

3RD INTERNATIONAL
INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE

PLACES

ABSTRACTS

29–31 March, 2023
Riga, Latvia



PLACES 2023

Table of Contents

Political Science and International Relations	1
Applicability of International Practice Theory in Foreign Policy Analysis	
Māris Cepurītis.....	2
Bringing Climate Action to the European Level: Assessing Why EU Member States Push for an Ambitious EU Climate Agenda	
Māra Baumanė	3
Contesting Russia’s Leadership in the Post-Soviet Space: Hedging Strategies Comparison of Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and Armenia	
Georgijs Hupenija; Kristiāns Ķikuts	4
Digitalisation as a Solution for Ensuring Continuity of Parliament Functions during the COVID-19 Crisis and Its Impact on the Work of the Parliament	
Romāns Gagunovs; Ilga Kreituse	5
Dynamics of Populist Parties in European Union Countries from 2013 to 2022	
Peteris Plakans	6
Innovative Methods in Designing Policy: Case Study of Drafting Phase of Oncology Treatment Plan, 2022–2024	
Mārtiņš Daugulis	7
Institutionalising a Promise: Case of SMR Regulation in Finland	
Matti Kojo; Markku Lehtonen; Mika Kari; Tapio Litmanen	8
Measuring Scientific Performance – the Case of RSU	
Klavs Sedlenieks	9
Medical and Health Research Output Indicators in University Ranking, Opportunity Assessments and Future Potential Forecasts in Case of Latvian Research Universities	
Janis Paiders; Dmitrijs Stepanovs; Uldis Berķis	10
Migration and Being a Good Citizen	
Ieva Strode	11
Private Sector in Comprehensive National Defence System of Latvia – Dimensions of Psychological Resilience and Strategic Communication, Institutionalisation Potential of Mobile Telecommunications Operator LMT: Case Study	
Lita Juberte Krūmiņa	12
Struggle for Dominance in Global Internet Governance – Comparison of the USA, EU, Russia and China Approaches	
Tsevete-Lina Romanova Gervazieva	13

The EU and Its Southern Neighbourhood Policy: Resilience in the Era of Science Diplomacy Zane Šime	14
The European Story of China in Africa: Examining the Token “Cautionary Tale” Una Bērziņa-Čerenkova; Egle Klekere	15
Law	16
Access to Information on the Beneficial Ownership of Companies: Privacy vs. Legitimate Public Interest Janis Grasis	17
Analysing Main Trends in International Regulatory Framework and Case-Law Regarding Force-Feeding of Prisoners on Hunger Strike without Medical Necessity George Chakhvadze; Jyoteeswari Manda; Rishitha Buddala	18
Application of Administrative Responsibility to Minors Aigars Rožkalns; Lidija Rozentāle	19
Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare: Legal Issues of Informed Consent Karina Palkova; Inga Kudeikina	20
Assessment of Legal Framework for Tobacco Control in Moldova Evaldas Raistenskis; Anatolijs Krivins	21
Cancellation of the Sick Leave as Possible Basis for Termination of Employment Contract Dace Tarasova; Laura Šāberte	22
Capable Adult Patient’s Right to Decide in Medical Treatment Based on His or Her Religious Beliefs in the Republic of Latvia Laura Šāberte	23
Civil Liability of Medical Staff Yuliia Zabuha	24
Civil Proceedings, Digitalisation and Proclamation of Insolvency Proceedings Valdis Savickis; Inga Kudeikina	25
Correlation of Information Technology and the Right to Criminal Proceedings within a Reasonable Term Larisa Saukāne	26
Criminological Legislation in the Field of Road Safety Alina Kalinina	27
Data Ownership in Training Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare Artūrs Žukovs; Kristaps Upenieks	28
Development Trends of Criminology in Modern Society Andrejs Vilks	29

Digital Informed Consent in Organ Transplantation – Challenges and Opportunities Daniela Izotenko	30
Digital Marketing in Corporate Social Responsibility: Legal Challenges in the European Union Santa Bormane; Marta Urbane	31
Direct-to-Consumer Genetic Testing: Reconciling Consumer Protection and Medical Revolution Interests George Chakhvadze; Maninderjit Kaur Taneja; Tanvi Nagwan.....	32
Effect of the Medical Device Regulatory Changes on Digital Solution Development and Healthcare Industry in the European Union Līga Svempe.....	33
Graphic Representation of the Easement Territory – Legal and Practical Aspects Jolanta Dinsberga.....	34
Implementation of Online Classes in Higher Education in Latvia – Multidisciplinary Analysis of the Current Legal Framework with Particular Focus on Legal Studies Laura Ratniece	35
Importance of the Judicial Cooperation in Criminal Matters in the European Union with a Special Focus on Countering EU Threats and Crime More Effectively Julija Muraru-Klucica.....	36
Justified Damage in Healthcare – Concept, Scope, and Criteria Marina Loseviča; Inga Kudeikina	37
Legal Aspects of Informed Consent and Personal Autonomy in Clinical Trials Involving Artificial Intelligence George Chakhvadze; Apneet Randhawa; Ishita Khanwaria	38
Legal Characteristics of Marketing Agreements in Ukraine’s Pharmacy Vitalii Pashkov	39
Legal Framework and Challenges of Patient Safety Incident Reporting-Learning System – Healthcare Students’ Perspective Andreta Slavinska; Karina Palkova; Aigars Pētersons.....	40
Legal Perspective of the New Local Government Law – New Challenges or Lack of Democracy Juris Radzevics	41
Legally Questionable Application of Psychiatric Treatment without Consent to Persons Who Are Limited in Self-Care Ability Solvita Olsena	42

Necessity of the Law on Financial Transactions Tatjana Jukna	43
Origin and Modern Legal Existence of the Concept of Force Majeure Osvalds Joksts	44
Positive Criminology: An Innovative Approach to Crime Prevention in Latvia Aldona Kipāne	45
Potential of Legal Tech for Energy Justice Legislation Judith Kärn	46
Prerequisites for Preservation of Papillae Pattern Prints on Skin of a Dead Person Aelita Zīle	47
Principle of Protection of Legitimate Expectations in Public Procurements Anatolijs Krivins	48
Private Corruption in Pharmaceutical Sector Nataliya Gutorova	49
Processing of Employees Biometric Data in Employment Legal Relations Agnese Reine	50
Protection of Patients’ Rights in the Provision of Telemedicine Services Rafaels Ciekurs	51
Reasons for Initiating Proceedings Regarding Criminally Acquired Property Andrejs Nikiforovs	52
Roman Law and Legal Regulation of Gambling Phenomenon Allars Apsītis; Osvalds Joksts	53
Roman Law Real Servitudes as Predecessors to Modern-Day Latvia’s “Ceļa servitūts” – “Servitude of Right of Way” Allars Apsītis; Jolanta Dinsberga; Dace Tarasova	54
Securing Rights of the Child in the Era of Digitalisation Ilze Berzina	55
Technological Solutions for Visualisation of Latent Papillae Pattern Prints on Human Skin Aelita Zīle	56
The Right to Medical Care: Realities of the Russian-Ukrainian War Tetiana Mykhailichenko	57
Use of Digital Devices in Road Traffic Control – a Threat to the Principle of Proportionality Juris Matisāns	58

Violation of the Right to Information in the Conditions of Russia's Armed Aggression against Ukraine Nataliia Netesa; Vladyslava Batyrgareieva	59
Social Anthropology	60
Between Work and Family – Experiences of International Scholars in Japan and Latvia Ieva Puzo	61
Chefs in the Making: Restaurant Kitchen Rituals, Liminality & Kinship Nafsika Papacharalampous	62
Dimorphism vs. Non-Binaries: How Applied Studies Inform Philosophy of Knowledge Yevgeny Brazul-Bruszkowski	63
Epistemological Error in Scaling Kinship and Wage Labour Ties: Differences-Similarities between State/Wage Labour Loyalties & Extended Family Loyalties Dirck Van Bekkum	64
Exploration Game with Machine Learning and Engagement in Social Projects Luis Filipe Graeł Tinos; Renan Menechelli; Vinicius Santos Andrade; Patrick Silva	65
Impact of Job Specifics on Social Ties of Professional Orchestral Musicians in Latvia Aija Siliņa	66
Is There Anything beyond the End? (Visions of the Afterlife in Contemporary Latvia) Agita Misane	67
Metaphors of Thriving – Century of Studying Kinship in Latvia Agita Lūse	68
New Religious Movements as Negotiations between Past and Future Michael Strmiska	69
Relatedness and Long-Term Fieldwork in Anthropology Klavs Sedlenieks	70
Research Workers, Mobility and Relatedness in Research Performing Institutions in Latvia Diāna Kiščenko	71
Scope of Family in Latvian Laws and why It Matters in the Context of Mobility Liene Rācene-Riekstiņa	72
Transition from Upper Secondary to Higher Education: Comparative Eurostudent Study Ilze Trapenciēre; Ansis Petersons; Aleksandrs Aleksandrovs; Ilze Koroļeva	73

Work-Life Balance in Experience of Skilled Transnational Migrants and Their Families Baiba Bela; Anete Kriķīte.....	74
Communication Studies.....	75
(D)Effect of the Internet on Journalist Professional Life in Latvia Liga Ozolina.....	76
Advances in Shared Intentionality Research: Understanding Human Interaction for Improving Well-Being Igor Val Danilov; Sandra Mihailova	77
Discourse of Extinction of the Nation in Parliamentary Debates in Latvia Ilva Skulte	78
Fertile Fields and Deserts of Research, Risks and Opportunities Related to Communication and Media Studies Development in Latvia (2000–2020): Panel Proposal Anda Rozukalne; Ilva Skulte; Alnis Stakle	79
Latvian Doctors and Medical Students on Assisted Dying Ivars Neiders; Silva Senkāne.....	80
Relation of First Significant Encounter with Death to Person’s Attitude towards Mortality, Death and the Imagined Afterlife Diāna Kalniņa.....	81
Reports of Death of Press Release Are Greatly Exaggerated Lāsma Šķestere.....	82
Should we Prepare for Death? (Some Factors of Preparation for Death in Latvian Adult Population, 2020) Ritma Rungule; Silva Senkāne; Agnese Poikāne	83
Work Engagement and Job Satisfaction in Lithuania and Europe – Evidence from the European Social Survey Rasa Indriliunaite	84
Economics and Business	85
Business Support during the Financial Crisis and the COVID-19 Pandemic – Analysis of International and Latvian Experience Anzelika Berke Berga; Inna Dovladbekova.....	86
Challenges of Digital Health Technology Assessment Diāna Arāja; Uldis Berķis; Zaiga Nora-Krūkle; Modra Murovska	87
Recommendations for Applying World Health Organisation’s Policy to Population Aging in Latvia Tatjana Azamatova	88

Sanctions and New Opportunities for Central Asia Liga Andersone.....	89
Sustainable Negotiation as a Sustainable Business Practice Liga Brikena	90
University-Business Alliance in Strengthening Green Transition and Green Entrepreneurship Sergejs Stacenko; Liga Brikena.....	91
Waste Management in the Context of Circular Economy: International and Latvian Experience Laura Martinsone; Inna Dovladbekova	92
Climate Narratives	93
Between Two Worlds: Sovereignty, Climate and Narrating the Future in Taiwan Pauline Sophie Heinrichs; Ben O’Loughlin.....	94
Climate Change, Media, and Consumption Narratives Anastasia Denisova	95
Climate Policy Narratives of the Political Elite of Latvia (Parliament, Cabinet of Ministers, and Municipalities): Comparative Analysis Lelde Metla-Rozentale; Dace Vasuka; Katrīna Laura Tkačenko.....	96
Corporate Sustainability Reporting – More Than a Tool for a Company’s Reputation Management Kristiāna Plāte	97
Do You Believe Them? Perceived Trustworthiness of the Narrator in Evaluating the Effectiveness of Climate Change Narratives Vineta Kleinberga	98
Generation Z’s Attitudes towards the Narrative about Sustainable Transport and Electromobility in Poznań, Poland Zuzanna Jezierska	99
Integration of Climate Change Content in Marketing Communication of Retail Companies in Latvia Santa Kliedere; Kristīne Blumfelde-Rutka	100
Mapping Existing Local Ecosystem Waste Management Practices in the European Union Anna Broka	101
Narratives about Climate Change Produced in Latvian Business Environment Kristīne Blumfelde-Rutka; Santa Kliedere	102
Production of Wind Energy in Latvia – Comparison of Government’s Strategic Narrative and Political Narratives of Kurzeme Planning Region (2019–2022) Dace Vasuka.....	103

Projection of the European Union Climate and Environmental Narratives in the Debates of the Latvian Parliament (2018–2022) Katrīna Laura Tkačenko	104
Survey of Systemic Food Waste Generation Causes in Latvian Retail, Catering, and Households Raimonda Soloha; Vineta Kleinberga; Elina Dace	105
Who’s behind the News? The Role of News Agency LETA in Framing of Climate Change in Latvian Media Ilva Skulte	106
Winners or Losers? Perceptions of Climate Change and Related Policies in Latvian Society Vineta Kleinberga; Elīna Smetāņa; Katrīna Laura Tkačenko; Santa Kļiedere	107
Authors Index	108

Political Science and International Relations

Applicability of International Practice Theory in Foreign Policy Analysis

*Mr. Māris Cepurītis*¹

1. Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives

Objective is to study application of International practice theory for analyzing foreign policy in international relations literature.

Methods: Literature review covering literature on International practice theory, constructivist theory of international relations and foreign policy analysis.

Results

International practice theory (IPT), first elaborated by Emanuel Adler and Vincent Pouliot, offers new perspective for analysis of world politics. Students of practice theory analyze everyday practices of actors involved in international relations, for example heads of state, diplomats or nongovernmental actors. Practices tend to be patterned, as they tend to exhibit certain regularities. This is especially important in the context of foreign policy decision making, where roles of different domestic actors are outlined in laws and rules, thus providing pattern for practices. But as not all activities of actors are strictly regulated, the focus on practices can provide deeper insight on how and why foreign policy decisions are shaped in particular way.

Conclusions

Practices are competent performances that construct specific foreign policy decisions of domestic actors within states and of overall foreign policy of state. By focusing on practices of specific actors and interplay between them, practice theory can complement existing theories and approaches to foreign policy analysis. Value of practice theory lies in opportunity to discover why foreign policy outcomes may differ from those intended by specific actors or prescribe by other theories. At the same time, due to its focus on practices by specific actors the conclusions of analysis may be limited only to specific study case or cases.

Bringing Climate Action to the European Level: Assessing Why EU Member States Push for an Ambitious EU Climate Agenda

*Mrs. Māra Baumanė*¹

1. Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives

The climate agenda of the European Union (EU) or the European Green Deal was set up in 2019 and is gradually being elaborated upon with legislation at the EU level. The headline target of reaching climate neutrality by 2050 is ambitious, as is the technical legislation underlying it. The central question of this paper is why EU member states support such an ambitious climate agenda at the EU level. Three determinants are tested: member states wish to enhance funding for climate-related projects by using the EU as a platform for such re-distributive action; the member state “green” industry pushes for a more ambitious pan-European climate agenda; and member states are serving their public opinion for climate action by promising an ambitious climate agenda at the EU level. It is suggested that the first determinant is the most significant one in light of geopolitically heightened energy prices and the urgent need for many member states to transition away from oil and gas. Based on interviews with state authorities of Latvia, Poland and Denmark this paper will compare three case studies with different levels of fossil dependency, renewables industries and different societal opinions on climate change more generally.

Contesting Russia's Leadership in the Post-Soviet Space: Hedging Strategies Comparison of Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and Armenia

Mr. Georgijs Hupenija¹, Mr. Kristiāns Ķikuts¹

1. Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives

The main objective of the research is to compare the experience of implementing a hedging strategy by Kazakhstan (between Russia and China), Azerbaijan (between Russia and Turkey) and Armenia (between Russia and the EU), to determine under which foreign policy features the hedging strategy is more successful for reducing Russian leadership in the post-Soviet space. In the framework of this research strategic hedging is considered as a neorealist school concept to operationalize state foreign policy towards great powers in obstacles of high uncertainty. The research seeks to test the **hypothesis**: strategies of contesting Russian leadership were more successful in the case of Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan, and less effective in the case of Armenia.

Materials and Methods

The analysis of text content and documents is used in the research. Research focuses on primary (national government documents, agreements) and secondary (think-tank publications, media articles) sources.

Results

The results of the research show that the hedging strategy of contesting Russian leadership was most effective in the case of Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan, and less effective in the case of Armenia. This is mainly due to the lower dynamics of competition both at the regional and global level between Russia and Turkey (in the case of Azerbaijan) and China (in the case of Kazakhstan). In turn, Armenia, for lack of other options, was forced to seek support from the EU, what caused a negative reaction from Russia, exacerbated the contradictions in the Caucasus region, and did not bring the expected results of contesting Russian leadership.

Conclusions

Comparative research concludes that Kazakhstan's and Azerbaijan's hedging strategies of contesting Russian leadership have been more successful rather than Armenia's in the post-soviet space. The hypothesis that strategies of contesting Russian leadership were more successful in the case of Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan, and less effective in the case of Armenia proves.

Digitalisation as a Solution for Ensuring Continuity of Parliament Functions during the COVID-19 Crisis and Its Impact on the Work of the Parliament

Mr. Romāns Gagunovs¹, Prof. Ilga Kreituse²

1. Department of Doctoral Studies, Rīga Stradiņš University, 2. Faculty of European Studies, Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives

To ensure the continuity of its functions in the conditions of the Covid19 pandemic, the Parliament of Latvia (Saeima) sought and implemented e-solutions in its work, implementing digitalization and digital transformation.

Materials and Methods

Comparative data analysis and chi-square method are used as a research method in the work. The data gave an opportunity to compare how the work of the Saeima has changed under the conditions of the Covid19 pandemic, using technological solutions, compared to the previous convocation of the Parliament, when the work took place in person.

Results

The conducted research, using the chi-square method, shows that there are significant differences between the work of the 12th and 13th Saeima. Research data show that compared to the pre-crisis period, for example, the number of votes in plenary sessions has decreased (12th Saeima – 5277; 13th Saeima – 1295); while the number of debaters has increased (12th Saeima – 6401; 13th Saeima – 12789). At the same time, it gives rise to assumptions that MPs feel safer speaking in the e-environment than debating in person. The available resources, technical support, as well as the digital skills of MPs and employees contributed to the possibility of implementing digitalization and introducing new solutions. On the one hand, the legislative process worsened when MPs performed their duties in the e-environment, but on the other hand, the result cannot be evaluated as negative.

Conclusions

The “e-Saeima” platform ensured the most important procedures and could be used in the future if the country were hit by Covid19 or another crisis that would interfere with the possibility of gathering in person. At the same time, such a platform should also be applicable in the work of commissions, thus ensuring: 1) secure authentication of MPs, employees, and guests; 2) the opportunity to debate and view documents; 3) secure and transparent voting.

Dynamics of Populist Parties in European Union Countries from 2013 to 2022

*Mr. Peteris Plakans*¹

1. Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives

The role of populist parties in Western democracies has increased in the 21st century. In autumn 2022, right-wing populist parties have gained significant representation in Latvia and Bulgaria, while in Sweden and Italy they are involved in the government formation process. Over the past decade, Europe has been hit by the migration crisis, the Covid-19 pandemic and the energy crisis caused by the war in Ukraine. There is a need to explore the impact of global events on the spread of populist parties in the national parliaments of the Member States of the European Union.

The aim of the study is to examine the dynamics of the number of populist party MPs elected in the EU Member States between 2013 and 2022.

Materials and Methods

To this end, a pilot study was carried out using a contingency analysis method to study the results of the parliamentary elections in each EU Member State and to select right-wing and left-wing populist parties. The data for the pilot study was drawn from available information: national electoral authorities, open access resources such as Wikipedia and local and international media such as Politico.

Results

The results of the pilot study show that the number of populist MEPs increased by 56%. Left-wing populist dynamics in national parliaments are fluctuating and have declined over the decade, while right-wing populists increased by 77% between 2013 and 2022.

Conclusions

Despite the fact that some countries have seen a decline in the spread of populist parties, such as Lithuania, Bulgaria and Denmark, most countries have seen a significant increase in right-wing populist parties, such as France, Italy and Spain. In 2015, it was driven by the rise of left-wing populist parties in Greece, Spain and, to a lesser extent, Portugal. In 2017 and 2018, with a surge of right-wing populists in Germany, Italy and Austria.

Innovative Methods in Designing Policy: Case Study of Drafting Phase of Oncology Treatment Plan, 2022–2024

*Dr. Mārtiņš Daugulis*¹

1. Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives

At the end of 2020, the Ministry of Health of Latvia initiated a new approach to collecting the opinions of patients, doctors and representatives of institutions engaged in oncological care - a method of design thinking. The aim of such innovative policy designing approach was to prepare the “Plan for the improvement of health care services in the field of oncology for 2022 - 2024”. Previous policy designing methods - meetings with stakeholder within existing cooperation formats and legislative frames were challenged by low input from patients and lack of initiative toward innovations. The purpose of this article is to evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of design thinking in the formation of a policy document - in the perspective of patients and their organizations.

Materials and Methods

A qualitative research method was used - focus group interviews - on patient experience as a design thinking workshop participants. Focus group participants were segmented into the following groups: 1) Chronic disease patients (patients with oncological diseases); 2) Representatives of patient organizations; 3) Relatives of patients.

Results

A total of 80 focus group participants were interviewed, with a total number of hours - 32. All groups were organized according to the criteria necessary for the objective selection of respondents throughout Latvia. Additionally 1 hour 1:1 interview with each participant was delivered (80 hours together).

Conclusions

1. All focus group members pointed to a positive assessment of the use of an innovative method and their involvement in it. 2. The effectiveness of the method in the perspective of its users was closely linked to the outcome of the policy. 3. By engaging patients with innovative methods in policy-making, the strengthening of existing participation formats is also expected.

In general, the use of innovative methods in policymaking cannot be disconnected from the quality of overall democratic engagement and the deliverable results of policies.

