

FINAL  
**PROGRAM**

HYBRID EVENT

**ISA RC-22  
MID TERM  
CONFERENCE**

Religion, Politics and  
Uncertainty: Shifting  
Boundaries

NOVEMBER 11-13, 2021  
VILNIUS, LITHUANIA

## ORGANIZERS

- ISA RC22
- Vytautas Magnus University
- Vilnius University
- Lithuanian Society for the Study of Religions



VYTAUTAS  
MAGNUS  
UNIVERSITY  
MCMXXII



Vilnius  
University



## ORGANIZING AND SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

- Prof. Dr. Milda Ališauskienė, Vytautas Magnus University (Chairwoman)
- Dr. Eglė Aleknaitė, Vytautas Magnus University
- Dr. Rasa Pranskevčiūtė-Amoson, Vilniaus University
- Dr. Aušra Pažeraitė, Vilniaus University
- Doc. Dr. Rūta Žiliukaitė, Vilniaus University
- Prof. Dr. Mar Grier, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

CONFERENCE  
PARTNER  
**Go Vilnius**

# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

## DAY 1

NOVEMBER 11, 2021

18:00 - 19:00 Registration  
19:00 - 21:00 Welcome Drinks

## DAY 2

NOVEMBER 12, 2021

08:30 - 09:00 Registration

### HALL 1

CASTLE YARD

09:00 - 09:30 **CONFERENCE OPENING**  
09:30 - 10:30 **KEYNOTE: Jeffrey Haynes**  
10:30 - 10:50 Coffee break  
10:50 - 12:45 **SESSION 1:** Religions and Diversity of Politics  
12:45 - 13:30 Lunch  
13:30 - 15:25 **SESSION 3:** Religion and Gender Equality in the Baltics  
15:25 - 15:45 Coffee break  
15:45 - 17:40 **SESSION 5:** Religion, Gender and Politics

### HALL 2

PROMENADE YARD

10:50 - 12:45 **SESSION 2:** Religion and Politics in the Times of Pandemics  
12:45 - 13:30 Lunch  
13:30 - 15:25 **SESSION 4:** Religion and Politics in China and Taiwan  
15:25 - 15:45 Coffee break  
15:45 - 17:40 **SESSION 6:** Religion in Public Policy Discourse

## DAY 3

NOVEMBER 13, 2021

08:30 - 09:00 Registration

### HALL 1

CASTLE YARD

09:00 - 10:00 **KEYNOTE: Anna Halafoff**  
10:00 - 11:55 **SESSION 7:** Gender, Science and Religious Activism  
11:55 - 12:15 Coffee break  
12:15 - 14:10 **SESSION 9:** Long-Term Religious Change  
14:10 - 14:50 Lunch  
14:50 - 16:45 **SESSION 10:** Nationalism, Populism and Religion  
16:45 - 17:05 Coffee break  
17:05 - 18:20 **ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION:** Religion, Politics and Uncertainty around the Baltic Sea  
18:20 - 18:30 **CONFERENCE CLOSING**

### HALL 2

PROMENADE YARD

10:00 - 11:55 **SESSION 8:** Approaching Religion and Politics  
11:55 - 12:15 Coffee break  
14:50 - 16:45 **SESSION 12:** Constructing Religion, the Religious and the Secular

# PROGRAM

## DAY 1

NOVEMBER 11, 2021

- 18:00 - 19:00 Registration  
Venue: Hotel Conference Center lobby
- 19:00 - 21:00 Welcome Drinks  
Venue: Lobby of Courtyard Vilnius City Center Hotel

## DAY 2

NOVEMBER 12, 2021

- 08:30 - 09:00 Registration  
Venue: Hotel Conference Center lobby

## HALL 1

CASTLE YARD

- 09:00 - 09:30 Conference Opening:**  
Afe Adogame, ISA RC22 president, Princeton University, US  
Juozas Augutis, Rector of Vytautas Magnus University  
Rimvydas Petrauskas, Rector of Vilnius University  
Rasa Pranskevičiūtė-Amoson, President of Lithuanian Society for the Study of Religions
- 09:30 - 10:30 KEYNOTE: Jeffrey Haynes**  
Religion and Politics: What is Certain and What is Uncertain and Why Does It Matter?  
*Chair: Milda Ališauskienė*
- 10:30 - 10:50 COFFEE BREAK**
- 10:50 - 12:45 SESSION 1: Religions and Diversity of Politics**  
*Chair: Eglė Aleknaitė*
- 10:50 - 11:10 Rūta Žiliukaitė "Traditional Christian Family Values" and Politics in Lithuania"
- 11:10 - 11:30 Anita Stasulane "The Social Role of Religion in Latvia: Case of Commemoration of the Deceased"
- 11:30 - 11:50 Vladislav Serikov "Drawing the Boundaries between Religion and Non-Religion in Contemporary Russia"
- 11:50 - 12:10 Rasa Pranskevičiūtė-Amoson "The Process of State Recognition of the Old Baltic Faith Romuva Movement"
- 12:10 - 12:30 Rosita Garškaitė "What do Catholics Talk About when They Talk About European integration? Between Euroscepticism and EU Support"
- 12:30 - 12:45 Discussion
- 12:45 - 13:30 LUNCH**



