# Political behaviour, subjectivity and contention



Keywords: political participation, electoral behaviour, party politics, political attitudes, civil society, social movements, social networks, political communication, memory politics, (post)Soviet



## Research group activities

The main focus of our research group is political behaviour, political attitudes and subjectivity with specific interest in communist and post-communist legacies. Under the communist regime, societies of Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) underwent a drastic social experiment. Understanding effects and measuring longstanding impact of this experiment on current CEE societies are among the main goals of our group. Building on new theoretical approaches (e.g. relational sociology) and advanced methods of social science (quantitative as well as qualitative), and in-depth knowledge of the Lithuanian society, we seek to reveal peculiarities of (post)communist societies.

The group has been working together for more than ten years. It has successfully implemented numerous research projects on a number of salient topics – development of the Lithuanian civil society and national party system, cultural opposition in Soviet Lithuania and

roots of civic movement 'Sąjūdis' in late 1980's, among others. The research group is responsible for the Lithuanian National Election Study. We collaborate with researchers of national elections studies in other countries under the framework of the COST action "True European Voter" and inside the network of Comparative Studies of Electoral Systems (CSES). The research group has also developed a Voter Advice Application (VAA) for Lithuania, and it collaborates with VAA developers across Europe (EUvox). Besides socio-political analysis of the current Lithuanian society, we work on the historico-anthropological research on the Lithuanian everyday life, social networking and cultural resistance during the Soviet period, as well as memory of the Soviet in the present.



## Proposal

We have expertise in analysing political behaviour using different inter-disciplinary methods (survey data, survey experiments, in-depth interviews, oral history, social network analysis). Our team is experienced in carrying out large scale public opinion surveys (Lithuanian post-election surveys, European Values Survey,

Lithuanian Civic Empowerment Index, etc.), and qualitative studies of political attitudes. We seek partnership with similar groups in other countries, especially focusing on post-communist societies, to engage into comparative research of political behaviour, social movements and memory.



#### Meet our team

Prof. Dr. Ainė Ramonaitė
Political science

Assoc. Prof. Dr. M. Jastramskis
Comparative politics, quantitative methods

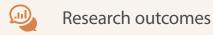
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rūta Žiliukaitė Sociology

Assist. Prof. Dr. leva Petronytė Political sociology, Political psychology Jūratė Kavaliauskaitė
Political communication

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Inga Vinogradnaitė
Political science, qualitative methods

Assist. Prof. Dr. Jogilė Ulinskaitė
Political sociology

Paulius Skirkevičius
History, comparative politics



- 8 books and numerous articles in peer-review journals
- Lithuanian National Election Study 2012 and 2016
- Voting advice application (VAA) in Lithuania (www.manobalsas.
   lt) implemented for parliamentary, presidential and EP elections since 2008

#### Prizes and Awards:

- Lithuanian Academy of Science Prize for Young Researchers in 2006
- Lithuanian Political Science Association Award for the Best Political Science Publication of 2007
- Lithuanian Political Science Association Award for the Best Political Science Publication of 2010
- Lithuanian Political Science Association Award for the Best Political Science Publication of 2012
- Vilnius University Award for the Best 2014 Publication in Social Sciences and Humanities



### Resources

- Database of in-depth interviews collected since 2003 with ordinary citizens of Lithuania and elites
- Oral history archive on Soviet and post-Soviet transformations http://www.visuomenesovietmeciu.tspmi.vu.lt/
- An archive of public opinion survey data and political elites surveys (since 2005)



### **Contacts**

Prof. dr. Ainė Ramonaitė Institute of International Relations and Political Science

Phone: +370 652 00 524

E-mail: aine.ramonaite@tspmi.vu.lt

More about the institute: http://www.tspmi.vu.lt/en/

Department for Research and Innovation

Phone: +370 5 268 7006 E-mail: innovations@mid.vu.lt

More information: http://www.innovations.vu.lt