

CONFERENCE  
**The Intellectual Heritage  
of the Jews of Vilnius**  
10–11 October 2023, Vilnius

KONFERENCIJA  
**Vilniaus žydų  
intelektualinis paveldas**  
2023 m. spalio 10–11 d., Vilnius



**PROGRAMME**

VILNE | ווילנע  
1323-2023 | 5083-5783



**Organisers:**

LITHUANIAN  
ACADEMY OF  
SCIENCES



ISRAEL ACADEMY  
OF SCIENCES  
AND HUMANITIES



**Partners:**

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*On 10–11 October 2023, the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences and the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities are holding the international scholarly conference ‘The Intellectual Heritage of the Jews of Vilnius’.*

*In Lithuania, the year 2020 was the Year of Lithuanian Jewish History and of the Vilnius Gaon, Elijah ben Solomon Zalman, in commemoration of the 300th anniversary of his birth. A conference of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences and the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities in Vilnius was part of the commemorative programme.*

*Unfortunately, this goal did not materialise because of the pandemic. As soon as it was over, both academies decided to revive the idea of the conference.*

*As part of the celebrations of the 700th anniversary of Vilnius and in view of the influence of the Jewish people and culture on the history of Vilnius, a decision was made to broaden the scope of the conference by exploring the rich intellectual heritage of the Jews of Vilnius from the eighteenth century onwards and the impact it has had on Vilnius and the wider world.*

*To achieve this goal, the conference will focus on the intellectual heritage of Vilnius Jews in the eighteenth-nineteenth centuries (the first day of the conference), the process of the intellectual modernisation of the Jews of Vilnius, and the spread of the Jews of Vilnius in the world (the second day of the conference).*

*Thanks to the support of the Research Council of Lithuania, we were able to invite such world-renowned experts in Jewish history and culture as Prof. Israel Bartal, Prof. David E. Fishman, Prof. David G. Roskies, Prof. Benjamin Brown, Prof. Alex Lubotzky, Prof. Marcin Wodzinski, Dr Jon Seligman, Prof. Avner Holtzman, Prof. Tsvia Walden, Prof. Mordechai (Motti) Zalkin, and others.*

*The conference will also feature presentations by prominent Lithuanian scholars: Prof. Giedrė Jankevičiūtė, Prof. Mindaugas Kvietauskas, Dr Lara Lempertienė, Prof. Jurgita Verbickienė, and the doctoral student Saulė Valiūnaitė.*

*Promotion of scholarly cooperation between the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences and the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities is one of the central goals of the conference.*

*The conference ‘The Intellectual heritage of the Jews of Vilnius’ is the first joint scholarly event organised by the two academies.*

# PROGRAMME

English is the official language of the conference

## [Registration](#)

## 10 October



### **THE INTELLECTUAL HERITAGE OF THE JEWS OF VILNIUS IN THE EIGHTEENTH-NINETEENTH CENTURY**

GRAND HALL,  
LITHUANIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES,  
Gedimino Ave. 3, Vilnius

**8.30–9.00** *Participant registration, welcome coffee*

**Plenary meeting**

**Chair Prof. Jūras Banys**

**9.00–9.30** **OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE.  
WELCOME ADDRESSES.**

**Prof. Jūras Banys**, President  
of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences

**Prof. David Harel**, President  
of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities

**Hadas Wittenberg Silverstein**, HE Ambassador  
Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the State of Israel  
to the Republic of Lithuania

**9.30–10.10** **OPENING LECTURE.** **Prof. Benjamin Brown**,  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.  
**The Vilna Gaon's Theopolitical Legacy**

**10.10–10.25** **Discussion**

**10.25–10.40** *Coffee break*

**10.40–14.50 The Intellectual Heritage of the Jews  
of Vilnius in the Eighteenth-Nineteenth  
Century**

**Chair Prof. Yadin Dudai**

**10.40–10.50 INTRODUCTION.** Prof. Yadin Dudai, The Israel  
Academy of Sciences and Humanities

**10.50–11.30 KEYNOTE LECTURE.** Prof. Israel Bartal,  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.  
**Each Generation and its Scholars:  
The Changing Faces of the ‘Historian’s Gaon’**

