

## PROGRAMME OF THE CONFERENCE

Institute of International Relations and Political Science of Vilnius University  
(10 Vokiečių street)

### DAY 1 – SEPTEMBER 11

**9.00 - 9.30 Welcome coffee (room 401)**

**9.30 - 9.40 Welcome addresses (room 402)**

Gabriele Baumann (Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung)  
Margarita Šešelgytė (Vilnius University)

**9.40 - 10.40 Roundtable discussion “Beyond uncertainty: Belarus and Europe’s security” (room 402)**

**Moderator:** Margarita Šešelgytė (Vilnius University)

**10.40 - 11.00 Coffee break (room 401)**

**11.00 - 12.00 Keynote speech (room 402)**

Antoaneta Dimitrova (Leiden University)  
**Moderator:** Tatsiana Chulitskaya (Vilnius University)

**12.00 - 13.00 Lunch break (room 401)**

**13.00 - 14.30 Belarus in the Current Geopolitical Situation: Security and Military Threats (room 402)**

- Learning from Civil Society? The Evolution of EU Democracy Support in Belarus  
*Wicke van den Broek and Giselle Bosse (Maastricht University)*
- The EU and the Future of Belarus: Transformation Scenarios and the Need for a Coherent Approach  
*Mateusz Błaszczak (Katolicki Uniwersytet Lubelski Jana Pawła II)*
- Strategic Engagement in Belarus: International Organizations' Approaches from Cooperation to Distancing (2014-2025)  
*Natallia Rabava (Belarusian Institute for Public Administration Reform and Transformation, Vilnius University)*
- Small State Status-Seeking: Latvia's Foreign Policy Ambitions through its Influence on EU Policy Towards Belarus  
*Beate Livdanska (Rīga Stradiņš University)*

**Panel chair:** Simona Vaškevičiūtė (Vilnius University)

**Discussant:** Dovilė Jakniūnaitė (Vilnius University)

**13.00 - 14.30 Life Under Pressure: Identity, and Political Repression in Belarus (room 302)**

- Support for Political Prisoners in Belarus: how Civil Society withstands Political Repressions

*Irminda Matonytė (General Jonas Žemaitis Military Academy of Lithuania) and Tatsiana Chulitskaya (Vilnius University)*

- Between Trauma and Transformation: Rethinking Political Participation in Belarus

*Katsiaryna Andronava (independent researcher)*

- The Power of Writing: Belarusian Political Prisoners' Narratives of Self and Nation

*Katsiaryna Lozka (Ghent University)*

- Contextualizing Intimacy In Authoritarianism: Experiences of Dating in Belarus after Tinder

*Andrei Vazyana (European Humanities University)*

**Panel chair:** Leanid Marozau (Office of Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya; Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań)

**Discussant:** Nerija Putinaite (Vilnius University)

**14.30 - 14.50 Coffee break (room 401)**

**14.50 - 16.20 Belarusian Civil Society, Democratic Movement and Resistance (room 402; hybrid session)**

- "Russkiy Mir" Ideology in Belarus: Expansion and Resistance

*Pavel Tereshkovich (Belarusian Association of Education and Science)*

- How to Strengthen the Protest Potential of Supporters of Democratic Change in Belarus?

*Victor Shadurski (Wroclaw University)*

- Signaling in Belarus in 2020: Protest or Merely a Step Toward It?

*Vilija Navickaitė (Vilnius University)*

- Feminist Solidarity in Post-2020 Belarus: Response to Violence and Path to Democracy

*Hanna Vasilevich (International Centre for Ethnic and Linguistic Diversity Studies)*

**Panel chair:** Katsiaryna Lozka (Ghent University)

**Discussant:** Ainė Ramonaitė (Vilnius University)

**14.50 - 16.20 Belarusian Economy in a Shifting Geopolitical Situation (room 302)**

- The Belarus Paradox: Growth Under Authoritarianism

*Zuzanna Kalinowska (Tilburg University, Permanent Representation of Poland to the EU)*

- Labour Reallocation and Productivity of Belarusian Economy: Consequences and Perspectives

