
The 19th Jonas Pranas Aleksa
international interdisciplinary scientific conference
“DEVELOPMENT OF THE STATE ROLE
IN THE XXI CENTURY: NATIONAL AND
INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT”



Main topic of the conference
“Democracy in Decline? Security, Trust, and Resilience in
Times of Uncertainty”

9th of October, 2026
Šiauliai Academy of Vilnius University
Vytauto str. 84, Šiauliai, Lithuania

INVITATION

Institute of Regional Development of Šiauliai Academy of Vilnius University and partners kindly invite scientists, researchers and practitioners to take the part in the international interdisciplinary scientific conference, which is dedicated to the 147th birth anniversary of Professor Jonas Pranas Aleksa. Participants will share insights from newest research and practice on the challenges to democracy, especially in the areas of security, trust and resilience. The conference will include interdisciplinary discussions in such fields as public governance, public policy, economics, management, etc. This year again a separate European Regional Studies Association (ERSA) Baltic section working group will be organised, focusing on the resilience and competitiveness of regions in the era of uncertainty.



Professor Jonas Pranas Aleksa (1879-1955) was one of the most famous leaders of the agrarian sector in the independent Lithuania (1920-1940) and the founder of the agrarian economy science. J. P. Aleksa's public and scientific activities were effectively adapted for the strengthening of democracy in the state public administration and the creation of modern rural development strategy. Also, the J. P. Aleksa personality itself becomes is a bright example for future generations, how to serve to the native country and to the universal goodness. This year we remember his 146th birth anniversary.

Please, fulfil the online **Participant Registration Form**

until September 27th, 2026:

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/5NZ25tRu2G>

or using this **QR code**

Conference will be held in the hybrid mode:

face-to-face in VU Šiauliai Academy (Vytauto str. 84, room 413,
Šiauliai, Lithuania) and online mode via MS Teams.



Organizers of the conference:



Šiaulių
akademija



**Institute of Regional Development, Researchers' Excellence
Network (RENET)**

Institute of Lithuanian Scientific Society

Author of the conference logo is **Rolandas Rimkūnas**.

Conference agenda:

9.30-10.00 A.M.	Registration
10.00-12.00 A.M.	<i>Plenary session</i> (the session in the hybrid mode: face-to-face and online)
1.00-5.00 P.M.	<i>Working groups</i>

The **European Regional Studies Association (ERSA) Baltic section working group** on “***Regional resilience and competitiveness in an era of uncertainty***” will focus on the ability of regions to adapt to changes and their impact. Discussions will focus on strengthening the resilience and competitiveness of economic, social and governance structures through the application of smart technologies, different tools and strategies.

Other working groups will be suggested and named in the final programme of the conference according to the content of presentations.

Conference languages: Lithuanian, English.

Participation in the conference is free of charge.

Estimated duration of presentations at the conference: up to 20 minutes in the plenary session and up to 10 minutes during the working groups.

Certificates of participation will be provided to authors, who prepared and read a presentation at the conference, by e-mail.

The conference program and the connection link to the MS Teams meeting will be sent to all registered participants by October 3rd, 2026.

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ORGANIZING COMMITTEE OF THE CONFERENCE

Chairperson – Lect. PhD student Anželika Gumuliauskienė, lecturer of the Institute of Regional Development of Šiauliai Academy of Vilnius University, PhD student of Management at Vilnius University, Chairperson of the Public Administration Study Programme Committee.

Members:

Assist. Prof. Dr Violeta Kiurienė, Assistant Professor at the Institute of Regional Development of Šiauliai Academy of Vilnius University, Chief Advisor to the Office of the Representatives of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania;

Research fellow Nora Leach, Lecturer of University of Nottingham, UK’s Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) researcher (United Kingdom);

Salomėja Vanagienė, Lecturer of Vilniaus kolegija / Higher Education Institution (Lithuania);

PhD student Rytis Milkintas, PhD student of Management at Vilnius University;

Asta Repšienė, Administrator at the Institute of Regional Development of Šiauliai Academy of Vilnius University.

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE OF THE CONFERENCE

Chairperson – assoc. prof. Dr Vita Juknevičienė, Associate Professor of the Institute of Regional Development of Šiauliai Academy of Vilnius University, Chairperson of the Coordination Committee of the Researchers' Excellence Network (RENET), coordinated by Šiauliai Academy of Vilnius University.

Members:

Prof. Dr Dalius Serafinas, Professor of Vilnius University, Chairman of the Council of the Lithuanian Scientific Society.

Valentinas Aleksa, economist, president of the World Lithuanian Sports Association, president of the Sūduva Regional Society of Science, History and Culture;

Dr Jonas Jasaitis, Member of the Council of the Lithuanian Scientific Society;

Prof. Dr Daniel F. Meyer, Professor of Johannesburg University, Head of School of Public Management, Governance and Public Policy (South Africa);

Prof. Dr Baiba Rivža, Academician of the Latvian Academy of Sciences, Professor of Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technology (Latvia);

Prof. Dr Jelena Borocki, Professor of University of Novi Sad (Serbia);

Assoc. Prof. Dr Daniela Georgieva, Associate Professor in the Economic Research Institute of Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (Bulgaria);

Dr Christopher Baker-Beall, Senior Lecturer of Bournemouth University (United Kingdom);

Dr Martinas Malužinas, Adjunct at University of Technology Koszalin (Poland);

Prof. Dr Vyngintas Gontis, Professor of Vilnius University, Director of Institute of Lithuanian Scientific Society;

Prof. Dr Diana Cibulskienė, Deputy Head for Research at Vilnius University Šiauliai Academy, Professor, ERSA member;

Assoc. Prof. Dr Lina Garšvienė, Director of the Institute of Regional Development of Šiauliai Academy of Vilnius University, Associate Professor, ERSA member;

Prof. Dr Vilma Atkočiūnienė, Professor of the Academy of Agriculture of Vytautas Magnus University;

Assoc. Prof. Dr Jurgita Joniškienė, Associate Professor at the Institute of Regional Development of Šiauliai Academy of Vilnius University;

Prof. Dr Diana Šaparnienė, Professor at the Institute of Regional Development of Šiauliai Academy of Vilnius University;

Assoc. Prof. Dr Rita Toleikienė, Associate Professor at the Institute of Regional Development of Šiauliai Academy of Vilnius University;

Assoc. Prof. Dr Kristina Matuzevičiūtė-Balčiūnienė, Associate Professor at the Institute of Regional Development of Šiauliai Academy of Vilnius University, ERSA member;

Assoc. Prof. Dr Jūratė Valuckienė, Associate Professor at the Institute of Regional Development of Šiauliai Academy of Vilnius University;

Assoc. Prof. Dr Milda Damkuvienė, Associate Professor at the Institute of Regional Development of Šiauliai Academy of Vilnius University.