Institutionalising a Promise: Case of SMR Regulation in Finland

*Dr. Matti Kojo*¹, *Dr. Markku Lehtonen*², *Dr. Mika Kari*³, *Prof. Tapio Litmanen*³

1. LUT University, 2. Universitat Pompeu Fabra, 3. University of Jyväskylä

Objectives

The potential of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) – the most recent nuclear-sector promise – is currently explored around the world. Proponents of SMRs consider the current regulation frameworks outdated and a key obstacle to the economic viability and rapid large-scale deployment of SMRs. Various national and international initiatives aimed at streamlining and harmonising regulation are therefore underway. These include, in Finland, the reform of the Nuclear Energy Act, and internationally, initiatives coordinated by the International Atomic Energy Agency (e.g. the Nuclear Harmonisation and Standardisation Initiative).

We examine regulatory streamlining as a form of institutionalisation of the umbrella promise of SMRs – allegedly essential for successful promise-construction, and for the materialisation of the more specific promises in the form of individual SMR designs and projects – and identify (1) the main Finnish actors participating in the development of SMR regulation, nationally and internationally, (2) the main arguments they put forward, especially relating to international SMR harmonisation.

Materials and Methods

We conceptualise the construction of techno-scientific promises as a dynamic process involving the interaction between the 1) relatively vague visions (“umbrella promises”), 2) more specific statements about the future of a given technology, and 3) the institutionalisation and materialisation of promises in, for example, policies, laws and regulation, and demonstration projects. Drawing on public documents, media reporting, and key stakeholder interviews, we examine the discourses and institutionalised practices relating to regulatory harmonisation.

Results

Our results illustrate how the Finnish SMR promoters walk a fine line between the contrasting needs of promise construction: demonstrating an ability to harmonise and to safeguard regulatory rigour, while also ensuring that the international regulatory competition does not prejudice potential SMR business.

Conclusions

Institutionalisation through regulation is an essential element in promise-construction whereby the dynamic interplay between discourses, institutions and material artefacts conditions the deployment of specific technologies.

Measuring Scientific Performance – the Case of RSU

Dr. Klavs Sedlenieks¹

1. Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives

The current method of assessing scientific performance (in RSU, in Latvia and elsewhere) is based mainly on the number of scientific outputs an individual has (co)-authored. This approach fails to acknowledge productivity of an author or collectively - of a group of authors. This results in a curious theoretic situation where a lab of 10 people producing collectively 1 article a year may receive the same recognition as a similar lab that collectively produces 10 articles a year. The objective is to use data from RSU to demonstrate the radically different results.

Materials and Methods

Data source: www.science.rsu.lv, collected by custom-made Python script. Data filtered to include only type “1.1. Scientific article indexed in Web of Science and/or Scopus database” since 2012. All research units are grouped in divisions: Medicine, Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH), Other, and Unknown. Results are compared on individual, research-unit and division level - before and after fractionalisation of outputs.

Results

Although some individuals and research units come as the most productive regardless of method, after fractionalisation SSH authors and research units can be demonstrated to be among the top performers at RSU despite their plain article count falling far below numbers of their Medical peers

Conclusions

The results demonstrate that currently employed measurement of academic output is ill-suited for measuring the actual output of individuals and research units. Fractionalised output calculation must be introduced in order to assess adequately the actual capacity of a unit and individual researchers. This conclusion is in line with that of Piro, Aksnes, and Rørstad (2013) who conclude that in largest Norwegian universities the most productive units and individuals are in humanities, while the least productive - in medicine. Data also shows need to discuss taking in account different traditions regarding publications (e.g., publishing books in SSH vs publishing articles in natural sciences).

Medical and Health Research Output Indicators in University Ranking, Opportunity Assessments and Future Potential Forecasts in Case of Latvian Research Universities

Mr. Janis Paiders¹, Dr. Dmitrijs Stepanovs¹, Dr. Uldis Berķis¹

1. Ministry of Education and Science

Objectives

To assess the positioning of main medical and health science output indicators in the context of European university ecosystems similar to Latvia.

To analyze main university rankings through the focus on impact, speed and dynamics of medical and health science indicators

Materials and Methods

Data from Academic Ranking of World Universities, QS World University Rankings, Times Higher World University Rankings, comparative analysis, statistical analysis, data analytics, graphical technical analysis, visualization methods

Results

Medical and health scientific indicators demonstrate rapid returns, but also saturation effects. They can rapidly lift the position, mainly due to targeted investments, but they are not solo-players. For Latvian research universities which rely on high impact of medical research, there are several choices - further improvement requesting substantial investment, or concerted output in medicine, associated areas and reaching sufficient basic research capacity in other research areas from natural sciences to humanities

Conclusions

Medical research can be a fast track to high impact research domain, the sustainable impact requires excellence diffusion over full spectrum of research areas. Higher ranks for research universities is characterized by rather composite research portfolios.

While the experience exists with increases in quality/portfolio size, improving the balance of research fields is challenging. This has a risk factor and also inertial component.

Migration and Being a Good Citizen

Ms. Ieva Strode¹

1. *University of Latvia*

Objectives

The study aimed to explore different aspects of being a good citizen, and one of the aspects explored was migration. Migration is one of the factors that has had a significant impact not only on issues related to acquiring or changing citizenship status but also on the normative aspects of citizenship - what it means to combine an old citizenship status with a new place of residence. What is expected of a migrant in the old and the new place of residence, can he be considered a good citizen, and if so, under what conditions? In the context of migration, the question arises as to what role is given to the state in general - perhaps we can already talk about world citizenship.

Materials and Methods

The study uses in-depth interviews conducted in the spring and summer of 2022 in two waves (30 in the first wave, and 28 in the second).

Results

Several of the interviewees had experienced migration themselves, both as descendants of people who left Latvia after WWII and as having lived and worked abroad for a shorter or longer period in recent years. The situation is different in the case of post-war migration and recent migration - how is it possible to belong to Latvia, can it be linked to belonging to the country where one lives now? There is also the fact that it is possible not to lose involvement in Latvia's political and social life, which is made possible by the development of technology, and the possibility of moving quickly.

Conclusions

Although it is recognized that migrants can be good citizens in both the old and the new country, there is no uniform attitude towards cultural integration in the new country: whether and how norms are changed and whether this is expected at all.

Private Sector in Comprehensive National Defence System of Latvia – Dimensions of Psychological Resilience and Strategic Communication, Institutionalisation Potential of Mobile Telecommunications Operator LMT: Case Study

Ms. Lita Juberte Krūmiņa¹

1. Doctoral Study Programme “Political Science”, Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives

Psychological resilience and strategic communication are among the priority directions defined in the Comprehensive National Defence System of Latvia introduced in 2019. Public institutions have traditionally been the main actors addressing these topics. As the trust in such institutions in Latvia continues to be at low levels, this research addresses a new, little-studied direction exploring the contribution and motivation of private companies towards psychological resilience and strategic communication with a case study of private telecommunications company LMT at the centre. Sociological institutionalism lens is used to conceptualize the case study.

Materials and Methods

The study examined strategic documents of Latvian defence sector using quantitative content analysis and qualitative text analysis. To conduct the case study and capture causal mechanisms data from semi-structured interviews and publicly available resources was analyzed with the process tracing method.

Results

The research outlined that a) the role of the private sector within the Latvian national defence framework is growing, but not in the relation to psychological resilience and strategic communication b) the case study, on the contrary, indicated that a private company can have an effective institutionalization potential towards these dimensions and is driven by a deliberate strategic choice.

Conclusions

Although in the strategic documents the role of the private sector is mainly viewed from a very practical angle (supply chains, cyber-security), a case study revealed that it can significantly contribute towards psychological resilience and strategic communication as well. The analyzed patterns of LMT show persistence over time and the ability to offer society frameworks for thinking and acting. Preliminary results indicate that motivation to act lies within interrelated factors such as company strategies, management beliefs, state activity, geopolitical context. The analysis concludes that private companies can be valuable partners in achieving national-level goals thus opening the discussion for the need of a more institutionalized framework.

Struggle for Dominance in Global Internet Governance – Comparison of the USA, EU, Russia and China Approaches

*Ms. Tsevet-Lina Romanova Gervazieva*¹

1. *Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO)*

Objectives

The main purpose of the study is to analyze the foreign policy strategies of the United States, the EU, Russia and China in order to determine their approaches to global Internet governance. Within the framework of this study, the theory of securitization is used to explain the logic of the behavior of states in the field of global Internet governance in the face of threats associated with the functioning of cyberspace (both physical and virtual). The study aims to test the following hypothesis: the EU, Russia and China seek to revise the global cyber dominance of the United States.

Materials and Methods

The study uses a qualitative method of data and information analysis. The basis is the analysis of primary (official documents, for example, cybersecurity strategies) and secondary (analytical materials, news) sources.

Results

The results of the study allow to identify a number of trends in approaches to global Internet governance: Russia (“*Digital Westphalia*” model) sees insecurity in the current model of global Internet governance and seeks to promote a governance model in which only states will be responsible for decision-making; China (Balanced state-centric model) partly shares Russia’s opinion, but at the same time advocates the creation of a model with mixed management; The EU (Balanced Multi-stakeholder Model), despite the close cooperation with the United States, is concerned about the insecurity of data and also advocates a revision of the current management model; e) The United States (a multi-stakeholder model) officially declares a multilateral decision-making model, but in practice gives the reins of government to private American companies.

Conclusions

Based on the results of the comparative analysis, it can be concluded that the EU, Russia and China are seeking to revise the current cyber dominance of the United States in the field of global Internet governance. The hypothesis is confirmed.

The EU and Its Southern Neighbourhood Policy: Resilience in the Era of Science Diplomacy

*Ms. Zane Šime*¹

1. Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU)

Objectives

A myriad of diplomacies has emerged through the recent scholarly output. With the forthcoming European Science Diplomacy Agenda (ESDA), the EU leans towards interpreting science diplomacy as an intrinsic component of its existing repository of programs and instruments for European and international cooperation. This paper explores how science diplomacy could be positioned amidst areal threads of diplomacy studies. This is a stock-taking exercise concerning some policy-relevant research debates to point toward some of the challenges and promising avenues identified so far in a research process revolving around the EU science diplomacy to-ward the European Southern Neighbourhood (ESN). The aim is to capture a constellation of interlinks between structural diplomacy, science diplomacy, and resilience to form conducive conceptual grounds for studying the role the EU-funded collaborative research brings in addressing the challenges faced by the ESN.

Materials and Methods

The chosen method and materials are a targeted and rapid academic and grey literature review.

Results

Detecting the diverse terminology employed to study the diplomatic dimension of the issues covered by the environmental policy helps in an attempt to get to grips with the vast literature relevant to a comprehensive study of resilience-building in the ESN over the past years and why it matters for the EU science diplomacy.

Conclusions

Science diplomacy adds some additional dimensions to the study of EU structural diplomacy. Science diplomacy introduces valuable considerations about the permanency of the dialogue and multilateral interactions process that spans well beyond the processes curated by the representatives of the traditional diplomatic corps. It brings EU-funded projects into perspective and pays attention to the under-researched aspects and implicit diplomatic dimensions of these temporary encounters. The dynamics explored by the circulation of knowledge bring place-specific aspects into the science diplomacy debate and fully appreciate the non-linearity of the present and future dissemination and echoes of the ESDA.

The European Story of China in Africa: Examining the Token “Cautionary Tale”

*Dr. Una Bērziņa-Čerenkova*¹, *Ms. Egle Klekere*²

1. China Studies Centre, Rīga Stradiņš University, 2. Faculty of Computing, University of Latvia

Objectives

RESEARCH ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION AT: “Palgrave Handbook on China-Europe-Africa Relations”.

Right after the European Union launched its first Africa Strategy in December 2005, the question of China’s presence and interest in the continent has been spilling into the media discourse over China’s role, approach and agenda for Africa (Deutscher Budestag , 2007). Furthermore, as China’s political activities in European countries increased during 2012-2019, parallels were drawn between Chinese-led regional multilateralism in Central and Eastern Europe (16+1), Africa (FOCAC), and Latin America (CCF), comparing the normative basis, institutionalization patterns, and the scope of cooperation (Jakóbowski, 2018) The narrative of China’s behaviour in Africa was a cautionary tale for CEE in European media.

The project aims to examine how the story of China’s presence on the African continent appears in the European media.

Research questions include: what are the frames used? What are the emotions expressed? What is the reporting tone by media and/or country? Is it whole-of-continent or country specific? If the latter one is true, which countries take the lead?

Materials and Methods

Adapting mixed quantitative and qualitative methodology, the research is based in Frame analysis. Preliminary data is collected vis GDELT. The analysed EU-based media (in English) are chosen according to readership and influence on European scale, and preliminarily are: Politico, Euronews, Deutsche Welle, France 24. News agencies have been excluded due to low prevalence of distinguishable frames.

Timeframe: Based on the assumption that the upsurge of meetings between China’s FP actors, including the Minister of Foreign Affairs Wang Yi, and African counterparts (Ashmore, 2022) following a quiet period during COVID-19, also leads to increased reporting on China-Africa relations in European media, the research timeframe is set for March 1, 2022-December 1, 2022.

Results

[research still ongoing, results will be finalised before February 2023]

Conclusions

[research still ongoing, results will be finalised before February 2023]

Law

Access to Information on the Beneficial Ownership of Companies: Privacy vs. Legitimate Public Interest

*Prof. Janis Grasis*¹

1. Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives

In the judgment of the Court of Justice of the European Union (joined cases C-37/20) the judges measured whether the access to the information on the beneficial ownership of companies incorporated within the territory of the Member States is accessible in all cases to any member of the general public is invalid. The aim of this paper is to analyse this court decision trying to find balance between the privacy of the business persons and legitimate public interests to get information about beneficial owners of the commercial companies.

Materials and Methods

The author will use descriptive, analytical and deductive-inductive research methods in the paper. After review and analysis of the court decision, legal acts and and different articles, the author has made conclusions and recommendations.

Results

According to the above mentioned court decision, the general public's access to information on beneficial ownership constitutes a serious interference with the fundamental rights to respect for private life and to the protection of personal data, enshrined in Articles 7 and 8 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (Charter). Even more, court decided that provisions whereby Member States must ensure that the information on the beneficial ownership of corporate and other legal entities incorporated within their territory is accessible in all cases to any member of the general public is invalid.

Conclusions

The author concludes that Republic of Latvia must amend its domestic legislation on disclosure beneficial owners of the commercial companies in order to provide regulation in exceptional circumstances, for an exemption from access to that information by the general public. It will ensure a proper balance between the objective of general interest pursued and the fundamental rights enshrined in Articles 7 and 8 of the Charter.

Analysing Main Trends in International Regulatory Framework and Case-Law Regarding Force-Feeding of Prisoners on Hunger Strike without Medical Necessity

*Mr. George Chakhvadze*¹, *Ms. Jyoteeswari Manda*², *Ms. Rishitha Buddala*²

1. *Lithuanian Maritime Academy; RISEBA University of Applied Sciences; Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University and BAU International University*, 2. *BAU International University Batumi*

Objectives

Despite the fact that international instruments and WMA 1975 Declaration of Tokyo and WMA 1991 Declaration, explicitly prohibit the use of force-feeding, it appears that the latter is still the commonplace. For instance, on 16 November 2022, the Intercept published first ever public video of a federally sanctioned force-feeding of **Ajay Kumar**, an asylum-seeker from India who was force-fed while detained in an immigration jail. [1] In this regard, very recent judgment of the European Court of Human Rights in **Yakovlev v. Ukraine** is also of particular mention because the European Court stressed on the conceptual and practical conflict between an individual's right to physical integrity under Article 3 of the Convention and High Contracting Parties positive obligations to safeguard prisoner's right to health by determining exactly what constitutes the violation of Article 3 of the European Convention regarding the force-feeding of prisoners on hunger strike.

Accordingly, **the main objectives of the research** are as follows:

- a) to analyse existing applicable international instruments on force-feeding and the ICCPR and CAT instruments included;
- b) To determine what constitutes the violation and unravel main standards of medical ethics of health professionals according to the World Medical Association's guidelines;
- c) To analyse main trends in case-law regarding the force-feeding of prisoners without medical necessity and sufficient safeguards including some recent judgments of the European Court of Human Rights;
- d) To provide recommendations and possible solutions.

[1] THIS IS HOW THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FORCE-FEEDS DETAINEES. The Intercept. November 16 2022. <https://theintercept.com/2022/11/16/intercepted-government-force-feeding/>

Materials and Methods

The research will mainly employ doctrinal method.

Conclusions

Analysing main trends in conventions, WMA's guidelines and case-law, the research will explicitly determine exactly what constitutes the violation and suggest avenues on what should be done in both national legislations and case-law to ensure conformity with international standards.

Application of Administrative Responsibility to Minors

Mr. Aigars Rožkalns¹, Dr. Lidija Rozentāle¹

1. Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives

to carry out an analysis of regulatory acts, in connection with the types of administrative responsibility that can be applied to minors, to provide solutions for the elimination of shortcomings.

Materials and Methods

The research mainly uses regulatory acts related to the types of administrative responsibility applicable to minors. Legal literature and court rulings.

- grammatical method of interpretation;
- systemic interpretation method;
- method of teleological interpretation;
- historical interpretation method.

Results

It is necessary to make amendments to the Law on Administrative Responsibility to ensure that minors who have received an administrative penalty - a fine - are motivated to fulfill the appropriate coercive means of an educational nature, thus reducing the amount of the fine. The Law on Administrative Responsibility must stipulate that an official can apply victim status to a minor, without a legal representative's request to do so. It is necessary to amend the existing regulation by determining that the enforcement of fines applied to minors is carried out against the minor himself, upon reaching the age of 18.

Conclusions

- Coercive measures of an educational nature are not a form of punishment, so the application of these measures in parallel with the application of administrative punishment is not HDW for double punishment. A complex application of both of these types of responsibility can ensure that the purpose of these means of responsibility is achieved.
- Enforced execution of the fine - collection from the legal representatives of the minor fined person does not contribute to the achievement of the goal of the fine. It is unethical for the child's parents to do educational work with the child. And such a regulation ensures that parents who are not involved in raising a child are actually punished twice if an administrative violation process is initiated against them.

Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare: Legal Issues of Informed Consent

Dr. Karina Palkova¹, Dr. Inga Kudeikina¹

1. Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives

The aim of the research is to find out the use of AI in healthcare from the the patient's rights perspective, showing the answer whether the existing scope of the legal regulation of the patient's informed consent includes the information of use of AI treatment process.

Materials and Methods

National and international legal documents as EU regulations, directives, opinions, decisions, recommendations were analysed. The qualitative *analysis* of social *scientists' opinions* were provided. The forms of informed consent provided by healthcare institutions were analysed.

Results

- 1) The use of AI in treatment is a component of the method used in treatment (medical treatment method or part of the medical method according to the Law On the Rights of Patients). The use of this method from the legal perspective is regulated by Medical Treatment Law;
- 2) If AI systems are part of medical treatment method, than the patient has the right to know about this method.
- 3) The current scope of informed consent per se does not include the patient's consent to use of AI in patients medical treatment process.

Conclusions

New technologies and intensive research in AI based healthcare improve the quality of healthcare. AI is used in disease diagnosis, in general, to enhance *preventive* care services and telehealth practices. However, at the same time, the patients right to be informed, the rights to autonomy, are forgotten in this process. There is not clear understanding of how AI. Patients might not be willing to let it be used to help with their medical needs. The medical practitioners do not have the right to make a choice of the AI based treatment without the patients permission. Medical practitioners must inform the patients if AI will be used. The explanation of how AI works, what kind of risks could be expected shell be explained to the patients/

Assessment of Legal Framework for Tobacco Control in Moldova

Mr. Evaldas Raistenskis¹, Dr. Anatolijs Krivins¹

1. Daugavpils University

Objectives

To research the legal framework for the control of illegal trade in tobacco products in Moldova.

Materials and Methods

Expert evaluation and analysis of legal acts.

Results

To stop the highly profitable act of smuggling, legal interventions and amendments to the existing overly lenient provisions of the Criminal Code and the Offenses Code are needed. The punishments for actions with criminal components established in Article 248 of the Criminal Code are recommended to be tightened. In most cases, the crimes described in Article 248 of the Criminal Code are caused by material gain. Therefore, legal interventions should be focused on material penalties provided by law. It is noteworthy that, from a legal point of view, the damage caused by the crime of smuggling is approximately 8 times greater than the maximum material punishment that can be imposed on a person. At the same time, the penalties established in each point of Article 248 of the Criminal Code (based on the standard and aggravating components) are suggested to be tightened by establishing imprisonment of up to 12 years as the maximum penalty imposed for the crime of smuggling.

Conclusions

The analysis of legal acts and the expert evaluation revealed that illegal trade in tobacco products and smuggling of tobacco products are not the subject of any separate law in the Republic of Moldova. The acts and elements of smuggling are described in the Criminal Code, the Customs Code and the Offenses Code. In addition, the Republic of Moldova has not approved the National Strategy for Combating Illegal Trade, i.e. a strategy, based on which an integrated action plan could be prepared for all responsible state structures. The provisions related to the act of smuggling apply to both natural and legal persons, and law breakers can only be punished in accordance with the Criminal Code.

Cancellation of the Sick Leave as Possible Basis for Termination of Employment Contract

Mrs. Dace Tarasova¹, Mrs. Laura Šāberte¹

1. Faculty of Law, Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives

To research, consider and analyze the information that is available in national, European Union and international regulatory acts, and also in judicial practice materials, regarding the problem of termination of the employment contract in cases of cancellation of work incapacity leaves.

Materials and Methods

In the framework of this research and to analyze national, European Union, international regulatory acts and judicial practice materials, inductive, deductive and comparative methods were used.

Results

First part of section 101 of the Republic of Latvia Labour law regulates that an employer has the right to give a written notice of termination of an employment contract only on the basis of circumstances related to the conduct of the employee, his or her abilities, or of economic, organisational, technological measures or measures of a similar nature in the undertaking in the following cases: the employee has significantly violated the employment contract or the specified working procedures without a justifiable reason.

Taking into account the previous meant regulation of the Republic of Latvia Labour law, the practical problem is that legitimate interests and rights of employees are threatened. The reason of threat is annulment of the work incapacity leaves issued to the patient-employee in the later period of time by a competent medical practitioner due to professional misconduct committed by the medical practitioner.

