources, including maps and census data, as well as literature on gravestone inscriptions and interreligious contacts among Catholics, Protestants, Old Believers, and Jews, the paper examines the socio-cultural diversity of the local population.

## **Naglis Grasmanas**

Vytautas Magnus University

### 1918–1940 Latvian National Policy: The Question of Autonomy

This paper examines the policy of autonomy for ethnic minorities in Latvia between 1918 and 1940. Following independence, Latvia established a system that guaranteed minority communities educational, cultural, and linguistic rights.

Using several minority groups as case studies, the paper examines their participation in education, organizations, the press, and political life. It also explores how demographic size, social conditions, and relations with the Latvian state influenced the development of different minority communities. Finally, it examines the effects of Kārlis Ulmanis' 1934 coup on ethnic minorities, which increased state control over minority institutions while preserving certain elements of cultural autonomy.

To conclude, interwar Latvia maintained one of the most developed systems of minority cultural autonomy in Eastern Europe, although the extent of this autonomy varied among different ethnic groups throughout the period.

## **Eliza Paula Graudiņa**

The Institute of Literature, Folklore and Art of the University of Latvia, Vilnius University

### [The Same Stories on Different Stages: Literary Works Adapted for Theatre in Lithuania and Latvia \(2025–2026\)](#)

During the 2025–2026 theatre season, several literary works were adapted by both Lithuanian and Latvian professional theatres, creating a shared repertoire that transcends national theatrical boundaries. This paper examines literary texts represented in the repertoires of both countries and explores what their simultaneous adaptation reveals about contemporary cultural interests in the Baltic region.

Drawing on a comparative overview of Lithuanian and Latvian theatre repertoires, the study identifies overlapping source texts and analyses their thematic and generic characteristics, paying particular attention to narratives of historical memory, trauma, childhood, and contemporary social experience. The paper also considers how the same literary works are reinterpreted in different theatrical contexts, highlighting both shared interests and distinctive artistic approaches. By focusing on literary works adapted in both countries during the same season, the study sheds light on shared cultural references and the circulation of stories across Baltic theatre cultures.

## **Marta Selma Grünvald**

### **Kirke Rumvolt**

University of Tartu

### [Some Remarks on Estonian Instapoetry](#)

This paper focuses on Estonian instapoetry written by authors aged 33 and under. It provides a brief overview of the main emerging topics and linguistic nuances, as well as the current state of Estonian instapoetry, illustrated with various examples.

The paper forms part of a larger ongoing research project, *Voices of Youth in Digital Age Poetry: Poetics, Attitudes, and Identities* (KUM-TA75). The authors included in the study were selected based on their number of Instagram followers and age. Research on digital poetry is necessary because the production and

consumption of literature are changing rapidly in the digital age, paving the way for the emergence of new forms and meanings.

## **Helina Harend**

Estonian Literary Museum, University of Tartu

### Mapping Kinship in Estonian Runosongs

Runosong is a shared song tradition among most Finnic peoples. Family members are among its central figures, while the distinctive linguistic features of runosongs, which differ from everyday language, provide an opportunity to examine the use of Estonian kinship terms within this tradition. By analysing both the worldview represented in runosongs and the use of kinship terminology, it is possible to explore the social relationships reflected in the tradition.

This presentation examines the use of Estonian kinship terms in runosongs and addresses the following questions: Which kinship terms occur most frequently and which tend to co-occur? In which song types do these terms appear most often? What kinds of relationships between relatives are represented? Kinship terminology is analysed both as a semantic category and as a marker of poetic and social structure. Relationships between family members are examined using network analysis. The study combines folkloristic song research, linguistic corpus analysis, and network analysis.

## **Deimantė Jančiūnaite**

Vilnius University

### Not a Ferret, but a Hedgehog: Editor, His Readers, and the Making of "Ežys" (1907–1909)

In a harsh review of "Ežys" (literally: "Hedgehog"), Antanas Smetona, then editor-in-chief of "Viltis", questioned whether the satirical journal deserved to be called a hedgehog at all, suggesting that its weak content and willingness to publish almost anyone made it resemble a ferret in disguise. This critique highlights a broader question of how the journal engaged with and shaped its readership.

Accordingly, the paper analyses the formation of readership in the first Lithuanian satirical periodical "Ežys" (1907–1909), by exploring the editorial

practices and the broader conditions of the press field. Particular attention is given to the editor-publisher Kostas Stiklius, whose editorial practices extend the editor-reader relationship into a more complex communicative framework. The findings show that editor-reader relations in “Ežys” constitute a multilayered process shaped by both internal editorial strategies and external contextual factors.

### **Emilia Jarnutowska**

University of Warsaw

### Latvian Books Translated into Polish in the 21st Century

The subject of this presentation is the translation of books from Latvian into Polish published in the 21st century. The paper aims to present the scale and dynamics of these translations, discuss the dominant genres, and highlight the most important authors and translators contributing to the promotion of Latvian literature in Poland.

The analysis also examines the institutional and cultural factors influencing the reception of Latvian literature in Poland, including the role of publishing houses, translation programmes, festivals and literary events. Particular attention is paid to the presence of Latvian authors and their books in the Polish literary scene, including author meetings, participation in festivals and cultural events, as well as awards and honours bestowed upon Latvian literary figures.

### **Ilze Jaunzeme**

Ventspils University of Applied Sciences

### Thematic Field “Judicial Proceedings”: Comparative Analysis of Lexicographic Sources of the 20th–21st Centuries (LV-EN-LV)

This study examines the legal term litigation (*tiesvedība*) and its semantic microfield *iztiesāšana*, focusing on their close synonyms in English and Latvian. The aim is to identify similarities and differences in conceptual understanding, proposed equivalents, and usage through a comparative analysis of legal dictionary entries. The research combines theoretical and lexicographic source analysis with semantic and contrastive methods.

The findings reveal greater semantic flexibility in Latvian legal terminology, where a single term may denote an institution, process, or action, whereas English

distinguishes these meanings through terms such as “litigation”, “trial”, “proceedings”, and “lawsuit”, thereby reducing polysemy. The study also shows that complete equivalence in legal translation is rare, as legal terminology is shaped by the conceptual structures and historical development of individual legal systems. The results contribute to research on legal terminology, legal translation, and cross-linguistic terminological equivalence.

**Fiona Jõesuu**

University of Tartu

### [Estonian-Ukrainian Relations \(1993–1996\): Diplomatic Perspectives and Foreign Policy Challenges](#)

This paper analyses the formative years of Estonian-Ukrainian relations (1993–1996), examining the motivations behind Estonia’s decision to establish one of its first diplomatic missions in Kyiv. Drawing on primary sources from the Estonian Embassy in Kyiv and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, this study reconstructs Estonian foreign policy towards Ukraine during the country’s post-Soviet transition. The analysis explores three pivotal issues: the Black Sea Fleet dispute, Ukraine’s complex economic reliance on Russia, and the regional security implications of Ukraine’s nuclear disarmament policy.

By examining diplomatic memoranda and background documents, the paper illustrates how Estonia interpreted Ukraine’s geopolitical choices and navigated Russia’s influence. The paper provides new insights into early Estonian diplomacy, highlighting how Estonia’s own experiences shaped its understanding of Ukraine’s path to statehood and its role in the broader European security architecture.

