



# **SAPERE AUDE: Freedom and Responsibility**

**Vilnius, March 11-14, 2026**

**in partnership with  
European Humanities University  
SITE**

**This project is funded by the Swedish Institute (Detta projekt finansieras av Svenska institutet)**

**Venue:** European Humanities University, Saviciaus 17, 303

**Wednesday, March 11**  
*Civics and the Global World*

**9.00 - 10.00**

**Opening session:**

*Lena Nemirovskaya, Founder, School of Civic Education*

*Amb. Lars Wahlund, Swedish Ambassador to Lithuania TBC*

*Jakobine von Freytag-Loringhoven, First Secretary, Political Section, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Vilnius*

**10.00 - 11.00**

**Ice-breaker**

**11.00 - 11.30**

**Coffee break**

**11.30 - 13.00**

**Session:**

*Devalued Values. Realism and Idealism in International Relations*

Vasily Zharkov

Moderator: Vsevolod Chernozub

**13.00 - 14.00**

**Lunch**

**14.00 - 15.30**

**Session:**

*Pedal to the Metal: U.S. Before the Midterms*

Alexandra Filippenko

Moderator: Vsevolod Chernozub

**15.30 - 16.00**

**Coffee break**

**16.00 - 17.30**

**Round table:**

*Civil Society in the Digital Age: AI safeguarding and Tools*

Denis Yagodin

Nikolay Kvantaliani

**18.00 - 19.30**

**Side event**

**City tour with** Natalia Frolova

**Thursday, March 12**

***Politics, Rule of Law, Constitutions, Economy***

**9.00 - 10.30**

**Panel:**

*Liberal Democracies in Crises, Polarised Societies  
and the Need of Dialogue*

Alex Yusupov

Mikhail Zobotkin

**10.30 - 11.00**

**Coffee break**

**11.00 - 12.00**

**Session:**

*Politics and the Rule of Law. Case of Belarus*

Ekaterina Deykalo

**12.00 - 13.00**

**Lunch**

**13.00 - 14.30**

**Panel:**

*The Ice Curtain: the Price of Economic Opacity in  
the Russian Arctic*

Ilya Shumanov

Nail Farkhatdinov

**14.30 - 15.00**

**Coffee break**

**15.00 - 16.00**

**Session:**

*The Role of Republican Rome in the History of the  
American Revolution: Washington and Lucius  
Cincinnatus*

Maksim Goryunov

**16.00 - 16.30**

**Coffee break**

**16.30 - 18.00**

**Lab:**

*De-Colonial*

Lana Pylayeva

**Friday, March 13**

***History, Memory, Politics, Human Rights***

**10.00 - 11.30**

**Session:**

*Global World. The Outlook*

Michael Sohlman

**11.30 - 12.00**

**Coffee break**

**12.00 - 13.30**

**Session:**

*Freedom, Human Rights and Security*

Vytis Jurkonis

Veronika Lapina

**13.30 - 14.30**

**Lunch**

**14.30 - 16.00**

**Session:**

*Case of Iran: Diplomacy, Deterrence, Rampage?*

Konstantin Eggert

**16.00 - 16.30**

**Coffee break**

**16.30 - 18.00**

**Panel:**

*Historical Memory*

Ilya Solomesch

Elmira Nogoibaeva

**18.00 - 18.30**

**Coffee break**

**18.30 - 20.30**

**Screening “Shaman’s Tale” with Vlad Ketkovich  
and Aleksey Pryanishnikov**

**Key note: Sergei Davidis**

**Saturday, March 14**

***Civic Education, Enlightenment and Responsibility***

**10.00 - 11.30**

**Session:**

*On Levinas and Responsibility*

Viktoras Bachmetjevas

**11.30 - 12.00**

**Coffee break**

**12.00 - 13.30**

**Session:**

*The Crisis in Education: Fifty Years After. In  
Commemoration of the Death of Hannah Arendt  
in 1975*

Anatoly Mikhailov

**13.30 - 14.30**

**Lunch**

**14.30 - 16.00**

**Talk to:** Yury Senokosov

**16.00 - 17.00**

**Closing remarks:**

Lena Nemirovskaya

Yury Senokosov

## EXPERTS

**Viktoras Bachmetjevas** (Lithuania) is a philosopher with an interest in ethics, with a focus on the post-Kantian tradition of moral philosophy.

