conference program
aabs australasian chapter 17th conference

new tensions in and around the baltic sea region

school of languages, literatures, cultures and linguistics, monash university
4 october 2014

in conjunction with the mykola zerov centre for ukrainian studies
location

The conference will take place at the School of Languages, Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics on the Clayton Campus of Monash University. The map on the following page shows the location of the Japanese Studies Centre where the conference will take place in the Auditorium.

registration

Registration will take place in the Foyer of the building from 10.00am.

building access

The building will be open on the day but if you have any problems gaining access, please call Delaney Skerrett on 0421730449.

catering

Snacks and tea/coffee are included in the registration fee for the morning and afternoon breaks. Lunch is at one’s own expense. Campus eateries are not open on Saturday for lunch and those wishing to buy lunch would need to travel by car to a nearby locality such as Pinewood Village or Mount Waverly. As there is 1.5 hours allocated for lunch, this should provide ample time. There will also be an informal dinner (not included in the fee) for conference presenters and attendees. The specific location (a restaurant nearby) will be announced at the conference.

information for presenters:

PowerPoint facilities will be available. Please bring your presentation on a memory stick. Your presentation should be no longer than 20 minutes, leaving 10 minutes for questions.
The Japanese Studies Centre is building 54, map reference E2.

Parking information

On Saturdays, free parking is available near the Japanese Studies Centre, just across the bus loop (enter from Wellington Road).
### Program Schedule

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<td>10.30-11.00</td>
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<td>Professor of Ukrainian Studies and Director of Mykola Zerov Centre for Ukrainian Studies, Monash University, Prof. Marko Pavlyshyn</td>
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<td>AABS Australasian Section President, Dr Delaney Skerrett</td>
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<td>11.00-12.30</td>
<td>Session 1. Baltic cultures and societies from a comparative perspective</td>
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<td>Dr Mai Maddisson: On the outside looking in</td>
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<td>Jurgita Rimkevičienė (Griffith University): Media and suicide prevention: What can we learn from two cases of famous suicides in Lithuania and Australia?</td>
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<td>2.3</td>
<td>Grazina Pranauskas (Victoria University): Negotiating relationships in Torn: The story of a Lithuanian migrant</td>
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<td>12.30-2.00</td>
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<td>2.00-3.30</td>
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<td>Dr Uldis Ozoliņš (University of Western Sydney), Prof. Marko Pavlyshyn (Monash University), and Dr Robert Horvath (La Trobe University): The perils of choosing Europe: The Ukrainian predicament</td>
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<td>Session 3. Studies in Baltic languages, linguistics, and literatures</td>
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<td>3.1</td>
<td>Dr Delaney Skerrett (Griffith University): Autobiographical memory in bilinguals: The role of language in determining the expression of kinship and emotion</td>
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<td>3.2</td>
<td>Dr Trevor Fennell (Flinders University): Attitudes to “authenticity” in early Latvian grammars</td>
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<td>5.30-6.00</td>
<td>AABS Australasian Committee meeting</td>
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<td>7.00-</td>
<td>Dinner (location TBA)</td>
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abstracts

**Fennell, Trevor: Flinders University**

**Attitudes to "authenticity" in early Latvian grammars**

Noting that "authenticity" or "correctness" in human language cannot be compared with "correctness" or "exactitude" in the exact sciences, this paper seeks to uncover the elements which early grammarians (from Rehehusen 1644 to Stender 1761) took as a basis for the accuracy/authenticity of their descriptions. If, in the earliest work (and particularly in Rehehusen), there was some emphasis on the knowledge of native informants, the imposition of external standards, especially those of Latin (during a period when Latin was regarded as the incarnation of the best possible linguistic and logical structure), all too soon became apparent — with regrettable results in treatments of the ablative, the locative, the future infinitive and (in contradictory fashion) the use of tās as a definite article. Reliance on Latin and, to a lesser extent, German seriously hindered progress in morphological and syntactic analysis, as we can now observe with the benefit of hindsight, without being overly critical of an earlier, different society with different outlooks and conformities.

**Horvath, Robert: La Trobe University**

**Ozoliņš, Uldis: University of Western Sydney**

**Pavlyshyn, Marko: Monash University**

**The perils of choosing Europe: The Ukrainian predicament**

The roundtable will canvass some of the factors tributary to the current conflict in Eastern Ukraine and the implications of the Russian-Ukrainian confrontation for Europe in general and the Baltic states in particular. Uldis Ozoliņš will provide an overview of Baltic responses to Putin's aggression and of the Baltic states' perceptions of their choices. Marko Pavlyshyn will reflect on the costs for Ukraine of its “European” cultural choice, given the ways in which the Putin presidency has shaped the identity and self-image of Russians. Robert Horvath will consider the Putin regime’s evolution from a partner of the EU to its active opponent. He will comment on some of the controversies about Europe in Russian nationalist circles and the growing links between the Putin regime and the EU’s far right movements and parties.