**Simona Juškevičiūtė**

Vilnius University

### [The Origin and Word Formation of Sweet Dish Names in Lithuanian and Latvian](#)

This study analyses the origin and formation of Lithuanian and Latvian names of sweet dishes. A total of 175 Lithuanian names and 147 Latvian names of sweet dishes, collected from the recipes published between 1918 and 1940, were

analysed. The aim of the study was to determine the origin of these names, examine the features of their formation and borrowing, and compare the findings for the two languages.

Based on the lexical data, it was concluded that sweet dishes and their names began to appear in Baltic cuisines relatively recently. The majority of words of native origin are derived words, and very few inherited words were identified. A significant proportion of the names are loanwords and internationalisms, and several cases of linguistic calques were identified. The names of the dishes reveal which Lithuanian and Latvian words were used to denote gastronomic realities, which derived words were created, which loanwords entered the languages and how these loanwords were adapted.

### **Namejs Kalniņš**

University of Latvia, Museum of the History of Riga and Navigation

### Deformations of the Body as a Cause for Social Marginalisation in Medieval Livonian Society

Social marginalisation in various social groups across Europe is a widely studied phenomenon, yet the situation in medieval Livonia remains insufficiently explored. Social marginalisation can manifest itself through the exclusion of individuals from community rights and social interactions, as well as through the application of rules and laws that target particular groups or individuals. Bodily deformations could affect anyone and, depending on the circumstances, could even diminish or restrict both one's rights and honour.

The aim of the paper is to study the impact of body deformations on the social marginalisation of individuals in the context of funerary culture and Livonian legal norms, with particular attention to individual cases of mutilation in Livonian society in the period from the 13th to the 16th century.

### **Justina Katauskaitė**

Vilnius University

### Hermeneutic Time in the Poetry of Vytautas P. Bložė

This study examines the hermeneutic concept of time present in the poetry of Vytautas P. Bložė (1930–2016). In Bložė's poetry, time functions polyphonically: biographical, social, cultural, historical, and religious dimensions of time converge, forming the basis for the unfolding of the speaker's existential temporality. To analyse this existential temporality, Martin Heidegger's concept of the temporality of being is applied, which enables an exploration of the speaker's self-creation as represented in the poems.

The paper aims to deepen the previously analysed issue of time as a characteristic feature of Bložė's work and to interpret his poetry from a hermeneutic-phenomenological perspective.

**Adomas Katilius**

Vilnius University

### Sports Terms in the First Lithuanian and Latvian Sports Magazines

This study explores various sports terms used in the earliest Lithuanian and Latvian sports magazines, "Lietuvos sportas" (1922) and "Latvju sports" (1921), and aims to compare them with modern-day terminology. An important aspect of the selected magazines is their date of publication: released more than a hundred years ago, they predate modern sports terminology and therefore provide a foundation for its formation.

The terms were manually selected from the first six issues of both magazines and sorted into three categories according to the type of object or phenomenon they denote: a) a sport; b) a sports item or tool; c) an athlete or person involved in sports. Only nouns were selected for further analysis. The selected terms were then compared with terminology found in modern sports dictionaries: *Sporto terminų žodynas* (2002) and *Sporta vārdnīca* (2010).

Overall, almost half of the terms used in "Latvju sports" have been retained in contemporary terminology, whereas less than 30% of the terms from "Lietuvos sportas" are found in contemporary sports terminology. The reasons why some sports terms were not retained were also investigated; in most cases, alternative synonymous terms became established instead.

## **Dominykas Kazlauskas**

Vilnius University

### Gogol's Khlestakov Visits Lithuania: Satire in the Playwriting of the Vilkolakis Theatre (1920-1925)

The presentation discusses the playwriting of „Vilkolakis“ (1920-1925), Lithuania's first satire theatre, a phenomenon barely researched by scholars. Drawing upon the complex definitions of satire in laughter culture studies, the analysis focuses on the theatre's most popular play *Chlestakovas Lietuvoje* by Vytautas Bičiūnas (based on Nikolai Gogol's satirical play *The Government Inspector*).

The study aims to reveal how satire functions, what social vices it exposes, and how it actualises them, capturing the meanings arising from the relationship between the parody – a tool of satire – and the original. This analysis gains extra relevance in 2026, marking the 130th anniversary of Balys Sruoga (1896-1947), one of the theatre's founders. Furthermore, amid the rise of modern political satire, it helps reconstruct early Lithuanian satirical forms and understand their transformations today.

## **Julia A. Korsakaite**

Vilnius University

### Teachers in Lithuania: Between Enthusiasm and Burnout

Considering growing concerns about teacher shortages, this study examines associations between psychosocial work factors and teachers' psychological well-being, work engagement, and burnout dimensions, and compares these factors among teachers with different intentions to remain in or leave the profession.

A total of 115 Lithuanian school teachers completed a questionnaire comprising the UWES, WHO-5, SBI, and UNIPSI scales. Teachers who had never seriously considered leaving the profession reported higher levels of social support, work engagement, and well-being, lower workload and lower psychological exhaustion. Teachers who had sometimes considered leaving their jobs reported higher workload, lower well-being, and higher psychological exhaustion, whereas no statistically significant differences in work engagement or social support were observed.

The findings underscore the role of psychosocial working conditions in teachers' well-being, burnout dimensions, and professional commitment.

### **Antra Kozlova**

University of Latvia, Museum of the History of Riga and Navigation

#### **Military Financing and Monetary Policy of the Great Northern War in the Swedish Baltic Region and Its Impact on the Territory of Present-Day Latvia in the First Quarter of the 18th Century**

This paper examines the financing of the Northern War (1700–1721) in the Baltic region, focusing on the Swedish Empire's fiscal system and its impact on the economy of the present-day Latvia. It compares war-financing strategies across regions under Swedish rule, highlighting differences in monetary and credit policies, while also identifying differences between regulations and actual practice.

In the early 18th century, military conflicts encouraged the hoarding of funds and affected monetary circulation. Sources mention a large influx of 17th-century Swedish copper coins into Vidzeme, but archaeological finds do not confirm this claim; such coins were found predominantly at sites associated with prolonged Swedish troop presence. Minting declined sharply during the war, causing a shortage of cash in Riga. Later, the mint mainly countermarked Swedish coins, effectively doubling their value.

Monetary circulation reflects economic relations, mechanisms of power, and processes of transformation, making it a valuable lens through which to analyse discrepancies between systems and practice, as well as the region's integration into the Swedish imperial economy.

### **Anna Krawczyk**

Uniwersytet Warszawski, Uniwersytet Szczeciński

#### **Two Lithuanian Translations of Czesław Miłosz's *Świat (Poema naiwne)*: A Comparative Analysis of Geda's and Venclova's Translation Strategies**

Czesław Miłosz maintained a lifelong connection to Lithuania and Lithuanian identity. Even as a young poet, he was known in Lithuanian literary circles through his family and personal connections. Since Lithuania regained independence in

1991, his works have been regularly translated into Lithuanian, often by established poets and translators. Currently, there are two translations of the poems from the cycle *Świat (Poema naiwne)*: one by the poet, translator, and essayist Sigitas Geda (2000) and another by the writer and Miłosz's close friend Tomas Venclova (2024). Both versions were published in the influential literary magazine "Metai".

