

**Dear colleague,**

We are excited to welcome you to the 14<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Baltic Scholars

**Literature and Empire**

Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore (Antakalnio 6), Vilnius

October 12-13, 2023

As we have started planning it during Russia's invasion of Ukraine, we invite colleagues to analyze and discuss the relationship between literature and imperial politics.

**We invite you to search for answers to the following questions:**

Why is imperialism so lively up to this day and how does it affect literature?

How does the myth of the "great empire" function?

The Western view of Eastern Europe as *other* and cultural inferior problem, and how is this changing today?

How does literature serve the formation and spread of imperial mentality and how does it oppose it? Does poetry written and disseminated on social networks help treat traumatic experiences?

How does war change the social status and expression of literature?

How do the regimes of reading and evaluating literature change during wartime or radical political upheaval? What are the possible forms of artistic resistance under totalitarian control? Can "pure art" be an alternative to imperial politics?

What was the relationship between the literature of the metropolis and its colonies in the Soviet Union?

How did the propaganda of friendship of Soviet nations affect the literature of post-Soviet countries?

As the theme of the conference was formed in the face of Russia's war against Ukraine, we invite you to consider how Russian literature and culture have contributed to the political propaganda that has created the image of a "fake" Ukraine that does not deserve statehood and freedom?

In this context, the question of the aesthetic value and political use of the so-called great Russian literature also arises. Why is the opposition of the "Bad West and the Good East" deeply entrenched in Russian literature? What distance from the imperial mentality does the new (Russian?) literature create?

**We also invite you to analyze the relationship between literature and empire in the following aspects:**

- National stereotypes as a means to demonize another and establish a portrait of the enemy. Differences in the concepts of nazi and national await reflection as well.
- The dangers of reconstructing war experience and memory: Heroism versus Tragedy.
- Visual art and Empire: how work paintings, films, cartoons and illustrations in the context of imperial culture.
- It is important to discuss vocabulary, rhetorical clichés, psychological models that represent imperial mentality in the literature. We invite you to explain the wars of truth and lies, autocracy and democracy in the texts. The question raised by the American historian Timothy D. Snyder on how can the truth withstand the attacks of fiction could be one of the most important for us.

The questions and issues we have suggested should not limit you, we are open to other interpretations of the subject proposed. We suggest discussing the relationship between literature and empire in various theoretical aspects, in particular post-colonial theories.

**Organizing Committee:**

Aušra Jurgutienė, Eva Eglāja-Kristsons, Rimantas Kmita, Loreta Mačianskaitė, Anneli Mihkelev, Dalia Satkauskytė, Saulius Vasiliauskas

We would like you to fill in the registration form with the abstract (up to 300 words) and to send to [literatura2023@liti.lt](mailto:literatura2023@liti.lt) by **30-01-2023**. Acceptance notices will be sent by 2023-02-15.

The main **working language** is English.

The expected length of the papers is 20 minutes.

The conference participation fee EUR 60 by 1 September 2023. Keynote speakers and Ukrainian colleagues are exempt from all payments.

Transfer details:

Literatūros ir tautosakos institutas  
Reg. No. 111955176

Bank: „Swedbank”, AB

SWIFT code: HABALT22

IBAN account: LT807300010131253972

Please include the following information in the payment order: Participation fee in the 14th International Conference of Baltic Literary Scholars.

We would ask you to book your accommodation yourself. Exceptions will be made for Keynote speakers and Ukrainians.

The Conference Programme will be released by the beginning of September 2023.  
If there are any further questions, please contact the organizers directly: [literatura2023@liti.lt](mailto:literatura2023@liti.lt)

Selected proceedings of the conference will be published.