

“VOICES FROM BELOW” OR EMPIRES OF PARTICIPATION?

Imperial Rule and Everyday Practices of Self-Empowerment.

2-3 OCTOBER 2026 | LITHUANIAN INSTITUTE OF HISTORY, TILTO 17 VILNIUS

2 October 2026

9:00-9:15 | Greetings from the organizers

PRE-MODERN TIMES

9:15-9:55 | **The Grand Duchy of Lithuania as an Empire**
Zenonas Norkus (*Vilnius University*)

9:55-10:35 | **Locusts, Winters, Floods. The Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in the Age of Global Crisis (Mid-17th Century)**
Piotr Oliński (*The Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń*)

10:35-11:00 | Coffee Break

THE LONG NINETEENTH CENTURY AND BEYOND

11:00-11:40 | **For the Empire's Intercession in the Internal Relations of the Dependent State. Nikolay Novosiltsev's Project of Liberalizing Jewish Rights in the Kingdom of Poland (1817)**
Zbigniew Filipiak (*The Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń*)

11:40-12:20 | **On the Margins of Urban Society? The Possibilities and Limits of Creating Social Spaces "from Below" – St. Petersburg, 1850-1914**
Hans Christian Petersen (*Federal Institute for Culture and History of the Germans in Eastern Europe*)

12:20-14:00 | Lunch

14:00-14:40 | **Fatal Tolerance: Russian Imperial Authorities and Jewish Workers' Movement in Vilnius (1890-1895)**
Vytautas Petronis (*Lithuanian Institute of History*)

14:40-15:20 | **Jewish-Polish Antagonism and Political Self-Empowerment during the State Duma Election Campaigns in Vilnius (1906-1912)**
Julijana Andriejauskienė (*Lithuanian Institute of History*)

15:20-16:00 | **Ambiguous Belarusianness in Late Imperial Russia: Between State Loyalty, Pragmatic Adaptation and Nationalism**
Aliaksandr Bystryk (*Independent scholar*)

3 October 2026

THE SHORT TWENTIETH CENTURY

9:00-9:40 | **"Letters from Below." Soviet Rituals of Acclamation and Practices of Participation during Stalinism**

Malte Rolf (*Carl von Ossietzky University in Oldenburg*)

9:40-10:20 | **They Not Always "Spoke Bolshevik." Political Institutions, Propaganda and Answers "from Below" in Soviet Lithuania**
Vladas Sirutavičius (*Lithuanian Institute of History*)

10:20-11:00 | **Letters to the Editor' in the "Sovetskaja Litva"**
Dennis Wamboldt (*Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz*)

11:00-11:20 | Coffee Break

11:20-12:00 | **Scopes for Civil Society: Opposition in the GDR in the 80s**
Gunilla Budde (*Carl von Ossietzky University in Oldenburg*)

12:00-12:40 | **Lithuanian Architects Assess the Soviet Era – The Generation of the 1980s**
Marija Drėmaitė (*Vilnius University*)

12:40 | Final Discussion