This paper aims to discuss and compare some of the most distinctive translational choices made by the two translators, with particular attention to lexical choices. Through this analysis, I seek to identify the aspects of the source text that pose the greatest challenges from the translator's perspective.

## **Aušrinė Kristanaitytė**

Vilnius University

### Linguistic Attitudes towards Lithuanian Sign Language

Although Lithuanian Sign Language (LSL) has its own linguistic status and is officially recognised, attitudes towards the language and the Deaf community remain diverse. The aim of this study is to analyse the attitudes of two age groups (20-30 and 50-60 years old) towards the Deaf and LSL in Lithuania and to determine whether the attitudes differ between these groups.

To date, little research has been conducted on contemporary attitudes towards LSL and the Deaf communities. This research is relevant because attitudes can have a significant impact on various fields, including medicine, and research on attitudes can explain or predict people's behaviour. It may also contribute to addressing gaps in knowledge about sign language.

In order to examine the interviewees' attitudes towards various aspects of LSL, semi-structured in-depth qualitative interviews were conducted. The results show that the older generation has a more conservative attitude towards sign language and the Deaf. Some participants continue to hold established stereotypes about sign languages. Although opinions differed between age groups, an overall positive attitude towards Deaf people and LSL was observed.

**Gustė Kupstaitė**

Vilnius University

### The Use of Request Speech Act Strategies in Lithuanian by Students Learning Lithuanian as a Foreign Language

Lithuanian, as a less commonly taught language, remains underrepresented in pragmatics research; therefore, this paper analyses request speech acts produced by students learning Lithuanian as a foreign language.

The aim of the paper is to identify the strategies they use and their realisations, as well as to determine which strategies are most frequent. To fulfil this aim, a discourse completion test (DCT) was developed and administered to a group of A2-level Lithuanian students at Vilnius University. The collected data were analysed with reference to Blum-Kulka's (1984) classification of requests according to the level of directness and strategy type. The results indicate that students learning Lithuanian as a foreign language most commonly used conventionally indirect strategies. Nevertheless, the level of directness increased in low-imposition and intimate situations, suggesting that situational factors play a significant role in pragmatic decision-making among L2 learners.

**Lena Kurg**

University of Tartu

### On the Search for a Story of Home in Late Soviet Estonia

This paper critically examines the formation of the Estonian national identity narrative, which has provided substantive meaning and legitimacy to the Estonian nation-state since the restoration of independence in 1991. Through the concept of "home", the author explores the political and cultural context of Estonia during the late Soviet era.

In 1989, three young historians – Mart Laar, Lauri Vahtre and Heiki Valk – published the first uncensored work on Estonian history as a whole, *Kodu lugu* ("The Story of Home"). The book confirms the still widespread understanding of Estonian historians that Estonian national identity emerged as an identity of resistance. However, an analysis of *Kodu lugu* in a broader network of narratives illustrates that, in fact, the "new national awakening" was part of a broader national political failure of the Soviet Union. The national policy of the Soviet Union had

itself produced a space and conditions within which, primarily through local history research (*kodu-uurimine* in Estonian, literally “home research”), it became possible to search for and imagine one’s national identity.

### **Paula Lāce**

The Institute of Literature, Folklore and Art of the University of Latvia,  
Vilnius University

#### **Marija Pēkšēna: The First Latvian Woman Playwright**

This paper focuses on the dramatic writing of Marija Pēkšēna (1844–1903), the first Latvian woman playwright. She is the author of four plays: *Ceļa biedri*, *Ģertrūde*, *Laiku ziedi*, and *Vienu stāstu*. Today, Pēkšēna is best remembered for *Ģertrūde*, her prize-winning play from 1870, while her other plays, particularly *Vienu stāstu* and *Ceļa biedri*, remain largely unknown.

By examining these works together, the paper explores how Pēkšēna addresses women’s rights, education, social expectations, and the broader society of her time. Although Pēkšēna entered Latvian literature as an independent and remarkably strong author, her work remains insufficiently studied. The paper therefore reconsiders her contribution to Latvian literary history at a time when the first edition of her selected works is still in preparation.

### **Andromeda Laskauskaitė**

Vilnius University

#### **A Peek into the Writer’s Journal: The Fine Line between Exogenesis and Endogenesis**

Although the journals of Ričardas Gavelis (1950–2002) have received some scholarly attention, closer examination reveals a wide range of connections with his prose works that have not previously been noticed. Gavelis was a Lithuanian writer best known for his novels, written secretly during the late Soviet period and published in the early years of Independence: *Memoirs of a Life Cut Short*, *Vilnius Poker* and *Vilnius Jazz*.

The presentation focuses on a journal from the 1970s, dating from the early period of his writing. The analysis suggests that the journal served as a repository

for creative material. The notes contain excerpts from various literary texts and reflections that directly correspond to Gavelis's works, documenting both exogenetic and endogenetic traces. From the perspective of genetic criticism, this archival source is particularly valuable for examining how creative material might have been accumulated and selected.

### **Greta Leigaitė**

Vilnius University

#### *Autobiography in the Graphic Novel *Gertrude: the Graphic Diary of Generation Y* by Gerda Jord*

Most Lithuanian graphic novels depict the lives of significant historical individuals. This study focuses on an exception: *Gertrude: the Graphic Diary of Generation Y* by Gerda Jord. Although the title suggests that the work is a diary, the text does not contain the typical elements of the genre. It is also described as a diary of a generation, which seemingly contradicts the notion of a diary as an account of an individual's experience. These contradictions are explored by analysing the graphic novel through three genres: autobiography, memoir and diary. Each genre offers a distinct narration strategy which is employed in the novel and adapted to the comic medium.

The findings show that three levels of narration are constructed: reality, dreams and memories. The novel can be read as a single diary entry, while the dreams and memories highlight significant generational events and introduce a character who resembles an autobiographical figure. These findings contribute to the study of Lithuanian graphic novels by demonstrating their capacity to represent generational experiences.

### **Miglė Lekešytė**

Vilnius University

#### *The Unofficial Linguistic Landscape of Kaunas*

This paper examines the unofficial linguistic landscape of the city of Kaunas in order to reveal the linguistic composition and functions of unofficial public signs in urban space. The aim of the paper is to determine which languages are used in

unofficial public signs in Kaunas, what functions these signs perform, and which languages dominate in expressing different functions.

To achieve this aim, the following objectives were established: to collect unofficial public signs from the selected districts of Centras, Šilainiai, and Žaliakalnis; to analyse them according to the type of sign (stickers, graffiti, advertisements, and engravings), the language or combinations of languages used, and their function (informational, advertising, political/ideological, identity expression, etc.). The data from each district were then compared in order to investigate the linguistic and functional situation in different parts of Kaunas and to provide an overall picture of the city's unofficial linguistic landscape. The study employed both qualitative and quantitative methods of analysis. The data were collected by photographing public signs in various parts of the city, including bus and railway stations, areas near tourist attractions, residential neighbourhoods, areas near higher education institutions, and other locations.

The results show that Lithuanian is the most widely used language in the unofficial linguistic landscape of Kaunas. However, a significant proportion of the analysed signs were in English or contained both Lithuanian and English. Relatively few signs were found in other languages, such as Russian, Ukrainian, Polish, or German, which may indicate marginalization of certain communities. The findings suggest that the unofficial linguistic landscape of Kaunas partly reflects the demographic composition of the city's population as well as processes of globalisation. They also demonstrate that language choice in public space is not only a practical but also a symbolic phenomenon.

