

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)

Kęstutis Budrys, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania

Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, Leader of the Belarusian democratic opposition

Moderator: Margarita Šešelgytė (Vilnius University)

10.40 - 11.00 Coffee break (room 401)

11.00 - 12.00 Keynote speech “Revisiting the state and the role of public administration in times of autocratization and securitization” (room 402)

Antoaneta Dimitrova (Leiden University)

Discussants: Tatsiana Chulitskaya and Ramūnas Vilpišauskas (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

Irmīna 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 Vazyanau (European Humanities University)

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

Discussant: Nerija Putinaitė (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

Yuliya Kazdobina, Ukrainian Prism

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)

András Rácz (German Council on Foreign Relations)

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: Gwendolyn Sasse (Centre for East European and International Studies)

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

Organisers:



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



LATVIAN INSTITUTE
OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

 **KONRAD
ADENAUER
STIFTUNG**
BELARUS

Informational partners:


WUB HUB
Warwick
Ukraine-Belarus


**UKRAINIAN
PRISM**