



## **International Conference on Contemporary Studies of Family and Calendar Holidays**

The Department of Cultural Studies at Vytautas Magnus University is pleased to announce an international conference on “Contemporary Ethnology Studies: Challengers and Perspectives,” to be held on **14th October 2023 at Vytautas Magnus University**, Faculty of Humanities, V. Putvinskio st. 23, Kaunas, Lithuania. The conference celebrates the 30th anniversary of ethnological studies at Vytautas Magnus University. The topic of the conference this year is “**Contemporary Studies of Family and Calendar Holidays: Challenges and Perspectives**”.

We invite the conference participants to present studies of family and calendar holidays in the last three decades, as well as discuss the main directions of their work. Presenters are also encouraged to dwell upon broader issues, e.g. the family and reproduction, gender and **the** body, family and kinship, and calendrical and community rituals (e.g. puberty rites). In the contemporary world, we face constant challenges and changes in daily life, difficulties and restrictions caused by pandemics and wars, economic and political instability, and the crisis of climate change.

The main issue of the conference is to uncover what challenges family and calendar holiday researchers have identified in their research over the last three decades. What have been the main developments in these studies, and what research directions have evolved in the last thirty years? What challenges have scholars faced while conducting their research during the pandemic in different environments, including the real world and social networks? What new research methods or research approaches have been applied over the last three decades? How do new social challenges reflect family and calendar holidays, and how are they changing them? What differences are emerging between urban and rural family holidays and calendrical holidays? What issues of reproduction, family and kinship have emerged in recent years with the increase in war and the threats from pandemics?

---

**Contributions are encouraged from the following disciplines and areas of research, among others:**

- Contemporary studies of family and calendar holidays (1990-2023).
- Studies, directions, and challenges of calendar holidays.
- Studies, directions, and challenges of modern family holidays.
- Reproduction and family in life-cycle studies.

- Gender and the body in contemporary ethnological and anthropological studies.
- Ethnological studies: from family and community to kinship.

The conference will be held both by contact and on the conferencing platform Teams. The conference languages will be English and Lithuanian. Participation in the conference is free of charge.

#### **Requirements for the abstract:**

- Maximum 250 words, including the title of the presentation, its main problem, purpose and goals.
- Please notify in the abstract the presenter(s)' name(s) and surname(s), the affiliation(s) of the author(s), current status and contact information (e-mail address).

**Submission deadline:** You are welcome to submit an abstract for the conference by email to [nijole.vailionyte@stud.vdu.lt](mailto:nijole.vailionyte@stud.vdu.lt) or [r.raciunaite@hmf.vdu.lt](mailto:r.raciunaite@hmf.vdu.lt) by **10 September 2023**.

The duration of each paper is 15 min, 5 min of which are reserved for discussion. Information confirming your participation will be provided by 20 September 2023.

#### **The Conference Scientific Committee**

Prof. dr. Rasa Račiūnaitė-Paužuolienė (chair), Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania  
 Assoc. prof. dr. Ekaterina Anastasova, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria  
 Dr. Robert Parkin, University of Oxford, United Kingdom  
 Prof. dr. Lina Petrošienė, Klaipėda University, Lithuania  
 Assoc. prof. dr. Klāvs Sedlenieks, Rīga Stradiņš University, Latvia  
 Dr. Mare Kõiva, Estonian Literary Museum, Estonia  
 Dr. Žilvytis Šaknys, Lithuanian Institute of History, Lithuania

#### **The Conference Organizing Committee**

Assistant prof. dr. Mariyanka Borysova, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria  
 Assistant prof. dr. Lina Gergova, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria  
 Dr. Rasa Paukštytė-Šaknienė, Lithuanian Institute of History, Lithuania  
 Assoc. prof. dr. Dalia Senvaitytė, Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania  
 PhD student Nijolė Vailionytė, Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania

#### **Organizers and sponsors:**

The Department of Cultural Studies, Vytautas Magnus University.

This project has received funding from the Research Council of Lithuania (LMTLT), agreement No S-MOR-23-23.