**Emma Lotta Lõhmus**

University of Tartu

### The Eternal Return of Aesthetic Events in the Works of Andrei Ivanov

In this paper, I examine Andrei Ivanov's work from the perspective of events. The aim of my paper is to identify events within Ivanov's textual world through machinic close-reading and to establish their connections to non-identity.

I treat Ivanov's works as a single text, thereby emphasising their transtextual dimension. In doing so, I maintain continuity in both the theoretical framework and methodology: machining, as a method distinct from hermeneutic interpretation, focuses on identifying intratextual elements and creating new connections between them. I proceed from the question "What can this work become?" rather

than “What can be found in it?”. When it comes to theoretical analytical tools, I primarily draw on the concepts of Gilles Deleuze and Theodor Adorno. The works by Ivanov examined in this paper are *Untermensch: minu lõhkikistud osa* (2021), *Õuduste teater* (2022), and *Hämariku melanhoolia* (2023).

**Monika Ložytė**

Vilnius University

### Deconstruction in Lithuanian Literary Criticism: Is the Auto-deconstruction of a Literary Text Possible?

Deconstruction originated as the philosophy of the French thinker Jacques Derrida, but in Lithuania, as in the United States, it is not only studied philosophically but also practiced in literary criticism.

This paper proposes a typology of existing practices of deconstruction: 1) the deconstruction of a literary work; 2) a new reading of a literary work; 3) the search for auto-deconstructive literary works. All three methods can be found in the works of Lithuanian literary critics Aušra Jurgutienė, Jūratė Čerškutė, Mindaugas Grigaitis, and Algis Kalėda, but the third method is the most common.

The paper argues that the auto-deconstruction of a text is problematic in at least two respects. First, it is not entirely clear how the auto-deconstruction of a text differs from the mere deconstruction of a text. According to Derrida, deconstruction is an action that does not depend on a subject, which means that a text always deconstructs itself. Secondly, auto-deconstruction is itself a paradoxical concept, since the radical interpretation of the contradictions observed in a text should be considered as a defining feature of deconstructionism: the stability of meaning is impossible anywhere or at any time.

The paper argues that such an interpretation introduces the category of intention and presupposes a desire for the stability of meaning and the consistency of the text. Auto-deconstruction, meanwhile, entails an intention not to avoid but to demonstrate and reveal the instability of meaning through self-deconstruction. This observation leads to broader conclusions: since Derrida – and, following him, Lithuanian deconstructionists – characterises literature as an inherently auto-deconstructive discourse, the question arises not only of the possibility of auto-deconstruction but also of the possibility of deconstructing literature itself. This, in turn, raises the question of whether the boundaries between literature and

philosophy truly disappear in deconstruction, since the problem discussed in this paper does not involve an attempt to deconstruct a philosophical text.

## **Marilyn Mägi**

Estonian Literary Museum

### **Small Lives, Big History: Everyday Life and Historical Memory in Estonian Life Stories**

This paper examines how 20th-century history is remembered through ordinary lives in Estonian autobiographical narratives, focusing on the ways in which people connect broader historical processes with everyday experiences such as childhood, education, work, family life, home and generational relations.

The study is based on selected life stories held in the Estonian Cultural History Archives of the Estonian Literary Museum. These narratives were written retrospectively in the 1990s and 2000s, at a time when life writing became an important means of recording personal and family memories of the twentieth century.

The paper asks how “big history” appears in the narration of small lives. How are war, occupation, Sovietisation, social change and the restoration of independence remembered through the details of everyday life? Which experiences become central to autobiographical memory, and which remain marginal or implicit? By focusing on ordinary life trajectories, the paper argues that Estonian life stories function as bridges between personal and family histories and collective historical narratives.

## **Ana Marić**

University of Tartu

### **Motifs of Patriotism and Estonia in Poetry of Juhan Liiv**

Juhan Liiv (1864-1913) was one of the most influential poets and writers in Estonian literature and culture. He wrote primarily poetry and short stories, addressing themes such as death, sorrow, pain and the universal experience of transience. He also wrote patriotic poems depicting his homeland, Estonia, not

necessarily as an “ideal country”, but rather as a motherland that had suffered greatly and struggled to achieve freedom and independence.

The main aim of this paper is to analyse the motifs of patriotism and the representation of Estonia in Liiv’s poetry, with his poetry collection *Ta lendab mesipuu poole* (“She flies towards the beehive”) serving as the primary source. What are the principal motifs associated with patriotism and Estonia in Liiv’s poems? What do they signify? How are feelings towards the country symbolised through those motifs? How does Juhan Liiv perceive Estonia in his poetry?

To address these questions, the paper employs Barthesian myth analysis, drawing on the concepts of denotation, connotation and myth to examine the metaphors underlying the motifs, as well as the Peircean semiotic triad to identify the sign systems associated with these motifs and explore the meanings they generate.

**Veronika Markovska**

Vilnius University

### Is There a “Lithuanian” Scent”? Lithuanian Olfactory Branding in Niche Perfumery

Lithuanian niche perfume brands frequently invoke locality, nature, cultural heritage, and national distinctiveness, suggesting the existence of an olfactory expression of national identity. This conference paper examines the semiotic construction of Lithuanian identity in the communication of selected perfume brands, including the perfume line “Lietuvos kvapas”.

Drawing on structural semiotics, marketing semiotics, and R. Barthes’s concept of myth, the study analyses visual, verbal, and narrative elements of brand communication. The aim is to investigate how notions of Lithuanian identity are constructed and mobilised through branding strategies and whether a specifically “Lithuanian” scent emerges from these representations or instead functions as a semiotically constructed cultural narrative. The findings are expected to contribute to broader discussions of national identity, branding, and olfactory representation.

## **Julija Mažonaitė**

Vilnius University

### When “Authentic” Means Processed Differently: Deconstructing the Myths Behind the Editing of Žemaitė

The intention behind publishing literary classics during the first post-Soviet decade was to “restore what had been damaged by improper editing practices”. Yet, even today, it is difficult to determine which version of Žemaitė’s (1845–1921) prose is more reliable.

The study compares two holographs of a particular short story with all its published editions, revealing that the editors’ stated intentions were misleading and that widespread assumptions about evolution of the texts are largely unfounded.

Žemaitė’s texts were extensively edited by the grammarian Jonas Jablonskis. A comparison of the holographs and published texts reveals changes ranging from morphological alterations to the omission of entire passages. In 1948, the editors decided to bypass Jablonskis’ edition and publish the texts on the basis of the holographs. In 1956, however, they decided to use Jablonskis’ edition as the source text. In 1995, editorial policy shifted again towards the use of the authentic sources of Žemaitė’s texts.

This presentation addresses the issues raised by various editions: to what extent is it meaningful to speak of an “authentic Žemaitė” and whether it is possible to identify the actual extent of Jablonskis’ influence.

## **Marija Nordkvelle**

Vilnius University

### Translation of Lithuanian Interjections into Latvian

The study aims to examine how Lithuanian interjections found in the Latvian-Lithuanian Parallel Corpus (LILA) are translated into Latvian, how many equivalents they have, and which translation strategies are employed. The theoretical framework discusses the concept of interjections and the differences between Lithuanian and Latvian interjections, as well as their classification and possible translation strategies. The empirical part of the study analyses 357 interjections listed in “A Grammar of Modern Lithuanian” (DLKG).

