

CENTRE FOR RELIGIOUS STUDIES AND RESEARCH

Universiteto g. 9/1–105

LT–01513

Tel. / faks. +370 5 268 71 89

E-mail: rstc@rstc.vu.lt

<http://www.rstc.vu.lt>

DIRECTRESS OF THE CENTRE

Prof. Habil. Dr. Rita Šerpytytė

E-mail: rita.serpytyte@rstc.vu.lt

Mob. tel. +370 614 47454

STAFF

2 professors: Habil. Dr. (hp) Rita Šerpytytė, Habil. Dr. (hp) Tomas Sodeika (part-time).

4 docents (associate professors): Dr. Aušrelė Pažėraitė, Dr. Mintautas Gutauskas (part-time), Dr. Danutė Bacevičiūtė (part-time), Dr. Kęstutis Dubnikas (time worker).

4 lecturers: Dr. Nerijus Čepulis (part-time), Dr. Sigita Maslauskaitė (time worker), Dr. Dainius Razauskas (time worker), Rimantas Meškėnas (time worker).

MAIN RESEARCH TRENDS OF THE CENTRE

Interdisciplinary Research on Religion

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Religion and everyday life: challenges of the contemporary world

Philosophy of religion

New religious movements

Nihilism and secularization

Religion and visualization

Role of the church in the post-modern transformations

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS ORGANIZED IN 2010

Conference “Religion and Culture: Profiles of Visuality” (2010 05 27–28).

International seminar “Religion, Relativism, Hermeneutics” (2010 09 17–22)

Seminar “Religion, Everyday life, Visuality” (2010 12 21)

RESEARCH PROJECTS CARRIED OUT IN 2010

Projects Supported by University Budget

- **Religion and Culture.** Prof. R. Šerpytytė. 2010.

Interdisciplinary Research on Religion 2001–2011.

During the year 2010 nine articles were published in the national scientific journals and collections of articles. The conference “Religion and Culture: Profiles of Visuality” was organized and the material for the publishing in two volumes of scientific journal *Religion and Culture* (vol. 6 (1) – 9 articles, vol. 6 (2) – 4 articles) was prepared.

Projects Supported by Research Council of Lithuania

- Project: **Identity and Alterity.** Dr. Nerijus Čepulis. 2010.

National Programme: State and Nation: Heritage and Identity. 2010–2014.

The goal of the project was to explore identity through its relation to alterity as a means for an individual to grasp and express his/her ontological and social identity. In Modernity rational subject has become the centre, basis and producer of any identity. Theoretical objectivity and technical-political power prioritized total identity. It resulted in totalitarianism as witnessed by the dramatic history of the 20th century. Today it is confirmed by negative effects of globalization and monopolization. It is imperative to show sufficient attention to alterity and to reconsider the imminent confrontation between identity and alterity, only through which identity can remain ethical. The project got together researchers who rethought the dilemma of identity and alterity from various perspectives, such as: identity and the role of alterity in memory, imagination and representation; identity and alterity in language and the other new media; identity and alterity from ethical perspective.

On the basis of project investigations, there were 9 scientific articles for publishing prepared: Dalius Jonkus *Totality of Memory and Alterity*, Rita Šerpytytė *Margins of Nihilism: Image and Extinction*, Kristupas Sabolius *Imagination, Spontaneity, and Alterity*, Vaiva Daraškevičiūtė *Transformations of the Ontologicality of Image in Aesthetics*, Nerijus Čepulis *Magic of the Evident Identity*, Danutė Bacevičiūtė *Identity of Subjectivity in Ethical discourse*, Lina VIDAUSKYTĖ *Allegory as Speaking*

about Alterity, Aušra Pažėraitė *Linguistic Transformations of Identity*, Tomas Sodeika *In Medias Res: Marshal McLuhan and Alterity of his 'Theory'*.

- Project: **Religion and Culture: The Challenges of the Contemporary World to the Identity**. Prof. Rita Šerpytytė. 2010–2013.

National programme: State and Nation: Heritage and Identity. 2010–2014.

The project by its nature and aims is being pointed to the analysis of the relationship between religion and culture. It takes into consideration the key transformations in the contemporary cultural life, which brings challenge to religion. Such transformations representing the 'face' of contemporary world would be following:

- 1) multi-culturalization, multi-ethnicity, and multi-religiosity of the society as a result of globalization as well as globalization itself;
- 2) secularization and the conflict of values: confrontation between new life standards and sphere of the traditional values; philosophical theological meaning of secularization and the outcomes of religious life;
- 3) nihilism and secularization as challenges of the contemporary world and their representations in cultural life.

The aim of the project is to explore the separate representations of these transformations and to investigate the specific aspects of the manifestation in the sphere of culture by taking into account the entirety of the mentioned transformations challenging the religion in the contemporary world.

