

**3rd International Scientific Conference of the Lithuanian Society for the Study of Religions  
LIFE HERE AND HEREAFTER: BELIEFS AND PRACTICES**

**Vilnius, Lithuania  
October 23-24, 2015**

**with Vilnius University and Vytautas Magnus University  
Program**

**Friday, October 23, 2015**

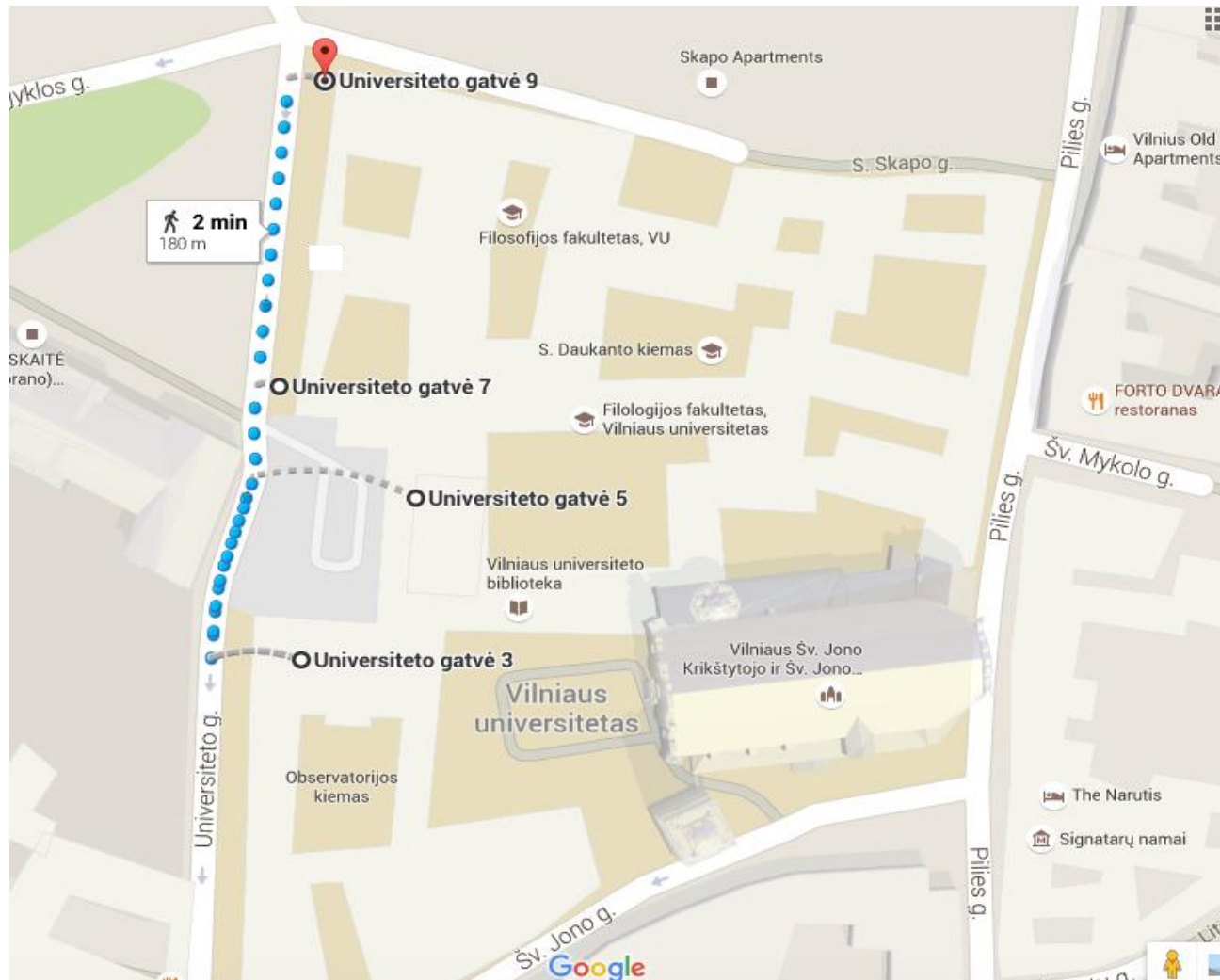
9.00 - 10.00	<p align="center"><b>Registration</b> Aula Parva, Universiteto str. 3, Vilnius (entrance through Rectorate)</p>		
10.00 – 12.00	<p align="center"><b>Opening plenary session</b> Moderator: Milda Ališauskienė, Head of Lithuanian Society for the Study of Religions Welcoming speech by representative of Vilnius University Rectorate Tony Walter: <i>Why Today's Dead Become Angels</i> Room: Aula Parva, Universiteto str. 3, Vilnius (entrance through Rectorate)</p>		
12.00 – 14.00	<p align="center"><b>Lunch (on your own)</b> (for more information about where to eat check your conference material)</p>		
14.00 – 16.00	<p align="center"><b>Parallel session 1</b> <b>Life Here and Hereafter: Biblical and Early Christianity Approaches</b> Moderator: Eglė Aleknaitytė Room: Hindi, Center of Oriental Studies, Universiteto str. 5</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sami Yli-Karjanmaa: <i>Changes in Sacred Texts and Traditions": Reincarnation in Philo of Alexandria</i></li> <li>2. Gintaras Sungaila: <i>The influence of Gnosticism on the Images of Afterlife in Eastern Christianity"</i></li> <li>3. Aušra Pažeraitė: <i>Who Has a Power to Destroy the Hell</i></li> <li>4. Mark John Nixon: <i>Glimpses of the Hereafter in the Speeches of Peter in Acts</i></li> </ol>	<p align="center"><b>Parallel session 2</b> <b>Life Here and Hereafter: Contemporary (Post)Christianity</b> Moderator: Annika Hvithamar Room: Kovalevskio, Center of Oriental Studies, Universiteto str. 5</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Paul Heelas: <i>The Flow of Life-itself: Here/After</i></li> <li>2. Svetlana Karassyova: <i>Understanding of Postmortal Existence by the Religious People in Belarus (Based on the Results of the Republican Cross-Confessional Survey, 2012–2014)</i></li> <li>3. Ibrahim Abraham: <i>Serious Leisure and Spiritual Anxiety in Evangelical Youth Culture</i></li> <li>4. Panagiotis Pentaris: <i>Before, During and After the Cemetery: An Ethnographic Study of Greek Burial</i></li> </ol>	<p align="center"><b>Parallel session 3</b> <b>Life Here and Hereafter in Contemporary Asia</b> Moderator: Egdūnas Račius Room: Japonų, Center of Oriental Studies, Universiteto str. 5</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Itzchak Weismann: <i>The Saved Party: This Life and the Hereafter in Modern Salafi and Muslim Brotherhood Thought</i></li> <li>2. David Thurffjell: <i>The Bitter-Sweet Taste of Despair: Death and Youth Culture in Charismatic Shi'ism</i></li> <li>3. Marie-Dominique Even: <i>Change and Continuity in The Representations of the Hereafter among the Mongols</i></li> <li>4. Justina Razumaitė: <i>Freedom of Religion in China: The Case of Christianity</i></li> <li>5. Brenda Beck: <i>A Sacrament of Ritual Suicide: Why The Death and Resurrection of Two Medieval Hindu Folk Heroes Is Re-enacted Today</i></li> </ol>