Dr. Bachmetjevas received his M.Phil. in Philosophy from KU Leuven in Belgium before completing his Ph.D. on irony and ethics in Søren Kierkegaard's thought in his native Lithuania. In 2018, he became the founding director of the Emmanuel Levinas Center in Kaunas, Lithuania, devoted to the thought and legacy of the French philosopher. Currently he is an associate professor at Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas, Lithuania, and a faculty member at Paris Institute for Critical Thinking. Outside academia, he has had a career in public communications and served as an advisor to the Lithuanian Minister of Culture and has contributed to various media outlets in Lithuania. Dr. Bachmetjevas spent a year at Yale University working on his research project which investigates the early influences of Emmanuel Levinas, both historical and intellectual.

**Sergei Davidis** (Russia) is a Head of the "Political Prisoners Support. Memorial" Project and a Co-chair of the "Memorial" Human Rights Defense Center. For many years Davidis has been one of the organizers and active participants of the democratic opposition movement (in particular in the framework of the "Solidarity" Democratic Movement, The December 5 Party, The Opposition Coordination Council).

**Ekaterina Deikalo** (Belarus), PhD, international lawyer and human rights expert. She headed the Department of International Law at Belarusian State University (2014-2020), and was forced to resign in 2021 due to political reasons. Currently, she is an expert of the Belarusian Helsinki Committee and also engages in independent expert work, including for the ODIHR/OSCE and the Council of Europe.

**Konstantin von Eggert** (Lithuania/Russia) is an independent journalist, political analyst and communications consultant. He is a weekly Russian affairs columnist for Deutsche Welle and a contributor to TV Rain, Russia's independent TV channel. In 2010-2015 he worked for Kommersant. Prior to that, he was Vice-President for Public and Government Affairs for ExxonMobil Russia Inc. In 1998-2009, Mr. v. Eggert was Senior Correspondent, then Editor-in-Chief of the BBC Russian Service Moscow bureau. In 2008, Queen Elizabeth II made Mr. v. Eggert an Honorary Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire. Also, President Adamkus awarded him Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit of Lithuania.

**Nail Farkhatdinov** (Russia) is a curator, researcher, publisher, and educator working at the intersection of sociology of art, social theory, and curatorial research. He received a PhD in Sociology from University of Aberdeen, with his thesis focused on ethnographic study of social relations at exhibition sites. As a research curator, he has worked on projects dedicated to exploring how art mediates social issues. He is currently a Visiting Fellow at the European Humanities University (Vilnius).

**Alexandra Filippenko** (Lithuania/Russia) is a political analyst specializing in U.S. domestic politics and a theatrical producer. She holds a Candidate of Sciences degree with a thesis on “Immigration Politics of the U.S. 1990–2015.” From 2016 to 2022, she was a senior research fellow at the Institute for U.S. and Canadian Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences and taught International Relations Theory and U.S. Ethnic History at the Moscow Institute of International Relations and State Academic University of Humanities. In 2018, she published the book “U.S. Immigration Policy: Historical Essay.” Ms. Filippenko is a regular political contributor to international media outlets including France24, Deutsche Welle, Bild, TV Rain, LRT, Popular Politics, Current Time TV, ICTV, BelSat, and Meduza. She is a member of the Younger Generation Leaders Network on Euro-Atlantic Security and has represented the group at international events in Brussels and Istanbul. She translated Philip Bobbitt’s “The Shield of Achilles: War, Peace, and the Course of History” into Russian. In the arts, she has produced socially significant theatrical projects in Berlin, Warsaw, Vilnius, Poznań, and Moscow, aligning her political expertise with creative expression. Since 2019, she has been the producer and agent of the award-winning Belarusian author Sasha Filipenko. Since 2023 she has been the host of The Breakfast show YouTube channel.

**Jakobine von Freytag-Loringhoven** (Germany), First Secretary, Political Section, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Vilnius.

**Natalia Frolova** (Lithuania/Russia), journalist, editor, licensed guide. Natalia emigrated to Lithuania after the annexation of Crimea in 2014. Writing for independent media like New Times, Delfi and others.

**Maxim Goryunov** (Russia) Alumni and expert of the School of Civic Education. Author of two poetry collections and two anthologies of interviews with opinion leaders in Belarus, including Svetlana Alexievich and Svetlana Tikhanovskaya. Regular contributor to the magazine *Obschaya Tetrad*. Currently preparing for publication a

collection of his reviews of books on the American Revolution, which is due to be released in the second half of 2026.