Conclusions

In the previously mentioned situations, there can be seen attempts of employers to count time period by the initially issued and in the later period of time canceled sick leave and interpret them as unjustified absence from work of the employee to terminate the employment legal relationship by issuing new employment contract. It should be noted that the achievements of Latvian court practice in solving this type of problem situations can be evaluated positively and recognized as generally fair and quite useful.

Capable Adult Patient's Right to Decide in Medical Treatment Based on His or Her Religious Beliefs in the Republic of Latvia

*Ms. Laura Šāberte*¹

1. Faculty of Law, Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives

The aim of the research is to study and analyse the capable adult patient's right to decide in medical treatment based on his or her religious beliefs in the Republic of Latvia, through the prism of case analysis, identifying the legal problems and providing proposals for improving the national legal acts.

Materials and Methods

In the research author analyses national legal acts and scientific literature in the field of medical law. Likewise, to identify practical examples and problem issues regarding patient's right to decide in medical treatment based on his or her religious beliefs in the context of the national legal framework, the author uses general scientific methods such as theoretical modelling method, analytical method, and deductive and inductive method and methods of the interpretation of the legal provisions such as grammatical, systematic, historical, and teleological.

Results

By modelling situations where according to national legal acts patient decide in medical treatment based on his or her religious beliefs, author concluded that the national normative acts in the field of patients' rights should be improved.

Conclusions

Considering the results of the research, the author has made following conclusions:

1. Each medical institution must have a plan for the implementation of patients' rights, and it must contain guidelines in communication and treatment that would apply to patients with different types of religious beliefs.
2. Legal acts should be improved to stipulate that the medicals practitioners are obliged to regularly educate himself in the field of patient rights and professional ethics and deontology.
3. Legal acts should be improved in the field how patients receive and how they provide information in medical treatment, including decisions and refusals from medical treatment based on their religious beliefs.
4. Legal acts that determine how the treating person should act if the patient refuses medical treatment need to be improved.

Civil Liability of Medical Staff

***Dr. Yuliia Zabuha**¹*

1. Academician Stashis Scientific Research Institute for the Study of Crime Problems National Academy of Law Sciences of Ukraine

Objectives

To identify the difficulties faced by Ukrainian patients when bringing medical staff to civil liability, to suggest ways to overcome them.

Materials and Methods

The empirical basis are court judgments published in the Unified State Register of Court Decisions of Ukraine (from 01.01.2020 to 25.12.2022), in which civil claims were filed against a medical institution or a doctor who is engaged in medical practice and has a medical license. Ukrainian health care legislation and scientific publications were studied and analyzed by using dialectical, comparative methods.

Results

Civil liability of medical staff is common in most European countries. Instead, the research showed in Ukraine it is quite difficult to compensate for the material and (or) moral damage caused to the patient by the non-fulfillment or improper fulfillment of his professional duties by the medical worker by filing a lawsuit to court. Only 19 cases were considered by Ukrainian courts in the civil procedure. In only 2 cases the court fully satisfied the claims, in 3 cases - partially, in the remaining 14 cases the satisfaction of the claims were refused.

Conclusions

In order to solve problems that arise in practice, bring Ukrainian legislation to EU standards and approaches and ensure proper protection of the life and health of patients in civil proceedings, it is necessary to: 1. Enshrine in the Civil Code of Ukraine the institution of a contract for the provision of medical services, which would contain provisions on informed consent, as well as determine the mutual rights and obligations of the parties. 2. To complete the work on the introduction of the institute of mandatory professional liability insurance of medical workers in Ukraine. 3. Create an independent body that would control the quality of medical services provided and not be subordinate to the Ministry of Health of Ukraine.

Civil Proceedings, Digitalisation and Proclamation of Insolvency Proceedings

Mr. Valdis Savickis¹, Dr. Inga Kudeikina¹

1. Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives

Through the focus of the conference - intersection between technological advancement and the societal context within which it takes place, the authors set two main objectives, researching the topic concerning the digitalization, civil proceedings and proclamation of the insolvency proceedings: 1. How the scope of digitalization in the sphere of civil

proceedings impact the proclamation of the insolvency proceedings (in particular – of legal entities)? 2. What principles of the insolvency proceedings there affected?

Materials and Methods

In the research there are used analytical and descriptive methods. Using these methods are analyzed normative acts and political decisions. Comparative method is used to compare the scope of legal instruments of national level, in the sphere of civil

proceedings and insolvency proceedings. Historical method is used to compare and analyze legal norms.

Results

Continuing previous researches (i.e. Insolvency Proceedings in the Shadow of the COVID-19 Pandemic) authors moved forward and examined the post-pandemic situation in the legal field of the civil proceedings.

Nevertheless, that situation of COVID-19 infection calm down, emergency situation was canceled, and the state returned to the “normal functioning”, not all measures there either discontinued or cancelled.

As of beginning the year 2023, obligate invention of the official electronic address for the legal persons (as well for the natural persons, registered in state registers) and further development of the systems/elements as “*E-lieta*”, marked a new phase of digitization and inventions of the modern technologies.

Conclusions

Scope of legal instruments invented on during the emergency situation there prolonged, or even remained unchanged in legal norms of the special normative acts.

Scope of digitalization, including such systems/elements as “*E-lieta*” and official electronic address, impacted the civil proceedings and proclamation of the insolvency proceedings directly.

State, inventing the digitalization and technologies in the civil proceedings, indirectly reached and affected the general principles of insolvency proceedings.

Correlation of Information Technology and the Right to Criminal Proceedings within a Reasonable Term

Dr. Larisa Saukāne¹

1. Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives

The author main objective is - how is the person's right to an examination of the case within a reasonable time frame are affected, if opportunities to participate in the court session remotely are used more widely and effectively.

Materials and Methods

In the research there are used analytical and descriptive methods. Using these methods are analysed normative acts and case-law decisions. Comparative method is used to compare the scope of legal instruments of national and international level.

Results

In cases where a security measure is applied to the accused in criminal proceedings – arrest – and the person is in the deprivation of liberty institution, the time periods for trial of the case shall be as short as possible. However, the availability and quality of technical means of the prisons regarding the participation of the accused in the hearing in the video conference regime is not sufficient, which causes problems to determine the hearing of the court as soon as possible.

It was conspired, if the witnessing person was outside Latvia, according to the Criminal Procedure Law and the-
sis expressed by the Supreme Court to ensure the participation of such person in the court hearing in the video
conference regime, it would be imperative to use an international cooperation institute which significantly
prolong and complicated the course of proceedings.

Conclusions

To assess the reasonableness of the proceedings, it is necessary to assess the activities of the court during the
whole process, assessing the possibilities of the court to hold hearings by technical means in particular - the
video conference regime.

In developing the potential of information technologies, case law should be developed, on the question of the
need to use an international cooperation institute in criminal proceedings, providing a court hearing in video
conference regime if the person is outside the territory of Latvia.

Criminological Legislation in the Field of Road Safety

Ms. Alina Kalinina¹

1. Academician Stashis Scientific Research Institute for the Study of Crime Problems National Academy of Law Sciences of Ukraine

Objectives

The goal is to provide a general description of the international criminological legislation in the field of road safety.

Materials and Methods

The theoretical basis of the research is specialized literature on the traffic safe. The methodological basis for the research conducting on the empirical level is statistical analysis of the official statistic data of WHO and the Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine.

Results

According to their functional purpose, the norms of the criminological legislation in the field of road safety can be divided into conceptual, programmatic, regulatory and preventive ones.

Conceptual norms include the norms through which the system of views and constructive ideas of the state about the road safety improving is revealed. The program norms of criminological legislation in the field of road safety include the provisions of documents aimed at the implementation of conceptual norms. Regulatory norms are the norms of legislation aimed at observing the rules, norms and standards for the operation of transport, ensuring the rules for organizing road safety and other prescriptions that determine the rules for road users. Preventive provisions include the norms of administrative and criminal legislation that determine responsibility for violations in the field of road safety and transport operation, thereby performing prophylactic and preventive functions.

Conclusions

Criminological legislation in the field of road safety is a separate structural element of the international legislation. The subject of legal regulation in this case is public relations in the field of regulation of the prophylaxis and prevention of offenses in the provision of road traffic.

Data Ownership in Training Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare

Mr. Artūrs Žukovs¹, Mr. Kristaps Upenieks²

1. Rīga Stradiņš University, 2. Obsidian Law Firm

Objectives

In the framework of this article, we research whether, according to the national regulation of Latvia, the data used in the training of artificial intelligence in medicine can be considered an object of property rights.

Materials and Methods

In order to achieve the set objective, Latvian regulatory enactments will be analyzed, for example, Civil Law and Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation).

An analytical and descriptive method will be used for the research. The analytical method will help analyze the data as a property term and determine its principles. Meanwhile, the descriptive method will describe the artificial intelligence technology definition and processes

Results

The work will clarify whether Latvia should provide a more transparent and fairer approach to patient data and their right to fully manage it, based on the examples of Finland and Belgium.

Conclusions

We cannot consider all personal data as a case in the context of civil law because it is difficult to determine the beginning and end of personal data. However, personal data obtained from an organization and stored in the personal cloud is considered a case. At the same time, by analogy, it can be concluded that ownership rights to data may also exist in other circumstances, depending on the type of data and its storage location. At the same time, the data subject, at the authors' discretion, can claim a proportional share of the goods created based on their data as owners of data ownership rights to the fruits, which in this case are the "knowledge" of the artificial intelligence system.

Development Trends of Criminology in Modern Society

*Dr. Andrejs Vilks*¹

1. Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives

The aim of the study is to find out the current development perspectives of criminology under the conditions of the transformation of modern society

Materials and Methods

Descriptive method, with the help of which the current state of criminology and its elements will be described, as well as an insight into the factors affecting it will be provided.

Results

In the system of social sciences, criminology, as an interdisciplinary science of crime, occupies a special place, outlining possible prospective development trends of society. Crime is becoming a global problem, in the knowledge of which criminology plays an important role in the development of prevention measures.

Today's complicated political, economic and informational communicative technological factors create an ambivalent environment that determines traditional and innovative criminal activities. The criminal environment, contrary to the actions of law enforcement agencies, does not know national and regional borders..Criminal activities are moving to the digital environment, where the recording and detection of criminal offenses is more complicated, but the obtained illegal means are more and more voluminous. The content of crime, its forms of expression, consequences of criminality, as well as public attitudes and evaluations in the field of criminal justice policy are transforming. At the same time, the police, prosecutor's office and courts and other institutions are not provided with sufficient resources for effective countermeasures against the expansion of transnational criminality..In the current conditions, criminology is developing as an interdisciplinary science using artificial intelligence, neurolaw, security architecture .

Conclusions

The perspectives of criminology as an interdisciplinary science are growing recognizing the processes in the contradictory trends of the society development, and considering new features of a criminal nature. Criminology must be developed as a strategic research direction, a constructive and effective crime prevention system, a highly professional, innovative academic-educational activity.

Digital Informed Consent in Organ Transplantation – Challenges and Opportunities

*Ms. Daniela Izotenko*¹

1. Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives

To explore and analyze information that can be found in various sources of law and scientific publications regarding digital consent in organ transplantation.

Materials and Methods

In the course of the research various sources of public-law, constitutional, administrative, health care etc. law and scientific publications were explored, considered and analyzed, by using inductive, deductive and comparative method.

Results

Transplantation is usually offered to increase either length or quality of life or both. The Constitution of the Republic of Latvia establishes the subjective public right of a person to be informed of his or her rights and obligations. The national law on patients' rights states that treatment is allowed if the patient has given informed consent. The recipient must understand the transplant procedure and its short- and long-term consequences, including an increased risk of death. Digital Transformation Framework 2021-2027 of the Republic of Latvia states that one of the aims is to ensure that the digital skills and competences of the Latvian healthcare workforce contribute to the implementation and use of high quality, efficient and ethically-sound digital solutions in the health sector. Using telemedicine could be a tool to inform patient about transplantation procedure in details by that making sure the digital consent is really informed. But Section 6 of Law On Doctors in Private Practice still states that medical treatment may not be performed by means of mass media and communication tools or in a written correspondence.

Conclusions

Digital consent holds much promise. In addition to inconsistencies in national laws, legislation does not regulate the informed aspect of digital consent. There is no clear understanding whether telemedicine can be used to provide more information about the transplant procedure, thus opening the door to digital consent.

Digital Marketing in Corporate Social Responsibility: Legal Challenges in the European Union

Dr. Santa Bormane¹, Dr. Marta Urbane¹

1. Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives

A corporate social responsibility policy, which often serves as self-regulation for businesses, is increasingly used to deal with issues of social and environmental ethics. One of the current issues of corporate social responsibility is digitalisation, specifically – the use of digital media channels for the attainment of business goals. There are numerous benefits in this regard: market penetration, development and expansion, product development, diversification, brand switching, relationship deepening etc. It therefore becomes increasingly popular to employ digital marketing methods towards reaching business goals. Still, an unskilful use of digital marketing may lead to several challenges and major risks which affect businesses and consumers on an individual level and the public in general. Hence, when it comes to business processes and product or service consumption in the context of corporate social responsibility, issues pertaining to collective social responsibility, legal aspects, and safety and health protection matters are among those to be raised from a social aspect.

The goal of the study is to identify challenges in the legal framework that affect the management of digital marketing by businesses in the context of corporate social responsibility based on an analysis of the regulatory framework governing digital marketing.

Materials and Methods

The methods used in the research are scientific literature analysis, legislation and case law analysis, secondary data analysis.

Results

The main results show that the legal framework in the European Union does not solve the main issues surrounding matters of social and environmental ethics.

Conclusions

There is no harmonisation among member states in some aspects: advertising, data protection, intellectual property protection etc. While the use of digital marketing has been found to bring many advantages to both businesses and consumers, there is still a lack of listing of issues, research and case studies, including case-law on the adverse effects faced by the public and the business environment.

Direct-to-Consumer Genetic Testing: Reconciling Consumer Protection and Medical Revolution Interests

*Mr. George Chakhvadze*¹, *Ms. Maninderjit Kaur Taneja*², *Ms. Tanvi Nagwan*²

1. Lithuanian Maritime Academy; RISEBA University of Applied Sciences; Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University and BAU International University, 2. BAU International University Batumi

Objectives

Direct-to-consumer genetic testing provides the consumer with access to their genetic information without necessarily involving a doctor in the process. As results are provided directly to the individual, they are not in your insurance or medical record (unless you share results with your healthcare professional).

DTC genomics raises three unique legal problems: regulation of its medical uses, disclosure, and use of a person's genetic information, and issues around unauthorized collection and analysis of a person's DNA.

Genetic privacy may be compromised if testing companies use your genetic information in an unauthorized way or if your data is stolen. Genetic screening might lead to discrimination against individuals possessing "inferior" genes. Also, that it may lead to reproductive decisions based on their child's genetics.

On one end of the spectrum is France, which essentially bans DTC genetic testing by limiting the use of genetic testing to specific health-related tests, mandating the involvement of healthcare professionals, and penalizing users of tests that do not fulfill these conditions.

On the other end are many countries that do not provide specific legislation on genetic testing. As a result, the only restrictions are those based on more general laws, usually regarding healthcare services and patients' rights.

The **main objectives of the research** are as follows:

- To analyze the benefits and limitations of the DTC
- To analyze main trends in law regarding DTC
- To provide recommendations and possible solutions

Materials and Methods

The research will mainly employ doctrinal method to study both existing instruments and standards related to direct-to-consumer genetic testing.

Conclusions

The research will specifically identify what constitutes the violation and suggest avenues on what should be done in both national legislations and case-law to rectify it by examining major trends in, among other things, international conventions, World Medical Association's guidelines, and case-law ensure compliance with global standards.

Effect of the Medical Device Regulatory Changes on Digital Solution Development and Healthcare Industry in the European Union

Ms. Līga Svempe¹

1. Doctoral Study Programme “Law”, Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives

The rapid technological advancement changes the healthcare industry: new digital solutions enter the market every day. Thus the regulation becomes particularly important to ensure patient safety, and it shall adjust to be relevant and adequate.

The EU regulation framework had been questioned previously and after experiencing various scandals, a new regulation has been introduced with more detailed requirements (EU 2017/745). However, due to the complexity of the new regulation there are various implications on software-as-a-medical-device (SAMD) development, and the objective was to identify the hindering factors.

Materials and Methods

A systematical literature review was conducted to identify how the regulation impacts various aspects of development, launch and marketing SAMD while being compliant to the MDR 2017/745. Then the identified hindering factors were consolidated into dimensions.

Results

The identified hindering factors were consolidated into 8 dimensions and their consequences were explored. It shows that currently Europe has lost its attractiveness and many manufacturers are actually reconsidering their business strategy in the light of the complex legal framework and requirements. Some manufacturers are discontinuing providing devices at all, others are leaving the EU market. Yet the rest of the devices in EU are expected to become more expensive and less available, thus eventually jeopardizing the overarching goal of patient safety, and undermining the efforts to increase high quality healthcare availability.

Conclusions

While the new MDR promised increased patient safety and regulatory oversight, the changes are already altering the medical device market. The manufacturers shall review their strategy, while policy-makers shall pay attention to the emerging problems in the industry and develop tools to support manufacturers.

Graphic Representation of the Easement Territory – Legal and Practical Aspects

Mrs. Jolanta Dinsberga¹

1. Faculty of Law, Rīga Stradiņš University; College and University of Economics and Culture; College of Business Administration; Albert College

Objectives

Establishing a road easement is one of the ways to ensure access to real estate that is not connected to public roads, ensuring the improvement and development of complex reachability in the Sustainable Development Strategy of Latvia until 2030 (Latvija2030). The graphic representation of the easement territory is a legally binding document, which is necessary for the consolidation and registration of road easement rights.

Materials and Methods

The goal is, as a result of the research of the legal regulations and practical development and application, to reflect the problems and peculiarities related to the content and form of the graphic representation of the easement territory, to draw conclusions and provide conceptual solutions to the identified problems. Used scientific research methods - descriptive, analytical, inductive and deductive and interpretation of legal norms - historical, grammatical, systemic and teleological.

Results

As a result of the conducted research, the author clarified the importance of the graphic representation of the easement territory in the process of establishing the road easement and reflected the problems related to it.

Conclusions

The current legal acts do not determine the legal status of the graphic representation of the easement territory, nor its content, no specific requirements for the design of the graphic representation have been set, and no specific subjects have been determined who are entitled to develop it. Therefore, sharp differences and/or deficiencies can be found in the graphic representations of the easement territory developed by various legal entities.

Implementation of Online Classes in Higher Education in Latvia – Multidisciplinary Analysis of the Current Legal Framework with Particular Focus on Legal Studies

Dr. Laura Ratniece¹

1. Rīga Graduate School of Law

Objectives

On the 11th of February 2022, the Cabinet of Ministers Regulations No 111 “On Organizing and Implementing Remote Learning” came into force, thus paving a way for further digitalization of education in Latvia. Pursuant to these Regulations, in the higher education up to 50% of the contact hours could take place in the form of remote learning. Although legal recognition of remote learning in the higher education in Latvia can overall be evaluated positively, there is a gap in the existing research regarding application of art. 4.4 of the above mentioned Regulations and what kind of legal and pedagogical challenges adoption of this norm has created for higher education institutions.

The aim of this multidisciplinary research is to analyse the current legal framework which regulates the study process in higher education institutions with the objective of identifying possible legal and pedagogical challenges which are connected to the implementation of online classes and providing suggestions on how to resolve these issues. In order to achieve the aim, the doctrinal legal research approach is combined with insights and examples from learning theories and pedagogy in general. Due to the limitations of this research, the focus is on legal studies.

One of the main conclusions of the research is that the broad formulation of art. 4.4 of the Regulations and the autonomy it gives to the higher education institutions might lead to a false impression that a part of the usual in-person study process can be transferred online without any in-depth legal and pedagogical considerations. The research concludes with several recommendations for amendments in the relevant legal acts and suggestions for both administrative staff of higher education institutions who decide on implementation of online classes and academic staff who conduct online classes.

Key words: remote learning, online classes, legal studies.

Importance of the Judicial Cooperation in Criminal Matters in the European Union with a Special Focus on Countering EU Threats and Crime More Effectively

*Mrs. Julija Muraru-Klucica*¹

1. Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives

To explore, consider and analyse various sources of law to identify the essence and importance of the established judicial cooperation in criminal matters system in the European Union for effective countering EU threats and crime.

Materials and Methods

In the course of the research various sources of international public law, European Union law, criminal, constitutional etc. law, official reports, as well case law were explored, considered, by using method of analyzing as well comparative and synthesis method.

Results

The paper reviews the development of the existed system of the judicial cooperation in criminal matters in the European Union demonstrating the importance of the mutual trust and implementation of mutual recognition principle combating cross-border crime in the European Union.

One of the priorities of the European Union that is established in Title V of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union in the frames of Union policies and internal actions is to constitute an area of freedom, security and justice with respect for fundamental rights and the different legal systems and traditions of the Member States.

The aim of this paper is to assess the effectiveness of existed institute of the judicial cooperation in criminal matters in view of combating the cross-border crime, as well to demonstrate current normative system of the European Union and its connective side with national criminal justice systems. Likewise, these policy orientations may appear when the question is raised in the context of overcoming the ongoing national divergences and complexities in the European Union judicial cooperation system.

Conclusions

The priority of establishing of justice area as one of the values of the creation of the European Union is still under the development. Therefore, for better protection of the rule of law there is a need to synchronize and harmonize the interaction between the EU approved standards and national systems.

Justified Damage in Healthcare – Concept, Scope, and Criteria

*Mrs. Marina Loseviča*¹, *Dr. Inga Kudeikina*²

1. University of Latvia, 2. Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives

Despite widespread legal enforcement of quality standards and patient safety principles, zero harm is still a goal in modern healthcare. In medical liability cases it is pivotal to establish the delinquent damage, and fault or wrongfulness of the healthcare professional. The authors aim to establish the scope of the justified damage in healthcare.

Materials and Methods

The authors analyze the issue of damage in healthcare from the civil and criminal law perspective and define the juridical criteria of justified damage.

