CALL FOR PAPERS

VIOLENCE IN THE POLISH-LITHUANIAN COMMONWEALTH (1569–1795): EMPIRICAL RESEARCH AND HISTORIOGRAPHICAL PERSPECTIVES

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE | VILNIUS | 12-13 NOVEMBER 2026

ABOUT THE EVENT

A two-day workshop invites scholars working on the history of Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth to present and discuss their original research pertaining to history of violence, reflect on methodology, and discuss recent developments in the field. We are particularly interested in the cases researching violence from the perspective of commoners – peasants, artisans, merchants, and urban population.

TOPICS MAY INCLUDE

1. **INTER-ESTATE VIOLENCE: Violence across hierarchical distinctions, legal mechanisms of hierarchical subordination, forms of resistance to economies of domination.**
2. **INTER-RELIGIOUS VIOLENCE: The role of religious difference in provoking violent altercations, responses to heterodox ritual practices, religion as a cause of violence.**
3. **INTER-ETHNIC VIOLENCE**: Violence rooted in ethnic difference, ethnicity as a distinct driver of both interpersonal and collective conflict.
4. **GENDERED VIOLENCE**: The gendered experience of violence, sexual violence, gendered legal sanctions, and the subversion of and resistance to gender-imposed limitations.
5. **VIOLENT DISCOURSES:** Discourses of legal status, religion, ethnicity, or gender that legitimize or incite violence, and their deployment to disenfranchise or discipline subordinate social groups.
6. **HISTORIOGRAPHICAL TURNS AND THE STUDY OF VIOLENCE:** Application of interdisciplinary approaches – e.g. spatial, somatic, material turns, the study of borders and mobility – to the history of violence in early modern settings.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- We invite proposals for individual papers (up to 300 words, name, affiliation, short CV)
- Please submit your proposals to vilnius.violence.workshop@gmail.com
- Submission deadline: 17 July, 2026
- The workshop is organized by the Vilnius Branch of the German Historical Institute Warsaw and the Research Centre Ukraine / Max Weber Foundation.
- The event will take place at Vilnius University Faculty of History.
- Further information: www.dhi.waw.pl

Max Weber Foundation
Research Centre Ukraine

Deutsches Historisches Institut Warschau
Niemiecki Instytut Historyczny w Warszawie