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**AKTUALIOJI ANTROPOLOGIJA: PASAULIO LIETUVIŲ
TYRIMAI IR IŽVALGOS**

Sudarytojai ASTA VONDERAU ir VYTIS ČIUBRINSKAS

**CURRENT ANTHROPOLOGY: WORLD LITHUANIAN
ANTHROPOLOGISTS' RESEARCH AND INSIGHTS**

Edited by ASTA VONDERAU and VYTIS ČIUBRINSKAS

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Lietuvos etnologija: socialinės antropologijos ir etnologijos studijos – mokslinis etnologijos ir socialinės ir kultūrinės antropologijos žurnalas. Jame spausdinami recenzuojami straipsniai, konferencijų pristatymai, knygų recenzijos ir apžvalgos, kurių temos pirmiausia apima Lietuvą ir Vidurio/Rytų Europą. Žurnalas pristato mokslo aktualijas ir skatina teorines bei metodines diskusijas. Tekstai skelbiami lietuvių arba anglų kalba.

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Editorial

The 2021 issue of *Lithuanian Ethnology* is a special issue, entitled: 'Current Anthropology: World Lithuanian Anthropologists' Research and Insights', and is intended to give a voice to Lithuanian anthropologists living and working abroad and those who returned to Lithuania. It includes five articles dealing with current debates in contemporary anthropology, from the digitalisation of the human condition to debates on traumatic memory issues.

This special issue starts with a roundtable discussion: 'What can Anthropology Tell us about the Contemporary World?', which was organised and moderated by Kristina Jonutyte, the initiator and president of the newly established Association of Lithuanian Anthropologists. The discussion was attended by three Lithuanian anthropologists from the USA: Ieva Jusionyte (Harvard University), Neringa Klumbyte (Miami University), and Rima Praspaliauskienė (University of California, Berkeley), and the editor of this special issue, Asta Vonderau, from Martin Luther University in Halle in Germany. The participants debated questions related to methodology and research politics in anthropology, as well as the prospects of applied and public anthropology.

Asta Vonderau's research into the digital economy in Sweden is the first article in the special issue section. Her critical approach to digitalisation, as industrial and infrastructural mega projects spread over Sweden and other parts of the world, investigates the local social and environmental effects of global data economies.

The articles by Kristina Jonutyte and Eugenijus Liutkevičius, who are anthropologists of religion, deal with issues of the Buddhist (in Siberia in Russia) and Baptist (in Ukraine) religions, by applying political and social movement perspectives. In this way, politically engaged issues such as submission and subversion vis-à-vis the state enter the agenda along with another decisive factor, the radical social changes which happened due to the collapse of the Soviet Union. The latter was a key factor influencing issues of religion in both research sites, in Russia and Ukraine.

Gediminas Lankauskas, an expert in the anthropology of post-socialism, deals with marriage rites in Lithuania. During the Soviet period, these rites were moved out of the private sphere into the public sphere, by applying the totalitarian state's standardisation of marriage traditions. This analysis is an example of how different spheres in private life are transformed and subjugated by state regimes.

Dovilė Budrytė is not a traditional political scientist, as she researches trauma memory by applying life-history methodology and uses interdisciplinary perspectives. In this issue, she presents an account of memory about the Lithuanian partisan war at the end of and after the Second World War, by emphasising the gender perspective, and challenging reductionist views of women as passive participants in trauma memory making, and also by arguing for an understanding of the multiplicity of the traumas and complexities of memory.

Besides the special issue papers, there are also additional articles in the 2021 edition of *Lithuanian Ethnology*. The first is Ilona Kazlauskaitė's research into what seems like a very well-known topic, the international mobility of students, although she finds an important angle to approach it from: challenges to the migrant student identity. She shows that migrant students feel their reception in the host country as integrationist or exclusionist, which has different effects on their sense of belonging.

Vaida Rakaitytė opens up an underexplored sphere of applied ethnology and museum studies in her article, by scrutinising a live performance, a reconstruction of the traditional Lithuanian children's game *Lauminėjimas*, performed at the Rumšiškės Open-Air Museum in Lithuania.

Another important issue opening up the contemporary discipline of anthropology is the engaged anthropology presented and defined by Agnieška Avin, who carried out fieldwork-based research among the Roma in Lithuania, and has experience of the multiple stigmatisation of the Roma. Her conference presentation in the 'Junior Sociologists and Anthropologists' Conference' this year at Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas reveals an urgent need for anthropologists to tackle engaged anthropology, and to take an active role against strategic marginalisation and stigmatisation. In her view, it would lead to better human rights-related social relations in society.

The reviews by Auksuolė Čepaitienė and Vytautas Tumėnas are extended surveys of the most significant publications in ethnology and folkloristics that appeared recently in Lithuania. Čepaitienė reviews a monograph by Rasa Paukštytė-Šaknienė, Žilvytis Šaknys and Irma Šidiškienė, her colleagues at the Lithuanian Institute of History, on the leisure time and festivities of Vilnius people. Tumėnas reviews a monograph by the Lithuanian folklore specialist Daiva Vaitkevičienė on traditional Baltic drinks and drinking rites. Both reviewers discuss the approaches and methodologies applied in these monographs critically and in detail.

We hope that this collection of articles for the special issue, as well as the rest of the papers in this volume of *Lithuanian Ethnology*, will be of great interest to readers.

Asta Vonderau, Vytis Čiubrinskas