		<p>&amp; Beliefs</p> <p>5. Jones Irwin: <i>Confessional Religious Education, Pluralism and Their In-Betweens - Developing a Multi-Belief Curriculum for Primary School Children in Ireland</i></p>	
<b>16.00 – 16.30</b>	<p><b>Coffee break</b> Faculty of History Cafe, Universiteto str. 7</p>		
16.30 – 18.30	<p>Parallel session 4</p> <p><b>Life Here and Hereafter in Contemporary Paganism</b> Moderator: Rasa Pranskevičiūtė Room: Hindi, Center of Oriental Studies, Universiteto str. 5</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Michael Strmiska: <i>The Ambiguity of Ancestors: Questions of Inclusion, Exclusion and Ethnicity in Modern Pagan Conceptions of the Afterlife</i></li> <li>2. Eglė Aleknaitė: <i>Does Death Matter to Toltecs? Idea of Death in the Teachings of Carlos Castaneda and Later Developments of Neoshamanic Toltec Teachings and Practices</i></li> <li>3. Giuseppe Maiello: <i>Attempts to Implement "Pagan Funerals" in the Czech Republic</i></li> <li>4. Agnė Kalėdienė: <i>Construction and Reconstruction of Baltic Paganism: Comparison of Pagans, Historical Reconstructors and Pagan Metal Subculture</i></li> <li>5. Olga Pawlik: <i>Category of Justice in the Image of Afterlife in Rodzimy Kościół Polski</i></li> </ol>	<p>Parallel session 5</p> <p><b>Reincarnation in the Here and Hereafter</b> Moderator: Audrius Beinorius Room: Kovalevskio, Center of Oriental Studies, Universiteto str. 5</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Antonia Mills: <i>Studies of Reincarnation Cases From The 1960s To The Present With Some Examples</i></li> <li>2. Erlendur Haraldsson: <i>Reincarnation – Is There Any Evidence for it?</i></li> <li>3. Ohkado Masayuki: <i>Children's Past-Life and Intermission Memories</i></li> <li>4. James Matlock: <i>Evidence of Past-Life Memory in a Mildly Autistic Boy</i></li> <li>5. Vilius Dranseika: <i>Afterlife Beliefs and Folk Reasoning about Personal Identity</i></li> </ol>	<p>Parallel session 6</p> <p><b>Life Here and Hereafter and its Imageries</b> Moderator: Aušra Pažėraitė Room: Japonų, Center of Oriental Studies, Universiteto str. 5</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Christina Welch: <i>Medieval Perceptions of Purgatory; Visualising the Here-After in the Here-and-Now</i></li> <li>2. Denise Thorpe: <i>Cultural Memory, Identity Formation, and Trauma with a Vėlinėš Horizon!</i></li> <li>3. Alfredas Buiko: <i>Electronic Paradise: Death and Eschatology in Transhumanist Subculture</i></li> <li>4. Cristina Douglas: <i>Medicalization of Life and the Imagery of Bodily Immortality.</i></li> <li>5. Chadwick Co Sy Su: <i>Hollywood and Dying: Three Films, Three Decades, One Conclusion</i></li> </ol>
<b>19.00 – 21.00</b>	<p><b>Welcoming reception</b> Faculty of History Cafe, Universiteto str. 7</p>		