Results

The criteria of the justified damage are:

- The professional-patient relationship were established (contractual or enforced by law);
- The professional did not commit a wrongdoing (and, therefore, has no wrongfulness) either crime (i.e., has no fault);
- The damage flowed from the treatment procedures - unfavorable events are an inevitable part of the any healthcare intervention (e.g., paralysis after polio vaccine, cardiopulmonary resuscitation and rib fractures). The patient, by consenting (and learning the summary of the product), accepts the risk (naturally, the professional is obliged to address and prevent it within fiduciary obligations, duty of care and duty to warn). As a part of the contract such damage is not delict.

Civilistic aspects that exclude wrongfulness:

1. The professional performed as an honest and careful manager. Events that go beyond such *pater familias* care are “accidental” or outside the scope of wrongfulness, that excludes civil liability. The duty of candour testifies the honesty and carefulness of the professional.
2. Excuses - accidental loss, *force majeure*, gross negligence of the plaintiff/contributory negligence;
3. Indirect loss.

Circumstances that exclude or mitigate criminal liability:

1. Circumstances excluding criminal liability;
2. Innocent harm infliction.

Conclusions

The assessment of the subjective side of the defendant and establishing the causality of the damage is central. In the case of candour the need for leniency application is straightforward.

Legal Aspects of Informed Consent and Personal Autonomy in Clinical Trials Involving Artificial Intelligence

*Mr. George Chakhvadze*¹, *Ms. Apneet Randhawa*², *Ms. Ishita Khanwaria*²

1. Lithuanian Maritime Academy; RISEBA University of Applied Sciences; Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University and BAU International University, 2. BAU International University Batumi

Objectives

Personal autonomy is at core of human rights and has been the basis for European convention of human rights. The development of new medical treatment is slow and expensive process. The European court of human rights included informed consent within its case law under article 8 European convention on human rights. There is no clear definition of informed consent but requires patient to understand what they consent to. For the best protection of personal autonomy under article 8 European court of human rights, patient must be informed about the use of artificial intelligence technology and objectives, risk , benefits and alternatives. Intelligent computer system as artificial intelligence technologies been more and more omnipresent, including in healthcare and thus clinical trials.

Accordingly, the main objectives of the research are as follows:

- a) To analyse the approaches that can be used to protect informed consent in other complex clinical trial situa-tion applied to use of opaque artificial intelligence technologies in clinical trial settings.
- b) To determine the measures that can be implemented to ensure that informed consent is protected when opaque artificial intelligence technologies are employed in clinical settings.
- c) To understand the case law on personal autonomy by the European court on human rights
- d) To identify the challenges arising when employing artificial intelligence technologies in clinical trials.

Materials and Methods

The research will mainly employ doctrinal method to study both existing instruments, standards related to health professionals as well as case-law on the artificial intelligence technologies .

Conclusions

Analysing main trends in, inter alia, international conventions, World Medical Association's guidelines and case-law, the research will explicitly determine exactly what constitutes the violation and suggest avenues on what should be done in both national legislations and case-law to ensure conformity with international standards.

Legal Characteristics of Marketing Agreements in Ukraine's Pharmacy

Prof. Vitalii Pashkov¹

1. National Academy of Law Sciences of Ukraine

Objectives

The peculiarities of the marketing contracts use in pharmacy activities in Ukraine contribute to the improper performance of their duties by pharmaceutical and medical professionals, which consists in the promotion of certain products, sometimes dangerous for the health of a particular patient or not having the necessary therapeutic effect. The first case may involve the dispensing of prescription drugs without a doctor's prescription, while the second case involves the imposition of products without the proper therapeutic effect on the patient. In this case, we are talking about "dietary supplements".

Materials and Methods

The above study analyzes the legal regulations and positions of scientists. This study analyzes the activities of pharmacies and pharmaceutical manufacturers through questionnaires. Marketing agreements between pharmaceutical manufacturers and pharmacies were analyzed. The judicial practice and law-enforcement practice of the Antimonopoly Committee of Ukraine were investigated.

Results

During studies, including through questioning of pharmaceutical professionals and representatives, it was found that pharmaceutical products in Ukraine were overpriced by 40 - 60% due to the use of marketing agreements. In addition, a large segment of the market of pharmacies' retail sales on doctors' advice (under the guise of medicines) are products that are not registered as medicines. We are talking about dietary supplements.

Conclusions

Thus, in the pharmaceutical market of Ukraine in recent years there has been an increase in the prices of pharmaceutical products for end users (patients and medical institutions), including in connection with the incorrect use of marketing contracts that force pharmaceutical manufacturers to shift the burden of additional costs on the shoulders of end consumers. That is, manufacturers, in order not to remain at a loss, under pressure from large pharmacy chains and the monopolized market are forced to inflate the price by up to 60% and give these percentages to pharmacy chains.

Legal Framework and Challenges of Patient Safety Incident Reporting-Learning System – Healthcare Students’ Perspective

*Ms. Andreta Slavinska*¹, *Dr. Karina Palkova*², *Prof. Aigars Pētersons*³

1. Medical Education Technology Centre, Rīga Stradiņš University, 2. Rīga Stradiņš University, 3. Department of Paediatric Surgery, Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives

Regulation (EU) 2021/522 enhancing access to quality, patient-centred, outcome-based healthcare and related care services take an important role in high quality care centred healthcare. WHO states that “high quality care” is care that is safe, effective, people-centred, timely, efficient, equitable and integrated. **Safety is one aspect of quality** healthcare.

At the same time the Council Recommendation 2009/C 151/01 promotes the education of healthcare workers on patient safety, first of all in undergraduate education. **The concept of patient safety includes a patient safety incident reporting-learning system**, which means that this component must be integrated into the study process – during the students’ clinical placement.

The aim of the research is to analyse the legal framework on how to integrate a patient safety incident reporting and learning system among medical students in clinical placement.

Materials and Methods

The methods of interpretation of legal norms were applied in the research to analyse national and international regulation

Results

National regulations requires that medical institutions must implement and maintain a non-identifying **internal** patient safety incident reporting-learning system. But given that a student on clinical placement in a healthcare institution is not automatically granted the same rights as employees, it can be assumed that it is impossible for a student to report patient safety incidents and receive feedback on the causes to learn from them. Patient safety incident reporting and learning system was integrated during the clinical placement, which was organised in a simulated hospital format in the simulation centre. 140 patient’s safety incidents were registered during the period of two weeks.

Conclusions

To improve the quality of care centred healthcare the educational institutions shell develop and integrate a **Clinical Placement Patient Safety Incident Reporting- Learning System** into clinical placement. The integrated system could prevent and reduce risks, errors and harm that could occur to patients during provision of health care.

Legal Perspective of the New Local Government Law – New Challenges or Lack of Democracy

*Mr. Juris Radzevics*¹

1. Faculty of Law, Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives

1 July 2021 came into force of the new administrative-territorial reform provided for merging 119 municipalities and composing new municipalities out of them. At the moment there are in Latvia 43 municipalities. It means the enlargement of municipalities and at the same time decreasing in representatives from local communities. As a result, the local government is moving away from the population and becoming estranged.

On 1 January 2023 coming into force, the Local Governments law implements a new institution - the council of residents. The law also states rules of establishment and competence of councils. On 1 January 2023 coming into force, the Local Governments law has been implemented a new institution - the council of residents. The purpose of the research is to examine the council of residents compliance with the principles of a democratic state.

Materials and Methods

The study evaluates legal acts, case - law, and conclusions of research papers. It uses general scientific and legal research methods, as well as methods for interpreting legal norms.

Results

True democracy demands considering the interests of the population. Analyzing the impact of the principle of subsidiarity on the procedure of a decision-making process it is possible to conclude that this way can involve a higher number of inhabitants in the governance of state issues. Thus, it gives a chance to identify the needs of a community.

Conclusions

- By reducing the representation of residents in the local councils, the council of residents should serve as a compensatory mechanism.
- Unlike the municipal council, it is a collective advisory institution with limited competence and is recognized as one sort of inhabitant participation.
- The council of residents cannot substitute the local government of the local community and it is necessary to scrutiny the practice of performing the mentioned provisions keeping a focus on the aim of representative democracy.

Legally Questionable Application of Psychiatric Treatment without Consent to Persons Who Are Limited in Self-Care Ability

Mrs. Solvita Olsena¹

1. University of Latvia

Objectives

The overall objective of this paper is to present the legally questionable application of psychiatric treatment without consent in Latvian hospitals towards persons having various personal difficulties with self-care. The paper aims to highlight legal insufficiencies that may lead to substantial human rights violations in psychiatry and suggest necessary amendments in the law and practice.

Materials and Methods

The study is part of the research project “Towards a human rights approach for mental health patients with a limited capacity: A legal, ethical and clinical perspective”, No. lzp-2020/1-0397. Legal research was done by applying the doctrinal research method. International and national mental health laws were studied. The empirical data collected by the Ombudsman of Latvia and the CoE CPT in Latvian psychiatric hospitals were studied as well.

Results

The Medical Treatment law, Art. 68 part 2, permits the application of psychiatric treatment without consent to a patient who indicates an inability to care for him or herself in case the mental disorder can lead to unavoidable and severe deterioration of the person’s health. The empirical data presented by human rights institutions reveal that treatment without consent to persons with various disabilities is applied regularly. Such an approach is legally questionable from a human rights perspective and not in line with principles stated in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Such an approach could be discriminatory and may unlawfully limit a person’s personal freedom and integrity.

Conclusions

To respect and protect the human rights of people with mental difficulties in psychiatry, there is an urgent need to amend Latvian law and change current practices concerning treating persons who cannot care for themselves due to their mental health difficulties.

Necessity of the Law on Financial Transactions

Ms. Tatjana Jukna¹

1. Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives

The purpose of the papers is to argue for a new law on financial transactions, using repo transactions as an example.

Materials and Methods

For the achieving of the results various standard scientific methods are used, among them are the study of the applicability of the fundamental concepts of civil law to the characterisation and legal description of repo transaction, analysis of (a) Latvian practice and domestic repo contracts, (b) problematics and possible place of the repo transaction in the system of the Latvian law.

Results

Repo could be characterised as synallagmatic consensual financial transaction of the real nature, constructed as two mutual sales under umbrella of one transaction, in which loan either in cash or securities is exchanged against title transfer collateral. Repo is quite similar to the repurchase transaction stipulated in the the articles 2054-2059 of the Latvian Civil Law. However, (i) while repurchase transaction is being consensual, the repo should be recognised as real transaction (due its collateral nature), (ii) the effect (status of ownership rights) in repurchase is unknown till the certain moment in future (date when rights to repurchase are utilised or expire), while the effect of repo is predictable - ownership in result of the transaction must remain with the initial seller.

Conclusions

All aforementioned, as well other significant aspects allow to conclude that repo is an autonomous type of trans-action which is not specified in the Latvian law, as well as various other financial transactions such as contracts for differences, futures, swaps and other. The complex structure of transaction, lack of the knowledges among practicing lawyers and significant deviancies in understanding of the legal nature leads to the uncertainty of the outcomes in such transactions. But at the same time future economical developments requires certainty and new Law on Financial Transactions should help to improve situation in general.

Origin and Modern Legal Existence of the Concept of Force Majeure

*Mr. Osvalds Joksts*¹

1. Faculty of Law, Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives

To explore, consider and analyze information that can be found in various sources of law regarding the phenomenon of force majeure.

Materials and Methods

In the course of the research various sources of civil-private, criminal, administrative, constitutional etc. law were explored, considered and analyzed, by using inductive, deductive and comparative method.

Results

The processes of nature development are always companions of force majeure both historically and nowadays. Even in Roman law, there were explanations of the concept of force majeure which concern special natural phenomena and which can manifest as natural elements and also as social phenomena overcoming of which was not always possible. In modern Latvian law, the legal manifestations of force majeure and its phenomena are noted in several articles of the Civil Law, such as Article 492 on inheritance rights, Articles 1347 and 1349 on hand pledge, Article 1657 on debtor's default, Article 1773 and Article 2233 on compensation for damages, Article 1998 on the innkeeper's liability, Article 2147 on lease and rental issues, Article 2220 on business risks, Article 2347 on compensation in cases of personal injury etc. Force majeure is respected also in competition law, when it comes to establishment of significant damage and losses in the context of competition or procurement etc.

Conclusions

Nowadays, the legal explanations of force majeure must be corresponded respecting the legal regulation of various sub-branches of law, because in civil law, criminal law, administrative law and other sub-branches of law property and personal non-property relationships will always appear. The consequences of which could be related to damage or loss of property. Likewise, the phenomenon of force majeure may also manifest itself in the context of state and constitutional law.

Positive Criminology: An Innovative Approach to Crime Prevention in Latvia

*Dr. Aldona Kīpāne*¹

1. Faculty of Law, Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives

The aim of the study is to describe the content of positive criminology by analyzing the preventive methods and means aimed at the resocialization of a criminal. It should be acknowledged that criminal rehabilitation is a challenging objective that requires continuous and creative innovations. Positive criminology is a perspective linked to various theories and models, integrated influences with two common features: firstly, the individuals treated (the target individuals) as positive; secondly, it can help those individuals to refrain from criminal or deviant behaviour (Ronel&Elish, 2011).

Materials and Methods

The study is based on the analysis of specialized literature. The analytical and descriptive research methods are used in the study. The findings and opinions of various scientists and specialists, as well as the conclusions drawn during the study, form the basis of the study. The results of the study can be used by both theorists and practitioners in the field of criminology.

Results

Positive criminology emphasizes social inclusion, combining preventive actions and exposure forces, integrating in the individual, group, social and spiritual dimensions. Researchers point out that positive criminology is based on the belief that integration and positive impacts on life, which help people developing personally and socially, reduce the risk of criminal behaviour and improve the recovery of criminals (Ronel&Elisha, 2011).

Conclusions

Positive criminology is a relatively new subsector of criminology. It expands the perspectives of traditional criminology, which mainly focuses on understanding the factors and processes of crime, type of crime and crime, which lead to the criminal behaviour of individuals and members of social groups.

Positive criminology emphasizes social inclusion, combining preventive actions and exposure forces, integrating in the individual, group, social and spiritual dimensions.

Potential of Legal Tech for Energy Justice Legislation

Ms. Judith Kärn¹

1. Interdisciplinary Centre for Baltic Sea Region Research, Energy Cluster, University of Greifswald

Objectives

Using the example of energy justice discourses, this paper examines the potential that automated text analysis strategies can play for the identification of discourses of justice and, based on this, for legislative proposals for different levels of governance. While various proposals for the conceptualization of the term “energy justice” have already emerged in academia (e.g. Jenkins et al. 2016), there is still no consensus on how energy justice can be defined, nor on how energy justice discourses can be included in concrete legislative proposals. The article thus focuses on the potential of legal tech in the context of the analysis of social justice discourses as a basis for legislation.

Materials and Methods

First, it is examined which kind of data sources are suitable in a legal tech context understood in this way. Subsequently, justice discourses in the context of energy justice are identified on the basis of municipal council minutes of German municipalities on the basis of quantitative text analysis methods.

Results

Finally, the potential of such legal tech analysis methods for legislative efforts in the multi-level governance system will be critically discussed.

Conclusions

Finally, the potential of such legal tech analysis methods for legislative efforts in the multi-level governance system will be critically discussed.

(I just started working on the paper, so I cannot provide you with results and conclusions yet. But I’m super-interested in the topic and will be able to present results and conclusions at the time of the conference)

Prerequisites for Preservation of Papillae Pattern Prints on Skin of a Dead Person

*Ms. Aelita Zīle*¹

1. Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives

To study and analyse prerequisites for preservation of papillae pattern prints on skin of a dead person.

Materials and Methods

Study and analysis of scientific literature was made. The following theoretical cognitive methods were used in the study: historical method, comparative method, inductive and deductive methods, modeling.

Results

As a result of the study the conditions necessary to be observed when carrying out an inspection of a corpse at the scene and packing it for further transportation to the expert institution were identified.

Conclusions

As a result of the study it was established that in compliance with the necessary prerequisites for preservation of papillae pattern prints on the corpse there are also risk factors for preservation of these potential papillae pattern prints patterns when transporting / moving the corpse.

Principle of Protection of Legitimate Expectations in Public Procurements

*Dr. Anatolijs Krivins*¹

1. Department of Law, Daugavpils University

Objectives

A private person may have confidence that the action of an institution will be legal and consistent. An institution's error for the occurring of which a private person cannot be held at fault may not cause unfavourable consequences for the private person. Legal entities and associations participating in public procurement are also entitled to take advantage of this principle.

The objective of the work is to analyze the Principle of Protection of Legitimate Expectations in Public procurements, to study the most important opinions on the application of the principle in practice, to identify problems and risks, as well as to recommend solutions.

Materials and Methods

Materials and Methods: Scientific literature, laws and regulations and legal practice materials have been used in this study. In the development of the paper, the following research methods were applied – analytical, comparative, teleological, semantic, grammatical, and systemic method.

Results

The results of the study give insight into the understanding of this principle in national legislation, and indicate a need for an in-depth legal analysis in the main groups of cases: withdrawal of a public announcement of a procurement procedure; cancellation of the act of awarding an open tender; violation of the terms of the procurement documentation; changing the goals and needs of the customer; illegal collusion of bidders; provision of improper documents; termination of the activities of the customer or contractor; Force Majeure; repeal of legislative acts of the state or normative acts of self-government.

Conclusions

The author has identified several criteria that can be taken into account when looking at specific disputes in public procurement, namely: the urgency of the need; public interest; the guilt of the person, his intentions or bad faith; risks for investment; business viability; stage of the public procurement process; arbitration practice; expected delay given the number of administrative procedures.

Private Corruption in Pharmaceutical Sector

Prof. Nataliya Gutorova¹

1. Yaroslav Mudryi National Law University

Objectives

The article aims to raise awareness of and stimulate serious discussion about the necessity to improve the anti-corruption legal means in the pharmaceutical sector by optimizing legal regulation of this activity and criminal liability for privacy corruption in healthcare.

Materials and Methods

The study used international legal acts on combating corruption, Acquis communautaire, legal acts of Ukraine, Germany, and Poland, the practice of their application, questionnaires, and interviews of Ukrainian pharmacists. Dialectical, comparative, analytical, synthetic, and complex research methods were used.

Results

Private corruption in the pharmaceutical sector has a high level of commonality. However, for countries with economies in transition, its influence is strong and such that it has a significant negative impact on public health. An analysis of the situation in Ukraine and Germany showed that unscrupulous marketing manifests private corruption. It manifests itself in the bribing of medical workers by pharmaceutical companies and is carried out through the system of medical representatives. Ukraine has a high level of private corruption in the wholesale and retail trade in medicines. Such corruption is due to the high monopolization of medicines' wholesale and retail trade. It manifests itself in collecting and receiving illegal remuneration for the sale of pharmaceutical products. Unlike Ukraine, in Germany and Poland, there are legal restrictions on the implementation of pharmaceutical activities, which makes this type of corruption almost impossible.

Conclusions

Private corruption in the pharmaceutical sector requires special attention from the state and the medical and pharmaceutical community. The legislation in this sector should demonopolize pharmaceutical activities. Establishing and applying criminal law regulation in this area is also necessary. The task of the community of medical and pharmaceutical professionals is to develop ethical standards and principles in the field of healthcare.

Processing of Employees Biometric Data in Employment Legal Relations

*Mrs. Agnese Reine*¹

1. Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives

The aim of this article is to analyse whether the employer has the right to process the employee's biometric data in employment legal relations. General Data Protection Regulation sets special conditions regarding the processing of biometric data, which determine only very limited situations when this type of personal data may be legally processed. In order to process biometric data in employment legal relations, it is necessary to evaluate both the relations between the employer and the employee, which are mostly evaluated as subordinate relations, as well as the compatibility of the legal relations with the legal basis on which the data processing is carried out.

Materials and Methods

In the article, the author uses methods of interpretation of legal acts - grammatical method, systemic interpretation method as well as teleological interpretation method in order to analyse the legal regulation of personal data processing in employment legal relationship.

Results

The processing of biometric data in employment legal relations is carried out for various purposes, e.g., to provide access to the employer's premises, to provide unique access to the devices issued to the employee, as well as for other purposes. The employer is obliged to evaluate whether it is not possible to achieve the purpose using other technological means, so that the processing of the employee's biometric data does not have to be carried out, taking into account that biometric data provides unique personal identification.

Conclusions

The article reveals that despite the fact that in specific situations the employer is entitled to process the employee's biometric data, in order to ensure legitimate data processing, several circumstances must be evaluated, as well as the influence of the principle of subordination of the employer and the employee on the processing of such personal data, for example, obtaining the employee's consent to data processing.

Protection of Patients' Rights in the Provision of Telemedicine Services

*Mr. Rafaels Ciekurs*¹

1. Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives

Telemedicine is a more important healthcare service. The service became particularly important during the COVID-19 pandemic, when public health risks were very high. The provision of health services made use of telemedicine, thus reducing the spread of the virus in the community. To provide a health service, a non-discriminatory, accessible service to all persons must be considered. Respecting equal rights of patients in health care. Telemedicine is provided in different ways - by video, telephone or other technological means. Telemedicine is widely used in remote healthcare consultations, where patients are allowed to send information to healthcare providers for review and analysis, as well as for providers to remotely monitor the patient's health status. Telemedicine has many advantages; accessibility of the service, reduced costs, while telemedicine may pose challenges for some populations. Without addressing the problems, telemedicine risks becoming inaccessible.

Materials and Methods

In the paper interpreted the legal provisions. The peculiarities of application and made proposals for improvement of normative regulations. The descriptive, analytical and deductive-inductive methods have been used in the work. Using these methods, the legislation has been analysed, the opinions of legal scholars have been recorded, conclusions have been drawn and proposals have been made. The methods are used to describe specific problems. The study also uses systematic review, and extraction, of thematic literature review.

Results

Nowadays, telemedicine service is increasingly used as a healthcare service, however, there are no defined requirements in national legislation for the provision of this service, requirements that must be fulfilled by the service provider to make the service accessible to all patient groups, including patients with special needs.

Conclusions

The requirements for the provision of a telemedicine service need to be discussed and defined at national level, based on the need for the service, so that it is non-discriminatory and accessible to all persons.

Reasons for Initiating Proceedings Regarding Criminally Acquired Property

*Mr. Andrejs Nikiforovs*¹

1. Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives

The current regulation in the Republic of Latvia provides the possibility to forfeiture not only physical evidence or criminally obtained property, but also absolutely legally obtained property. However, a possible situation may arise in which allegedly criminally acquired property is subject to confiscation, even though the owner is confident of the legal origin of his property.

