**National and/or Class-Based Identity in 20th-Century Lithuania: From Political Trajectories to Personal Experiences**

Today, as wealth inequality and social exclusion increase all over the world, and are particularly harshly felt in the former socialist countries, it is relevant now as never before to look at the genesis of the idea of social justice from a historical perspective, and its expression in modern Lithuania, in order to see how it relates to national identity, and visions of the nation state and its policies. At what point did these two projections mutually align and support one another, and when did they clash, and ultimately, what have they become today?

Did the question of social justice and the formation of a class-based identity support and/or conflict with the development of nationalism, which in turn was itself affected by processes of modernisation, socio-economic transformation and loss of statehood? It is important to reveal how nationality and ethic politics were implemented through social policies, and how societal groups and individuals accepted them. Conversely, it is also important to research how social equality and visions of a classless society tried to frame ethnic identity and control national discontent.

**Aim of the programme**: to research relations between the dynamics of national identity and social class through the prism of the international context, political decisions, strategies of individual behaviour, and subjective emotions.

**Objectives of the programme:**

1. To study government institutions, personal networks, visions held and phraseologies used by individual actors, as well as discourses and concepts established within society about the economic, social and cultural  reality at the time.

2. To analyse the formation of the intelligentsia, the ruling, middle, working and peasant classes, and classes in interwar and Soviet Lithuania, to explore the development of higher and Party education, and their impact on the situation of national and social groups and the formation of elites.

3. To research the influence of the diaspora on Soviet Lithuanian society: its impulses at a social level, and opportunities for outreach through families (including national minorities) that were made possible by exploiting gaps in the Iron Curtain.