Through quantitative and comparative analysis, the study found that primary interjections tend to be retained; thus, the most prevalent translation techniques are literal translation and substitution with other primary interjections. Secondary interjections also tend to be retained, however, they are translated literally much more frequently.

**Gerda Papartytė**

Vilnius University

### The Role of Cultural Encyclopaedia in Lithuanian Meme Culture: An Ecoian Semiotic Perspective

The paper examines Lithuanian internet memes through Umberto Eco's semiotic theory, focusing on the concept of the cultural encyclopaedia. According to Eco, meaning does not reside solely in linguistic signs but emerges through the cultural knowledge shared by members of a community. Internet memes are particularly suitable for such an analysis because their interpretation often depends on the recognition of cultural references, phrases, images and social contexts. The ability to understand a meme can signal participation in a particular cultural group and familiarity with its codes. In Lithuanian meme culture, references to television programmes, political events, celebrities and widely circulated phrases create a sense of shared identity and relatability among users.

By analysing selected verbal and visual memes, this study aims to demonstrate how meaning is collectively constructed and how memes function not only as humorous artefacts but also as markers of cultural belonging and social communication.

**Aadi Parhomenko**

Dr. Fr. R. Kreutzwald Memorial Museum, University of Tartu

### Friedrich Reinhold Kreutzwald's Views on the Issue of Estonian Peasant Schools

This paper examines the positions of Friedrich Reinhold Kreutzwald, the author of the Estonian national epic *Kalevipoeg*, on Estonian peasant education, placing them in the context of Estonian peasant schools and related debates of the 1860s and 1870s.

Although Kreutzwald disapproved of the fact that peasant schools were controlled by the Baltic German nobility and Lutheran clergy, he generally opposed transferring them to the authority of the Russian Ministry of Public Education, fearing that this would lead to the Russification of the peasant education. Earlier scholars have overlooked Kreutzwald's statements concerning the role of Christianity in Estonian peasant schools. Likely influenced by the ideological pressures of the Soviet occupation, some scholars have even claimed that, in Kreutzwald's view, the schools should have engaged in anti-religious struggle. This paper demonstrates, however, that he believed that peasant schools should "stand on a Christian foundation."

**Šarūnė Petkevičiūtė**

Vilnius University

Language Attitudes towards Lithuanian Non-Suffixed Female Surnames Ending with "-ė"

Although Lithuanian non-suffixed female surnames ending in -ė have been officially permitted since the adoption of the 2003 resolution of the State Commission of the Lithuanian Language, discussions about the appropriateness of this decision continue to this day. This paper analyses the language attitudes of Lithuanian language users towards these non-suffixed female surnames, aiming to identify the key characteristics and motivations underlying these attitudes. Drawing on quantitative and qualitative data, the analysis examines attitudes towards Lithuanian non-suffixed female surnames based on a three-component theoretical model of linguistic attitudes: cognitive, emotional, and behavioural.

The findings suggest that these attitudes are heterogeneous: positive evaluations predominate among the younger generation, while older respondents tend to express more unfavourable views. The analysis shows that although the 2003 resolution was adopted to enable women who wished not to disclose their marital status to choose a non-suffixed surname form, language users' attitudes were shaped by other factors, including practicality, aesthetic appeal, individual marital identity, and departure from Lithuanian language traditions.

## **Julija Poškaite**

Vilnius University

### The Use of Personal Pronouns in Parliamentary Election Debates

The aim of this presentation is to examine which personal pronouns Lithuanian politicians tend to use in political debates and what functions these pronouns perform. The presentation focuses on the functions of the personal pronouns *I* (Lith. *aš*), *we* (Lith. *mes*), and *you* (Lith. *jūs*).

Quantitative analysis showed that *we* is the most frequently used pronoun in debates, followed by *I* and, less frequently, *you*. The pronoun *we* most often performs an inclusive *we*, addressing an ambiguous audience, creating a sense of unity and involving voters in the politicians' ideas. The pronoun *I* predominantly functions as a represented *I*, emphasising personal opinions, political identity, and achievements. The analysis of *you* revealed that it is most often used to address a specific individual, reflecting the direct interaction and discussion characteristic of political debates.

The findings suggest that pronoun choice is a deliberate rhetorical strategy shaped by politicians' communicative goals.

## **Anastasiia Puha**

Vytautas Magnus University

### How Small Countries Can Make Humanitarian Aid Work Better: From Kaunas to Kharkiv

Lithuania's humanitarian assistance to Ukraine, although modest in absolute terms compared to major donors such as the USA and Germany, represents 0.311% of its GDP - the highest share globally relative to national wealth.

This study examines how small states such as Lithuania leverage limited resources to amplify their diplomatic influence amid Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Drawing on Lithuania's historical experience of Soviet occupation, the analysis highlights its solidarity-driven aid commitments and the significant role of domestic NGOs in grassroots humanitarian efforts. The findings demonstrate how the crisis has increased the visibility and agency of small states in European humanitarian decision-making and refugee support.

## Konradas Pukinskas

Vilnius University

### The Adaptation of a Classic Novel in the School Context: Fyodor Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment*

This study examines two Lithuanian-language editions of Fyodor Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment*: the 2019 edition published by Obuolys and the abridged 2008 edition published by Žaltvykslė. The analysis seeks to identify the principles and strategies through which the novel is adapted for use in an educational context.

A comparative examination of the two editions reveals that the abridged version is primarily shaped by two types of textual reduction: the omission or compression of descriptions of space and character, and the complete removal or substantial shortening of individual episodes. In light of these editorial interventions, the study raises the question of how, and to what extent, the abridged Lithuanian edition affects the reader's understanding of the novel, as well as the broader possibilities of its interpretation.

## Hedvig Puusaar

Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre

### Semantic Fields of Sacredness in Arvo Pärt's *Vater unser* through the Vocal Part, Piano Accompaniment and Their Interaction

This presentation focuses on a semiotic analysis of *Vater unser*, a sacred composition by the world-famous Estonian composer Arvo Pärt. The central research question examines how the vocal part, piano accompaniment and their interaction contribute to the construction of sacred meanings for the listener. The analysis is based on the British musicologist Philip Tagg's musematic method and focuses primarily on the listener's process of perception.

The results suggest that the perception of sacredness in the vocal part may be shaped by the use of a boy soprano voice as well as by four principal meaning-bearing musical structures: *pianto*, *sospiratio*, *katabasis* and *circulatio*. In the piano part, a sacred atmosphere may be created through the flowing accompaniment of continuous quavers and a *circulatio* motif built on the notes F#-G-F#. The

interaction between the meaningful musical elements of both parts and the text of the Lord's Prayer may lead listeners to perceive a dialogue between the supplicant and God, thereby creating a sacred musical environment.

### **Danielė Ramanauskaitė**

Vilnius University

#### *Mapping Akvilina Cicėnaitė's novel *A Dictionary of the English Language**

The process of reading is by nature linear. Mapping the narrative makes it possible to disrupt this linearity and examine different aspects of a novel simultaneously. In this paper, I map Akvilina Cicėnaitė's novel *A Dictionary of the English Language*, a contemporary account of a woman narrator and her husband travelling through Australia.

