

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) - MANDATORY REGISTRATION

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 (Catholic University of Lublin)

- 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)

- 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 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) - JOIN THE PANEL

- "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: Rasa Bortkevičiūtė (Vilnius 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?" (room 402) - ONLINE BROADCAST

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)

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) - JOIN THE PANEL**

- Chernihiv-Gomel: Ukrainian-Belarusian Relations in a Regional Retrospective

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: Kirill Shamiev (European Council of Foreign Affairs)

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

- 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: Vilija Navickaitė (Vilnius University)

Discussant: Irmėna 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)

David Marples (University of Alberta)

Ryhor Nizhnikau (Finnish Institute of International Affairs)

Ekaterina Deikalo (independent researcher)

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

Moderator: Tatsiana Chulitskaya (Vilnius University)

Vilnius, September 11-12, 2025

Organisers:



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



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