**13:30 - 15:25    SESSION 3: Religion and Gender Equality in the Baltics**

*Chair: Rūta Žiliukaitė*

- 13:30 - 13:50    Milda Ališauskienė "Does Gender Equality Exist Among Pagans? Diversity of Notions of Gender Equality Among Lithuanian Pagan Women"
- 13:50 - 14:10    Eglė Aleknaitė "The Binary Between the Religious and the Secular in Lithuanian Catholic Women's Discourses on Gender Relations"
- 14:10 - 14:30    Dace Balode "Between Two Worlds: Women on Gender in Latvian Churches"
- 14:30 - 14:50    Anne Kull "National and International Activism Against the Istanbul Convention: the Myths and Consequences"
- 14:50 - 15:10    Aivita Putnina "Fading Visibility of Women: Understanding of Gender in the Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church"
- 15:10 - 15:25    Discussion

**15:25 - 15:45    COFFEE BREAK**

**15:45 - 17:40    SESSION 5: Religion, Gender and Politics**

*Chair: Anne Kull*

- 15:45 - 16:05    Ilva Skulte & Sofija Kozlova "Polarization of Discourse About Gender Roles, Family and Violence in Discussions About Istanbul Convention in Latvian Internet Media"
- 16:05 - 16:25    Girts Rozners "Fundamentalism and Women: Report on the Understanding of Gender Roles in Latvian Evangelical Churches"
- 16:25 - 16:45    Adelaide Madera "Religious Law, Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation: Moving Forward With the Search of a Common Ground?"
- 16:45 - 17:05    Cecilia Delgado-Molina "Between Global and Local Debates on Gender, Sexual Diversity and Religious Pluralism"
- 17:05 - 17:25    Paulina Rinne "On Skin and Substance: Borders and Bodies in Muslim Female Art"
- 17:25 - 17:40    Discussion

## HALL 2

### PROMENADE YARD

#### 10:50 - 12:45 **SESSION 2: Religion and Politics in the Times of Pandemics**

*Chair: Milda Ališauskienė*

10:50 - 11:10 Laurentiu Tanase "Adapt and Update? The Challenge of Religiosity During the Pandemic in Romania"

11:10 - 11:30 Smita Chakraborty "Prayers, Paupers and the Pandemic: A Study Based on Temple Beggars and Alms System in Central Kolkata"

11:30 - 11:50 Brian Conway "Pandemic-related Discourses Regarding Religion: The Case of Irish Catholicism"

11:50 - 12:10 Crisanto Q. Regadio Jr. "Administration, Ministry and Religious Observance in Evangelical Churches during the COVID-19 Pandemic in the Philippines"

12:10 - 12:30 Roberto Cipriani "Uncertain Faith in Italy"

12:30 - 12:45 Discussion

#### 12:45 - 13:30 **LUNCH**

#### 13:30 - 15:25 **SESSION 4: Religion and Politics in China and Taiwan**

*Chair: Rasa Pranskevičiūtė-Amoson*

13:30 - 13:50 Massimo Introvigne "The Xie Jiao Tradition, Taiwanese Governments and Minority Religions, 1949–2021"

13:50 - 14:10 Yi-Jing Chen "Tai Ji Men and the Tai Ji Men Case: Politics versus Spiritual Minorities"

14:10 - 14:30 Rosita Šorytė "The United Nations, Transitional Justice, and Religious Liberty"

14:30 - 14:50 Cheng-An Tsai "Transitional Justice and Religious Liberty in Taiwan"

14:50 - 15:10 Tadas Snuviškas "On the Religious and Political Reasons of the Rise and Fall of Consciousness-Only School in China"

15:10 - 15:25 Discussion

#### 15:25 - 15:45 **COFFEE BREAK**

#### 15:45 - 17:40 **SESSION 6: Religion in Public Policy Discourse**

*Chair: Indrek Pekko*

15:45 - 16:05 Francis Benyah "'You Can't Legislate the Holy Spirit': Religious Freedom and the Contemporary Face of Christianity in Ghana"

16:05 - 16:25 M. Isabel Garrido Gómez "Religion Standards in the Rules of Law through Media"

16:25 - 16:45 Anna Vancsó "Christianity as a Contested Concept/Christian Churches as Clearly Defined Actors in the Hungarian Parliamentary Speeches since 2010"

16:45 - 17:05 Chrysa K. Almpani "Religion & IR: How Members of the European Institutions Understand the Religion-Politics Nexus"

17:05 - 17:25 Tuomas Äystö & Titus Hjelm "Religion in the Parliament of Finland from 2010 to 2020: The Patterns Among Parties and the Topics of Discussion"

17:25 - 17:40 Discussion

## DAY 3

NOVEMBER 13, 2021

08:30 - 09:00 Registration  
Venue: Hotel Conference Center lobby

### HALL 1

CASTLE YARD

**09:00 - 10:00 KEYNOTE: Anna Halafoff**  
Selling (Con)spirituality and COVID-19  
*Chair: Milda Ališauskienė*

**10:00 - 11:55 SESSION 7: Gender, Science and Religious Activism**  
*Chair: Rūta Žiliukaitė*

10:00 - 10:20 Susan Carland "“Please Don’t Hurt Me Because of the Way I Look”:  
Muslim Women’s Public Engagement, Islamophobia, and Social  
Cohesion”

