

Local Feminisms in the Baltic Region

the late XIX – 1st half of the XX century

Parallels,
Differences,
Influences

International
Conference

Call for
papers

CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

The conference commemorates the 180th anniversary of the birth of Žemaitė, a celebrated Lithuanian writer whose work epitomizes the emergence of women's voices in literature during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Žemaitė's contributions are emblematic of the transformative period when women began asserting their presence in the public sphere, marking a significant moment in the cultural and social history of the Baltic region. This conference seeks to explore the intricate intersections of feminism, nationalism, and modernity in the Baltic region, highlighting how feminist movements shaped—and were shaped by—broader societal changes. By consolidating existing research, it aims to: examine regional parallels, divergences, and influences in feminist thought and activism; foster interdisciplinary dialogue to uncover new perspectives on the contributions of women to literature, art, and culture; rediscover and highlight underexplored figures, showcasing their role in shaping national and cultural identities. In addressing the challenges and achievements of women striving for recognition and equality, the conference will examine themes like political struggles, educational advancements, and evolving family structures. It will also shed light on the interwoven nature of feminist and nationalist discourses, encouraging participants to explore both local specificities and transnational connections.

Selected papers will be published in a peer-reviewed collective volume, contributing valuable insights to the broader academic discourse on feminism in the Baltic region.

THEMATIC SCOPE

The conference invites submissions exploring the nexus of feminism, cultural expression, and historical change, including (but not limited to):

- The historical development and impact of feminist movements in the Baltic region;
- The reception of Western and Central and Eastern European feminist thought through translations, literary inspirations, personal contacts, etc.;
- The contribution of women writers to national literatures, and their participation in political representation and organising of social structures;
- Intersections of class, ethnicity and religion within Baltic feminism;

24–25 October 2025

Institute of Lithuanian
Literature and
Folklore, Vilnius,
Lithuania



- The critical reception of women's work and initiatives to integrate female authors into the literary canon;
- Women's art and creative activities of the period, including music, visual arts, translation, architecture, etc.;
- Constructing and transforming modern female identities in literature: emancipation of female characters, new themes, and transformation of genres, etc.;
- A spotlight on lesser-known women writers and artists and their contributions during this era;
- Innovative theoretical frameworks for studying and narrating women's history.

SUBMISSION AND REGISTRATION GUIDELINES

Abstract Requirements:

150–200 words, clearly outlining the topic, methodology, and main arguments.

Include: A brief biographical note with institutional affiliation.

Deadline: 1 April 2025.

Email submissions to:

balticfeminisms@gmail.com.

Notification:

Letters of acceptance will be sent by the end of April 2025.

Fee: €50.

PRESENTATION GUIDELINES

Presentation Length:

20 minutes for the talk + 10 minutes for discussion.

Language:

The working language of the conference is English.

ORGANISING COMITEE

- **Birutė Avižinienė** (Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore)
- **Ramunė Bleizgienė** (Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore)
- **Eva Eglāja-Kristsonsone** (Institute of Literature, Folklore and Art, University of Latvia)
- **Zita Kārkla** (Institute of Literature, Folklore and Art, University of Latvia)
- **Žydronė Kolevinskienė** (Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore)
- **Johanna Ross** (Tallinn University)
- **Joanna Tabor** (University of Warsaw)