Mapping reveals physical aspects of the journey that are obscured by the subjective nature of the storytelling. In particular, it highlights the dissonance between the distance travelled and the amount of the journey that is narrated. In mapping the journey, I marked the purpose of each stop and examined three aspects of the conversations that take place throughout the novel: whether a conversation develops or ends after a few remarks; who initiates it; and what its content is. This approach makes it apparent that, as the relationship between the characters deteriorates, the quality of their conversations improves. This was not my initial interpretation of the novel and it prompted me to reconsider the role of verbal communication, which occupies a central position in the narrative, and to explore new approaches in interpreting the novel.

### **Vivien Reinhold**

University of Tartu

#### *Wood and Concrete: Architectural Texts in Tartu's Semiosphere*

At every corner, the city emerges as a system of signs. Within its landscape, texts operate with varying degrees of translatability through which new meanings are generated, existing meaning are transformed, and others remain "in-between".

Along the banks of the Emajõgi River in the southern Estonian city of Tartu, two main architectural styles can be encountered: 19th-century wooden houses, a

local and organic type of building designed to shelter small groups of people; and the Soviet apartment blocks, which reflect systematic and standardised planning intended to accommodate larger numbers of people. This context raises the question of how these two architectural styles in Tartu function as living texts belonging to different semiospheres, and what forms of translation and untranslatability emerge between them.

This research aims to explore how the urban landscape can embody cultural multilingualism and reveal the limits of translation. To this end, Juri Lotman's cultural semiotics is employed, with a particular focus on translation and its failures.

### **Gabrielė Repečkaitė**

Vilnius University

#### Georg Elger's Translations of Pericopes

Georg Elger was a Latvian Catholic priest who, in the 17th century, translated and compiled important works of the Catholic Church from Latin and German into Latvian. One of his works is the manuscript *Evangelia et Epistolae*, dating from around 1640, which has been preserved to the present day. The Gospel passages that circulated in manuscript form were later published in Vilnius in 1672 under the title *Evangelia toto anno [...]*. This publication represents the first printed translation of biblical excerpts into Latvian based on the original Latin rather than on German sources. Compared with the 1640 manuscript, the collection is more limited in scope, as it contains only passages from the Gospels. Although the texts are largely similar, they display a number of linguistic differences, which will be discussed in this presentation.

### **Laura Sakalauskaitė**

Vilnius University

#### The Structure of Male Surnames in the Parish of Ramygala (Based on Data from the 1920s)

While anthroponymic research has mainly focused on sources from the 16th-19th centuries, studies of personal names from the first half of the 20th century have received comparatively little attention.

This study examines the structure of male surnames recorded in the Ramygala marriage register from 1922 to 1928. A total of 2,608 male surnames were collected and classified according to the origin of their stems and the origin and types of their suffixes.

The analysis revealed that 57.3% of all surnames contain a single suffix (Jank-evičius, Stank-ūnas), 37.7% are non-suffixed (Jasas, Kairys), and 5% contain two suffixes (Petr-on-aitis, Stas-iuk-aitis).

The results show that suffixation played an important role in the formation of surnames in Ramygala, with some suffixes indicating a son's relationship to his father.

The most common stems of male surnames are derived from Lithuanian personal names (Butk-ūnas, Miškinis), as well as from Christian given names and their shortened forms (Masys, Vaitk-evičius). This suggests that, during the process of surname formation, suffixes were often attached to the most common paternal names of the period.

## **Mantvydas Samsanavičius**

Vilnius University

### *A Comparative Study of War Imagery in Maksym Kryvtsov's *Eilėraščiai iš šaudymo angos* and Marius Burokas's *Seismografas**

The object of this comparative literary study is war imagery in the Lithuanian translation of Maksym Kryvtsov's poetry collection *Eilėraščiai iš šaudymo angos* and in Marius Burokas' poetry collection *Seismografas*. Burokas is one of the translators of Kryvtsov's work. In his own collection, he extensively reflects on the war in Ukraine, and some of the texts contain direct intertextual references to Kryvtsov's writing. The two collections are closely related: while translating the work of the Ukrainian soldier and poet, Burokas was in contact with him, and following his death, he not only contributed to the publication of the Lithuanian translation but also supported Ukraine through fundraising efforts, with all proceeds from the book donated to a fund supporting Ukraine.

The connections between the two authors' texts are examined using the principles of contextual, thematic, and generative criticism. The recurring war imagery identified in the study forms a shared artistic structure; therefore, the two works can be interpreted as engaging in a dialogue with one another and generating new meanings.

## **Artsiom Savutsin**

University of Warsaw

### **"Liberation" of the Vilnius Region in Soviet Press Propaganda (1939–1940)**

In autumn 1939 the Soviet press had to present a series of contradictory events as "liberation". "Pravda" and its short-lived Belarusian-language edition, "Vilenskaja Pravda", used similar terminology to describe three distinct realities: invasion, the transfer of land and occupation. The takeover of Polish territory, justified by the claim that the Polish state had "ceased to exist", was presented "fraternal aid". Vilnius was initially described as part of Western Belarus only to be transferred to Lithuania several weeks later and portrayed as a generous gift and the historic capital of Lithuania. A year later, in 1940, "Soviet Pravda" presented the occupation of Lithuania as well as the occupation of Latvia and Estonia, as a joyful welcome extended to the Red Army.

Through the use of euphemisms, the inversion of the roles of aggressor and defender, and an emphasis on class struggle rather than conflicts based on nationality, the press concealed these contradictions, and helped legitimise the redrawing of borders in the region.

## **Mark Sima**

Eötvös Loránd University

### **The Construction of National Memory of the Middle Ages in Lithuania and Hungary**

This paper compares the national memory of the Middle Ages in Lithuania and Hungary, drawing on theories of nationalism and ethnosymbolism. Drawing on Anthony D. Smith's approach to ethnosymbolism, the study analyses how medieval symbols, myths and historical narratives are used to construct contemporary national identities. In Lithuania, national memory emphasises the Grand Duchy of Lithuania as a symbol of political power and resilience, whilst in Hungary the narratives of St Stephen I, the founding of the Christian state and the Holy Crown are of key importance. The paper examines practices of remembrance, educational content and public discourse, with the aim of revealing how the medieval heritage becomes the foundation of national identity. A comparative analysis shows that, despite differing historical experiences, in the national memory of both countries

pre-modern symbols and collective memories remain important sources of national continuity and legitimacy.

### **Liucija Širkaitė**

Vilnius University

#### Global Fashion and Local Meanings: The Case of ELLE Lithuania, a Women's Fashion and Lifestyle Magazine

This paper examines how an international fashion magazine operates within a Lithuanian cultural context, focusing on ELLE Lithuania as a local edition of a global media brand. Rather than treating the magazine only as a printed or digital publication, the study approaches it as a semiotic cultural formation: a space that connects readers, journalists, influencers, fashion professionals and events. The main question is whether ELLE Lithuania reproduces the global ELLE discourse on women's fashion, or whether it translates and reshapes it for a local audience.

Through a semiotic analysis of verbal and visual discourse, the paper explores how meanings of women's fashion are constructed and how global fashion codes are adapted, negotiated or transformed within the Lithuanian semiosphere. Drawing on fashion semiotics, cultural semiotics and theories of translation, the study considers ELLE Lithuania as a site where global fashion meanings are culturally localised.

