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The **Lithuanian Institute of History** is a state research institute, a public legal entity operating as a state-budget institution, which conducts long-term Lithuanian studies and their social and cultural development, and which has the status of special national importance.

Max Weber Network
Eastern Europe
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Georgievski prospekt (Gedimino prospektas) Vilnius 1903. Photo: Stanislaw Filibert Flory via Wikimedia Commons



Workshop | October 30, 2026 | Program

Venue: Lithuanian Institute of History | Tilto str. 17, 01101 Vilnius

Imperial Urbanism in Northeastern Europe

Spaces, Infrastructures and Transimperial Entanglements
in the Long Nineteenth Century

Max Weber Network Eastern Europe
Lithuanian Institute of History

Organizer: Kai Johann Willms (Basel)
Working Language: English



→ mwseasteurope.hypotheses.org



Email: → event@mws-osteuropa.org

Venue: **Lithuanian Institute of History**

Tilto str. 17, 01101 Vilnius

FRIDAY, 30 OCTOBER 2026

09:30 **Welcoming Words**
09:45 **Darius Staliūnas** (Lithuanian Institute of History)
Maike Lehmann (Max Weber Network Eastern Europe)

09:45 **Panel 1** **Governing Urban Spaces**
11:00 Chair **Lidia Zessin-Jurek** (Warsaw)

Juozapas Paškauskas (Vilnius)
Governing the Night: Entertainment, Policing, and Imperial Urbanism in Late Imperial Vilnius

Denis Smetanin (Hamburg)
Making Voters, Making Urban Political Space: Electoral Infrastructures in Imperial Riga, 1877–1897

Commentary: **Nikolay Erofeev** (Zürich)

11:00–11:30 *Coffee Break*

11:30 **Panel 2** **Imperial Biopolitics in the City**
12:45 Chair **Kirill Levinson** (Vilnius)

Ekaterina Oleshkevich (Jerusalem)
Factories of Angels: Baby Farming, Urban Care, and the Biopolitics of Motherhood in the Late Russian Empire

Kai Johann Willms (Basel)
Urban Healthcare between Local Agency and Tsarist Governance: Vilnius in Comparison with Other Imperial Borderland Cities

Commentary: **Anna Mazanik** (Helsinki)

12:45–14:15 *Lunch Break*

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14:15 **Panel 3** **The City and Its Surroundings**
15:30 Chair **Kai Johann Willms** (Basel)

Antoni Porayski-Pomsta (Dublin)
Not a Shtetl, Not Quite a Shtet: The Urban Outskirts of Russian Poland, c. 1880–1900

Alison K. Smith (Toronto)
Town and Country: Dacha Settlements in Urban Networks at the End of the Russian Empire (via Zoom)

Commentary: **Walter Sperling** (Berlin)

15:30–16:00 *Coffee Break*

16:00 **Panel 4** **Northeastern Europe in Comparative Perspective**
18:00 Chair **Povilas Dikavičius** (Vilnius)

Daria Kondakova (Helsinki)
From Kyiv to Helsinki: Competing Imperial Urbanisms in the Russian Empire's Northeastern Borderlands

Olga Kozubska (Münster)
Empire and Urbanism on the Southwestern Periphery: The Case of Podolia

Miras Abdrakhim (Almaty)
The Afterlife of Imperial Urbanism. Vernyi (Present-day Almaty) and the Persistence of Russian Imperial Space, 1867–Present

Commentary: **Darius Staliūnas** (Vilnius)

18:00 **Concluding Remarks**
18:30 **Kai Johann Willms** (Basel)