10:20 - 10:40 Haimo Schulz Meinen “Glorious Babes”

10:40 - 11:00 Rafael Cazarin “Exploring the Intersections Between Religion, Science  
and Gender in Spain”

11:00 - 11:20 Mar Griera “Spirituality, Biomedical Technologies and “Healthy”  
Lifestyles: a Sociological Approach”

11:20 - 11:40 Halyna Herasym & Justin Tse “The Transformative Power of Human  
Rights Rhetoric: Progressive Talk in Catholic Spaces”

11:40 - 11:55 Discussion

**11:55 - 12:15 COFFEE BREAK**

**12:15 - 14:10 SESSION 9: Long-Term Religious Change**  
*Chair: Aušra Pažėraitė*

12:15 - 12:35 Indrek Pekko & Christo Lombaard “Returns to Denominations in the  
Baltics, Post-Communism? Observations and Demographic Trends in  
Discussion, with Lutheran Churches as Case Study”

12:35 - 12:55 Övgü Ülgen “The Complex Relation Between Language and Religion:  
Talking About a Two-pronged Moroccan Jewish Generation in Québec”

12:55 - 13:15 Nabeel CKM “Genealogy of Kerala Muslim Engagements in  
Environmentalism: A Case Study of Chaliyar Struggle”

13:15 - 13:35 Armando Garcia Chiang “Pluralization as the New Paradigm in Mexican  
Religious Context: The Sacred Places as a Tool to Apprehend Religious  
Plurality”

13:35 - 14:10 Discussion

**14:10 - 14:50 LUNCH**

**14:50 - 16:45**     **SESSION 10: Nationalism, Populism and Religion**

*Chair: Eglė Aleknaite*

- 14:50 - 15:10     Burak Kesgin "Demonizing Santa: A Fresh Look at the Anti-New Year's Eve Movement in Turkey"
- 15:10 - 15:30     Jacek Skup "What's in a Name? Religious Nationalism and the Renaming of Cities in Uttar Pradesh"
- 15:30 - 15:50     Julio Cesar de Lima Bizarria "Get Born Again: the Auratic Baptism and the Bodily Depths in the Messianic Project of Brazil's Jair Messias Bolsonaro"
- 15:50 - 16:10     Giuseppe Maiello "Between Deep Ecology and Nationalism: The Origin of Russian Neojazychestvo"
- 16:10 - 16:30     Insa Bechert "ONBound – a Database for Answering Research Questions Concerning National Identities and Religion"
- 16:30 - 16:45     Discussion

**16:45 - 17:05**     **COFFEE BREAK**

**17:05 - 18:20**     **ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION: Religion, Politics and Uncertainty Around the Baltic Sea**

*Chair: Mar Griera*

Participants: Agita Misane, Milda Ališauskienė, Anne Kull, Titus Hjelm

- 18:20 - 18:30     Conference closing

**HALL 2**

PROMENADE YARD

**10:00 - 11:55**     **SESSION 8: Approaching Religion and Politics**

*Chair: Anne Kull*

- 10:00 - 10:20     Geoffrey Pleyers "Religion, Social Movements and Politics in Brazil. From Liberation Theology to Bolsonaro"
- 10:20 - 10:40     Maciej Krzywosz "How to Analyse Private Religious Revelations in a Sociological Context? Biographical Sociology Approach"
- 10:40 - 11:00     Dennis Erasga "Demonstrative Body: Spectacle of the Ritual Body in Healing Narratives Among Popular Religious Devotees in the Philippines"
- 11:00 - 11:20     Miguel Fernando Oliva "Religions and Social Networks: the God Node"
- 11:20 - 11:40     Patria Gwen M.L. Borcena "Sociological Snapshots of Laudato Si' and Green Filipino Bishops"
- 11:40 - 11:55     Discussion

**11:55 - 12:15**     **COFFEE BREAK**



<b>14:50 - 16:45</b>	<b>SESSION 11: Constructing Religion, the Religious and the Secular</b> <i>Chair: Rasa Pranskevičiūtė-Amoson</i>
14:50 - 15:10	<u>Jualynne E. Dodson</u> "Church Building in the African Diaspora: Mt. Sinai Holy Church of Banes, Cuba"
15:10 - 15:30	<u>Aušra Pažėraitė</u> "Confusing Conceptions and Boundaries of Jewish Religious Communities today in Lithuania"
15:30 - 15:50	<u>Vaishnavi Sreenivas</u> "The Christian Baggage of Secularism: A Study of French and Indian contexts"
15:50 - 16:10	<u>Armando Garcia Chiang</u> "The Liberation Christendom in Mexico. Just a Memory or Still Valid?"
16:10 - 16:30	<u>Susan Carland</u> "Public & Private Ramadans: Exploring the Loci of Lived Religion"
16:30 - 16:45	Discussion