



# The Byzantine Presence between Black Sea and Baltic: Political, Ecclesiastical, and Cultural Trends in Late Medieval East-Central Europe

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Vilnius

**30–31 May 2024**

Venue:

The National Museum – Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania  
Katedros a. 4, LT-01143 Vilnius

Websites:

[www.istorija.lt](http://www.istorija.lt)  
[www.valdovurumai.lt/en/](http://www.valdovurumai.lt/en/)

Conference zoom address:

**Thursday 30 May 2024 | 08.30–18.00**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84723048720>

**Friday 31 May 2024 | 08.30–18.00**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89208625794>

**Thursday 30 May 2024**

**9.00–9.30** *Welcome*

Fr. Justinus Kiviloo, Exarch of the Patriarchate of Constantinople  
Vydas Dolinskas, Director General of the National Museum – Palace of the Grand  
Dukes of Lithuania

**9.30–10.15** *Opening lecture*

Jonathan Shepard (University of Oxford) – Soft power, manpower, centre-points:  
imperial diplomacy towards western Rus and beyond in the fourteenth century  
Moderator: **Monica White**

**10.15–11.00** COFFEE

**11.00–12.30** SESSION 1: CHURCH MATTERS

Constantin Zuckerman (École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris) – Metropolitan  
Theognostos of Rosia and his struggle against the sees of Halitch and Lithuania  
Ekaterini Mitsiou (University of Vienna) – The Black Sea and the Patriarchate  
of Constantinople (thirteenth to fourteenth centuries)  
Moderator: **Jonathan Shepard**

**12.30–14.00** LUNCH

**14.00–15.30** SESSION 2: (EN)TITLING LITHUANIAN RULERS

Vytas Jankauskas (Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas) – A look from Constantinople  
at the Grand Duchy of Lithuania: John VI Kantakouzenos' 1347 letter to  
Liubartas: entitling and its context  
Yanina Ryier (Ignatianum University in Cracow) – The reflection of Byzantine tradition  
in the titles of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania in narratives and diplomatic  
documents from the fourteenth to fifteenth centuries  
Moderator: **Darius Baronas**

**15.30–16.00** COFFEE

**16.00–17.30** SESSION 3: LITHUANIA-ON-(BLACK)-SEA?

Alexandr Osipian (Leibniz-Institut für Geschichte und Kultur des östlichen Europa  
(GWZO), Leipzig) – Facilitating trade, cultural exchange and diplomatic  
communication: Armenian merchant networks in the Black Sea Genoese  
colonies, the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and the Kingdom of Poland, 1250–1550  
**Darius Baronas** (Lithuanian Institute of History) – Lithuania's expansion to the Black  
Sea: Lithuanian hard and Byzantine soft power in 1386–1430  
Moderator: **S. C. Rowell**

**17.30–17.45** Q&A



**Friday 31 May 2024**

**9.00–10.30 SESSION 4: MEDIATING BETWEEN SOUTH AND WEST**

Valerii Zema (Institute of History of Ukraine, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Kyiv) – Kyivan Metropolitanate between Byzantium and Lithuania in the fourteenth century: the contradictions of political and religious centres (online)

Gościwił Malinowski (University of Wrocław) – Lachia and Polania: Latin and Ruthenian as languages of communication between Poland and the Greek world in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries

Moderator: **Sergejus Temčinas**

**10.30–11.00 COFFEE**

**11.00–12.30 SESSION 5: CIVITAS RUTHENICA: ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY**

Rytis Jonaitis and Irma Kaplūnaitė (Lithuanian Institute of History) – Reflections of Byzantine influence in pagan Vilnius: an archaeological approach

Giedrė Mickūnaitė (Vilnius Academy of Arts) – Transfer, denial, escape: Grand Duchesses and the reception of Byzantine art at the Lithuanian court

Moderator: **Darius Baronas**

**12.30–14.00 LUNCH**

**14.00–15.30 SESSION 6: CHURCH UNION AND DISUNION**

Sebastian Kolditz (Berlin Academy of Sciences) – Vytautas, Jagiello, the two empires and Church union between the councils of Constance and Basel

Rev. Nazar Zatorsky (University of Fribourg) – Ecclesio-political changes in the Metropolitanate of Kyiv after the Union of Florence

Moderator: **Jonathan Shepard**

**15.30–16.00 COFFEE**

**16.00–17.30 SESSION 7: NIKEPHOROS GREGORAS AND THE LITHUANIAN WORLD**

Sergejus Temčinas (Lithuanian Institute of History) – The Grand Duke Algirdas' 'theological letter' to the patriarch of Constantinople in Nikephoros Gregoras' *History*: source research and authorship of the text

Oleksandr Fylypchuk (Yuriy Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University) – The northern world of Nikephoros Gregoras: Heidelberg Palat.gr. 129 and materials for the *History* (online)

Moderator: **Constantin Zuckerman**

**17.30–18.00 AFTERWORD**

Monica White (University of Nottingham)

Organiser:  
Lithuanian Institute of History (Vilnius)



LITUOVOS  
ISTORIJOS  
INSTITUTAS

Partners:  
The National Museum –  
Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania;  
Polish Institute in Vilnius;  
Vilnius University Faculty of History



VALDOVŲ RŪMŲ  
MUZIEJUS



LENKIJOS  
INSTITUTAS  
VILNIUJE



UNIVERSITAS VILNIENSIS  
1579  
FACULTAS HISTORIAE

Organising committee:  
Darius Baronas, Salvijus Kulevičius,  
Ramunė Šmigelskytė-Stukienė, Aurimas Švedas

Scientific committee:  
Darius Baronas, S. C. Rowell, Jonathan Shepard,  
Sergejus Temčinas, Constantin Zuckerman

NB! Conference time zone: Eastern European Summer  
Time (GMT+3) (Helsinki–Kyiv)

The conference forms part of “Byzantium and the Grand  
Duchy of Lithuania: the interface between the secular  
and the ecclesiastical spheres in the 14th–15th centuries”,  
a project funded by the Research Council of Lithuania  
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Research  
Council of  
Lithuania

A map of Constantinople in Buondelmonti's *Liber Insularum  
Archipelagi*. Paris, Bibliothèque nationale de France,  
Département des Cartes et Plans, Ge FF 9351 Rés., fol. 37r.  
Its no-longer surviving original was dispatched to Grand  
Duke Vytautas of Lithuania, in 1420.