### **Bernadeta Skirgailaitė**

Vilnius University

#### Creation of Neologisms: A Reaction to the Changing World

In the age of the internet and social media, people respond rapidly to global events and freely express their opinions. Language users create expressive neologisms to attract readers' attention and express themselves in original ways. Their main function is not to name phenomena but to convey emotions, attitudes and creativity.

This paper analyses 102 expressive neologisms and their contexts recorded in "The Database of Lithuanian Neologisms" (DN) in 2024. The aim is to show how Lithuanian language users' attitudes towards a changing world are revealed

through the creation of neologisms. The study employs qualitative semantic analysis to examine the connections between the meanings of neologisms and the event to which they refer, based on the analysis of their contexts, including 34 usage examples from the DN, Internet and online media sources. The expressive connotations of the neologisms, together with their usage contexts, reveal language users' attitude towards the events in question. Based on the analysis of the usage patterns, six groups representing events and current affairs in 2024 were identified.

### **Sofiya Smurova**

Masaryk University

#### [From Reflexive Verbs to Nouns: A Baltic Perspective on Nominalization](#)

This paper examines reflexive deverbal nouns in Lithuanian and Latvian, focusing on their morphology, distribution, and functions. It aims to assess the extent to which reflexive markers are integrated into word formation and to compare these patterns across the two Baltic languages. The analysis suggests that Lithuanian exhibits a higher level of morphological integration, whereas Latvian formations are more morphologically transparent. The study also examines their syntactic behaviour and semantic roles, particularly their use in expressing processes and general actions. A typological comparison with Slavic languages shows that similar meanings are typically conveyed through more analytical constructions. The findings contribute to a better understanding of cross-linguistic variation in reflexive nominalisation.

### **Gabriela Socha**

Vilnius University

#### [„Kas čia per“ Construction Analysis in Lithuanian](#)

The construction “kas čia per” has received little scholarly attention. This study examines its structure, possible lexical input, grammatical case variables, and semantics. The analysis is based on corpus data. The possibility that the construction is a borrowing from German is also explored. The possible semantic development of the preposition’s *per* is analysed in order to explain its use in this construction. Two types of construction are distinguished: one expressing the

meaning “what kind of...?” and the other associated with the meaning “which one?”.

### **Sandis Sprudzāns**

Riga Technical University, Rezekne Academy

#### **Development of Civic Participation Competences and Literacy in History Education for Basic School in Grade 9 Students: The Case of Latvia**

Since 2025, I have been working on my PhD thesis, which explores how the development of text literacy can strengthen students' civic participation competences (Mullis & Martin, 2019). In my presentation, I will introduce the research design of my PhD thesis, focusing on one of the empirical methods, the experiment, as a framework for collaboration with teachers and students. The approach is inspired by Gronostay's argumentation training in Switzerland, teacher-designed thematic input, and a structured fishbowl debates (Wenger, et al., 2025). The purpose of this presentation is to introduce and test this research method and gather feedback in preparation for data collection in autumn 2026.

The experiment comprises a structured learning cycle involving multimodal text analysis, critical source evaluation, argumentation tasks, debates, and reflection activities. Data will be collected through student self-assessments, teacher reflections, and workshop discussions. The study will involve six ninth-grade teachers from six Latvian schools selected to ensure an urban-rural balance, regional diversity, and variation in language-of-instruction backgrounds.

### **Povilas Stanys**

Vilnius University

#### **More Different Than Alike? The Ministries of Jewish and Belarusian Affairs in Interwar Lithuania**

The independent state of Lithuania sought to shape its relations with national minority groups from the moment of its establishment in 1918. The earliest efforts in this regard can be traced to two institutions established during the state's formative years: the Ministries of Jewish and Belarusian Affairs. Both institutions have been analysed separately by historians in various studies devoted to them;

however, this fragmented approach has led to some oversimplifications. For example, the fact that the two ministries had similar names and shared the goal of politically representing their respective groups within the emerging Lithuanian state has led researchers to assume that they were structured and operated along similar lines.

However, a systematic analysis of archival documents from the Lithuanian Central State Archives suggests otherwise. The two institutions sought to represent national minority groups that differed considerably in size, organisation, and even degree of national self-awareness. This paper demonstrates that these differences influenced the development of distinct institutional structures and political objectives in the two ministries.

**Juuli Teder**

University of Tartu

### [The Reception of Michel de Montaigne's \*Essays\* in Estonia](#)

In Estonia, there has recently been growing discussion about who is actually able to keep up with the ever-increasing number of translations of literary classics. All too often, translators are left with the impression that their work simply disappears into a void. This is particularly true in the case of an author such as Michel de Montaigne (1533-1592) who is far from mainstream or “marketable” by today's standards. Yet he is hardly a marginal figure: his importance to both French and Estonian culture is undeniable. Approximately two-thirds of Montaigne's *Essays* have so far been translated into Estonian.

In conversation with their translator, Kristiina Ross, an existential question has emerged: whether – and for whom – the remaining third should be translated. Where can a translator find the motivation to complete such an undertaking if its reception remains largely invisible? My aim is to trace the network of connections that a single translated work or author can create within a small culture and, in doing so, to demonstrate that every act of translation leaves a visible trace in the receiving culture. I seek to understand the role and impact of translated literature in Estonian culture. Beyond this, I explore a larger question: to what extent are influences from older and more established cultures necessary for the cultural development of a younger nation, and at what point do such influences begin to suppress local particularities and become a form of self-colonisation?

## **Attila Tokai**

Eötvös Loránd University

### [Estonian Memories in Hungary: Tallinn's Forgotten Sister City](#)

Szolnok (Hungary) and Tallinn established a twin-city partnership in 1964, involving Szolnok County and the Estonian SSR. Staff from the Szolnok Radio studio regularly reported on Estonia and broadcast a series of Kalevipoeg. In 1967, the local museum began collecting Estonian documents, which eventually led to the opening of a permanent exhibition featuring a decorative door inspired by the entrance to the Great Merchants' Guild. The museum also exhibited Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian national art. In 1973, the Tallinn Restaurant opened in Szolnok, decorated by Jüri Arrak. Meanwhile, the Szolnok Restaurant became a popular tourist destination in the Estonian capital. The Tallinn Library continues to operate in Szolnok, and a district named Tallinn remains a reminder of the historical connection between the two cities.

This presentation will explore the largely overlooked history of the twin-city relationship, with particular attention to historical sources and potential directions for future research.

## **Anna Troitskaia**

University of Tartu

### [Guidebooks and the Politics of Memory in Soviet-Era Tallinn](#)

This presentation examines Soviet guidebooks to Tallinn as instruments of memory politics. The study draws on a corpus of Russian-language guidebooks published between 1947 and 1988, ranging from Julius Gens's first post-war guidebook to late-Soviet editions intended for mass tourism, and on Jan Assmann's concept of cultural memory, particularly the notion of the canon. It explores how these guidebooks interpreted urban heritage and constructed historical narratives.

The paper argues that Soviet guidebooks reworked an existing historical and cultural canon in accordance with the ideological imperatives of the Soviet regime. Through the selective inclusion of monuments, historical figures, and events, they integrated Tallinn's past into a Soviet historical narrative while excluding alternative interpretations of the city's history. In this way, guidebooks

served as symbolic instruments through which Soviet power sought to legitimise its presence in post-war Estonia.

