



European Humanities University

Colloquium Vilnense Spring 2015

Contextualizing Belarus: Belarusian Studies as interdisciplinary area studies

26–27 May 2015, Vilnius

The European Humanities University (EHU) presents the latest Colloquium Vilnense seminar series “Contextualizing Belarus: Belarusian Studies as Interdisciplinary Area Studies”, to be conducted with scholars from Sweden, Belarus, Germany, Lithuania, Poland, and other countries.

The aim of the Colloquium is to create a forum for discussions about what Belarusian Studies are today and what new approaches and themes are needed to revitalize this field at EHU, in order to strengthen EHU’s place in a global network scholars dealing with empirical material from Belarus, while framing it within a broader methodological and disciplinary discussion.

The Colloquium will assume that Belarusian Studies are in need of a critical revamp that can take the field beyond a chronological story of Belarusian lands understood as the territory of today’s Republic of Belarus. The Colloquium will focus on a broad understanding of interdisciplinary area studies that combines a regional and transnational perspective with various disciplinary issues. One aim will be to test the approach discussed.

The Colloquium will start with a public discussion and proceed the next day with six working sessions dedicated to particular approaches and issues in the field of Belarusian Studies. It is organized jointly by Olga Sasunkevich and Felix Ackermann in cooperation with the EHU Media Department, EHU Department of Social and Political Sciences, EHU History Department, the EHU Center for Gender Studies, the EHU Jewish Studies Center, the EHU Center for German Studies and Vilnius University History Faculty.

26 May **Public event at Vilnius University, Valakupiu 5/213**

16.00 **Welcome Words**

Aliaksandr Kalbaska, Vice Rector for Academic Affairs

The Rise and Fall of Belarusian Nationalism 1906 – 1931

**Book Presentation with
Per Anders Rudling (Lund/Vienna)**

Comment: Darius Staliūnas (Vilnius)

17.30 Coffee break

18.00 Roundtable with EHU Faculty and invited speakers

Contextualizing Belarus What are Belarusian Studies today and what should they be tomorrow?

Moderators: Olga Sasunkevich & Felix Ackermann



27 May 2015 Working session: EHU, Valakupiu, 5

Participation upon preliminary registration only. To register, please, send an e-mail to olga.sasunkevich@ehu.lt (Deadline – May 15)

9.00 **Belarusian Studies and Gender**

Female Informal Practices of Coping with Changes

Olga Sasunkevich (Vilnius): 'But I liked it, I liked it': Revealing Positive Aspects of Women's Participation in Informal Economic Activities

Comments: Iryna Ramanava (Vilnius) & Kristina Sliavaite (Vilnius)

10.00 Coffee

10.30 **Belarusian Studies and Popular Geopolitics: Constructing and Resisting Inequalities through Popular Culture**

Elena Minchenia (Lund): The Killed Joy of Political Humor: Negotiating Geopolitical Claims of Russian TV-humor about Lukashenka on charter97.org

Comments: Andrei Stsiapanau & Vytis Jurkonis

11.30 **Belarusian Studies as Urban Studies**

Felix Ackermann (Vilnius) The spirit of Lukishki. A prison as microhistory of modern Vilnius

Comments: TBC & Lynn Lubamersky (Idaho)

12.30 **Belarusian Studies as Participant Observation: How a Valgykla differs from a Stalouka?**

Lunch & Coffee in Valakupiu g. 5

13.30 **Belarusian Studies and Digital Humanities
Memory Struggles in Digital Environment**

Lynn Lubamersky (Idaho): Digital Communities and the Struggle for the Memory of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth

Comments: Stsiapan Stureika (Vilnius) & Hanna Paulouskaja (Warsaw)

14.30 Coffee

15.00 **Belarusian Studies as Studies of Non-Democratic Regimes: Changing Constellations between 'Market Socialism' and Neo-liberalism**

Tatsiana Chulitskaya (Vilnius): Concepts of Social Justice in Belarusian Public Discourse

Comments: Almira Ousmanova & Liutauras Gudzinskas (Vilnius) tbc

16.00 **Final discussion**

How to proceed with the publication of working papers?

Public event at Vilnius University, Universiteto g. 7/329

18.00 **Do you remember Vilnia in 1928?**

The 105th birthday of Baris Kit and his experience as a student at Stefan Batory University