Criminal forfeiture is “*in personam*” that is, against the person; it can be invoked only after the property owner has been convicted of certain types of crimes. Civil forfeiture is “*in rem*” that is, against the thing; it is directed at property that has been used illegally. So called Civil forfeiture in Latvia is regulated by Chapter 59 of Criminal Procedure Law - the Proceedings Regarding Criminally Acquired Property (hereinafter also – CAP Proceeding). In accordance with Section 626 of Criminal Procedure Law it is exclusive right of an investigator to separate the materials from a criminal case re to initiate CAP Proceedings if the following conditions exist: 1) the totality of evidence provides grounds to believe that the property is criminally acquired or related to a criminal offence; 2) due to objective reasons, the transferal of the criminal case to court is not possible in the near future.

There could be several objective reasons to initiate CAP Proceeding before general criminal case will be revised by the court, and there shall be an adequate proof to believe that the property is of criminal origin.

Roman Law and Legal Regulation of Gambling Phenomenon

Mr. Allars Apsītis¹, Mr. Osvalds Joksts¹

1. Faculty of Law, Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives

To explore, consider and analyze information that can be found in the original sources of Roman law in relation to gamblers and games of chance.

Materials and Methods

In the course of the research, the primary sources of Roman law - the Code of Justinian (Codex Iustinianus, C3.43.tit.) and the Digest (Digesta, D11.5.tit.) were explored, considered and analyzed by using inductive, deductive and comparative method.

Results

Just as nowadays, the Ancient Roman society also suffered from negative effects of spread of various games of chance. The sources indicate age-old nature and truly international, multicultural character of the phenomenon of spread of gambling. (C3.43.1.pr.)

Gambling places had been characterized by a tense criminogenic situation. The sources talk about violent robberies (D11.5.1.1) and other types of violence (D11.5.1.pr.,D11.5.1.2,D11.5.1.4,D11.5.2.pr.), thefts (D11.5.1.3,D11.5.1.2), fraudulent activities (D11.5.1.pr) etc.

Considering the above mentioned circumstances Roman state power came to the conclusion regarding the need to legally regulate gambling. Thus the Code of Justinian (Codex Iustinianus, 529./534.AD) contains appropriate legal norms - constitutions issued by the emperor Justinian I (Flavius Petrus Sabbatius Justinianus Augustus, 483.AD–565.AD) (see C3.43.1.pr.-C3.43.2.2).

Actually, there were attempts to regulate gambling even before Justinian. Thus, the sources contain an indication regarding a pre-existing regulatory act issued by the Roman Senate on the prohibition of gambling for money. (D11.5.2.1)

Gambling-related issues were resolved by Roman praetors. (see e.g. D11.5.1.pr.,D11.5.1.3,D11.5.1.4).

The sources mention specific laws of the Roman Republic. (D11.5.3)

The problems arising from the phenomenon of the spread of gambling were addressed by the representatives of classical jurisprudence (iurisprudentia, I-III centuries AD) – so-called privileged jurists. (see: D11.5.1.pr.,D11.5.1.1,D11.5.1.2,D11.5.1.3, D11.5.1.4,D11.5.2.pr.,D11.5.2.1, D11.5.3,D11.5.4.pr.,D11.5.4.1,D11.5.4.2)

Conclusions

It can be assumed that in the course of the historical development of the Ancient Roman state, there was almost always one or another mode of legal regulation of the gambling phenomenon, or at least some elements of such regulation.

Roman Law Real Servitudes as Predecessors to Modern-Day Latvia's "Ceļa servitūts" – "Servitude of Right of Way"

Mr. Allars Apsītis¹, Mrs. Jolanta Dinsberga¹, Mrs. Dace Tarasova¹

1. Faculty of Law, Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives

To explore, consider and analyze information that can be found in the original sources of Roman law in relation to real servitudes as a predecessors to modern-day Latvia's "Ceļa servitūts" (Latvian) – "Servitude of Right of Way".

Materials and Methods

Within the framework of the research, studies and analysis of the primary sources of Roman Law – The Code of Justinian (Codex Iustinianus , C 3.34. tit.), The Digest (Digesta, D 8.1–6. tit.), The Institutes of Justinian (Iustiniani Institutiones, I 2.3. tit.) were performed, mostly by applying inductive, deductive and comparative methods.

Results

Modern-day Latvia's "Civillikums" (Latvian) – The Civil Law of 1937 demonstrates rather direct influence of Roman private law.

In accordance with Roman legal tradition, the The Civil Law speaks about "Ceļa servitūts" (Latvian) – "Servitude of Right of Way" by means of which rights may be granted: 1) to a footpath; 2) to a livestock path; and 3) to a roadway, (see: The Civil Law article 1156).

It should be noted that, according to sources of Roman law, for addressing the needs of land-based logistics in case of rural properties (estates) (rusticorum praediorum), a number of real servitudes or rights could be established: servitude of path (iter), servitude of (cattle) driving (actus), servitude of way / road (via) (see I 2.3.pr., D 8.3.1. pr., D 8.3.12, D 8.3.7.pr. etc.)

Conclusions

The legal regulation of the establishment, use and termination of real servitudes (easements) established in Roman law has conceptually preserved its essence and content up to the present day and paradoxically still has not lost its relevance. In any case, modern legal norms are much better understood by being aware of and understanding the Ancient Roman origins of the legal ideas contained in them.

Securing Rights of the Child in the Era of Digitalisation

Ms. Ilze Berzina¹

1. Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives

Objectives of the research is to highlight the unique and constantly developing situation concerning the availability of harmful and violent content to the Child which is freely available online. Constant increasing of time spent online not only for adults, but also for children, is becoming a problematic in many aspects: health, violent and even harmful sexual content. All of this is leading to the violation of human rights and rights of the Child.

Materials and Methods

Author is giving an analysis from the three perspectives: 1) out to date or idealistic, not corresponding to reality international law and local law about the usage of internet by children; 2) Mobile applications and their usage for prevention methods as one of the tool, but not always or rarely used by the parents 3) Human factor and other circumstances affecting the situation concerning securing the rights of the child online

Results

Result of the research is an interesting material about the total conflict between the legal presumptions and actual use of internet by the children as well as an illusion about the control from adults to avoid violent or harmful content. For example, initially in GDPR it was planned that WhatsApp will be used only starting from the age of 14th, but nowadays it is widely used starting from the age of 7 or even earlier. Law can't control the actual usage of the internet by children.

Conclusions

Author is giving her conclusions from the three perspectives: 1) examples of out to date or idealistic, not corresponding international law and local law; 2) characteristic of Mobile applications and their usage for prevention methods as one of the tool, but not always used by the parents 3) her conclusions about Human factor and other circumstances affecting the situation concerning securing the rights of the child and human rights online

Technological Solutions for Visualisation of Latent Papillae Pattern Prints on Human Skin

*Ms. Aelita Zīle*¹

1. Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives

To study and analyze technological solutions for visualization of latent papillae pattern prints.

Materials and Methods

Study and analysis of scientific literature and previous research was made. The following theoretical cognitive methods were used in the study: historical method, comparative method, inductive and deductive methods.

Results

The positive and negative aspects of the applied methods and materials were identified in the course of studying of technologies of visualization of latent papillae pattern prints on human skin.

Conclusions

As a result of the study it was established that the choice of appropriate technology for visualization of latent papillae pattern prints on human skin is influenced by a number of factors.

The Right to Medical Care: Realities of the Russian-Ukrainian War

*Mrs. Tetiana Mykhailichenko*¹

1. Poltava Law Institute of the Yaroslav Mudryi National Law University

Objectives

The Objective is to study observance of the right to medical care, using as the example the Russian-Ukrainian war.

Materials and Methods

This research is based on regulation acts, scientific articles and media messages. Such methods as dialectical, comprehensive and content-analysis methods.

Results

It has been established that Russia has been violating the IHL since 2014. Especially active messages about this began to arrive after 24/02/2022. There are 3 known facts of violation of the right of the civilians to medical care by the Russian army and the occupation authorities: 1) residents of the occupied part of Ukraine after 24/02/2022 are forced to go to the occupied Crimea to receive medical care. But a person must have a ru-policy, which is issued only to those who received a passport of a citizen of the RF. If a Ukrainian citizen refuses to obtain ru-citizenship, the person remains without the possibility to legally receive medical care; 2) in the Crimea local hospitals were converted into military hospitals, parts of equipment, cars were given for the needs of the military; 3) initially, in Melitopol the ru-military took 70% of the medical beds under their military hospital. Later, they took all hospitals in the Zaporizhya region.

Conclusions

The Russian-Ukrainian war is actively destroying adopted in the 20th century the rules of warfare. At this stage of the research, while the active phase of the war is still ongoing, it is possible to first of all examine only the publications of the mass media, however, they also testify to the systematic violations of the RF. The lack of a quick and effective protection mechanism leads to the fact that civilians increasingly feel defenseless. Therefore, it seems that the world community should review existing approaches and establish more effective means of protecting human rights.

Use of Digital Devices in Road Traffic Control – a Threat to the Principle of Proportionality

*Mr. Juris Matisāns*¹

1. Faculty of Law, Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives

It is undeniable that the digitalization of road traffic control has become an integral part of the daily life of the police and drivers. The benefits of digital devices used in road traffic control are also undeniable. However, this article is devoted to the potential risks associated with the use of these devices. The purpose of the article is to draw attention to the potential risks if, along with the digitization and automation of control measures, the procedures to be performed by the personnel involved in the control measures and the legal system are not properly adjusted. One of the most significant risks is related to the possibility of applying disproportionately harsh penalties.

Materials and Methods

The article is based on the research of the practice of the national and European Court of Justice regarding the use of digital road traffic control devices, as well as the research of the system of national and European legal norms, supplemented by the analysis of specialist publications.

Results

It can be concluded that there is a diversity of opinions in the area of the principle of proportionality of penalties in relation to violations in road traffic recorded by digital devices. At the same time, it can be concluded that the threat to the principle of proportionality is not created by the devices themselves, but by gaps in the system of substantive and procedural legal norms, which are insufficiently adapted to new conditions.

Conclusions

Amendments to the Law on Administrative Responsibility and industry legislation are necessary to prevent the possibility of one continuous violation being considered as several separate violations, as well as the possibility of creating separate sets of violations that completely overlap.

Violation of the Right to Information in the Conditions of Russia's Armed Aggression against Ukraine

Dr. Nataliia Netesa ¹, Dr. Vladyslava Batyrgareieva ¹

1. Academician Stashis Scientific Research Institute for the Study of Crime Problems National Academy of Law Sciences of Ukraine

Objectives

In the conditions of hybrid war, information is an integral element of physical armed attacks, illegal actions with which precede, take place in parallel or take on the character of “aftereffects” in the form of fake news about the purpose of armed aggression. At the same time, such actions are a gross violation of the right of any person to information, that becomes fundamental in the conditions of global informatization.

Materials and Methods

The study is based on dialectical, comparative, analytical, synthetic, sociological (interview), statistical methods, content analysis of telegram channels and posts in the Internet. A survey was also conducted among security officials and the population of the Ukrainian territories liberated from occupation (2022, Ukraine). The theoretical basis is special literature on law, criminology, sociology.

Results

The most common forms of violation of the right to information are the blocking of access to information, as well as spreading false information. The main methods of blocking access to information are cyberattacks on the infrastructure of companies that provide telecommunication services, with the aim of disabling their equipment and thus making it impossible for the civilian population to receive reliable information about the progress of the war. The spread of false information most often occurs through socially dangerous activity in social networks and messenger channels. The specified forms of violation of the right to information can be committed both independently and in combination.

Conclusions

The full-scale Russia's war against Ukraine is multi-component, aimed at gaining an advantage in the information space and involves the simultaneous or sequential execution of cyberattacks, armed physical attacks, as well as informational and psychological attacks, that play the role of a catalyst for increasing the destructive effect. This requires the development of a system of measures to counteract such cases in order to neutralize or at least weaken the negative effects.

Social Anthropology

Between Work and Family – Experiences of International Scholars in Japan and Latvia

*Dr. Ieva Puzo*¹

1. Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives

In this presentation, I examine the tension between two contradictory factors shaping the (im)mobility of research workers. On the one hand, scholars face the demands of the dominant regimes of knowledge production, which increasingly prioritize short-term employment contracts and expect researchers to move across borders from one position and institution to another. On the other hand, many scholars struggle to balance their work and personal lives and consider the building and maintenance of close relationships important.

Materials and Methods

Semi-structured interviews with international scholars in Japan and Latvia as well as other ethnographic data.

Results

I suggest that researchers consider personal relationships and kin ties an important factor when making decisions about their potential employment locales. As the narratives of my interlocutors reveal, researchers often make decisions to move to or, importantly, remain in places significant to their family members—and places that may enable the creation of new kin ties or the maintenance of already established ones.

Conclusions

The findings described in the paper destabilize the oft-accepted assumptions about the “ideal” research career path and “desirable” locales of knowledge production, highlighting the importance of family-focused rationales when it comes to making decisions about one’s work life.

Chefs in the Making: Restaurant Kitchen Rituals, Liminality & Kinship

Dr. Nafsika Papacharalampous¹

1. SOAS, University of London

Objectives

This paper presents an ethnography of fine-dining restaurant kitchens in Athens, Greece and analyses the process of becoming a cook. Based on months spent as an apprentice cook, I draw from Turner's work into liminality and Carsten's on kinship and reflect on restaurant literature. I argue that the becoming of a cook is a multi-faceted process that includes not only the learning of skills, techniques, sensory and culinary abilities, but also the transformation of individuals at a deeper personal level of identity with a ritual-like process. By navigating how cooks go through liminality and become I reveal the formation of kinship bonds which emerge from the sharing of subtle and complex substances and sensorial experiences, which are a result of and integral in the making of a cook. To this end, this paper offers a deep analysis of professional cooking and a useful lens through which to better understand ideas around relatedness at the workplace.

Dimorphism vs. Non-Binaries: How Applied Studies Inform Philosophy of Knowledge

*Dr. Yevgeny Brazul-Bruszkowski*¹

1. Independent Researcher

Objectives

Concepts of both sex dimorphism and gender non-binarism along with all-too-common patologisation of differences and variations within the areas of sex and gender are based upon the deep-rooted pro-reproductive bias, i.e., upon the idea that reproductive function is *the* teleology of human sexuality. As shown in Zieminska's (2018), situation of intersex persons does not always require 'normalisation' procedures ranging from hormonal regulation to surgical intrusion. Their psychological well-being and quality of their social, sexual, and erotic life suffers, first, from binary-gender social stratification, second, from the adherence of most of the health professionals to the superficial and outdated concept of binary sex *opposition*. It also subjected to the norm/pathology discourse in which the norm is not only the most wide-spread model, but also the most desirable/preferred one for the strictly gendered society ensuring the preservation of its reproductive order and power divisions (*dividi et impera*).

Studying the seemingly particular, applied problems of intersexuality and poly-dimensionality of the notion of sex we ascend to the level of methodology of science and address these methodological issues not from the position of scientific internalism (following Laudan's (1980) distinction) but in the space of social methodology. It requires studying how the existent knowledge and social practices define not only a particular scientific paradigm but also scientific discourse in general and its very ontology. We must admit, though, that this very discourse is intrinsically contradictory.

It is impossible to present feasible arguments against the procedures of surgical, hormonal, and therapeutic 'normalisation' of intersex and non-binary individuals as long as sexual and gender discrimination remains unopposed, and binary stratification system of sex-role relations – unquestioned, particularly, in medical and wider academic environment.

Epistemological Error in Scaling Kinship and Wage Labour Ties: Differences-Similarities between State/Wage Labour Loyalties & Extended Family Loyalties

*Mr. Dirck Van Bekkum*¹

1. Moira CTT www.ctt.nl

Objectives

What if our anthropological conceptions in nation-states of a) loyalties in wage labour mobility and b) kinship loyalties in extended families contain an epistemological error of scale? To overcome this error, we critically, follow Gregory Bateson's 'ecosystemic' thinking and his abductive method (Bateson 1972; 1979; Bateson & Bateson 1987). We complement Bateson's cybernetic solution by intertwining Bird-David's, and Herzfeld's positions on kinship in small and mass scale societies with insights from family therapy.

For some decades Bird-David tries to unravel scalar confusion in analysing kinship, families, animism from our western 'cosmology' (1999; 2020; 2021). Bird-David's claims that western dualisms like spirit-body and supernatural-natural are non-existent in Nayaka cosmology (1999, 71). This resonates with Bateson's non-dualistic, quite complex, conception of mind. Indigenous people's dealing with mental-material worlds are complicated too. Still, they slip in and out these 'minded worlds' more easily during 'liminal states' and 'communitas' (Turner 1969; 1979; 2012; Van Bekkum 2019).

We disentangle the scalar - epistemological - error by:

- a) redressing practices of labour/state loyalties and family/communal loyalties as, seemingly irreconcilable, 'double bindings'
- b) co-creating 'transitional – ritual - spaces', in which western-bound dualisms temporarily dissolve (Turner 1979; Van Bekkum 1994; 2019).

Materials and Methods

clinical and educational fieldworking

Results

This paper's arguments are back up by two long term 'fieldworking' projects:

- 1) 10 years of clinical fieldworking, as an artisanal group therapist, with troubled/troubling drafted soldiers hospitalized in short term military psychiatry and followed up by
- 2) 30 years of educational fieldworking with hundreds of professionals in (Dutch) youth care and mental health institutions

Conclusions

We disentangle the scalar error between nation-states and /indigenous societies by redressing work 'mobility' relations in nation-states and complementing this 'minded' framework with recursive practicing of 'co-creating transitional spaces during life-phase transitions' in which webs of kinship ties are vitalized, strengthened and transformed.

(literature list included)

Exploration Game with Machine Learning and Engagement in Social Projects

Mr. Luis Filipe Graeł Tinos¹, Prof. Renan Menechelli¹, Dr. Vinicius Santos Andrade¹, Dr. Patrick Silva

1

1. Sacred Heart University Center (UNISAGRADO)

Objectives

The objective of this project was to study and demonstrate the feasibility of producing a digital game for social engagement and progression based on machine learning techniques.

Materials and Methods

A game was developed to make it possible to apply a convolutional neural network algorithm to classify images for narrative progression. These images were produced from mobile devices (1017 images) to train the machine learning model, which was hosted in an API for consultation by the software itself (game).

Results

An accuracy of 98% was obtained and a loss of only 0.1%. Confusion matrices were plotted to evaluate the performance of the algorithm, where out of 192 predictions, only one was incorrect. The game had no FPS drops, even on an older device (Galaxy J8, year 2018, with Qualcomm Snapdragon 450 processor and 4 GB RAM memory). Mechanics involving social projects have been implemented, but in the future contact with entities/institutions is necessary.

Conclusions

It was concluded that it is possible to create an exploration game on a mobile device that does not compromise the user experience and with the use of machine learning techniques in an innovative way. Although engagement in social projects proves to be possible and easily implementable, for future implementations, it is interesting to apply the mechanics and get in touch with institutions and entities to put this part of the project into production.

Impact of Job Specifics on Social Ties of Professional Orchestral Musicians in Latvia

*Ms. Aija Silīna*¹

1. Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives

Orchestral music performance creates an environment which consists of multi-directional social interactions. The relationships between the artist and the audience, among the musicians on stage, between the musicians and their music instruments. But this is only a part of networks that surround the lives of a professional orchestral musician. The other side, more personal - family, friends, colleagues - form a collective of relationships that both impact and are influenced by the musician's work.

Materials and Methods

In this paper, I aim to examine the work experience of orchestral musicians in Latvia and how it affects their personal relationships and family life. Are there aspects of this profession that challenge family and friendship ties? If so, are these reasons specific to this type of work and are they influenced by education and employment system that orchestral musicians go through in Latvia?

Results

Currently collected data, through semi-structured interviews, show that majority of respondents have several other jobs besides their work in orchestra. The main reason for seeking additional work was irregular and inefficient income. Another impact on their personal lives was the work schedule that is not constant and often clashes with working hours of family members and friends who don't work in this field. Important to note that all of the interviewed musicians had either studied or worked abroad at some time in their careers, or are still currently doing so. The reasons varied – for most, holding concerts or touring abroad is a recurring part of the job; studying to experience different modes of education; moving abroad to seek more opportunities and gain experience. These different movements were also mentioned as having a disruptive effect on relationships depending on duration and distance.

Conclusions

Thus these irregularities, uncertainties and constant movements can create disturbance in maintaining stable social connections in family and friendship circles.

Is There Anything beyond the End? (Visions of the Afterlife in Contemporary Latvia)

*Dr. Agita Misane*¹

1. Faculty of Communication, Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives

To provide insight into the shared imaginary of the afterlife of the residents of contemporary Latvia.

Materials and Methods

This paper will use data from 30 interviews gathered in 2020-2022 as part of the RSU research project “Memento mori: The end of life, death and imagined afterlife in the contemporary Latvian lifeworld”. Research design was phenomenological and applied common phenomenological research procedures – phenomenological reduction, horizontalization of data, textual and structural analyses. Interpretation of data was social constructionist.

Results

The images of the afterlife are spread over a broad spectrum from complete denial of individuals' continued existence after physical death to very detailed and explicit visions uttered with great conviction.

Conclusions

Most commonly, images of the afterlife are complex and syncretic, with observable similarities shared by individuals of similar life experience, age and education levels. It can be assumed that the composition of the internalized imaginary is impacted by externalized visions originating in Latvian traditional culture, secularization of the society and hybridization of religious and secular cultures in Latvia.

Metaphors of Thriving – Century of Studying Kinship in Latvia

***Dr. Agita Lūse**¹*

1. Faculty of Communication, Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives

Various agendas served as impetus for studying kinship a century ago, from scrutinizing pedigrees of outstanding personalities to shaping ethnic consciousness in ordinary citizens. The common denominator of these agendas were efforts to enhance Latvians' national self-esteem. The social significance of kinship and descent was reclaimed again at the end of the 20th century. The national consciousness was boosted as the scope and potential of Latvians' ethnic community was affirmed.