*Hanna Liavikhina (BEROC Economic Research Center)*

- What Is Needed to Strengthen Macroeconomic Stability in Belarus?  
*Dzmitry Kruk (European Humanities University, Belarusian Economic Research and Outreach Center)*

- The Shifting Priorities of Belarus' Budget: The Rise of Defense Expenditures  
*Alexander Malyarenko (Belarusian Institute for Public Administration Reform and Transformation)*

**Panel chair:** Alfredo Hernandez Sanchez (Vilnius University)

**Discussant:** Vytautas Kuokštis (Vilnius University)

**16.20 - 16.40      Coffee break (room 401)**

**16.40 - 18.10      Belarus Research Network for Neighborhood Policy Expert Discussion "Security Threats of Lukashenka's Regime: What Can Be Done?"**

*Ryhor Nizhnikau, Finish Institute of International Affairs (FIIA)*

*Aliaksei Kazharski, Charles University*

*Dovilė Jakniūnaitė, Vilnius University*

**Moderator:** Beate Livdanska (Rīga Stradiņš University)

**18.30              Reception and networking (for the conference participants only)**

**Venue: restaurant "Grey" (2 Pilies street)**

Gabriele Baumann (Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung)

## DAY 2 – SEPTEMBER 12

**9.00 - 9.30**      **Welcome coffee (room 401)**

**9.30 - 10.30**      **Keynote speech “Putinism, American Authoritarianism, and the Future of Belarus” (room 402)**

David Marples (University of Alberta)

**Moderator:** Laurynas Jonavičius (Vilnius University)

**10.30 - 10.50**      **Coffee break (room 401)**

**10.50-12.20**      **Ukraine, Belarus, and Regional Security: War’s Impact and Responses (room 402; hybrid session)**

- Cher nihiv-Gomel: the Road of Friendship, the Road of War  
*Serhiy Lepyavko (Nizhyn Gogol State University)*
- Responsibility of the Republic of Belarus for Participation in the Aggression Against Ukraine: The European Perspective  
*Maryia Zharylouskaya (Mykolas Romeris University)*
- Echoes of the Kremlin: Analyzing Belarusian Media’s Role in the Dissemination of Anti-Ukrainian Disinformation  
*Oleksandr Yaroshchuk (National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy)*
- Unlocking Potential: Addressing the Underutilization of Human Capital Among Ukrainian and Belarusian Migrants in Poland and Lithuania  
*Radzivon Marozau (European Humanities University, Belarusian Economic Research and Outreach Center)*

**Panel chair:** Juljan Jachovič (Vilnius University)

**Discussant:** Katsiaryna Lozka (Ghent University)

**10.50 - 12.20**      **Controlling the Narrative: The Digital and Discursive Tools of the Belarusian Regime (room 302; hybrid session)**

- A Fear Dictator Who Keeps Spinning: Tracing the Digitally Induced Changes in the Belarusian System of Covert Repression  
*Ildar Daminov (Central European University)*
- Media as a Factor of Security in Authoritarian Belarus: Between Disinformation, Resistance and Geopolitical Tensions (2020–2025)  
*Hanna Liubakova (Atlantic Council)*
- Cities of Power, Villages of Tradition: Territorial Narratives in Alexander Lukashenko’s Public Discourse (2019–2021)  
*Andrei Turko and Anna Skibińska (University of Wrocław)*

**Panel chair:** Justinas Lingevičius (Vilnius University)

**Discussant:** Nerijus Maliukevičius (Vilnius University)

**12.20 - 13.20      Lunch break (room 401)**

**13.20 - 14.50      Governing Under Authoritarianism: Public Administration, Government, and Governance in Belarus (room 402)**

- Good governance promotion in the context of authoritarian consolidation: the case of Belarus

*Tatsiana Chulitskaya (Vilnius University)*

- Between international cooperation and disengagement: how Belarus deals with nuclear governance issues in the context of authoritarian consolidation