**Vytis Jurkonis** (Lithuania) has lectured in the Art of Negotiation and in Nationalism and Ethnicity at the Institute of International Relations and Political Science of Vilnius University since 2006. Vytis Jurkonis is primarily known as an expert in Belarus-related issues, the Eastern Partnership region, and Russia, as well as in Lithuanian foreign policy. However, his previous engagements have also included fact-finding missions to and training for civil society activists and human rights defenders in Afghanistan, Cuba, Burma and Georgia. He is also a project director at Freedom House and leads its Vilnius office. Prior to joining Freedom House, Vytis Jurkonis led the Policy Analysis and Research Division at Vilnius-based Eastern European Studies Centre think-tank and was a national researcher for the European Foreign Policy Scorecard issued by the European Council on Foreign Relations. He also participated in the premier professional exchange visit within the International Visitor Leadership Program run by the U.S. Department of State and holds an Expert Diploma from the Institute of Human Rights, Faculty of Law, Complutense University of Madrid.

**Vladislav Ketkovich** (Russia) has been a producer since 2005. Trained in European production through EuroDoc, Ex-Oriente, Documentary Campus Masterschool, and EAVE, he has produced or co-produced more than 30 films with various European countries, which have been screened and won awards at numerous festivals (IDFA, CPH:DOX, HotDocs, Zurich, El-Gouna, Krakow, DokLeipzig, DocAviv, Shanghai, etc.). His films have been broadcast on ARTE, ZDF, WDR, BBC, MDR, ORF, YLE, SVT, VPRO, Czech TV, The Guardian, among others. In Russia, he was one of the few independent producers to cover protest movements. He left the country shortly after the full-scale invasion of Ukraine and moved to France with his family in March 2022, where he was granted political asylum.

**Nikolai Kvantaliani** (Belarus), entrepreneur and co-founder of the Digital Skills Coalition Belarus, a non-profit organisation that aims to improve digital literacy and education in Belarus. He is also the founder and CEO of SolbegSoft, a software development company based in Minsk, Belarus. The coalition works to promote the

development of digital skills among young people, as well as the growth of the country's IT industry.

**Veronika Lapina** (Russia) Frontline Defenders

**Anatoli Mikhailov** (Belarus) is a Founding Rector of the European Humanities University established in Minsk, Belarus, in 1992 and closed by President Lukashenko in 2004, presently located in Vilnius, Lithuania. He has been the President of the University till 2021. He defended his PhD in Philosophy in Jena, Germany, and had his habilitation on Philosophical Hermeneutics in Minsk. He is a member of the Belarusian National Academy of Sciences since 1991. He has been awarded the Ordre des Palmes Academiques (France, 2003), the Goethe Medal (Germany, 2004), the Ion Ratiu Democracy Award (USA, 2007), the Commander's Cross for Special Merit to the Republic of Lithuania (2008) and the Edita Morris Foundation Award (Sweden, 2015).

**Lena Nemirovskaya** (Russia) is a co-founder of *The Moscow School of Political Studies* (in 1992) and *The School of Civic Education* together with Yury Senokosov. Dr. Nemirovskaya received her PhD in Art Theory in 1974 and PhD in Philosophy from the Institute of Philosophy of the *USSR Academy of Sciences*. Between 1966 and 1978, she published over 100 articles on the philosophy of art in leading specialist journals while working at the *Moscow Research Institute of Theory and History of Art*. She was awarded the *OBE* in 2003. The Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Dr. Walter Schwimmer, awarded the School the Council's special *Pro Merito* medal in 2002. In 2006, Elena Nemirovskaya was awarded with the *Hiroshima Foundation Award for Peace and Culture*. In 2008, she became an Officer of the *French National Order of Merit*. In 2010, was awarded a Polish *Bene Merito* medal. In 2013, she received the *Yegor Gaidar Award*. In 2014, was made a *Chevalier of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland*. In 2023 she was awarded the *Moscow Helsinki Group annual award for contributions to human rights and the Russian human rights movement*.

**Elmira Nogoibaeva** (Kyrgyzstan) is the founder of the Academy of Civic Education, and the Esimde research and discussion platform. Since 2007, Elmira Nogoibaeva is a director of the Analytical Center "Polis Asia", a research center working on questions of post-conflict events in the south of Kyrgyzstan and Identity of political parties of Kyrgyzstan. In the years between 2004 and 2008 she was a head of the editorial department and publishing department of the International Strategic Research Institute

under the President of the Kyrgyz Republic. In 2010 Elmira Nogoibaeva worked as a national consultant within the "Risk Management Group" under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic. In 2018 Elmira founded the Esimde platform, which's main goal is to promote a social shift in understanding the history and memory of Kyrgyz Republic during the period of XX-XXI centuries.

**Alexey Pryanishnikov** (Russia) is a lawyer, human rights activist, coordinator of the Human Rights Defence project. Defender of Alexander Gabyshev since 2019.

