CONFERENCE
The Intellectual Heritage of the Jews of Vilnius
10–11 October 2023, Vilnius

KONFERENCIJA
Vilniaus žydų intelektualinis paveldas
2023 m. spalio 10–11 d., Vilnius

PROGRAMME
רילן | 1323-2023
5083-5783
700
Organisers:
LITHUANIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
ISRAEL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

Partners:
VILNIUS UNIVERSITY
MARTYNAS MAŽVYDAS NATIONAL LIBRARY OF LITHUANIA
VILNA GAON MUSEUM OF JEWISH HISTORY
THE ISRAEL-LITHUANIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
EMBASSY OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL IN THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
THE LITHUANIAN JEWISH (LITVAK) COMMUNITY
On 10–11 October 2023, the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences and the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities are holding the international scholarly conference ‘The Intellectual Heritage of the Jews of Vilnius’.

In Lithuania, the year 2020 was the Year of Lithuanian Jewish History and of the Vilnius Gaon, Elijah ben Solomon Zalman, in commemoration of the 300th anniversary of his birth. A conference of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences and the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities in Vilnius was part of the commemorative programme.

Unfortunately, this goal did not materialise because of the pandemic. As soon as it was over, both academies decided to revive the idea of the conference.

As part of the celebrations of the 700th anniversary of Vilnius and in view of the influence of the Jewish people and culture on the history of Vilnius, a decision was made to broaden the scope of the conference by exploring the rich intellectual heritage of the Jews of Vilnius from the eighteenth century onwards and the impact it has had on Vilnius and the wider world.

To achieve this goal, the conference will focus on the intellectual heritage of Vilnius Jews in the eighteenth-nineteenth centuries (the first day of the conference), the process of the intellectual modernisation of the Jews of Vilnius, and the spread of the Jews of Vilnius in the world (the second day of the conference).

Thanks to the support of the Research Council of Lithuania, we were able to invite such world-renowned experts in Jewish history and culture as Prof. Israel Bartal, Prof. David E. Fishman, Prof. David G. Roskies, Prof. Benjamin Brown, Prof. Alex Lubotzky, Prof. Marcin Wodziński, Dr Jon Seligman, Prof. Avner Holtzman, Prof. Tsvia Walden, Prof. Mordechai (Motti) Zalkin, and others.

The conference will also feature presentations by prominent Lithuanian scholars: Prof. Giedrė Jankevičiūtė, Prof. Mindaugas Kvietkaukas, Dr Lara Lempertienė, Prof. Jurgita Verbickienė, and the doctoral student Saulė Valiūnaitė.

Promotion of scholarly cooperation between the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences and the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities is one of the central goals of the conference.

The conference ‘The Intellectual heritage of the Jews of Vilnius’ is the first joint scholarly event organised by the two academies.
PROGRAMME

English is the official language of the conference

Registration

10 October

THE INTELLECTUAL HERITAGE OF THE JEWS OF VILNIUS IN THE EIGHTEENTH-NINETEENTH CENTURY

GRAND HALL,
LITHUANIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES,
Gedimino Ave. 3, Vilnius

8.30–9.00 Participant registration, welcome coffee

Plenary meeting
Chair Prof. Jūras Banys

9.00–9.30 OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE.
WELCOME ADDRESSES.

Prof. Jūras Banys, President of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences

Prof. David Harel, President of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities

Hadas Wittenberg Silverstein, HE Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the State of Israel to the Republic of Lithuania

9.30–10.10 OPENING LECTURE. Prof. Benjamin Brown,
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.
The Vilna Gaon’s Theopolitical Legacy

10.10–10.25 Discussion

10.25–10.40 Coffee break
10.40–14.50 The Intellectual Heritage of the Jews of Vilnius in the Eighteenth-Nineteenth Century

Chair Prof. Yadin Dudai

10.40–10.50 **Introduction.** Prof. Yadin Dudai, The Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities

10.50–11.30 **Keynote Lecture.** Prof. Israel Bartal, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

*Each Generation and its Scholars: The Changing Faces of the ‘Historian’s Gaon’*

11.30–12.10 Prof. Alex Lubotzky, Weizmann Institute, Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

*The Mathematics of the Vilna Gaon*

12.10–12.30 Discussion

12.30–13.30 *Lunch break*

Chair Prof. Vladas Algirdas Bumelis


*The Space of Intellectual Life: Jewish Socio-Topography of Vilnius in the Second Half of the Eighteenth Century*

13.50–14.30 Prof. Marcin Wodziński, University of Wrocław.

*Two Enlightenments: The Case of Josef Rosensohn of Vilna*

14.30–14.50 Discussion

**AFTERNOON PROGRAMME**

**THE VILNA GAON MUSEUM OF JEWISH HISTORY,**

Naugarduko St. 10, Vilnius

15.30–16.00 Dr Jon Seligman, Israel Antiquities Authority.

*Excavating the Other Cathedral of Vilnius: The Great Synagogue of Vilna*
10.15–10.35  Saulė Valiūnaitė, Vilnius University. Unknown Soldiers? Women in the Politics of Doikayt in Interwar Vilnius
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<td>10.35–10.55</td>
<td>Dr Lara Lempertienė, Martynas Mažvydas</td>
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<td>10.55–11.15</td>
<td>Prof. Giedrė Jankevičiūtė, Vilnius Academy of Arts,</td>
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<td>Lithuanian Culture Research Institute. <em>Art of Jewish Women Artists in Interwar Vilnius</em></td>
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<td>11.15–11.30</td>
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<td>12.15–15.15</td>
<td><strong>The Spread of Jewish Ideas from Vilnius to the World</strong></td>
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<td>Chair Prof. Mindaugas Kvietkauskas</td>
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<td>12.15–12.55</td>
<td><strong>KEYNOTE LECTURE.</strong> Prof. David G. Roskies,</td>
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<td>Jewish Theological Seminary. <em>A Tale of Two Cities: Growing Up in Vilne de-Kánade</em></td>
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<td>12.55–13.35</td>
<td>Prof. Avner Holtzman, Tel Aviv University.</td>
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<td>Vilnius, a Centre of Hebrew Enlightenment</td>
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<td>13.35–14.15</td>
<td>Prof. Tsvia Walden, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.</td>
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<td><em>From Kalman Schulman in Vilnius to Hebrew Speaking Children in Israel: Laying the Foundations of Modern Hebrew Culture</em></td>
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<td>14.15–14.55</td>
<td><strong>CLOSING LECTURE.</strong> Prof. Mordechai (Motti) Zalkin,</td>
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<td>Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. <em>The Intellectual Heritage of Lithuanian Jewry: Reflections and Thoughts</em></td>
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<td>Discussion</td>
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<td>15.15–18.20</td>
<td>A Tour of the Jewish Vilnius.</td>
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<td>Tour guide Julijus Gurvičius</td>
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CONFERENCE ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Prof. Jūras Banys, president of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences (chair)

Prof. Vytautas Nekrošius, chair of the Division of the Humanities and Social Sciences, Lithuanian Academy of Sciences (vice-chair)

Prof. Aušra Maslauskaitė, vice-chair of the Division of the Humanities and Social Sciences of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences

Prof. Vladas Algirdas Bumelis, Honorary Consul of the State of Israel in Lithuania, chair of the Israel-Lithuania Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Miša Jakobas, Avia Solutions Group, director of administration

Prof. Dr Mindaugas Kvietkauskas, dean of the Faculty of Philology, Vilnius University

Dr Lara Lempertienė, head of the Judaica Research Centre at the Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania

Prof. Dr Jurgita Verbickienė, head of the Center for Studies of the Culture and History of East European Jews, Vilnius University

Faina Kukliansky, chair of the Lithuanian Jewish Community

† Jaša Markas Zingeris