Our century came with a wealth of sources on genealogy: from digitalized records to historians' studies. As a variety of software, online fora, and the DNS databanks were on offer, ever more people embarked on genealogical exploration. Some charted kinship trees comprising thousands of relatives. Others followed ancestors' life-stories to discern patterns of family constellations and their impact on personal lives.

Materials and Methods

Interviews with school teachers and students; discourse analysis.

Results

- (1) An overview of discourses on kinship the Latvian periodicals.
- (2) Analysis of interview data on genealogical knowledge acquisition.

Conclusions

The family tree symbolizes individuals' belonging to a self-perpetuating network, conceived as substrate for ethnic culture. Persons endeavoring to come to terms with their relationship patterns, in turn, tend to choose the pedigree view of descent, a centripetal structure focused on the ego rather than a node in thriving meshwork.

New Religious Movements as Negotiations between Past and Future

*Prof. Michael Strmiska*¹

1. SUNY-Orange

Objectives

Religion can be viewed as a time-travel technology, constantly shuttling between visions of the past and dreams of the future. There is the Golden Age of the past and the Promised Land of the future, with religion the path connecting them. The long-ago life-stories of figures like Buddha or Jesus or Muhammad serve as templates for how people today should live their lives in a sanctified manner with the hope of future salvation. The world's religions are often torn between future-oriented reform movements and past-oriented fundamentalist movements. New Religious Movements (NRMs) likewise negotiate between past and future. This paper analyzes two types of NRMs with regard to their orientations toward past and future. Neo-Pagan or Pagan Revival movements like Dievturi in Latvia and Romuva in Lithuania look to the past for inspiration, seeking to resuscitate gods, symbols and folkloric traditions from earlier times as vehicles for preserving ethno-national identity and pre-modern spirituality. UFO Religions see life on earth as doomed and look toward a future in which more technologically advanced beings from distant galaxies will come to the rescue.

Materials and Methods

This paper will combine ethnographic research into Neo-Pagan NRMs with analysis of other scholars' studies of UFO religions utilizing anthropological and sociological theories.

Results

It will be shown that these two types of religion provide modern people with opposite ways to address the anxieties of modern life—taking refuge in the pre-industrial past or dreaming of escape into a science-fiction future.

Conclusions

The concluding discussion will comment on how these contrasting orientations toward past and future appear in other domains of modern society, from popular culture to populist politics.

Relatedness and Long-Term Fieldwork in Anthropology

Dr. Klavs Sedlenieks¹

1. Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives

Since the dawn of cotemporary anthropology long term fieldwork has been treated as both initiation rite for an aspiring anthropologist and as a necessary methodological tool to do proper ethnographic analysis. However, while kinship and relatedness of the research subjects has been central in anthropological agenda, almost no attention has been paid to the ties of the researcher herself. In this presentation I argue that long-term fieldwork is more often than not antagonistic to relatedness-linked human ties in the personal and academic lives of the anthropologist.

Materials and Methods

The presentation is part of an on-going research and is based on series of in-depth (primarily online) interviews with anthropologists across the globe.

Results

Interviews demonstrate that it is not always easy to reconcile fieldwork with personal life. Most fieldworkers enter their long-term fieldwork projects alone while their partners stay at home. This is often detrimental for relationships. Another consequence of this is that the long-term fieldwork is adjusted to the life-stage of the anthropologist - one does proper long-term fieldwork while young and single while in later stages this seems to be impossible or unnecessary. This in turn has also unintended methodological consequences where research is done on the basis of more short-term trips

Conclusions

1. The aspect of researcher's personal kin ties should be integrated in curriculum of teaching anthropological method in order to prepare the researchers better for this "rite of passage"
2. Methodological consequences of the life-stages and long-term fieldworks should be theoretically explored.(this presentation is part of the side-event "Kinship and Relatedness"

Research Workers, Mobility and Relatedness in Research Performing Institutions in Latvia

*Mrs. Diāna Kiščenko*¹

1. Communication Department, Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives

One of the first words that pops-up in the strategic documents of higher education institutions in Latvia is “excellence”. Institutions are striving for excellence in education and research. According Appelt et al. (2015), one of the main tools to ensure excellence in the academic world is to foster mobility – both across border and between institutions. But how does this pursuit of excellence, which includes idea of mobility as a driving mechanism, intersects with the lives of research workers and their important relationships (partners, children etc.)?

In this paper, I look at development strategy and gender equality policy documents of four research performing institutions in Latvia - Rīga Stradiņš University, University of Latvia, Riga Technical University, and Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technology. By analysing these documents, I try to understand, if and how kin ties and needs of research workers have been complied with the institutional striving for excellence, which might include semi-permanent periodic work mobility.

The analysis of strategics documents of four research performing institutions show that, on the one hand, organizations recognize the importance of mobility; on the other hand, there are no institutionalized support mechanisms regarding family life and other kin-maintaining responsibilities in the case of mobility. This contrasts with the other areas of work (diplomatic and military services), where are instruments to support the relocation of employees and their spouse and children in the case of mobility. Secondly, although the gender equality policy documents recognize the importance of work-life balance, the support instruments are mainly focused on immobile employees and mostly are related to their children (access to childcare at the premises of the institution, additional paid vacation days, leisure activities etc.).

Scope of Family in Latvian Laws and why It Matters in the Context of Mobility

*Mrs. Liene Rācene-Riekstiņa*¹

1. Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives

Firstly my intention is to demonstrate that the scope of legal norms is blurred and contrary to what is imagined does not provide an exact answer to the question what is a family in Latvia. Secondly I want to emphasize possible collisions which may occur in the context of mobility because of conservative scope of the existing legal system in Latvia which is built around and viewed through the lens of the nuclear family.

Materials and Methods

This research is based on a content analysis of legal texts.

Results

According to the oldest and some most recent legal acts the family in Latvia in the narrow sense of its definition is nuclear family - a heterosexual spouses and their children while they are still a part of a common household, but other legal acts use a broader scope of the family the boundaries of which are blurred. Sometimes the scope of the concept of family is clarified by naming each member of family, but at other times it is left open, and it can be replaced by synonyms such as close person (*tuvinieks*), relatives and household, and narrowly also by the institution of marriage, unless these synonyms are used in a different context that excludes their use as synonyms.

Conclusions

The conservative leading scope of the concept of family constructed by state and secure in laws creates challenges for Latvia as a host country, because in some cases people who are recognized as family in they home country will not be family in Latvia.

Transition from Upper Secondary to Higher Education: Comparative Eurostudent Study

*Prof. Ilze Trapenciere*¹, *Mr. Ansis Petersons*², *Mr. Aleksandrs Aleksandrovs*², *Dr. Ilze Koroleva*²

1. Rīga Stradiņš University; Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, University of Latvia, 2. Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, University of Latvia

Objectives

The objective is to examine how the transition from secondary to higher education takes place. Authors analyse the availability of higher education both for those who chose to start studies immediately after secondary education (traditional transition) and for those who chose to start studies later (delayed transition to higher education).

Materials and Methods

Authors analyse Latvian data from Eurostudent 8 (2021-2024). Representative survey sample, n=2667. For the comparative analyses the authors employ data from Eurostudent 4, 5 and 6, and international data where appropriate.

Three aspects of transition are analysed: transition from secondary education to higher education, work experience before entering university, study breaks.

Results

1. In 2022, 78% students started their studies at a university immediately after completing secondary education. Delayed transition (DT) has increased from 13% (2009) to 22% (2022). DT is observed more often for women, but the most important factor is having a child (61%). Transition to higher education varies among countries and ranges from 2-3% (Germany, Slovenia, France, Malta) to 18-24% in the Nordic countries.
2. Higher proportion of DT can be found among students without higher education background than among students with parents who have higher education.
3. Before higher education, 34% students had regular work experience, which, compared to 2017, is a significant increase in the number of students with work experience.
4. 8% students had stopped their studies for 1-2 to 8-9 semesters. The reasons: financial difficulties, family circumstances, health problems, inability to motivate oneself, dissatisfaction with the study program.

Conclusions

During the 15 years DT to higher education has increased, the proportion of students with employment experience have increased.

Therefore, it is important to develop flexible ways to ensure the transition to higher education. It is necessary to increase the opportunities to obtain education in a more flexible way, by diversifying the way it is presented.

Work-Life Balance in Experience of Skilled Transnational Migrants and Their Families

Dr. Baiba Bela¹, Mrs. Anete Kriķīte¹

1. University of Latvia

Objectives

The paper focuses on the experience of skilled transnational migrants, how they are managing work-life balance. Research analyses what strategies are applied to balance work and family life in the context of a transnational lifestyle and what conditions have a positive or negative impact on the balancing work and family life in a transnational lifestyle. The paper addresses issues relevant for side-event “Kinship and relatedness amidst mobility-facilitating work regimes”.

Materials and Methods

Empirical research is based on qualitative methodology in sociology. Eight members of five families were interviewed (spouses interviewed separately), using biographical semi-structured on-line interview method. Theory driven narrative analysis is used for data analysis.

This study is developed with the financial support of the national research programmes «Towards sustainable development and inclusive society in Latvia: response to demographic and migration challenges» (Nr. VPP-IZM-2018/1-0015) and “New solutions to study demographic and migration processes for the development of Latvian society” (Nr. VPP-LETONIKA-2021/4-0002).

Results

Findings illustrate that in transnational families in the balancing work and family life a key role is played by financial situation, distance and the duration of family separation. Positive aspects of transnational lifestyle are development of partner relationships; career development; interesting experience and rise of earnings. Negative aspects of transnational lifestyle are longing for a partner; missing friends and difficulty to find time for keeping relations; alienation and estrangement from partner or children; travel fatigue.

Conclusions

The process of balancing work and family life can be significantly hampered by the non-use or poor use of strategies for reconciling work and family life.

Communication Studies

(D)Effect of the Internet on Journalist Professional Life in Latvia

*Ms. Liga Ozolina*¹

1. Faculty of Communication, Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives

More than thirty years after World Wide Web was introduced, it is evident that it has had a worldwide impact on society and the way it functions. It has changed many fields and professions and has become an irreplaceable means of everyday communication. The Internet has changed how people communicate, consume and access information and news and how the information is gathered, processed, packaged, and disseminated to them—the field of media and journalism, therefore, is affected by these changes from different perspectives.

According to a representative survey of 482 journalists in Latvia (RSU/SKDS, 2021), a little bit more than one-fifth (20,8%) of Latvian journalists work for online-born news media. But many more have revealed they create content for digital formats daily. For example, 58,7% of respondents always or often create content for websites, 37,1% work for social media platforms, 17,3% adapt content for news apps, 10,2% create or edit content for newsletters, 8,9% create podcasts, 6,6% package content for messaging apps, etc.

Different technologies, the Internet, and social media are often used as sources for information gathering. Social media often provides journalists with ideas for newsworthy stories, events, interesting people, and places. Social media also offers easy and fast access to information sources themselves. 76% of respondents always or often use technologies for these reasons. It is also an important tool for promoting media content (52,6% always or often have used social media for such purposes).

Even though the industry in Latvia so far hasn't replaced journalists with robots or other artificial intelligence tools, the Internet and social media have other, more evident side effects on professional journalism. Those are increasing attacks journalist receive just for doing their job, which is closely related with the increasing presence of anti-media sentiment fostered by almost unlimited online environment.

Advances in Shared Intentionality Research: Understanding Human Interaction for Improving Well-Being

Mr. Igor Val Danilov¹, Prof. Sandra Mihailova²

1. Academic Center for Coherent Intelligence, 2. Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives

The progress in human-computer systems in medicine can solve various diagnostic objectives contributing to the sustainable growth of a healthy population rate due to the maintenance of the ecological context during child cognitive development. There is a broad consensus about the beginning of cognition through protoconversation – the interaction between an adult and a newborn that emerges in the early development period when children still lack communication skills. Protoconversation flows due to the newborns' primary motive force of shared intentionality. Initially, shared intentionality was defined as collaborative interactions in which participants share psychological states. The knowledge about neurophysiological processes occurring during the mother-newborn protoconversation has been developing among recent 30 years. This presentation aims to show advances in shared intentionality research and the progress in the definition of shared intentionality.

Materials and Methods

This conference presentation provides a concise review of neuroscience and psychophysiological research and theoretical works that contribute to knowledge about shared intentionality. As part of the review, the presentation highlights four-year research on shared intentionality in humans conducted by the academic consortium “academic center for coherent intelligence”.

Results

This presentation shows findings of neuroscience and psychophysiological research on shared intentionality that allow us to provide the enhanced definition of this psychological construct.

Conclusions

The quality must be preserved in an organism to some extent throughout its life if it appears at birth. The manuscript argues that shared intentionality complements other interaction modalities during a life span. This knowledge can contribute to developing bioengineering systems for medicine, from assessing cognitive abilities in children to producing intelligent prosthetic limbs.

Discourse of Extinction of the Nation in Parliamentary Debates in Latvia

*Mrs. Ilva Skulte*¹

1. Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives

Latvia is a small country with negative demographical balance. There were several times in the recent history of independent Latvia where the discourse of extinction of the nation entered public and political debate following new discoveries of the researchers of demographics, but also due to traumatic experience of social, economic or financial crisis. Cases of discussions, acting politicians and arguments used when speaking about death of nation and extinction of nation in Latvian parliament Saeima is in centre of this paper. Its aim is to find out how discourse of extinction of the nation was formed in Saeima's debating process, what concepts of death are behind this discourse and how it is related to understanding urgent problems in Latvian society and politics.

Materials and Methods

The method used for analysis of parliamentary debates corpus of Latvian Saeima is discourse analysis. To select speeches of politicians in the particular context NoSketch tool for corpus analysis was used.

Results

The results show that discourse of extinction of the nation was initiated several times during the period after re-gaining independence. First, in the 1990ies the discourse was both drawing on difficult situation of particular social groups and demographical data that called for urgent policies. After the year 2000 and following financial and economic crises of 2008/2009 the discourse of extinction remains in discussions connected to high rate of emigration of Latvians. Discourse of extinction not only is part of the call for action. The extinction argument is often used by particular political agents to rise their symbolic capital.

Conclusions

The discourse of extinction of nation in Saeima's discourse is place for political rhetoric and competition, but also formation of concept of death.

The research for this paper was funded by FLPP project Memento Mori: End of Life, Death and Imagined After-life in the Contemporary Latvian Lifeworld- lzp-2019/1-0223.

Fertile Fields and Deserts of Research, Risks and Opportunities Related to Communication and Media Studies Development in Latvia (2000–2020): Panel Proposal

Prof. Anda Rozukalne¹, Mrs. Ilva Skulte¹, Dr. Alnis Stakle¹

1. Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives

The first results of the Horizon 2020 project MEDIADELCOM will be represented in several presentations on main conclusions, which have been found using the meta-analysis method, by conducting a risk and opportunity assessment of the 20 years of communication, media studies and journalism research (2000 – 2020). Analysis of 317 publications have been analyzed in the research project by structuring data in four domains: media regulation, journalism, media use and media competencies.

Materials and Methods

Presentation no 1. What is and what is not known about journalism in Latvia?

The **journalism domain** contains information on 164 publications that are in some way related to the categories of analysis defined in the MEDIADELCOM study.

Presentation no 2. What are the main research questions on media regulation in Latvia? Bibliographic data that corresponds to the **legal and ethical regulation domain** of MEDIADELCOM project make up the smallest share of the journalism and media studies research in Latvia over twenty years.

Presentation no 3. Actors, agents and critical junctures in the research of media audiences in Latvia

Media usage and audience research has been one of the relatively popular research directions in Latvia - 149 of publications selected for analysis here were related to the domain of Media Usage Patterns.

Presentation no 4.

Media-related competencies research and evaluation in Latvia

Media-related competencies domain comprise 26% (84) of all publications (316) selected for the MEDIADELCOM project in the case of Latvia.

Results

The media and journalism in Latvia are studied sporadically and fragmentarily, the quality of research is low, and many important issues have not been researched due to the lack of resources.

Conclusions

There are a few in depth and focused research, thus, the situation of media and communication in Latvia is mostly analysed superficially and descriptively.

Latvian Doctors and Medical Students on Assisted Dying

Mr. Ivars Neiders¹, Dr. Silva Senkāne¹

1. Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives

Assisted dying has been an important topic of controversy in many countries for at least two decades and the same applies to Latvia. In 2021 the petition at the ManaBalss.lv public initiative website for legalizing euthanasia was signed by more than 10 000 people, which meant that the parliament had to address the issue. The Latvian Medical Association issued a statement that the practice of euthanasia goes against “the professional tasks of a physician and the principles of medical ethics.” However, so far there is no data on what the attitudes of Latvian doctors towards these issues really are. The present study was conducted to fill this gap.

Materials and Methods

Online survey of medical doctors and students (N=559) was conducted during May - June of 2021, $M_{age} = 43.9$, $SD_{age} = 16.1$, age range = 19-84, 16.6% female, 83.4% male.

Results

58.3% of certified physicians agree that voluntary euthanasia for an adult patient in a terminal condition is permissible. In the sample of medical students, the agreement is even higher - 82.3% of medical students agree that it is permissible. 58.3% of certified physicians agree that voluntary euthanasia should be legalized in Latvia and 48.8% of certified physicians agree that physician-assisted suicide should be legalized in Latvia. The support for the legalization of voluntary euthanasia is even higher in the sample of medical students - 85.2% agree that euthanasia should be legalized and 73.3% agree that physician-assisted suicide should be legalized.

Conclusions

Despite the public claims of the Latvian Medical Association the attitude of physicians towards assisted dying is rather supportive. The majority of certified physicians in our sample think that voluntary euthanasia for a patient in a terminal condition is permissible and the voluntary euthanasia should be legalized in Latvia. The levels of support are even higher in the sample of medical students.

Relation of First Significant Encounter with Death to Person's Attitude towards Mortality, Death and the Imagined Afterlife

*Mrs. Diāna Kalniņa*¹

1. Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives

The work summarizes and analyses the opinions of Latvian residents about the desired/best conditions in which to die, preparation for death and imagined afterlife; differences in these perceptions in different population groups depending on when the first experience to a significant, memorable death occurred.

Materials and Methods

National representative survey of permanent residents of Latvia aged 18-75 in October 2019, N=1012. Face-to-face interviews at the respondents' residences.

Results

More than a tenth of the population of Latvia experienced a very early encounter with death, already at preschool age. It seems more important to these people than to others to die without pain and suffering, in sleep; they believe that man should prepare for his death. They see death as a natural, undeniable and inevitable event, without defining it as either good or bad. On the other hand, people who first encountered death only in adulthood consider death a terrible experience and avoid any contact with the topic of death. They believe in life after death - going to heaven, union with God and eternal bliss. People who have not yet had a significant, memorable death experience are very afraid of death, avoid thinking about death, and are very concerned about life after death. People who have faced death at a very early age are much more likely to believe that a person has the right to take his own life. They do not consider suicide as an incomprehensible, irrational, inexcusable act and the person who commits suicide as a coward or in any case mentally ill.

Conclusions

The results of the study show significant differences in opinions about death, dying and one's own mortality depending on when a person had their first significant encounter with death. Early exposure to death also greatly affects a person's attitude towards suicide, euthanasia, organ donation for transplantation or science.

Reports of Death of Press Release Are Greatly Exaggerated

*Mrs. Lāsma Šķestere*¹

1. Doctoral Study Programme “Political Science”, Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives

Limited attention has been paid to explore relationship between organizational press releases and news media content. Despite substantial claims of media’s high dependence on information subsidiaries such as press releases, very few research have been devoted to exploring reliance of news agencies (or wire services) on PR content. This study examines influence of public relations materials on news content of national information agency (LETA). The analysis displays that almost 40% of its news content is based on information from press releases provided by PR professionals from local authorities, associations, and unions. In addition, this study looks at the content of most popular news media outlets. The results confirmed that the LETA possess the agenda-setter power in media arena, as at least one third of the online news consists of verbatim agency copy, involving little or no editing. Moreover, the influence of the LETA was recognized in semi-structure interviews (n=4) with the editors from the main online news media outlets (lsm.lv, delfi.lv and tvnet.lv) and the national news agency. The representatives from media outlets acknowledged that when it comes to lack of resources, use of LETA news articles will be most obvious choice.

Should we Prepare for Death? (Some Factors of Preparation for Death in Latvian Adult Population, 2020)

*Ms. Ritma Rungule*¹, *Dr. Silva Senkāne*², *Ms. Agnese Poikāne*¹

1. Faculty of Communication, Rīga Stradiņš University, 2. Statistics Unit, Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives

To find a model of factors of attitudes to preparation for death as part of promotion of Death and Dying studies (Thanatology) as a transdisciplinary field of academic inquiry in Latvia.

For this purpose, two scales were adapted into Latvian: the Death Attitude Profile - Revised (DAP-R) and the Collet-Lester scale Fear of Death and Dying (FDDS).

Materials and Methods

The data were gathered in 2020 via stratified randomized sampling of Latvian adult population (N=1012, aged 18-75). Correlations between measures of preparation to death, demographic characteristics, DAP-R dimensions (Fear of Death, Death Avoidance, Neutral Acceptance, Approach Acceptance, Escape Acceptance), and FDDS subscales (Death of Self, Dying of Self, Death of Others, Dying of Others) were measured and tested (χ^2 test). Hierarchical binary logistic regression model was used to find predictors of preparation for death.

Results

In response to the question “Do you think a person should prepare for his death?” Latvian population chose the following answers: 12.3% “definitely yes”, 26.7% “rather yes”, 21.7% “rather no”, 21.8% “definitely no”, while 17.6 had no answer.

Statistically significant factors related to preparation for death are age, faith, family status, education, ethnicity, place of residence, while on the Fear of Death and Dying scale these are Death of self, Dying of self; on the Death Attitude Profile – all dimensions, except Fear of Death attitude.

Predictors of preparation for death presented by hierarchical binary logistic regression model are age, education, Death Avoidance attitude and Approach Acceptance attitude.

Increasing Approach Acceptance attitude was associated with an increased likelihood of death preparation, but increasing Death Avoidance attitude was associated with a reduction in the likelihood of death preparation.

Conclusions

Predictors of preparation for death are age, education, Death Avoidance attitude and Approach Acceptance attitude.

