



Vytautas Magnus University Vytautas Kavolis Transdisciplinary Research Institute

Helsinki Institute for Social Sciences and Humanities

Practising Collaboration: Interdisciplinary Methods for Studying Space, Boundaries, and Power

PhD training school

17 - 19 November 2025

Kaunas, Lithuania

Teachers

Dr. Jurga Bučaitė-Vilkė is an Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology, Senior Researcher, and the director of the Vytautas Kavolis Transdisciplinary Research Institute at Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania. Her research focuses on participatory democracy, local governance and local social welfare policies. She has been involved in several national and European research projects on local governance, community participation and territorial welfare policies as PI. Between 2020 and 2022, she served as Lithuania's national delegate to the Horizon Europe Programme Committee "Culture, Creativity, and Inclusive Society" and worked as an expert for the OECD-OCDE project on inter-municipal cooperation in Lithuania, advising on legal and institutional reforms.

Dr. Vytis Čiubrinskas is a Professor of Social Anthropology at Vytautas Magnus University and Chief Researcher at Vytautas Kavolis Transdisciplinary Research Institute at Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas, Lithuania. His research focuses on ethnicity, identity politics, migration, and the anthropology of memory in Central and Eastern Europe. He has published widely and is active in international scholarly networks, contributing to the advancement of social anthropology in the region.



Dr. Ingrida Gečienė-Janulionė is an Associate Professor at Vilnius University's Institute of Sociology and Social Work and Researcher at Vytautas Kavolis Transdisciplinary Research Institute at Vytautas Magnus University, specialising in migration, social stratification, cultural and political sociology, and social policy. She has authored numerous publications and leads the Institute of Social Innovations.

Dr. Indrė Gražulevičiūtė-Vilenišké is a Researcher in heritage conservation, urban regeneration, and landscape architecture at Kaunas University of Technology, Lithuania. Her work focuses on integrating cultural heritage values, green infrastructure, and nature-based solutions into contemporary urban development. She combines theoretical models with experimental design approaches and actively contributes to interdisciplinary collaboration, as well as the supervision of early-career researchers.

Dr. Şevket Benhür Oral serves as a Chief Researcher at Vytautas Kavolis Transdisciplinary Research Institute at Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas, Lithuania. Initially, his work centred on Deweyan pragmatist aesthetics, but he has since shifted his focus to contemporary issues in continental philosophy. His primary research interests include the social, political, and philosophical foundations of education and the educational implications of contemporary continental philosophy. Additionally, he explores Chinese Buddhist ontologies, particularly Tiantai Buddhism.

Dr. Hannu Nieminen is an emeritus Professor of Media and Communication Policy at the University of Helsinki and the London School of Economics, specialising in media systems, democracy, and public communication. He also serves as a Chief Researcher at Vytautas Kavolis Transdisciplinary Research Institute at Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas, Lithuania. His research focuses on media policy and the role of communication.