



JACK, JOSEPH AND MORTON MANDEL
CENTER FOR ADVANCED HOLOCAUST STUDIES



SUGIHARA DIPLOMATS FOR LIFE FOUNDATION
杉原記念館
SUGIHAROS NAMAI SUGIHARA HOUSE



VYTAUTAS
MAGNUS
UNIVERSITY
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International Conference Jewish Life in the Baltic States, 1917-1945

Tuesday-Thursday, 9 June–11 June 2026

Tuesday, June 9

Vytautas Magnus University, Senate Hall, S. Daukanto g. 28, Kaunas

9:00-9:30 Conference introductions

9:30-11:00 Panel on Professionalization with Eliyana Adler (Binghamton University), Violeta Davoliūtė (Vilnius University), Andrea Löw (Institute for Contemporary History at Munich), and Linas Venclauskas (Vytautas Magnus University)

11:00-11:30 COFFEE BREAK

11:30-12:30 Presentation on United States Holocaust Memorial Museum resources by Vadim Altskan (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum)

12:30-14:00 LUNCH

14:00-15:45 Panel I: Interwar Jewish Life I
Moderator: Ina Pukelytė (Vytautas Magnus University)

C.S. Poupko (Vytautas Magnus University) Torah in Transit: The Litvak Students of Slobodka-Hebron Yeshiva and the Tragedy of 1929

Saulė Valiūnaitė (Lithuanian Institute of History) Dr. Vite Levin and her school for Jewish children with special needs

Anke Blümm (Erfurt University) "One mother birthed us - Vilne" The forgotten Yiddish painters and sculptors of Yung-Vilne

15:45-16:00 COFFEE BREAK

16:00-17:00 Litvak music performed by Kapela Kotra trio: Alena Kandyba, Morgan Rosario Maruthiah, and Katya Hil

17:00-17:30: Musicians' discussion with explanation of ethnomusicology

17:30-19:00 Reception and keynote speech by **Linas Venclauskas (Vytautas Magnus University)**
600 and 36 years later – research and memory of the Jews in the Baltics

Wednesday, June 10

Vytautas Magnus University, Senate Hall, S. Daukanto g. 28, Kaunas

9:30-11:15 Panel II: Interwar Jewish Life II

Moderator: Lara Lempertienė (Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania)

Timo Aava (University of Oxford/University of Tartu) Revisiting Jewish Life in Interwar Estonia: The Jewish Self-Government

Julijana Andriejauskienė (Lithuanian Institute of History) The Independent Lithuanian State (1918–1940) and Kaunas Jews' Expressions of Loyalty

Johann Nicolai (Independent Scholar) Jewish Public Spheres in Transition: The Rigaer Jüdische Rundschau (1929–1930) as a German-Language Forum in the Baltic States

11:15-11:45 COFFEE BREAK

11:45-13:00 Discussion on Current State of Research with Violeta Davoliūtė (Vilnius University), Lara Lempertienė (Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania), and Ilya Lensky (Museum Jews in Latvia)

13:00-14:00 LUNCH

14:00-15:45 Panel III: Jewish Life in Lithuania until the Holocaust

Moderator: Jurgita Verbickienė (Vilnius University)

Christa Whitney (Yiddish Book Center/UMass Amherst) Landkentenish in lite: Jewish Descriptions of Lithuanian Lands and Nature, 1918-1946

Dalia Wolfson (Harvard University) A Girl From a Lithuanian Town: The Kovno 'City Text' in Yente Serdatsky's Fiction

Dovilė Čypaitė-Gilė (Vilnius University) Uncertain Journeys: Lithuanian Jews Between Emigration and Forced Escape, 1939–1940

15:45-16:00 COFFEE BREAK

16:00-17:00 Presentation and discussion with documentarian Saulius Beržinis

17:00-17:30 Q&A with filmmaker

17:30-19:30 Dinner

Thursday, June 11

Vytautas Magnus University, Senate Hall, S. Daukanto g. 28, Kaunas

9:30-11:45 Panel IV: Resistance, Rescue, and Jewish Life in Lithuania during the Holocaust

Moderator: Arkadi Zeltser (Yad Vashem)

Aušra Stravinskienė (Vilnius University) Kloyzes in Vilnius: Reconstructing the Historical Context, 1940–1943

Tziporah Weinberg (New York University) With Friends Like These: Contingencies of Christian Refuge During the Holocaust in Lithuania

Henriette Berry (Technical University of Berlin) "Dos Lid gezungen mit Naganes in di Hent": Representations of Resistance in Jewish Partisan Songs

Yael Barzilai (Haifa University) Art as Lifeline: Commissioned and Forced Artistic Labor in the Kaunas Ghetto

11:45-12:00 COFFEE BREAK

12:00-13:45 Panel V: After the Holocaust

Moderator: Ilya Lensky (Museum Jews in Latvia)

Benjamin Arenstein (University of Chicago) Post-Holocaust Masculinity and Pornography in Soviet Latvia: The Case of Josef Schneiders

Daiva Price (Vytautas Magnus University) Postmemory and Artistic Responses to the Holocaust: Second- and Third-Generation Litvak Voices

Milda Jakulytė-Vasil (Vilnius University) The Language of Remembrance at Sites of Jewish Massacres in Lithuania and Its Evolution, 1944–Present

13:45-14:45 LUNCH

14:45-15:45 Conference Conclusion and Observations with Eliyana Adler (Binghamton University), Andrea Löw (Institute for Contemporary History at Munich), Ina Pukelytė (Vytautas Magnus University), Linas Venclauskas (Vytautas Magnus University), and Arkadi Zeltser (Yad Vashem)

15:45-16:00 COFFEE BREAK

16:30-17:00 Walk from Vytautas Magnus University to Sugihara House Museum

17:00-18:30 Tour and Short Movie at Sugihara House Museum

18:30-19:30 Dinner at Sugihara House Museum

Steering Committee Organizers:

UNITED STATES
MEMORIAL
**HOLOCAUST
MUSEUM**

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* *Deceased*