



International conference
Europe's democratic challenges

Monday, November 4th, 2019, 15:00 o'clock.

Vytautas Magnus University, Small Hall (2nd floor, S. Daukanto g. 28, Kaunas)

Programme

15.00 Key note speaker

Aleida Bertran

***Re-thinking democracy in Europe through
nonviolent resistance: the case of Catalonia***

The political struggle in Catalonia has created an unprecedented scenario of civil peaceful resistance for the right to self-determination. The declaration of independence in 2017 and its aftermath have unfolded a mass social movement inspired by non-violent strategies such as the Singing Revolution. The current situation raises the question on the possibility of attaining freedom through nonviolent resistance and opening new horizons towards the concept of Europe of nations.



Aleida Bertran is PhD student in Cultural Anthropology at the Latvian Academy of Culture (Riga, Latvia). Her research focuses on folk festivals and national identity in the Baltic States and North Catalonia. She is also the lecturer of the course *Social Movements and Culture* at her university. Currently, she is the coordinator of the Catalan National Assembly in Latvia (ANC Latvija), a non-political organization that fosters civil engagement with the political situation in Catalonia. The aim of this assembly is to enable debates and conferences while making the Catalan culture accessible abroad.

15.40

Gintautas Mažeikis, Vytautas Magnus University

***The old and new philosophy of sovereignty:
autonomous polities***





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16.00

Tomas Kavaliauskas, Vytautas Magnus University

Where did Central Europe of Milan Kundera go?



16.20 Round table

with Catalonia's delegate to the Baltic States

Ewa Adela Cylwik

European Union's democratic challenges



Conference organizer



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