

Research group of Minorities' History and Culture studies

Keywords: Jewish culture, heritage and history; ethnic minorities; Lithuania in East and Central Europe; co-existence, Muslims, Tatars, Karaites, Old Believers, Poles, audio-visual representation; worldwide connections; cultural routes; tolerance education, anti-Semitism, stereotypes.



Vilnius
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Research group activities

- Socio-cultural research of ethnic, national and religious minority groups in the region (East and Central Europe, also including Russia);
- Research of history of non-Christian minorities in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania in comparative European perspective in Early Modern period;
- Research of process of identity formation of ethnic and religious minorities, identity preservation and representation forms and strategies, communities' identity policy and state minority policy, community and state interaction.
- Intercommunal relations and communication; formation, adaptation and dissemination of stereotypes in different groups of the society;
- Development of new empirical research and theoretical, interdisciplinary approaches in minority studies;
- Analyses of different type of prayer houses, e.g. synagogues (incl. the phenomena of wooden synagogues);
- Jewish cemetery research activities;
- Research and publication of unique and academically important unknown for wider audience archival sources, making them available for world-wide academic audience;
- Development of necessary educational material (books, series and others) concerning national, ethnic and religious minorities;
- Audiovisual representation of heritage: development of applications, documentaries, internet websites, other material. Including usage of novelty technologies such augmented, virtual reality, etc.;
- Ethnic minorities during the Second World War (the Holocaust, the persecution and destruction of ethnic minorities, destruction and plunder of their cultural heritage during the WWII);
- Holocaust memorialization and actualization initiatives;
- Organization of academic and cultural events such as conferences, seminars, workshops, summer schools, European Jewish Cultural Days, etc.;
- Expertise and consultations on minority politics, heritage preservation and representation (including museums, exhibitions, memorials, tourism), education (formal and informal).



Proposal

- Looking for partners for the international research projects, including, but not limited to:
 - Reconstruction and socio-economic impact of state infrastructure in the Early Modern period; Jewish socio-economic activity in this context;
 - Various forms of mobility of the minority groups in the region (including Litvak emigration phenomena); cultural, economic and social networks as a result of mobility;
 - (Trans)formation of ethnic and national identity; various forms of identity expression;
 - Everyday history;
 - Any other research project in the frames of above mentioned research themes.
- Development and exchange of experience in preparation of different educational material including mobile applications, books, movies, etc.
- Application of IT technologies in Humanities (research, teaching, heritage preservation);
- Co-organization of international conferences, seminars, focus groups, workshops.
- Field research, expeditions and heritage research (including but not limited to prayer houses, cemeteries, dwelling areas etc.).



Meet our team

Lead researcher

Assoc. Prof. Dr. **Jurgita Verbickienė**

Principle researchers

Assoc. Prof. Dr. **Grigorijus Potašenko**

Assist. Prof. Dr. **Dovilė Troskovaityė**

Assist. Prof. Dr. **Ryšard Gaidis**

Research group

PhD student **Stanislovas Stasiulis**

PhD student **Akvilė Naudžiunienė**

PhD student **Monika Ramonaitė**

PhD student **Rūta Anulytė**

PhD student **Darius Sakalauskas**

PhD student **Aivaras Poška**



Research outcomes

- „Jews in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. History of one of the largest Jewish communities in Eastern Europe“ (2016-2018, Lithuanian Research council);
- Historical demographic studies and their application to the Jewish censuses of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, VP1-3.1-ŠMM-07-K „Support to Research Activities of Scientist and Other Researcher (Global Grant)“. Priority 3 „Strengthening Capacities of Researchers“. Operational Programme for Human Resources Development for 2001-2013, (2013-2015);
- Development of the app www.discoverjewishlithuania.com (2014-2016, EEA Grants);
- Developing Jewish Studies in Lithuania: Establishing the Research and Teaching Field in Vilnius University (2014-2018);
- Cohesion building of multiethnic societies 14-20th centuries (2014-2018, Polish Research council);
- „Lithuanian Jews. Historical study“ (2008-2010, Lithuanian Research council);
- „Synagogues in Lithuania. Catalogue“ (2006-2010, Lithuanian Research council);



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