

The Monday Lectures Series of the Branch Office Vilnius of the German Historical Institute Warsaw is primarily aimed at a specialist academic audience and offers a communication platform for Lithuanian and German scholars. The lectures are also open to the general public. By presenting new research projects and methodological approaches from German-speaking scholarships, the series offers a stimulating discussion forum for researchers from different disciplines. Among the speakers are predominantly German-speaking historians as well as scholars from related disciplines.

Our monthly lecture series takes place on Mondays at 5 p.m. at the Faculty of History of the Vilnius University or Lithuanian Institute of History. All lectures are presented in English or German language. The series is organized in cooperation with the University of Vilnius and Lithuanian Institute of History.

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Monday Lectures

2024 / 1


Deutsches
Historisches Institut
Warschau


Niemiecki
Instytut Historyczny
w Warszawie

Ein Institut der
Max Weber
Stiftung

Deutsche
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Vilnius
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Deutsches
Historisches Institut
Warschau


Niemiecki
Instytut Historyczny
w Warszawie

Außenstelle Vilnius

March 25th, 2024 | 5 p.m.
Faculty of History of the Vilnius University, Room 211

Dr. Paul Srodecki (Sønderborg)

Crusading on the Frontiers of Latin Christendom – Key Research Issues and Debates

Moderation: Dr. Darius Baronas

If a survey were to be held today to find out what is meant by a crusade, the answer, which would probably be given most frequently, is that it refers to the wars of the Latin Christians of the high Middle Ages in the Holy Land. The extent to which this traditional depiction is still widespread among the general public is shown by countless popular or rather pseudo-scientific publications on the subject (whether in print or as TV productions), which reduce the crusade phenomenon of the Middle Ages solely to the conflict 'between Orient and Occident'. However, for medieval contemporaries, the term crusade (or better: the various Latin crusading terms such as *cruciata*, *expeditio*, *iter*, *via*, *peregrinatio*, *profectio* or *passagium*, as well as their respective national language equivalents), had a much broader range than the description of the military campaigns for the protection or rather the Reconquista of Christianity's sacred sites in the Holy Land. Using the crusade as justification, the popes also legitimised numerous armed endeavours outside the Levant. With only a few exceptions, the latter campaigns only received limited attention in Western studies from the beginning of modern historiography in the nineteenth until well into the twentieth centuries. Ranging in scope from the Baltic Sea region to the Balkans and Iberia, in this lecture be presented the crusading and crusade movement on the edges of Latin Christendom.

Paul Srodecki received his PhD from the University of Gießen, Germany. He has been working as an Assistant Professor, Research Fellow and Lecturer in Medieval and Eastern European History in various other academic institution. He has been working at the universities of Giessen, Kiel, Flensburg Ostrava, Poznań and Sønderborg. He has published several treatises on alterity and alienity discourses, crusading on the frontiers of Latin Christendom as well as historical deconstruction and mnemonic culture with a special focus on East-Central and Eastern Europe.

All lectures will be held in English

April 29th, 2024 | 5 p.m.
Faculty of History of the Vilnius University, Room 211

Prof. Dr. Karsten Brüggemann (Tallinn)

A Transnational Perspective on the Baltic Wars of Independence, 1918–1920: Post-imperial Connections and National Peculiarities

Moderation: Dr. Kęstutis Kilinskas

The history of the Baltic wars of independence, quite naturally, is a very nationally framed tale. Only rarely do national historiographies look for the neighbour's fate, and if they do, it serves to enhance the proud trajectory of the own state. However, there are many ways to tell this particular story. A post-imperial perspective would rather stress the dependence of local developments on the dynamics of the Russian civil war, whereas a more transnationally oriented approach can focus on right-wing or left-wing "internationals" fighting or supporting revolution. Geopolitically, the story of the "wars after the war" points at the complex conditions for the establishment of a new world order after the Great War. In his presentation, Prof. K. Brüggemann aims for a broader contextualisation of the multifaceted developments during the years 1918-1920 on the territories of the Baltic States. Focussing on Latvia and, especially, Estonia, he is going to compare conditions in all three young republics during the turmoil of war, revolution, and imperial dissolution. What seems natural to us today, the emergence of three national states, was a highly contested and, as it seemed back then, very unlikely outcome of these crises.

Karsten Brüggemann is Professor of Estonian and General History at the Tallinn University. He received his PhD in history from the University of Hamburg in 1999 with a study on the Russian Civil War in the Baltic region. In 2013, he defended his habilitation at the University of Gießen with a study on the perception of the Baltic provinces in Russian imperial culture. He has edited a three-volume history of the Baltic states (with Ralph Tuchtenhagen, Konrad Maier et al.). His main research interests are the area of Baltic/Russian history and it the following research fields: history of 19th and 20th century, memory and history, cultural history.

May 6th, 2024 | 5 p.m.
Faculty of History of the Vilnius University, Room 211

Prof. Dr. Laura Hindelang (Bern)

Tracing Women's Architectural Roles in the 1800s: The Case of Marianne of Prussia

Moderation: Prof. Dr. Marija Drėmaitė

Focusing on the exploration of "female architectural agency", the lecture draws on recent archival encounters with the estate of Marianne (1810–1883), Princess of Prussia (by marriage) and of Orange-Nassau (by birth). Marianne played a pivotal role in the financing, designing, and building of Castle Camenz in Prussian Silesia (present-day Kamieniec Żąbkowski in Poland). Commissioned from the renowned German architect Karl Friedrich Schinkel (1781–1841), this castle stands as one of the largest executed castles in the region. The lecture involves a dual examination. On the one hand, it scrutinizes recently discovered archival materials, including private and state-official correspondence, architectural drawings, and early photographs. These sources contribute to an understanding of Marianne's architectural education and comprehensive building agenda. On the other hand, the lecture situates these findings within the broader context of existing historiography, considering the role of architects involved, the significance of Castle Camenz, and Marianne's role in architectural narratives. The lecture seeks to propose a fresh perspective that highlights the historically evident involvement of women in the field of architecture during the 1800s.

Laura Hindelang is an Assistant Professor of Architectural History and Preservation and the director of the Master's program "Monument Preservation and Monument Management" at the University of Bern. Her current research project focuses on gender in architecture and its historiography before 1900 in Europe and the Ottoman Empire. Previous research resulted in her first monography *Iridescent Kuwait: Petro-Modernity and Urban Visual Culture, since the Mid-Twentieth Century* (De Gruyter, 2022), a transdisciplinary study of the intersection between urban planning, visual culture, contemporary art, and petroleum industrialization in the Arab Gulf region. Laura Hindelang is a founding member of the transdisciplinary research group OCMELA (Oil Cultures of the Middle East and Latin America).