**Saturday, October 24, 2015**

10.00 – 12.00	<p align="center">Parallel session 7 <b>Life Here and Hereafter in Buddhism</b> Moderator: Michael Strmiska Room: 106, Faculty of Philosophy Universiteto str. 9</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Audrius Beinorius: <i>is there an intermediate State (Antarā Bhava) According to Indian Buddhism?</i></li> <li>2. Agita Baltgalve: <i>Do Latvians Need One More „Book of Living and Dying”: A Comparative Study of „Bardo Thodrol” (Tibetan Book of Living and Dying) Translations</i></li> <li>3. Marika Laudere: <i>Religious Practice in Buddhist Groups in the Baltic States</i></li> <li>4. Karl Käsnapuu: <i>Afterlife and Social Imagination. Applying Near-Death Study Tool On The Tibetan Book Of The Dead</i></li> </ol>	<p align="center">Parallel session 8 <b>Popular Religion Practices</b> Moderator: Ergo-Hart Västrik Room: 204, Faculty of Philosophy, Universiteto str. 9</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ksenia Kolkunova: <i>The Soil in Russian Orthodox Women Religiosity</i></li> <li>2. Rasa Baločkaitė: <i>Virgin Mary Apparitions in Soviet Lithuania: Low Profile Resistance and Practices of Faith</i></li> <li>3. Alfonsina Bellio: <i>Living among the Dead, the Saints and the Angels. Female prophecy and divination in Southern Italy</i></li> <li>4. Madis Arukask: <i>Physical Contact with the Dead in Finnic Burial Practices</i></li> </ol>	<p align="center">Parallel session 9 <b>Life Here and Hereafter in the New Religious Movements</b> Moderator: Eglė Aleknaite Room: 205, Faculty of Philosophy, Universiteto str. 9</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Julia Andreeva: <i>Interpretations of Reincarnation in the Russian New Age Movement “Anastasia”</i></li> <li>2. Rasa Pranskevičiūtė: <i>Concepts of “Spirituality” within Nature-based Worldviews in the Post-Soviet Region: Vocabulary of Vissarionites and Anastasians</i></li> <li>3. László Koppány Csáji: <i>The Hell is Actually in the Heaven</i></li> <li>4. Anita Stasulane: <i>Beliefs and Practices of Hindu-Related Movements in Latvia</i></li> </ol>
12.00 – 12.30	<p align="center"><b>Coffee break</b> Faculty of History Cafe, Universiteto str. 7</p>		
12.30 – 14.30	<p align="center">Closing plenary session <b>Life Here and Hereafter: Some Insights from the Baltic Countries</b> Moderator: Anita Stasulane Room: 201, Faculty of Philosophy, VU, Universiteto str. 9</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Atko Remmel: <i>Some Insights into (Non) Religiosity in Contemporary Estonia: Life Here and Hereafter?</i></li> <li>2. Radvilė Racėnaitė: <i>Visual Images of Death in Lithuanian Mythology</i></li> </ol>		
15.30 – 17.30	<p align="center">Guided walking tour around Vilnius Old City. Starts from Vilnius Cathedral Belfry, Šventaragio str.</p>		

## Conference venue map:



## Where to go for lunch around Vilnius University?

The closest place to conference venue is a café in the courtyard of the Faculty of History at Universiteto str. 7. There are also many places where to eat located on Pilies street.