**Lana Pylaeva** (Russia) was born and raised in Komi Republic, Russia. She studied in Saint-Petersburg and later moved to Germany to continue her scientific career. She holds a PhD degree in Physics and worked at Utrecht University, Netherlands. Since 2021 she has been involved with the Russian diaspora in the Netherlands, where she has co-founded Free Russia Netherlands. She is involved with Feminist Anti-War resistance (FAR Utrecht) and Komi Daily - regional Komi media outlet.

**Yury Senokosov** (Russia) is a specialist in the history of philosophy and philosophy of history. Graduated from Moscow State University in 1962, faculty of history. Worked for the Main Library of Social Sciences, Institute of Philosophy of the Russian Academy of Sciences, "Questions of Philosophy" magazine. In the years 1980-90 published a series of books under the title "From the history of Russian philosophical thought". Yury Senokosov started a foundation for philosophical and interdisciplinary research named after Merab Mamardashvili. Together with Lena Nemirovskaya founded Moscow School of Political Studies (1992) and School of Civic Education. He also edits and publishes the School's quarterly journal "Obschaya Tetrada". Yury Senokosov wrote forewords to "How I understand Philosophy" and "Cartesian Meditations" by Mamardashvili. He also edited and wrote afterwards to "Meditation about Russia and Russians. Features of the Russian national character."

**Ilya Shumanov** (Russia) is a Founder of the Arctic research Center "Arctida", executive director of the Russian office of the international anti-corruption organization Transparency International. Investigative journalist, winner of Redkollegia Award, AML expert. He is a regular speaker at anti-corruption conferences and frequently comments on corruption cases in the media in Russia and abroad.

**Michael Sohlman** (Sweden) is a Co-chairperson at the *School of Civic Education*. Director of the Budget Department, Ministry of Finance 1985-1987; Secretary of State, Ministry of Agriculture (1987–1989); Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1989–1991), Executive Director of the Nobel Foundation (1992–2011). He is a member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, former Chair of the Swedish Institute of International Affairs, a former chair of the Stockholm Institute of Transition Economics, and a former member of the International Crisis Group.

**Ilya Solomeshch** (Russia), historian, before exile in 2023 taught at Petrozavodsk State University; specialist in the history of Nordic countries and international relations in the Baltic and Nordic regions. Ilya Solomeshch also studies history and identity politics.

**Ambassador Lars Wahlund** (Sweden) TBC

**Denis Yagodin** (Russia), social entrepreneur and Director of innovations at Teplitsa of Social Technologies, a non-profit organisation that aims to promote social innovation and civic technology in Russia. The organisation aims to bring together social activists, technologists and designers to develop innovative solutions to social problems in Russia. Over the years, Teplitsa has organised numerous hackathons, workshops and other events to promote social innovation. Yagodin is also the co-founder of several other organisations, including the Social Innovation Fund, which provides funding and support to social entrepreneurs in Russia, and the Social Innovation Academy, which provides training and mentoring to aspiring social innovators.

**Alex Yusupov** (Germany) is the Head of the Russia Programme of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES). Alex Yusupov is a political scientist, he specializes in security policy and social crisis resilience. Previous positions: head of office in Kazakhstan, Afghanistan and Myanmar.

**Mikhail Zabolkin** (Russia) is a comparative politics scholar. He holds a PhD in Political Science from the Freie Universität Berlin. His research focuses on comparative autocratization, with an emphasis on causes of democratic decay and a regional focus on post-communist states. His secondary research interest lies in regime dynamics of electoral autocracies.

**Vasily Zharkov** (Russia), an Associate Professor at the European Humanities University (Vilnius, Lithuania) and the chair of the “New Political Science” program at the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Sciences (Budva, Montenegro), is known for his expertise in the fields of Russian and Soviet history, as well as international relations. From 2010 to 2022, he was the chair of the Political Science Department and the dean of the Political Studies Faculty at the Moscow School of Social and Economic Sciences, widely known as “Shaninka”. He has conducted extensive research on international relations, focusing on the evolution of international order since the Westphalian Treaty and its impact on people’s struggles for democracy worldwide. In addition to his academic work, Professor Zharkov has served as an external consultant to various non-governmental organizations, providing expertise in history, international relations, and political science. His recent selected publications: 1) “Russia at Peace with the World”, *The Transition Project: Plan for Russia’s Transition to Democracy, Peace and Prosperity*. Washington DC: Free Russia Foundation, 2024. Pp. 157-179; 2) “Russia and Europe: The Narrative of the Constitutive Other and its Deconstruction”, *The Warsaw East Law Review*, 2025, Vol. 1 (5), Pp. 75-100; 3) *The Kremlin’s Wager on Trump’s Second Term: The Shifting Game of Containment*. Berlin; Riga: Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, 2025.