**Madisson, Mai: Independent scholar**

**The relevance of narrative of war childhood memories in the study of our diaspora**

To assimilate as a refugee or DP in an unfamiliar land is a complex process: The variables complicating this quite different for the different decades of life.

For each there are many priorities:
• Economic survival which is an invisible time and energy-consuming exercise which blights attempts in other domains.
• Learning the culture and norms of the new environment which has boundless charity but limited insight into the refugee’s journey: And of course the opposite holds just as tenaciously.
• A need for opportunities to debrief and find objectivity: The so-called mental health facilities have limitations as they do not have details of the diorama on which the concerns are based: The process of such resolution too tenuous and fragmented to minimize emotional fragmentation. The ideal of course to do this with someone who too has travelled that road.
• A need for emotional supports when life’s inevitable despondencies present.
• A need to at the twilight of one’s life to serenely feel that one had made the best of what was available.

In my paper I propose to illustrate how these phenomena impacted on each of our lives, and also those of the ‘second generation’ who indeed did not have the cushier ride which we their supports systems hoped to provide for them.

Some of our folks fared well, others not so well and sadly for some it became a case of ‘nowhere to go and nowhere to stay’.

**Ozolinš, Uldis: University of Western Sydney**

See Horvath, Robert

**Pavlyshyn, Marko: Monash University**

See Horvath, Robert

**Pranauskas, Grazina: Victoria University**

**Negotiating relationships in Torn: The story of a Lithuanian migrant**

In my yet unpublished novel, *Torn*, written as part of my PhD thesis, I emphasise the importance of 20th century Lithuanian history and its consequences on people’s lives. The historical evidence of individual and collective experiences have been captured in books by Danutė Gailienė, Juozas Matulionis, Robert Gellately, Joseph L. Nogee, Nerija Putnaitė, Irena Kirtinaitytė Aras and Vidmantas Zavadskis, and others.

The novel exemplifies various techniques to show the irreconcilable differences between postwar and Soviet Lithuanian characters in Australia. The way the characters are constructed reflects the historical and political climate of their life in Lithuania, and highlights how their experiences affect them in different ways.
My doctoral novel exemplifies how postwar characters relate to the Lithuanian independence period (1918-1940), and the Soviet Lithuanian characters to the years of their life in the Soviet occupied homeland (1940-1990). While evaluating their Soviet-occupied homeland, postwar characters express their prejudice towards the Soviet Lithuanian characters. Throughout the novel, I show the extent to which the members of the postwar group are unable to relate to the communist ideals that the Soviet Lithuanian characters bring with them to Australia.

In this paper, I will explore how I incorporate important historical and political events into my writing. I will discuss the way it challenges history and how my text provides an insight into the consequences of history on the individual characters.

Rimkevičienė, Jurgita: Griffith University

Media and suicide prevention: What can we learn from two cases of famous suicides in Lithuania and Australia?

When a famous person dies by suicide, this inevitably attracts substantial media attention and suicide from a frequently taboo topic becomes the centre of discussion in the community. If this is not handled appropriately, there is a high likelihood of Werther’s effect: similar copycat suicides may follow. However, this may also be an opportunity to increase awareness about the need for effective suicide prevention. The media reaction is largely influenced not only by the existing policies and media ethics, but also by the way the society responds to the event, prevailing cultural norms and attitudes surrounding suicide. To be able to utilise the media response in suicide prevention, it is vital to understand the complex interplay between these factors.

Two recent famous deaths by suicide were selected from Lithuania and Australia (Vytautas Sapranuskas and Charlotte Dawson). The media responses to them as well as the media portrayal of public and government initiatives that followed were examined. Differences in existing guidelines, policies, prevalent cultural attitudes and nationwide efforts in suicide prevention between these two countries are discussed to illustrate their potential impact on the way the media deals with information on suicide and suicide prevention. Finally, the aftermath of these two deaths is compared to suggest some insights for suicide prevention.

Skerrett, Delaney: Griffith University

Autobiographical memory in bilinguals: The role of language in determining the expression of kinship and emotion

Specific languages may encode information in different ways in terms of discourse structure, or how a particular story is told (Koven, 1998; Pavlenko, 1998, 2001), and the extent to which different family members are referred to (Pavlenko, 2005) because of the differences in the cognitive mapping of kinship relationships between languages. Among bilinguals, this may mean that a story retold in one language may vary significantly from how it is recounted in another. What is more, whether or not a
memory is recalled in one’s first language (L1) or second language (L2) can have important ramifications. Firstly, an event encoded in one language is more likely to be recalled in that language (Larsen, Schrauf, Fromholt, & Rubin, 2002; Marian & Neisser, 2000; Schrauf, 2000, 2003). Secondly, memories recounted in the L1 are more often more emotional in content than those recalled in the L2 of the speaker (Javier, Barroso, & Muñoz, 1993; Marian & Kaushanskaya, 2004; Schrauf, 2000). This paper expands on the existing literature on language, thought, and recall to speakers of Estonian and English. It investigates the recall of autobiographical memories in Estonian/English bilinguals and whether these are more likely to occur in the same language as encoding. Furthermore, the expression of kinship and emotion are investigated. While there is some evidence for congruency between language of recall and encoding, it is not strong. Findings concerning the expression of kinship challenge the language-thought connection, suggesting that a particular cultural cognitive pattern may actually transcend language in bilinguals. A similar finding emerged for expression of emotion, despite earlier empirical work suggesting that emotion depends on use of L1 versus L2, not the culture associated with the particular language.
about the presenters