*Andrei Stsiapanau (Vilnius University)*

- The Rule of Law and Global Indices in Belarus

*Aryna Dzmitryieva (FernUniversität in Hagen, Vilnius University)*

- From erosion to reconstruction: the Rule of Law in Belarus before, during, and after authoritarianism

*Hanna Plotnikava (European Humanities University)*

**Panel chair:** Rasa Bortkevičiūtė (Vilnius University)

**Discussant:** Irmina Matonytė (General Jonas Žemaitis Military Academy of Lithuania)

**13.20 - 14.50      Belarus in Exile: Migration and Mobilisation of Diaspora (room 302)**

- Belarusian Diaspora Political Mobilisation in Times of Polycrisis

*Marta Jaroszewicz, Kseniya Homel, Magdalena Lesińska (University of Warsaw)*

- Is Belarusian Science Possible in Exile?

*Aliaksei Lastouski (European Humanities University, Belarusian Institute of Public History)*

- Belarusian Emigration and Labor Market Dynamics (2020–2024): Assessing Migration Trends, Workforce Shortages, and State Policy Responses

*Anastasiya Luzgina (Belarusian Economic Research and Outreach Center)*

- Facing Transnational Repression in Exile: Trajectories and Experiences of Belarusians in Lithuania, Poland, and Georgia

*Tatyana Shukan (Bordeaux Montaigne University)*

**Panel chair:** Wicke van den Broek (Maastricht University)

**Discussant:** Vainius Bartasevičius (Vilnius University)

**14.50 - 15.10      Coffee break (room 401)**

**15.10 - 16.40      Between Repression and Rule of Law: Legal Mechanisms in Authoritarian Belarus (room 402)**

- Pursuing Accountability of (for) Belarus: Between Aspiration and Reality

*Ekaterina Deikalo (independent researcher)*

- Transnational Repression by the Belarusian Regime: The Use of Extradition and INTERPOL Mechanisms Against Political Opponents and Exiled Protesters

*Dzmitry Hlotau (European Humanities University, Vytautas Magnus University, VŠĮ "Teisinė iniciatyva")*

- Weaponizing the Law: How the Belarusian Regime Uses Legal Tools to Suppress Dissent and Undermine European Security

*Leanid Marozau (Office of Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya; Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań)*

- The Practice of in Absentia Proceedings in the Belarusian Criminal Justice System as a tool for Politically Motivated Prosecution of Belarusians

*Artem Semyanov (European Humanities University)*

**Panel chair:** Maryia Zharylouskaya (Mykolas Romeris University)

**Discussant:** Vytis Jurkonis (Freedom House; Vilnius University)

**15.10 - 16.40      Belarusian Migration to Lithuania: Integration, Identity, and Policy in a Geopolitical Context (room 302)**

- Belarusian family migration to Lithuania: Profiles, integration patterns, and main challenges

*Natalia Shcherbina (Institute of Sociology at the Lithuanian Centre for Social Sciences)*

- Intersectional Analysis of Self-care, Endurance Work and Courage to Speak Up among Belarusians in Lithuania

*Yana Sanko (European Humanities University)*

- Strangers at the Gate? Lithuanian Official Rhetoric on Three Waves of Migration after 2020

*Kiryl Kascian and Viktor Denisenko (Vilnius University)*

- Belarusians Between Geopolitical Pressures and Lithuanian Policy Shifts: Impact of Russia's Aggression Against Ukraine

*Vytautas Valentinavičius (Kaunas University of Technology)*

**Panel chair:** Andrei Stsiapanau (Vilnius University)

**Discussant:** Marta Jaroszewicz (University of Warsaw)

**16.40 - 17.00      Coffee break (room 401)**



**17.00 - 18.00    Networking event: Launch of Routledge Handbook of Contemporary Belarus (room 402)**

*Aliaksei Kazharski (Charles University)*

*Katsiaryna Lozka (Ghent University)*

*Ryhor Nizhnikau (Finnish Institute of International Affairs)*

**Moderator:** Tatsiana Chulitskaya (Vilnius University)

**Vilnius, September 11-12, 2025**



 **VILNIUS UNIVERSITY**  
INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