### **Madli Vanamölder**

University of Tartu

#### **Inventing Beginnings: The Politics of Institutional Origins in Twentieth-Century Europe**

This paper examines how universities define their own beginnings and asks why different institutional “starting points” are chosen at different historical moments. Rather than treating the foundation of a university as a fixed historical fact, it approaches institutional beginnings as historically constructed and politically meaningful.

Focusing on the twentieth century, a period marked by wars, regime changes, and shifting borders, the paper explores how universities in Tartu, Vilnius, and Strasbourg repeatedly redefined their origins in response to changing political contexts. In each case, different historical layers were selectively foregrounded in order to establish continuity and legitimacy under new conditions. The paper shows how institutional beginnings are continually reconstructed through processes of historical selection that shape both university identity and broader understandings of the European past.

### **Marta Veismane**

University of Latvia

#### **Landscape impressions in Judita Vaičiūnaitė's poetry collection *Zemei pieskaroties* (*Žemės prisilietus*)**

The study of Judita Vaičiūnaitė's poetry collection *Zemei pieskaroties* (original title: *Žemės prisilietus*) examines the poetics of text and representations of landscape in the Lithuanian-Latvian cultural context. The aim of the paper is to examine translation issues and the interaction between texts. Due to differences between the two cultures, an equivalent translation is not always possible; therefore, the study of Lithuanian-Latvian cultural artifacts is essential. The paper focuses on the representation of landscape in poetry and aims to explore the cultural context of

Lithuania. Vaičiūnaitė's poetry has been translated into Latvian periodically, but the poetry collection *Zemei pieskaroties* is the first full translation of her work into Latvian, produced by Hermanis Marģeris Majevskis.

## **Emilija Vievesytė**

Vilnius University

### [Dating Discourse: Strategies of Men's and Women's Descriptions on Tinder](#)

This study analyses Tinder user profile descriptions, comparing self-presentation strategies and linguistic expressions of men and women. The theoretical framework combines E. Goffman's theory of impression management, J. Walther's theory of selective self-presentation theories, D. Tannen's distinction between female rapport talk and male report talk, R. Martin's psychology of humour, and F. Yus's concept of cyberpragmatics.

The corpus consists of 140 bios: 70 written by men and 70 by women, all aged 25-30. The data were collected using two profiles and analysed through thematic and qualitative content analysis. Men's bios predominantly emphasise hobbies and an active lifestyle, while selectivity is conveyed indirectly through humour. Irony often relies on cultural references that function as signals of intellectual competence. Distinctive linguistic features include diminutives, future-tense projections, and direct address to potential partners. Women mention hobbies less frequently, framing them as invitations to shared experiences. References to pets are particularly prominent, while selectivity is expressed more explicitly. Humour tends toward self-deprecation and the absurd. A distinctive strategy is anti-presentation: a conscious declaration of personal flaws as a marker of authenticity. Minimalist bios consisting of just a few words are also more common among women.

## **Youxin (Luna) Wang**

University of Tartu

### [Can We Imagine More Alternatives? Discussion between Cosmotechnics and Semiosphere](#)

This presentation examines the possibility of extending Estonian semiotician Juri Lotman's concept of the Semiosphere towards a broader notion of technics. It develops a reflection on the dialectical relationship between technology and nature through a conceptual dialogue between cosmotechnics and the Lotmanian Semiosphere. It asks whether technology and nature/culture can be understood not as opposing substances, but as mutually co-emerging processes mediated through semiotic and cosmological structures. By bringing cosmotechnics into dialogue with the Semiosphere, this presentation opens a potential theoretical space for understanding nature/culture-technology coexistence as a plural and evolving process of world-making.

By reviewing both frameworks together, despite their distinct intellectual origins in Yuk Hui's philosophy of technology and Yuri Lotman's semiotics of culture, the presentation seeks to offer a complementary perspectives on alternative possibilities might be imagined in an increasingly homogenised, particularly under conditions of late capitalism.

### **Brian Wiggins**

University of Tartu

### **Psychological Asymmetry in Estonia's Ethnic Politics**

Estonia ranks among the most successful post-Soviet states, yet it has recently moved to restrict its Russian-speaking minority, while decades of integration studies have shown little progress in bringing the country's two major ethnic groups closer together. This paper seeks to understand this situation through the lens of psychological asymmetry: systematic differences in how dominant and subordinate groups perceive and respond to identical social conditions. Using data from the 2020 and 2023 Estonian Integration Monitor surveys, it compares ethnic Estonians and Russians across eight constructs. The findings reveal clear asymmetry: Estonians increasingly favour social distance from Russians and resist minority inclusion, while Russian attitudes remain stable or converge towards those of ethnic Estonians. Intergroup contact and out-group language proficiency correlate with reduced asymmetry, although the effects of contact are uneven. The paper develops a picture of psychological between Estonia's ethnic groups while also considering the impact of the war in Ukraine.

## **Evgeny Zavadskiy**

University of Tartu

### The Image of the Border between the Estonian Republic and the USSR (Based on content from Estonian and Russian emigre press in the first half of the 1930s)

Due to their geographic location, journalists in Estonia had a unique perspective on events along the Estonian-Soviet border. Their publications covered a wide range of events, from routine shipments to the activities of Soviet spies, the GPU, and the Red Army. Journalists also described crisis-communication practices between the two sides and their responses, including the use of force, to challenges and provocations from the USSR.

The newspapers interpreted these events within a broader European context and cited similar examples from other countries, including Latvia, Poland, and Romania. Journalists also documented the consequences of Soviet propaganda and disinformation for people of Europe and America. For example, Russian peasants living in Estonia left for the USSR in search of a better life.

I will compare Estonian- and Russian-language newspaper coverage to understand how the border issue was addressed: which topics and meanings were considered important for their respective audiences, and why. I will also consider whether journalists attempted to influence their readers.

## **Meda Žukaitė**

Vilnius University

### Specificity of the Titles of Informal Lithuanian Youth Self-Published Newspapers – (Fan)zines

Zines are typically handmade, non-professional, non-commercial magazines produced in small print runs, distributed through underground networks and intended for specific small-scale communities or subcultures. Their titles provide insight into the niche communities in which zines played an important role.

A total of 182 zine titles were collected from Lithuania's Youth Culture Digital Archive. Although the titles represented 13 subcultures, the analysis focuses on the five largest groups: metalheads, punks, skinheads, fantasts, and football fans. In terms of language use, 53.3% of the titles are in Lithuanian, 36.3% in English, 3.8% in Latin, 3.8% in multiple languages, and 2.8% remain unidentified.

Structurally, the titles can be divided into single-component (40,1%), two-component (39,6%), and multi-component (20,3%). Two-component and multi-component titles can be further classified according to phrase structure, the most common being noun phrases (NPs), such as *Another World*, *Bitch and Absurd*, *Ant durniaus*, or *Laumės ir vynos*. Possessive constructions are also widely used in Lithuanian and English non-single-component titles, for example: *Demons of Fire*, *Dynasty of Despair*, *Bedugnės viešpačiai* or *Dorado raganos*. The semantics of titles reveal a strong tendency for metalhead publications to be dominated by vocabulary associated with death, apocalypse, extinction, and disease, as illustrated by *Aeternum Silentium*, *Burned Church* and *Infected by Dementia*.