On the basis of the project investigations, there were 5 scientific articles for publishing prepared (Rita Šerpytytė *Secularization, Art, and Religion, or – Who is St. Sebastian?*, Tomas Sodeika *The Sacral in an Era of Technical Reproducibility*, Mintautas Gutauskas *Religion and Public Interpretation*, Aušrelė Pažėraitė *Historical Nihilism and Science Fiction in the New Russian and Lithuanian Neo-Pagan / Patriotic Movements*, Kristupas Sabolius *Rhythm and Reveries: on the Temporality of Material Imagination*), 2 theoretical seminars organized, 1 plenary conference at the international congress presented, 4 papers at the project seminars prepared and presented.

The project in 2010 was in particular focused on the theoretical analysis of the concept of secularization and on the analysis of the challenge of secularization to the sphere of everyday life and visuality.

MAIN PUBLICATIONS

COOPERATION

Centre for Religious Sciences of Trento (Italy)
Centre for Philosophical and Religious Studies of Luigi Pareyson, Turin (Italy)
Complutense University of Madrid (Spain)
Latvia University, Riga (Latvia)
Kaunas Technological University, Department of Philosophy (Lithuania)
Lithuanian Association of Phenomenology (Lithuania)
Ohio University (USA)
The University of the Basque Country (Spain)
University of Eastern Piedmont (Italy)
University of Turin (Italy)
University of Salzburg (Austria)
Nordic Society for Philosophy of Religion (NSPR) www.tf.uio.no/nspr/

OTHER SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES

Prof. Rita Šerpytytė

- president of Lithuanian Philosophy Teacher's Association;
- member and national representative (correspondent) of International Association for Philosophy Teachers (Association Internationale des Professeurs de Philosophie, enregistrée á Bruxelles), <http://www.aipph.de>
- editorial board member of the scientific journal *Žmogus ir žodis (Man and the Word)*, <http://www.vpu.lt/leidykla/zmozdis2.php>
- editor-in-chief of the scientific journal *Religija ir kultūra (Religion and Culture)*, <http://www.rstc.vu.lt>
- editorial board member of the journal *Экзистенциальная традиция: философия, психология, психотерапия (Existential Tradition: Philosophy, Psychology, Psychotherapy)*, <http://www.existrad.nm.ru>
- member of organising committee and jury of Lithuanian Philosophy Olympiad;
- member of the Catholic Academic Exchange Service (KAAD) in Lithuania, <http://www.kaad.de/deutsch/inhalt.htm>
- member of the Research Council of Lithuania (Committee of Humanities and Social Sciences) (since 2007);
- expert of the Research Council of Lithuania (since 2008);

- expert of the Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education (since 2004).

Prof. Tomas Sodeika

- editorial board member of the scholarly journal *Athena: filosofijos studijos* (*Athena: Philosophical Studies*) (since 2006) <http://www.kfmi.lt/athena/?lang=en&no=editorial-board>
- editorial board member of the scientific journal *Religija ir kultūra* (*Religion and Culture*), <http://www.rstc.vu.lt>
- editorial board member of the interdisciplinary journal *Sociologija. Mintis ir veiksmai* (*Sociology. Thought and Action*), <http://www.ku.lt/sociologija/page.php?id=staff>
- expert of the Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education;
- expert of the Research Council of Lithuania;
- expert of the Ministry of Education and Science (Commission for Social and Moral Education)
- board member of the Lithuanian Association of Phenomenology
- deputy chairman of Lithuanian Society of Philosophers.

Doc. Dr. Aušrelė Pažėraitė

- authoress of Science and Encyclopaedia Publishing Institute;
- directress of Lithuanian Jewish Culture Research Centre (in Lithuanian Culture Research Institute, former Culture, Philosophy and Arts Research Institute) (since 2007);
- expert of the State Studies Foundation (since 2008);
- religions expert of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Lithuania (since 1998).

Doc. Dr. Mintautas Gutas

- editorial board member of the scientific journal *Religija ir kultūra* (*Religion and Culture*), <http://www.rstc.vu.lt>
- member of the Lithuanian Association of Phenomenology;
- member of the Catholic Academic Exchange Service (KAAD) in Lithuania, <http://kaadbonn.de/stipendien/>

Doc. Dr. Danutė Bacevičiūtė

- executive secretary of the scholarly journal *Athena: filosofijos studijos* (*Athena: Philosophical Studies*) (since 2006) <http://www.kfmi.lt/athena/?lang=en&no=editorial-board>

- member of the Lithuanian Association of Phenomenology.

Dr. Sigita Maslauskaitė

- editorial board member of the scientific journal *Religija ir kultūra (Religion and Culture)*,
<http://www.rstc.vu.lt>
- member of the Lithuanian Art Historian Society (since 2005)
<http://www.ldid.lt/en/members/>
- member of the Lithuanian Artists' Association (since 2009);
- member of International Council of Museums (ICOM) (since 2010).

Dr. Dainius Razauskas

- senior editor of the journal *Liaudies kultūra (Folk Culture)*
<http://www.llkc.lt/index.php?1349237352>
- editorial board member of the scholarly journal *Res Humanitariae* (since 2007)
http://www.ku.lt/hmf/res_humanitariae/redkolegija.pdf

Rimantas Meškėnas

- director of PI “The Institute of Dialogue Culture”.