

# Konferans Raporu/*Conference Report*

## **“1<sup>st</sup> International Egodocumental Network Conference. Egodocuments from Medieval Codex to Modern Media: Narratives, Presentations, Identities”**

Vilnius, Lithuania, 24-26 April 2025, co-organised by Vilnius University, Faculty of Communication, Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, Faculty of History, University of Lodz, Filip Friedman Centre for Jewish Studies, International Egodocumental Research Group

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The International Egodocumental Network was established by the initiative of Michaël Green (University of Lodz) and Hadrian Ciechanowski (Nicolaus Copernicus University of Toruń) in December 2023 with the goal of uniting scholars from different historical disciplines, working on egodocumental sources in their research. The network which hosts two online research seminars a year has greatly expanded since its formation and has over a hundred participants from various parts of the globe. Part of its mission is to

curate a regular international conference on the topic of egodocuments, of which the first one took place between the 24 and 26 April 2025, in Vilnius, Lithuania, at the premisses of the Vilnius University Library and the Palace of the Dukes of Lithuania. The conference was organised by Arvydas Pacevičius (Vilnius University, Chairperson), Aušra Navickienė (Vilnius University, Vice-Chairperson), Hadrian Ciechanowski (Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń), Veronika Girininkaitė (Vilnius University Library), Michaël Green (University of Lodz), and Rima Cicėnienė (Wróblewski Library of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences and Vilnius University), while the scientific committee was formed by Waldemar Chorążyczewski (Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń), Aušra Martišiūtė-Linartienė (The Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore) and Joanna Orzeł (University of Lodz).

Over the course of three days, the conference attracted over seventy papers and over eighty participants. The papers were divided into several parallel sessions and were grouped by topics. Of particular significance was the timeframe of the presentations which started from the Middle Ages and ended with the twenty-first century. Scholars from the disciplines of general history, Jewish studies, literary history, legal history, religious history, history of art and others attended in order to listen to each other's perspective on the way egodocuments were examined. Within this framework, the conference was very successful. It enabled scholarly exchange and critical reflection on the relevance of this type of sources for modern research, the challenges in finding a common definition of the source, the need for inclusivity and the exclusion of certain genres.

The discussion was framed by three keynote lectures. On the first day, the conference commenced with an address by François-Joseph Ruggiu (Sorbonne University). As a historian, he reflected on how Frenchman depicted what they saw abroad in his "Writing the overseas. Africa, Americas and Asia in the French personal writings (18th century)". The second day's keynote speaker was Leona Toker (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the Shalem Academic College), a literary historian who traced the thin border between the imagined self-narrative and its authentic elements in her "From Egodocuments to Autofiction: The Points of Overlap". The final keynote lecture was given by Nataliia Voloshkova (Kazimierz Wielki University in Bydgoszcz) who focused on travel writing as an egodocumental genre

with its specific challenges in her “Representations of Urban Sociability in Odesa in Early 19<sup>th</sup>-Century British Travel Accounts”.

The conference was concluded with a round table discussion in which the audience reflected on the issues raised in the conference, in particular, the challenges of those who work with egodocumental sources: the lack of archival tagging which makes it difficult to trace the documents, limited accessibility and the need to solidify existing methodology. The Brill series “Egodocuments and History” and “Studies in the History of Privacy” were proposed as possible venues for publication of scholarly work, related to the study of egodocuments and the self.