Work Engagement and Job Satisfaction in Lithuania and Europe – Evidence from the European Social Survey

*Dr. Rasa Indriliunaite*¹

1. Vytautas Magnus University

Objectives

The concept of work engagement attracted substantial research attention during the past decades. Work engagement is mostly defined as an employee's vigour and dedication (Schaufeli et al., 2002). Work engagement is also important at the organizational level – engaged workers have a strong focus on their work activities, cope with challenges, generate more creative ideas and demonstrate better financial results (Bakker et al., 2014).

Nowadays, it is also important to ask how digitalization and hybrid, or remote work affect workplace dynamics, productivity, solidarity and cohesion between co-workers and supervisors. Digital technologies can increase their accessibility to each other, but on the other hand, research also shows that remote work weakens team relationships. In addition, the use of digital technologies at work can increase the control of employees and reduce their autonomy.

The aim of the study is to analyze employees' perceptions of job demands and resources, their digital social contacts in the workplace, engagement, and job satisfaction. How and to what extent today's labor market meets the expectations of employees. How much do they associate themselves with the organization? What are the differences in expectations and engagement between older and younger employees?

The empirical part of the study is based on data from the 10th wave of the European Social Survey, collected in 2020-2022.

Statistical analysis revealed that the solidarity of managers and employees, work-related help or advice from colleagues at work are significant factors of job satisfaction. On the other hand, almost half of the respondents indicated that they do not have freedom and personal autonomy in the workplace. The frequency of face-to-face conversations in the workplace exceeds the frequency of digital social contacts. The results of the study also show a significant relationship between an individual's job satisfaction and overall personal happiness.

Economics and Business

Business Support during the Financial Crisis and the COVID-19 Pandemic – Analysis of International and Latvian Experience

Dr. Anzelika Berke Berga¹, Prof. Inna Dovladbekova¹

1. Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives

The objective of our research is to compare business support during the financial crisis and COVID-19 pandemics.

Materials and Methods

In our research, we use reports issued by international institutions, recent scientific literature, case study analysis and survey data. Research methods include monographic and secondary data analysis methods.

Results

During financial crisis, countries used very different approaches to stabilize the situation. In Latvia, austerity measures to deal with the effects of the financial crisis hit businesses hard, creating the belief that government cares little about sustainability of entrepreneurship. The COVID-19 pandemic has come up with large-scale government support for business sector – loans, equity injections, subsidies, etc. Thus, liquidity problems and probability of default have diminished dramatically. Meanwhile, these emergency measures created serious economic distortions which eventually lead to excessive inflation.

Conclusions

The crises in 2008 and 2020 had different background and thus – different reaction from public authorities. After the financial crises many companies went bankrupt, the rest learned hard lessons of financial discipline. The lessons learned from the pandemic crisis are related to restoring strength, competitiveness, becoming more innovative and flexible. It is important to ensure very well-considered and transparent economic support programmes with a longer-term view to avoid future market distortions.

COVID-19 pandemic caused significant economic shock with negative impact on entrepreneurship. Prolonged business shutdowns, demand decrease, and value chain disruptions created considerable financial pressures on SMEs, threatening the operation of viable enterprises.

Lending conditions were softened: low interest rates, reduced collateral requirements, various credit guarantee schemes and direct loans from state institutions. Complementary measures such as payment deferrals and debt moratoria provided relief for SME liquidity pressure. Alternative sources of finance (leasing and factoring) significantly declined. Venture capital and online alternative financing sector were quite resilient. To support recovery, the focus was on innovation, digitalization and environmental protection.

Challenges of Digital Health Technology Assessment

Ms. Diāna Arāja¹, Dr. Uldis Berķis¹, Dr. Zaiga Nora-Krūkle², Prof. Modra Murovska²

1. Rīga Stradiņš University, 2. Institute of Microbiology and Virology, Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives

The development of information and communication technologies (ICT) in healthcare is highly correlated with overall ICT trends, moving from Mainframe Computers (1950-1960) to Health IT (1970-2000), then to E-Health and M-Health (2000-2020), and reaching Digital Health (DH) in the 2020s. DH provides important support in the prevention and treatment of diseases through tools such as Artificial Intelligence, robotics, health apps, virtual reality, etc. This range is expanding and new products and services are emerging. At the same time, it should be considered that these are health technologies that may be subject to a health technology assessment (HTA). Consequently, the aim of this research is to take insight into the current trends in DHTA issues regarding the policy and research, and possible DHTA limitations.

Materials and Methods

To achieve the aim of this research, a content analysis of key policy planning documents has been carried out, as well as a scoping review of scientific literature has been performed based on search items (“digital” AND “health technology assessment”) in the PubMed database.

Results

World Health Organization’s (WHO) Global Strategy on Digital Health 2020-2025 and Regional Digital Health Action Plan for the WHO European Region 2023–2030 are broad policy planning documents that guide DH development, but they do not cover HTA issues. Simultaneously, the PubMed database shows a sharp increase in the number of scientific articles from 2018 to 2022, which address different medical fields, but they also point to the lack of a unified methodology for DHTA. This is particularly important as HTA is intended to validate the evidence of technology and to determine its value for the patient and society.

Conclusions

The development of DH technologies is outpacing the DHTA process, which may delay their reaching the patients. Increased attention should be paid to specifying the DH technologies taxonomy and to the development of DHTA methodologies.

Recommendations for Applying World Health Organisation's Policy to Population Aging in Latvia

*Ms. Tatjana Azamatova*¹

1. Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives

Objectives

The objectives of the study are:

to provide an analysis of the content of WHO policy framework document “Global Strategy and Action Plan on Aging and Health”;

to summarize the opinions of various experts about preconditions for the development of social policy in the field of population aging and to make conclusions about the priorities of its content;

to develop recommendations for a national strategy and action plan for Latvia.

Materials and Methods

Methods

The following methods were used: monograph analysis, legal document analysis, content analysis, descriptive statistics.

In light of the WHO policy, this research compares the recent national strategies of two countries (Austria and Belarus), based on their content and structure.

Results

Population aging is one of the most significant trends which is bringing changes to all areas of society. The World Health Organization (WHO) has developed recommendations to reduce the negative impact of these changes through the adoption of a WHO policy framework document “Global Strategy and Action Plan on Aging and Health.” Today, the age structure of the population of Latvia is close to the average for the European Union, but the share of senior citizens is increasing. Despite this, a national strategy to address population aging has not yet been developed and no action plan has been adopted.

Conclusions

Conclusion

The conclusions assess the current related social policies of the Latvian government, recommend additional efforts to align them with the guidelines of the WHO “Global Strategy and Action Plan on Aging and Health”, and define the main principles of national social policy to address population aging in Latvia.

Sanctions and New Opportunities for Central Asia

***Mrs. Liga Andersone**¹*

1. Department of International Business and Economics, Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives

The EU has already adopted nine packages on sanctions to respond to Russia's aggression against Ukraine. Sanctions have two-fold approach economic sanctions and individual restrictions. Nevertheless, Central Asia (CA) historically has very close relationship with Central Asian region and therefore the region is subject to consequences of sanctions, although the short-term impact is on a more smaller scale as experts were predicting at the beginning of Russia's invasion in Ukraine. For example, GDP of Central Asian countries has continued to augment in 2022 and economic growth has positive tendencies. The increase of global commodity prices, as energy and metal has positively impacted CA economic growth.

The study will assess the purpose of the sanctions is to the achieve policy change of a state which is causing threat to international peace and security, in this particular case – Russia. The EU closely coordinates its sanctions policy with its international partners to maximise its impact of and to limit Russia's ability for financing its war against Ukraine.

The imposed sanctions have direct impact not only on Russia's economy and economic leadership, but also have indirect consequences for those countries with which Russia has close economic and trade relations.

While it is problematic to predict the sanctions long-term impact, CA governments should therefore invest in resilience building and seek for new economic partners. The decline of Russia's influence in Central Asia also opens up opportunities for diversifying its economy and creating closer links with other countries in the region – China, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The EU should accelerate its reach out to the CA by supporting the regions resilience building and economic growth. The EU Global Gateway initiative provides connectivity between the EU and CA by putting emphasis on digital, transport connectivity and growth of human capital.

Sustainable Negotiation as a Sustainable Business Practice

Mrs. Liga Brikena¹

1. Doctoral Study Programme “Business Management and Economics”, Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives

Novel research suggests that negotiation plays a vital role in succeeding of sustainable transitions. Sustainable negotiation is characterized by a focus on creating mutually beneficial outcomes. Furthermore, integration of environmental, social and governance criteria into dealmaking leads to long-term sustainability of a deal as a negotiation outcome. Negotiation fosters an establishment of sustainable business partnerships. Sustainable business practices are typically conceptualizing in research as a combination of economic, social, environmental, and governance dimensions. The objectives of this study is to identify a notion of sustainability aspects of negotiation as a sustainable business practice and distinguish main characteristics of sustainable negotiation

Materials and Methods

A scientific literature analysis was conducted for setting a theoretical base of sustainability aspects of sustainable negotiation as a sustainable business practice. Structured interviews with entrepreneurs and managers were conducted to study main characteristics of sustainable negotiation process in business environment. The article consists of introduction, two parts, conclusion, and discussion.

Results

The results of the study reveal that negotiation process is a subject of incorporating sustainability considerations as a sustainable business practice.

Conclusions

The study concludes that further research on integrative negotiation framework development and more guidance on integration of sustainability dimensions into the negotiation process of business environment are needed

University-Business Alliance in Strengthening Green Transition and Green Entrepreneurship

Dr. Sergejs Stacenko¹, Mrs. Liga Brikena¹

1. Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives

In times of economic hardship, it is important that businesses, universities, and governments collaborate in research, innovation, and development. With no clear end to the current socio-economic situation in Europe, there is more need than ever for strategic partnerships and discussions between all partners involved in business-university alliance.

Cooperation is required in further research and education of the EU path towards a green transition, which supports transformation of the EU and its MS into modern and competitive economies. Different scholarly opinions exist on consequences of the public health, security, and energy crises started in 2020 and continuing nowadays.

The authors aimed at suggesting a holistic approach in understanding a concept of green entrepreneurship and its role in strengthening research, education, business development and innovation relevant to the changing business environment.

Materials and Methods

Authors examine policy and legal documents, scientific literature; interlinks in university research and education with trends in climate and environment. Furthermore, challenges in energy, industry and services demand attention from scholars and university educators. This methodology serves as a tool for integrating main goals focused on providing high quality trainings to young people and thus, contributing to development of stimulating socio-economic environment, innovation, smart specialisation, and social inclusion.

Results

The study discusses how universities cooperate with business and respond to the challenges in providing a high-quality research-training environment. The establishment of dual education and related research at university level is an evident strategy for HEIs as this will give students an opportunity to acquire in-depth knowledge about green entrepreneurial orientation, develop analytical skills and specialist knowledge in green transition, entrepreneurship, innovation.

Conclusions

A university-business alliance is a valuable tool embodied in the concept of green entrepreneurship, crucial for the green transition, entrepreneurship, innovation transfer and thus, contributing to the debate on the role of HEIs in raising efficiently of real economy sectors.

Waste Management in the Context of Circular Economy: International and Latvian Experience

Mrs. Laura Martinsons¹, Prof. Inna Dovladbekova¹

1. Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives

To show the relevance of waste management in the context of the circular economy and the possible solutions

Materials and Methods

The international institutions, non-governmental organizations reports, scientific articles and survey data. A monographic method and a secondary data analysis method were used

Results

Waste management, both at the theoretical and practical level, became relevant at the moment when countries began to think about the circular economy and the implementation of its principles in life. The generation of waste and its extremely rapid increasing trend on a global scale affects the entire world, which is fast becoming a huge problem in the future and greatly affects future generations. For the first time in 2022, the problem of waste management was included in the international agenda of the COP27 meeting in connection with climate change. According to the data of the World Bank, it is predicted that the amount of waste generated annually could increase by 70% by 2050. Food packaging and food waste constitute a very large part of all waste.

Conclusions

Waste management – proper collection, sorting and processing of waste can contribute to and prevent the approaching waste crisis in the European Union and the whole world. There are several European countries from which it is possible to learn and gain international experience, not only by reducing the amount of waste, but by developing its recycling. Especially the Scandinavian countries are those that have already developed waste processing, reuse and innovations in material processing, becoming an example for all countries of the world. However, it must be taken into account that when including waste management in the circular economy and obliging all countries to do it, it is important to initially study the possibilities and management problems of countries. In this context, Latvia is still only at the beginning stage.

Climate Narratives

Between Two Worlds: Sovereignty, Climate and Narrating the Future in Taiwan

Dr. Pauline Sophie Heinrichs¹, Prof. Ben O'Loughlin¹

1. Royal Holloway, University of London

Objectives

This paper moves climate change out of the shadow as an “issue” in International Relations and conceptualise it as a site of great power contestation. Power here is understood through a temporal lens which ‘opens theoretical possibilities for alternative kinds of power to be exercised’ (Drezner 2021: 45). Our scope is how power links to shaping of long-term narratives about the self and the international system. Narratives of climate change are significant because they require sensemaking about existential questions pertaining to survival, security and the economy. Since losing position on the UNFCCC in 1971, Taiwanese leaders need to find other ways for Taiwan “to be seen” in the international arena while shaping narratives about the self in the future. Taiwan’s climate change policies illuminate how it narrate its sovereignty and independence amidst tensions with China and between China and the US over the support for Taiwan. Methodology includes: (i) Interviews with those working in Taiwan in the energy sector, conducted in Washington DC and Taiwan; (ii) Policy documents, company documents, from the US, China and Taiwan. Strategic narrative analysis is applied to all data, as developed by O’Loughlin (2013, 2017).

This paper finds an ongoing narrative tension between *vulnerability* amidst climate change and *strength* in the face of China’s threat that leaves questions of the future vague. Two conclusions follow. First, Taiwan stands at an axis of vulnerable-developed across geopolitical and climate concerns. Second, how narrative is conceptualised varies at a fundamental philosophical level between regions, affecting how the relations of past, present and future are brought policy. China and Taiwan conceive the future through a different lens to the US.

Climate Change, Media, and Consumption Narratives

Dr. Anastasia Denisova¹

1. University of Westminster

Objectives

A garment spends 2.2 years on average in a UK wardrobe. Fashion is among the biggest polluters, yet the media still promote throwaway fast fashion. The growing fashion public relations industry encourages and enables this media coverage.

This study is based on the analysis of 1,000+ fashion media artefacts in the UK – from magazines to newspapers, gossip weeklies to Instagram influencers. The aim was to analyse how the message on consumption is constructed, and which narratives encourage people to buy more, or to adopt climate-friendly behaviours.

Materials and Methods

Content analysis and critical discourse analysis have been applied in a novel manner, providing an innovative methodology to measure the rate of sustainability in fashion media coverage.

Results

As a result, this analysis has identified that print and online professional media promote high consumption. In-fluencers on Instagram promote clothes and portray idealistic situations for wearing them – these include erotic imagery, romantic plots, and luxurious environments. The words ‘sustainable’, ‘ethical’, ‘investment piece’ are used by the media in often misleading ways. Sustainable advisers ignore lower earners - brands presented as ethical tend to have prohibitive pricing: e.g. from £100 per dress. Overall, the research has identified ten pat-terns of unsustainable coverage - these range from the language used, imagery chosen, situations and patterns, power dynamics and psychological triggers, to the use of affiliate links and choice of brands.

Conclusions

This research recommends practical steps to improve media coverage to make consumption sustainable, by changing consumers’ understanding and reducing the pressure on them to buy ‘fast’ satisfaction. For forward-thinking media coverage, the correct use of eco-vocabulary is suggested. ‘Sustainable’, ‘ethical’ and ‘investment’ narratives should provide meaningful ways to engage with the climate crisis. Media editors should also be encouraged to feature more sustainable coverage for readers of varied financial means.

Climate Policy Narratives of the Political Elite of Latvia (Parliament, Cabinet of Ministers, and Municipalities): Comparative Analysis

*Mrs. Lelde Metla-Rozentale*¹, *Mrs. Dace Vasuka*², *Ms. Katrīna Laura Tkačenko*²

1. Department of Political Science, Faculty of European Studies, Rīga Stradiņš University, 2. Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives

The study aims to identify and compare the narratives about climate policy created by different levels of the political elite of Latvia, as well as to conclude their compliance with the basic settings of the European Green Deal.

Materials and Methods

The theoretical basis and methodological approach of the study are based on the concept of strategic narrative. The empirical basis of the study is based on the identification of the international context and the EU climate policy narrative in the debates of the Parliament and the Cabinet of Ministers, as well as an analysis of the pre-election programs of Latvian parties (the 2022 regional election programs). Applying a qualitative content analysis, all sources were coded using a common methodology developed within the project “From indifference to making difference in climate policy: improving the interaction between political narrative and societal perceptions in Latvia”.

Results

Climate policy is not a frequently and widely discussed topic at any level of government - this issue is rarely discussed and mentioned only by a small part of the political elite. Also, only a few topics are selected for discussion, many important topics are not mentioned at all.

The Climate Policy narrative of the Parliament, Cabinet of Ministers, and Municipalities is focused on three elements: (1.)energy, (2.)reduction of transport emissions, and (3.)waste management.

Conclusions

The topics discussed in the context of climate policy are similar at all levels of government, while at the same time t, they are adapted to the level of responsibility of the specific level of government.

Comparing the topics discussed in the framework of climate policy in Latvia with the settings of the European Green Deal, a significant difference can be seen. Latvia’s political elite has brought a much narrower range of topics to its agenda than the settings of the European Green Deal envisage.

Corporate Sustainability Reporting – More Than a Tool for a Company’s Reputation Management

Ms. Kristiāna Plāte¹

1. KPMG Baltics

Objectives

On 28 November, the Council of the European Union approved the new Corporate sustainability directive (CSRD). The new Directive and related European Sustainability reporting standards (currently under discussion) will reshape how European companies and business activities communicate about their sustainability and impact. As a result, sustainability reports will no longer be something good to have but will be a must for most companies. The research looks at how these mandatory reporting requirements will ensure that companies disclose the complete picture of their operations.

Materials and Methods

This research uses doctrinal research methodology for the legal aspects of sustainability reporting and interdisciplinary research methods. The primary sources are the Corporate sustainability reporting directive and European Sustainability reporting standards with accompanying materials and case law concerning greenwashing cases. International sustainability reporting standards, including GRI, TCFD and GHG protocol, and academic publications.

Results

One of the CSRD requirements is that the company sustainability report becomes part of the company’s financial management report. That means that this report will be audited and also publicly available. By providing questionable data on their sustainability, companies risk not only greenwashing allegations that would lead to reputation risks but also legal consequences. However, that does not mean that companies must be perfect examples of sustainable enterprises immediately; they must be honest even if the truth may be uncomfortable.

Conclusions

If a few years back, sustainability reporting was seen as good marketing to attract a growing number of environmentally conscious customers; now, with new Europe’s legal framework and policies, these reports will become an integral part of the day-to-day business. Companies will be required to report on their sustainability, which will also require data, and false reporting will have more than just bad reputation risks.

Do You Believe Them? Perceived Trustworthiness of the Narrator in Evaluating the Effectiveness of Climate Change Narratives

*Ms. Vineta Kleinberga*¹

1. Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives

Trustworthiness of the narrator is a recognised object of study in narratology, yet underrepresented in the studies of strategic narratives, which lie at the intersection of international relations and political communication. The conceptual framework of strategic narratives underlines the importance of studying not only formation and projection phases of strategic narratives but also their perception, acknowledging that it is the audiences, which determine the effects of the narratives. However, the main focus of scholars has been on the perception of contents of strategic narratives, and only minor attention has been devoted to the perception about the narrator, in particular, the fact that the narrator is worthy to trust and reliable. This study aims to fill in the research gap by testing the perceived trustworthiness of the narrator as an element providing impact on the persuasive power of strategic narrative. Exploring qualitative data on contemporary climate change strategic narrative in Latvia, the author argues that the persuasive power of the strategic narrative cannot be fully accounted for by looking at the narrative structure, its internal coherence and external convergence. Perceived trustworthiness of the narrator is an essential complementing factor in measuring the persuasive power of the strategic narrative, especially in audiences with low initial trust to the particular narrator.

Generation Z's Attitudes towards the Narrative about Sustainable Transport and Electromobility in Poznań, Poland

*Ms. Zuzanna Jezierska*¹

1. University of Amsterdam

Objectives

Research on the climate catastrophe says little about Generation Z, who actively participate in the climate change debate as citizens and consumers. Young people communicate about climate change not only in socially led discussions, but also through various lifestyle choices and independent purchase of goods. The study aims to explore their attitudes towards the narrative of sustainable transport and electromobility (mainly electric scooters) i.e., the extent to which they know and accept it, contest, and replace it with other narratives.

Materials and Methods

The study was conducted with 20 high school and university students living in Poznań (Poland). It consisted of two stages: one-hour individual interviews, followed by focus groups using a workshop method.

Results

The results show how young people think about the narrative of electric scooters in Poznań as a solution to climate change. Participants consider e-scooters as a widely implemented means of transportation, that indeed prevents air pollution and relieves the car-dominated urban traffic. Ultimately however, the vehicles are not environmentally friendly due to the carbon-obtained electricity and how there are produced. Also, it became clear that the new scooter users are former pedestrians, cyclists, and public transport users, which does not solve the problems associated with the high number of cars. In addition, young people have no plans to give up driving in the future, pointing to the underdeveloped infrastructure for micro and electric mobility as well as public transport.

Conclusions

Generation Z is sceptical about the narrative of solving the problems caused by climate change by introducing electric scooters to the city. As a group that primarily travels using alternatives to cars, they have pointed out many shortcomings in the sustainable transport system that is being rapidly implemented. Their perspective is a valuable reflection on the climate change narrative, which has the potential to foster and improve future action.

Integration of Climate Change Content in Marketing Communication of Retail Companies in Latvia

Ms. Santa Kļiedere¹, Mrs. Kristīne Blumfelde-Rutka¹

1. Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives

To prevent the average annual increase in temperature, the European Green Deal states that the EU must achieve climate neutrality by 2050, so the businesses in Europe need to adapt to the new regulations and the public must be informed about their shopping decisions. Thus, retailers can become a communication link between manufacturers and consumers.