**11.30–12.10 Prof. Alex Lubotzky, Weizmann Institute,  
Hebrew University of Jerusalem.  
The Mathematics of the Vilna Gaon**

**12.10–12.30 Discussion**

**12.30–13.30 *Lunch break***

**Chair Prof. Vladas Algirdas Bumelis**

**13.30–13.50 Prof. Jurgita Verbickienė, Vilnius University.  
The Space of Intellectual Life:  
Jewish Socio-Topography of Vilnius  
in the Second Half of the Eighteenth Century**

**13.50–14.30 Prof. Marcin Wodziński, University of  
Wrocław. Two Enlightenments: The  
Case of Josef Rosensohn of Vilna**

**14.30–14.50 Discussion**

**AFTERNOON PROGRAMME** 



**THE VILNA GAON MUSEUM OF JEWISH HISTORY**  
Naugarduko St. 10, Vilnius

**15.30–16.00 Dr Jon Seligman, Israel Antiquities Authority.  
Excavating the Other Cathedral of Vilnius:  
The Great Synagogue of Vilna**

16.00–16.15 Discussion

16.15–16.45 EXHIBITION TOUR

16.45–18.00 Screening of the film *Daughter of Vilna: The Life in Song of Masha Roskies*

## 11 October



### THE INTELLECTUAL MODERNISATION OF THE JEWS OF VILNIUS

GRAND HALL,  
LITHUANIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES,  
Gedimino Ave. 3, Vilnius

Chair Faina Kukliansky

9.00–9.40 KEYNOTE LECTURE. Prof. David E. Fishman,  
Jewish Theological Seminary. **Nationalism, Socialism  
and the Modernisation of the Jews of Vilna**

9.40–9.55 Discussion

9.55–11.30 **Jewish Culture and Modernity  
in Interwar Vilnius**

Chair Prof. David G. Roskies

9.55–10.15 Prof. Mindaugas Kvietkauskas, Vilnius University.  
**The Yiddish Avant-garde Group *Yung Vilne* and  
Vilnius University: Separate or Interconnected  
Worlds?**

10.15–10.35 Saulė Valiūnaitė, Vilnius University.  
**Unknown Soldiers? Women in the Politics  
of Doikayt in Interwar Vilnius**

- 10.35–10.55** Dr Lara Lempertienė, Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania. **On Vilna with Love. Zalman Shneur and Hermann Struk**
- 10.55–11.15** Prof. Giedrė Jankevičiūtė, Vilnius Academy of Arts, Lithuanian Culture Research Institute. **Art of Jewish Women Artists in Interwar Vilnius**
- 11.15–11.30** Discussion
- 11.30–12.15** *Lunch break*
- 12.15–15.15** **The Spread of Jewish Ideas from Vilnius to the World**  
Chair Prof. Mindaugas Kvietkauskas
- 12.15–12.55** KEYNOTE LECTURE. Prof. David G. Roskies, Jewish Theological Seminary. **A Tale of Two Cities: Growing Up in *Vilne de-Kánade***
- 12.55–13.35** Prof. Avner Holtzman, Tel Aviv University. **Vilnius, a Centre of Hebrew Enlightenment**
- 13.35–14.15** Prof. Tsvia Walden, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. **From Kalman Schulman in Vilnius to Hebrew Speaking Children in Israel: Laying the Foundations of Modern Hebrew Culture**
- 14.15–14.55** CLOSING LECTURE. Prof. Mordechai (Motti) Zalkin, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. **The Intellectual Heritage of Lithuanian Jewry: Reflections and Thoughts**
- 14.55–15.15** Discussion
- 15.15–18.20** A Tour of the Jewish Vilnius.  
Tour guide Julijus Gurvičius



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#### CONFERENCE ORGANISING COMMITTEE

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**Prof. Aušra Maslauskaitė**, vice-chair of the Division of the Humanities and Social Sciences of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences

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**Dr Lara Lempertienė**, head of the Judaica Research Centre at the Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania

**Prof. Dr Jurgita Verbickienė**, head of the Center for Studies of the Culture and History of East European Jews, Vilnius University

**Faina Kukliansky**, chair of the Lithuanian Jewish Community

† **Jaša Markas Zingeris**