Fennell, Trevor

Trevor Fennell holds a doctorate in Historical French linguistics from the University of Paris and is a Professor emeritus of Flinders University. One of the founders of the Australasian chapter of the A.A.B.S., he is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities and a Foreign Member of the Latvian Academy of Sciences. He has published a number of works on the Latvian language, including a three-volume grammar of modern Latvian, but has been concentrating more recently on grammars and dictionaries of the 17th and 18th centuries.

Horvath, Robert

Dr. Robert Horvath is a specialist on Russian politics and an ARC Future Fellow at La Trobe University. He is currently researching the politics of ‘managed nationalism’ under the Putin regime. He is the author of *The Legacy of Soviet Dissent* (Routledge, 2005) and *Putin’s Preventive Counter-Revolution* (Routledge, 2012).

Madisson, Mai

War childhood is an intrinsic part of Mai. She was born into a war zone in Estonia, spent her early childhood as a displaced person in Europe, much of it in the Geislingen DP camp, the remainder of it as a refugee, perhaps even an asylum seeker (given that her father who was a German soldier was classified as an alien wherever one trod) in Australia. Born proverbially between warring cultures while leaving her with no true niche to place her feet, the absence of niche has offered her a challenge to resolve how to optimise such a predicament respectfully of one’s world. Working in Family Medicine with an interest in behavioural medicine and work locations where many of her WWII cohorts now lived has allowed her to observe their life challenges with a hawk’s eye: she has no research figures but decades of reconciling the traumas of her and other traumatised people. Mai prefers narrative to research media for exploring these themes. She feels that she is more a philosopher than a scientist at heart.

Ozoliņš, Uldis

Uldis Ozoliņš has researched on politics, ethnicity, language policy and translating and interpreting, and comments regularly on Latvian politics in the online English-language forum Latvians Online. He has held post at several Australian universities and is currently Adjunct Associate Professor in Translating & Interpreting at the University of Western Sydney, as well as teaching in international relations at La Trobe University in Melbourne.
Pavlyshyn, Marko

Marko Pavlyshyn is the Professor of Ukrainian Studies at Monash University and director of that university’s Mykola Zerov Centre for Ukrainian Studies. He is also director of the Monash European and EU Centre. His books, chapters and scholarly articles concern modern and contemporary Ukrainian literature. He is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities.

Pranauskas, Grazina

Grazina completed her Choral Conducting degree at the Conservatorium of Music (now the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre) in Vilnius, Lithuania. Since 1989, Grazina has lived in Australia. Here she obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree majoring in Journalism and Literary studies (1997). In 1998, she was awarded a Bachelor of Arts Honours degree for her thesis Fifty Years of Lithuanian Culture in Australia 1940s-1990s from Deakin University. In 2003, Grazina was awarded her Master of Arts (by Research) degree for her thesis National and Cultural Identity in Diaspora: A Study of Australian-Lithuanians. At present, she is completing her PhD studies at Victoria University in Melbourne. Grazina is the author of two books: Eukalipty Tyloj (In the Silence of the Eucalypts) (2007) and Abu Krantai (Two Shores) (2011). Since 2009, she has also been working on the publication of her book Lietuvybė Down Under: Constructing Lithuanian Identity in Australia based on her Honours and Master’s theses.

Rimkevičienė, Jurgita

Jurgita has completed her Master’s Degree in Clinical Psychology at Vilnius University, Lithuania. In Lithuania, she worked as a psychologist in public mental health system and also was a volunteer in “Children Helpline”. She is currently a PhD candidate at Griffith University and an active member of the The Father Bacinskas Lithuanian Cultural Association in Brisbane.

Skerrett, Delaney

Delaney is the president of the Australasian Chapter of the AABS. He has a PhD in applied linguistics from The University of Queensland. His other degrees include a Master of Arts from the University of Tartu and a Bachelor of Behavioural Science (Honours Psychology) from the Queensland University of Technology. He is currently completing a Postgraduate Diploma in Professional Psychology from the Australian Catholic University. He is a sessional Lecturer at the University of Tartu and Research Fellow at Griffith University. Delaney is also the Honorary Consul of Estonia in Queensland.
aabs gratefully acknowledges the sponsorship of the School of Languages, Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics of Monash University and the Mykola Zerov Centre for Ukrainian Studies