This study seeks to examine climate change narrative integration in retail companies' marketing communication in Latvia, to research the context of climate change narrative in retail companies' public communication.

Materials and Methods

To achieve the aim of the study, marketing communication in the websites of the five most valuable retail companies in Latvia (according to "Latvia's Most Valuable Enterprises TOP 101") was researched. Monographic, secondary data analysis, discursive analysis with the principle of theoretical coding, qualitative research methods of the focus group discussions, and expert interviews were used.

Results

Overall, this study illuminates that retail companies in Latvia do communicate about processes related to climate change – mostly they use such terminology as "environment friendly", "CO2 emissions" and "sustainability" thus creating a narrative. It has been observed that retail companies use simple language and avoid mentioning CCh. Moreover, they invite consumers to be more environmentally friendly by telling the new initiatives they have been implementing in their business model. A narrative – Latvian business environment transforms, and entrepreneurs have already become or aim to become environmentally responsible in the nearest future – was observed.

Conclusions

Retail companies in Latvia are recommended to develop a long-term integrated marketing communication strategy, adapting the content to the target audience and use suitable marketing communication channels, considering that one of the marketing communication channels in retail is a store. It is recommended to create content about environmentally friendly packaging and recommendations on green lifestyle.

Mapping Existing Local Ecosystem Waste Management Practices in the European Union

*Ms. Anna Broka*¹

1. Department of Doctoral Studies, Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives

The EU Waste Framework Directive (EC 2008) has acknowledged the order for the waste management policies on national level: prevention, preparing for re-use, recycling, energy recovery and disposal. For common goal the stakeholders involved in the process shall align with the pro-environmental behaviour (hereafter PEB) and consumer – orientated behavioural policy interventions. The aim of this article is to map existing knowledge on waste management ecosystem, incl. PEB and consumer – oriented behaviour policy interventions, evolving local strategies in promoting waste management behaviours. The main question of interest is to discover to what extent the waste management policies in their design are targeted on change in PEB and consumer -oriented behaviour on local level? Sub-question: What is the share of responsibility between individual, local, national and the EU level on contributing to the European waste management ecosystem?

Materials and Methods

The EU, national and local level case study evolves the documentary analysis, thematic content analysis and policy process tracing method. The research dimensions: 1) the provision of information to consumers (informed) choices and information asymmetric; 2) distributional effect of environmental policies on households; 3) shared responsibility on households' decision making process.

Results

Even though the PEB is acknowledged on individual level, still the core and missing part is producers' activism. Distributional effect and shared responsibility, e.g., ecological modernization and engagement of citizens in local Agenda 21, identified in some country cases of the EU. Rather strict regulations does purely effect recovery and utilisation rates. Policy flexibility is desirable and needs to be discussed further.

Conclusions

The importance of municipal level governance on waste management shall align with national and global Agenda of SDGs. The Covid-19 pandemic post-effect and energy crisis has lead to behavioural change for sure. However, the increased awareness is somewhere in between need – based behaviour or pressures and real awareness.

Narratives about Climate Change Produced in Latvian Business Environment

Mrs. Kristīne Blumfelde-Rutka¹, Ms. Santa Kļiedere¹

1. Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives

The aim of this research is to examine what narrative entrepreneurs in Latvia are creating by analyzing their marketing communication. To explore public communication of the most valuable Latvian enterprises across six sectors. To compare the narratives across sectors in order to identify their alignment with the official political narrative. The period marks the beginning of change in Latvian political rhetoric advancing more ambitious climate policy both at national and the EU level.

Materials and Methods

30 the most valuable Latvian enterprises were selected, five from each sector – energy, transport, agriculture and forestry, waste management, manufacturing, and retail, according to assessment by Prudentia & Nasdaq Riga (2021). The public communication posted in the period of 2020.-2021. at official websites of the selected enterprises was analyzed. The sample consists of 264 articles.

Mixed methods research design was used, using both qualitative (narrative analysis) and quantitative (content analysis) research methods to extract the narratives.

Results

It was concluded that all six sectors had a unifying narrative which states that Latvian business environment transforms, and entrepreneurs have already become or aim to become environmentally responsible in the near-est future. Along with other sector-specific narratives we can conclude that enterprises have the potential to lead towards low-carbon economy by constructing an enabling discursive environment. Across sectors, a nar-rative of corporate social responsibility dominates emphasizing that Latvian business environment transforms.

Conclusions

The highest attention to Climate Change related issues is being observed in the retail and waste management sectors, whereas comparatively less articles are found in energy and agriculture & forestry sectors. Narratives demonstrate that enterprises have the potential to lead towards low-carbon economy by constructing an enabling discursive environment. It is particularly important in societies with low trust to the government, where actors other than government may be more trustworthy to foster public demand and change in habits.

Production of Wind Energy in Latvia – Comparison of Government’s Strategic Narrative and Political Narratives of Kurzeme Planning Region (2019–2022)

*Mrs. Dace Vasuka*¹

1. Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives

One of the priorities of the politics to achieve the climate neutrality, is to increase the share of electricity from the renewable resources. The wind energy is accepted as the most appropriate source for Latvia’s situation. However, in order to implement such a policy, it is important that policy should be accepted in the regional communities. One of the ways how to measure the acceptance of the wind energy policy chosen by the government, is to research the dominating narratives towards wind energy production in public. The research aims to compare the strategic narrative of the government of Latvia on the wind energy production with the policy narratives of Kurzeme’s planning region during the period of 7th May 2019 until 22nd March 2022, as well as assess their mutual interaction.

Materials and Methods

The paper includes research of the projection of the strategic narrative in the region’s public. Furthermore, identifying the region’s policy narrative towards wind energy production, the perception of the government’s strategic narrative has been defined in society. The study is based on theories on policy process, Narrative Policy Framework and Strategic narrative theory. According to the theory of the strategic narrative, the more coherent the narrative is in forming, distribution and perception stages, the more likely it is accepted in society.

Results

It has been found that alternative narratives on wind energy production are distributed in the region and the government’s strategic narrative is adopted only in one-third of Kurzeme’s planning region’s public.

Conclusions

The Latvia government only partly manages to mobilize the political elite, society and mass media of the Kurzeme planning region around its strategic narrative on the wind energy and alternative policy narratives are spread in local communities.

Projection of the European Union Climate and Environmental Narratives in the Debates of the Latvian Parliament (2018–2022)

*Ms. Katrīna Laura Tkačenko*¹

1. Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives

Since the first UN Environment Conference in 1972, the UN countries have held dozens of conferences and forums related to climate change and have signed several agreements on reducing human-caused impact on the environment and climate change. In the meantime, the European Union has committed to moving forward more rapidly by setting the goal of becoming the world's first climate-neutral region by 2050, as well as reducing net emissions by at least 55% till 2030 compared to 1990. Such an ambitious goal requires not only the development of a special climate policy, but also the need for a common understanding of the problem and moving in the same direction at all levels of governance. This study aims to clarify the narrative on environment and climate changes expressed in the parliamentary debates of Latvia – an EU member state with rising levels of greenhouse gas emissions, and its relevance to the EU climate policy.

Materials and Methods

Informed by the strategic narrative conceptual framework, the transcripts of the 13th Saeima (2018-2022) meetings were analyzed. Using qualitative content analysis, 92 climate change and environment-related speeches of the members of the parliament (MP) were coded according to 7 pre-defined parameters.

Results

The research shows that climate change is not high on the agenda of the 13th Saeima. Less than 1/3 of MPs participated in this debate. 44% of the coded speeches did not meet any of the 7 set parameters. Likewise, in 76% of speeches, MPs either did not express a specific position on climate change or did not consider it a real problem.

Conclusions

The coherence of climate narratives between the EU and the Latvian parliament is not observable in reality, as only 24% of the selected speeches position climate change as a serious problem, threat, or, at least, show readiness and need to act.

Survey of Systemic Food Waste Generation Causes in Latvian Retail, Catering, and Households

*Ms. Raimonda Soloha*¹, *Ms. Vineta Kleinberga*², *Dr. Elina Dace*³

1. Institute of Microbiology and Biotechnology, University of Latvia, 2. Department of Political Science, Rīga Stradiņš University, 3. Department of Political Science, Rīga Stradiņš University; Institute of Microbiology and Biotechnology, University of Latvia

Objectives

United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 12.3 aims to halve food waste generation by 2030. Food waste is associated with 8-10% of global greenhouse gas emissions, the main cause of climate change. There is insufficient qualitative and quantitative data to comprehensively understand the amount and causes of food waste generation, measure progress, and propose tangible targets and measures to reduce or prevent food waste not only in Latvia, but also globally. Data is scarcely distributed across different stages of the food supply chain. With this study, we aim to contribute to new knowledge in the field by assessing the socio-economic context of food waste generation in Latvian retail, catering and households, which are the source of food waste.

The specific objectives of this study are to improve understanding of food consumption behavior, capture socio-economic differences, extract systemic causes of food waste generation, and collect information on some existing solutions already used to reduce or prevent food waste generation. The study also aims to understand how food suppliers and consumers perceive the issue of food waste, and do they recognize food waste as a climate change cause.

For this study, we conducted two separate surveys: one for the retail and catering enterprises and the other for households. The survey questions were formulated not only according to sectoral differences but also to capture the systemic interlinkages between these food system stakeholders.

The results of the study fill the knowledge gap of systemic food waste generation causes in Latvia. The results are important to develop and implement efficient food prevention measures at a systemic intersectoral level, and thus also help in reducing the climate change pressures.

Who's behind the News? The Role of News Agency LETA in Framing of Climate Change in Latvian Media

*Mrs. Ilva Skulte*¹

1. Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives

Mass media play an important role in creating frames and narratives for understanding of reality. They create their own agenda on climate change interacting with policy agendas and public concerns. But there is a context of developing impact of PR on the news industry and journalistic elaboration of topics. It is especially important to understand how media deal with complex global system problems like climate change, The global perspective must be connected to the local one, and the local problems and issues must be enacted in the global context. The proposed paper is aimed on analysis of connections between narratives and frames proposed in press releases and articles of the news agency LETA and those in the publications of the most popular Latvian media.

Materials and Methods

The methods used for analysis of frames of narratives is narrative analysis and content analysis. The materials were selected for the analysis using the list of climate change related key words and it was completed by the tool 'station.lv'. The reference period is November, 2021 to April, 2022.

Results

The preliminary results show that in the time period analysed news agency LETA with both releases and news articles is the leader of using climate change related keywords, i.e. speaking about climate change. At the same time the narratives and frames created by the journalists of LETA and PR specialists working with releases are transferred to the news materials of other, especially, on-line media (group of media with highest audience reach for climate change issues).

Conclusions

Due to the specifics of the dynamics in the newsroom ecology, LETA has a big impact on climate change narrative formation in Latvia.

The research for the paper was founded by FLPP project Nr.lzp-2020/1-0047 'From indifference to making difference in climate policy: improving the interaction between political narrative and societal perceptions in Latvia'.

Winners or Losers? Perceptions of Climate Change and Related Policies in Latvian Society

Ms. Vineta Kleinberga¹, Ms. Elīna Smetāņina¹, Ms. Katrīna Laura Tkačenko¹, Ms. Santa Kļiedere¹

1. Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives

Climate change mitigation and adaptation cannot be fully effective without engagement of society. Therefore, governments devote substantial human and financial resources to communicate political goals to the public. However, the effects of communication can hardly be controlled by governments as people perceive things differently. Informed by the strategic narrative conceptual framework, which underlines the importance of perception in the persuasive power of strategic narratives, this study explores the reception of governments' communication on climate change in Latvian society. Applying a method of qualitative content analysis to the analysis of websites of 32 organisations representing Latvian society in the period from January 1, 2020, till December 31, 2021, the study aims to uncover the level of alignment of societal narratives on climate change with the official political narrative. The findings demonstrate that climate change related policies attract an increasing attention in Latvian society, yet narratives are fragmented and contest the official endeavours. Narratives recognise reality and threat of climate change, as well as need for an ambitious EU climate policy. A narrative of corporate social responsibility develops in business-oriented organisations. However, many organisations remain sceptical about government's abilities and intentions to implement climate-friendly policies. They underline the costs of the European Green Deal for Latvian economy and society, necessity to find a balance between environmental, economic and social goals, as well as lack of transparency and inclusion in determining Latvia's climate goals. Frequently a link is missing in the narratives between the discussed policy measures and climate change. Nevertheless, climate scepticism or denial is not observed in the narratives of Latvian society. This study implies that narratives predict action, therefore analysis of perception side of the official political narratives provides both the scientists and the policy-makers with the knowledge on obstacles the transition to climate neutrality might face.

Authors Index

A		Juberte Krūmiņa, Lita	12
Aleksandrovs, Aleksandrs	73	Jukna, Tatjana	43
Andersons, Liga	89	K	
Apsītis, Allars	53, 54	Kalinina, Alina	27
Arāja, Diāna	87	Kalniņa, Diāna	81
Azamatova, Tatjana	88	Kari, Mika	8
B		Kärn, Judith	46
Batyrgareieva, Vladyslava	59	Kaur Taneja, Maninderjit	32
Baumane, Māra	3	Khanwaria, Ishita	38
Bela, Baiba	74	Ķikuts, Kristiāns	4
Berga, Anzelika Berke	86	Kipāne, Aldona	45
Berķis, Uldis	10, 87	Kiščenko, Diāna	71
Berzina, Ilze	55	Kleinberga, Vineta	98, 105, 107
Bērziņa-Čerenkova, Una	15	Klekere, Egle	15
Blumfelde-Rutka, Kristīne	100, 102	Kliedere, Santa	100, 102, 107
Bormane, Santa	31	Kojo, Matti	8
Brazul-Bruszkowski, Yevgeny	63	Koroļeva, Ilze	73
Brikena, Liga	90, 91	Kreituse, Ilga	5
Broka, Anna	101	Kriķīte, Anete	74
Buddala, Rishitha	18	Krivins, Anatolijs	21, 48
C		Kudeikina, Inga	20, 25, 37
Cepurītis, Māris	2	L	
Chakhvadze, George	18, 32, 38	Lehtonen, Markku	8
Ciekurs, Rafaels	51	Litmanen, Tapio	8
D		Loseviča, Marina	37
Dace, Elina	105	Lūse, Agita	68
Daugulis, Mārtiņš	7	M	
Denisova, Anastasia	95	Manda, Jyoteeswari	18
Dinsberga, Jolanta	34, 54	Martinsons, Laura	92
Dovladbekova, Inna	86, 92	Matisāns, Juris	58
F		Menechelli, Renan	65
Filipe Graael Tinos, Luis	65	Metla-Rozentale, Lelde	96
G		Mihailova, Sandra	77
Gagunovs, Romāns	5	Misane, Agita	67
Gervazieva, Tsevelte-Lina Romanova	13	Muraru-Klucica, Julija	36
Grasis, Janis	17	Murovska, Modra	87
Gutorova, Nataliya	49	Mykhailichenko, Tetiana	57
H		N	
Heinrichs, Pauline Sophie	94	Nagwan, Tanvi	32
Hupenija, Georgijs	4	Neiders, Ivars	80
I		Netesa, Nataliia	59
Indriliunaite, Rasa	84	Nikiforovs, Andrejs	52
Izotenko, Daniela	30	Nora-Krūkle, Zaiga	87
J		O	
Jeziarska, Zuzanna	99	Olsena, Solvita	42
Joksts, Osvalds	44, 53	Ozolins, Liga	76

P		Silva, Patrick	65
Paiders, Janis	10	Šime, Zane	14
Palkova, Karina	20, 40	Šķestere, Lāsma	82
Papacharalampous, Nafsika	62	Skulte, Ilva	78, 79, 106
Pashkov, Vitalii	39	Slavinska, Andreta	40
Petersons, Ansis	73	Smetaņina, Elīna	107
Pētersons, Aigars	40	Soloha, Raimonda	105
Plakans, Peteris	6	Stacenko, Sergejs	91
Plāte, Kristiāna	97	Stakle, Alnis	79
Poikāne, Agnese	83	Stepanovs, Dmitrijs	10
Puzo, Ieva	61	Strmiska, Michael	69
R		Strode, Ieva	11
Rācene-Riekstiņa, Liene	72	Svempe, Līga	33
Radzevics, Juris	41	T	
Raistenskis, Evaldas	21	Tarasova, Dace	22, 54
Randhawa, Apneet	38	Tkačenko, Katrīna Laura	96, 104, 107
Ratniece, Laura	35	Trapenciēre, Ilze	73
Reine, Agnese	50	U	
Rozentāle, Lidiija	19	Upeniēks, Kristaps	28
Rožkalns, Aigars	19	Urbane, Marta	31
Rozukalne, Anda	79	V	
Rungule, Ritma	83	Val Danilov, Igor	77
S		Van Bekkum, Dirck	64
Šāberte, Laura	22, 23	Vasuka, Dace	96, 103
Santos Andrade, Vinicius	65	Vilks, Andrejs	29
Saukāne, Larisa	26	Z	
Savickis, Valdis	25	Zabuha, Yuliia	24
Sedlenieks, Klavs	9, 70	Zīle, Aelita	47, 56
Seņkāne, Silva	80, 83	Žukovs, Artūrs	28
Siliņa, Aija	66		

Authors ORCID list

Andersone, Liga	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2872-3863
Apsītis, Allars	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8363-6981
Arāja, Diāna	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4558-0980
Azamatova, Tatjana	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0065-9262
Batyrgareieva, Vladyslava	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3879-2237
Baumane, Māra	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9331-9763
Bela, Baiba	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1860-3307
Berga, Anzelika Berke	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8844-8197
Berķis, Uldis	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9108-2061
Berzina, Ilze	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1196-7316
Bērziņa-Čerenkova, Una	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1640-7353
Blumfelde-Rutka, Kristīne	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4657-3790
Bormane, Santa	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1205-1599
Brazul-Bruszkowski, Yevgeny	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9392-7160
Brikena, Liga	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8944-3403
Broka, Anna	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3057-1624
Chakhvadze, George	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9096-760X
Dace, Elina	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7880-0820
Daugulis, Mārtiņš	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0620-1949
Denisova, Anastasia	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8832-6261
Dinsberga, Jolanta	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3503-9151
Dovladbekova, Inna	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2815-9385
Filipe Grael Tinos, Luis	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7535-3930
Gagunovs, Romāns	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1002-8934
Grasis, Janis	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1394-9958
Gutorova, Nataliya	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2485-0651
Heinrichs, Pauline Sophie	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9840-3251
Indriliunaite, Rasa	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7838-672X
Izotenko, Daniela	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3358-3452
Joksts, Osvalds	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8376-3625
Juberte Krūmiņa, Lita	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7330-6391
Jukna, Tatjana	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5646-5454
Kalinina, Alina	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8015-0807
Kalniņa, Diāna	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9310-7517
Kari, Mika	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8973-6775
Kipāne, Aldona	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6408-3456
Kleinberga, Vineta	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7819-5790
Kojo, Matti	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1731-292X
Kreituse, Ilga	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4876-9911
Krivins, Anatolijs	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1764-4091
Kudeikina, Inga	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7895-4264
Lehtonen, Markku	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2509-1554
Litmanen, Tapio	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6491-4990
Loseviča, Marina	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9371-5061
Lūse, Agita	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8896-0297
Martinsone, Laura	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3557-5168
Matisāns, Juris	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3981-7275
Menechelli, Renan	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4375-5203
Metla-Rozentale, Lelde	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7279-4960

Mihailova, Sandra	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9526-1881
Misane, Agita	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8350-6386
Muraru-Klucica, Julija	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8278-0642
Murovska, Modra	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0971-1784
Mykhailichenko, Tetiana	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4668-3375
Neiders, Ivars	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9876-2457
Netesa, Nataliia	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0567-4296
Nikiforovs, Andrejs	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2272-0618
Nora-Krūkle, Zaiga	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0594-1091
O'Loughlin, Ben	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0538-4149
Ozolīna, Liga	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3717-3020
Palkova, Karina	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6909-571X
Papacharalampous, Nafsika	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2143-5794
Pashkov, Vitalii	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9489-7768
Pētersons, Aigars	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3395-6335
Plakans, Peteris	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9972-7215
Poikāne, Agnese	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7875-2411
Puzo, Ieva	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3197-0942
Radzevics, Juris	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3526-8683
Raistenskis, Evaldas	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3049-2926
Ratniece, Laura	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7569-5773
Reine, Agnese	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8222-8281
Rozentāle, Lidiija	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5139-4642
Rozukalne, Anda	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5474-4222
Rungule, Ritma	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5479-7076
Santos Andrade, Vinicius	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0096-1886
Saukāne, Larisa	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4669-3493
Savickis, Valdis	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3680-0697
Sedlenieks, Klavs	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1751-2956
Seņkāne, Silva	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1291-8412
Silva, Patrick	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3310-6982
Skulte, Ilva	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4589-6600
Slavinska, Andreta	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9557-6704
Smetaņina, Elīna	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8608-0459
Soloha, Raimonda	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3358-8261
Stacenko, Sergejs	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7544-4229
Stakle, Alnis	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0962-0076
Strmiska, Michael	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8698-907X
Strode, Ieva	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9826-0473
Svempe, Līga	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6588-9301
Šāberte, Laura	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3712-5419
Šīme, Zane	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4690-3243
Šķestere, Lāsma	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1761-5004
Tarasova, Dace	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0524-4285
Tkačenko, Katrīna Laura	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2606-2069
Upenieks, Kristaps	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0081-6654
Urbane, Marta	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6684-9312
Val Danilov, Igor	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0496-8134
Vilks, Andrejs	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5161-0760
Zabuha, Yuliia	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1805-515X
Zīle, Aelita	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4378-738X
Žukovs, Artūrs	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3141-1294

Rīga Stradiņš University 3rd International Interdisciplinary Conference
PLACES, 29–31 March, 2023:
Abstracts. Rīga: RSU, i–viii p., 111 p., including Author Index.
<https://doi.org/10.25143/rw2023.places.abstracts-book>

Chair of the Organizing Committee
Dr. phil. Agrita Kiopa

Chair of the Scientific Committee
Prof. Aivars Lejnīeks

Authors are responsible for the content of their abstracts.

© Rīga Stradiņš University, 2023
16 Dzirciema Street, Rīga, LV 1007

ISBN 978-9934-618-27-7 (electronic)