**Challenges of Crises: Communality from a Comparative Perspective**

Research into war, migration and the Covid-19 pandemic has become very relevant. Communality among people changed immensely during the pandemic and with the outbreak of the war in Ukraine. Relatives, neighbours, families, diaspora groups and communities that were built up through connections of work or friendship, and even individuals, all had to adapt to new forms of communication. The fear of dying, becoming infected, losing loved ones or a livelihood: all this posed challenges in everyday life. The challenges of these crises to communality are also connected with problems of political, economic and cultural well-being in the world. How did these challenges evoked by crises affect the sense of communality in the affected society?

In the course of implementing this programme, anthropological and ethnological research will analyse how wars, migration, Covid-19 or any other pandemic, as well as the related cultural changes, anxiety and the search for safety, have affected communality between people. Within academic thought it is well known that extreme situations of modernity can lead to the rebirth of historic national cultural symbols (Mary Douglas 1970), and a new appreciation of loved ones, a familiar home and known traditions (Zygmund Bauman 2017; Andreas Rauh 2017; Jeffrey C. Alexander 2010), which, it is asserted, can provide individuals with safety and confidence. For this reason, the propramme will explore the challenges posed to human community by the war and Covid-19 pandemic by comparing the issues of commonality before, during, and after the pandemic or war in the 19th to the 21st centuries.

**The main aim of programme** to analyse the impact of crises, i.e., war, migration, the Covid-19 pandemic, on communality between people.

**Objectives of the programme:**

**The first area of study** will cover communality through the concepts of family, friendship and neighbourhood, as well as its social and cultural expression in crisis situations in Lithuania and in a broader space.

**The second area of study** will reveal the challenges of crises to communality through the state’s relationship with the nation. As part of the programme, the research will look at how processes of globalisation and migration (both forced and voluntary) affect the concepts of citizenship and nationality, the notions of home, one’s own culture and sense of belonging, and the communality in risk society.

**The third area of study** will analyse communality in daily life, when work activities and relations between institutions, organisations and employees are becoming increasingly important, and when the boundaries between work and leisure start to merge and overlap. The research will cover challenges to the organisation of work, and the maintenance of informal relationships between co-workers, friends and war refugee families during the Covid-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine.

Ethnography, i.e., the methodology of ethnological and anthropological studies to examine phenomena, based on “voices from below” and to study local problems using “multi-voice” ethnographic methods, is an effective means to identify these relevant social issues. We will analyze archival sources and conduct ethnographic field research. We will also analyze theoretical discourses through a comparative perspective, historical political realities, cultural aspects, and the “multi-voice” Lithuanian diaspora communities in Norway, Germany, Latvia, Poland, and the results of ethnographic field studies of other ethnic groups.