



OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSPERSON FOR  
**ACADEMIC ETHICS  
AND PROCEDURES**  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

# Navigating Ethical Challenges in Academia: the Role of AI and Trust

Conference on  
World Ethics Day

## PROGRAMME

11 October  
**2024**

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Corner Hotel (Perra Grand Hall),  
T. Ševčenkos str. 16, 03111 Vilnius

## PROGRAMME

- 9:00 – 10:00**    **REGISTRATION**
- 10:00 – 10:20**    **WELCOME ADDRESS**  
**Prof. Dr. Artūras Žukauskas**, Chair of the Committee on Education and Science  
**Aistė Kairienė**, Adviser to the Prime Minister  
**Prof. Dr. Dalius Serafinas**, President of the Lithuanian Scientific Society  
**Dr. Reda Cimperman**, Ombudswoman for Academic Ethics and Procedures
- 10:20 – 10:50**    **ACADEMIC ETHICS, TRUST, AND AI IN MILITARY SCIENCE:  
THE AUSTRIAN POINT OF VIEW**  
**Dr. Paul Ertl**, National Defence Academy, Centre for Leadership and Defence Awareness (former Institute for Human and Social Sciences), Faculty Member
- 10:50 – 11:20**    **THE AI EDUCATION DISRUPTION: INCREMENTAL  
TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENTS AND REESTABLISHMENT  
OF TRUST**  
**Dr. Jason Pridmore**, Project Coordinator and an Associate Professor in the Department of Media and Communication at Erasmus University Rotterdam.
- 11:20 – 11:40**    **GUIDELINES ON THE ETHICAL USE OF ARTIFICIAL  
INTELLIGENCE IN SCIENCE AND STUDIES**  
**Dr. Birutė Liekė**, Office of the Ombudsperson for Academic Ethics and Procedures
- 11:40 – 12:00**    **ROLE OF ETHICS IN AI GOVERNANCE**  
**Benediktas Girdvainis**, AI Governance Expert, AICR Consulting  
**Agnė Mikštienė**, Project Manager, Create Lithuania
- 12:00 – 12:20**    **LEGAL UNDERCURRENTS IN NAVIGATION OF ETHICAL  
CHALLENGES: POTENTIAL LEGAL DIFFICULTIES IN ACADEMIC  
AI-RELATED ETHICS CASES – LITHUANIAN PERSPECTIVE**  
**Andrius Bambalas**, Attorney-at-law at LITIGO
- 12:20 – 12:40**    **AI USE IN STUDIES, SCIENCE, AND CLINICAL PRACTICE:  
GUIDELINES AT THE LITHUANIAN UNIVERSITY  
OF HEALTH SCIENCES**  
**Prof. Dr. Gvidas Urbonas**, Department of Bioethics, Lithuanian University of Health Sciences

## PROGRAMME

12:40 – 13:40



13:40 – 14:00

### RESPONSIBLE RESEARCH BAROMETER 2024

**Dr. Rima Sinické**, Office of the Ombudsperson for Academic Ethics and Procedures

14:00 – 14:20

### LEARNING THROUGH COLLABORATION: PRACTICE OF EUROPEAN NETWORK OF RESEARCH INTEGRITY OFFICES

**Dr. Loreta Tauginienė**, Vice-President of the European Network of Research Integrity Offices

14:20 – 14:40

### ETHICS IN SCIENCE: NAVIGATING THE INTERSECTION BETWEEN RULES AND THEIR APPLICATION, EXAMPLE OF A RESEARCH UNIT IN FRANCE

**Prof. Dr. Claudia Wiegand**, University Rennes, UMR CNRS 6553 ECOBIO (Ecosystems, Biodiversity, Evolution).

14:40 – 15:00

### RE-DEFINING THE ECOSYSTEM OF TRUST IN SCIENCE: THE ROLE OF STEWARDS OF TRUST IN CHANGING RESEARCH ENVIRONMENTS

**Dr. Agata Gurzawska**, Cluster Lead - Ethics, Human Rights and Emerging Technologies

15:00 – 15:20

### RESEARCH ETHICS CHALLENGES OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES: PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF THE IRECS PROJECT

**Prof. Dr. Eugenijus Gefenas**, Professor and Director of the Centre for Health Ethics, Law, and History at the Medical Faculty of Vilnius University.

15:20 – 15:40

### BUILDING BRIDGES OF TRUST: THE POWER OF COLLABORATIVE COMMUNICATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

**Julija Baniukevic**, IANUS Project Coordinator, Research Council of Lithuania

15:40 – 15:45

### END OF THE CONFERENCE

## WELCOME ADDRESS

**Prof. Dr. Artūras Žukauskas,**

Chair of the Committee on Education and Science

**Aistė Kairienė,**

Adviser to the Prime Minister (not confirmed)

**Prof. Dr. Dalius Serafinas,**

President of the Lithuanian Scientific Society

**Dr. Reda Cimperman,**

Ombudswoman for Academic Ethics and Procedures



## DR. PAUL ERTL

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**National Defence Academy,  
Centre for Leadership and Defence  
Awareness (former Institute for Human and  
Social Sciences), Faculty Member**

### ABSTRACT

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In order to gain trust and confidence in research and teaching, clarity and good compliance are required. During this talk it will be shown how such a goal can be achieved in the field of Austrian defence research and the implementation of its subsequent output in organisational structures and teaching. The special focus will be put on an ongoing research project on the ethics of digitalization of the Austrian Armed Forces.

### SHORT BIO

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Hofrat Dr. Paul G. ERTL, born 1972, holds a PhD in philosophy (AAU, Klagenfurt/AUT, 2011) where he studied philosophy with a focus on political philosophy, ethics, and philosophy of science. He served in uniform in the Austrian Armed Forces for 16 years and moved to the civilian sector of research, teaching and consulting at the National Defense Academy in Vienna in 2005. He heads currently the Department for Conduct and Cohesion of the Forces and is working on his habilitation at the Eötvös Lorand University in Budapest/HUN. He is a well-known lecturer at various universities (Medical University of Vienna, Danube University Krems, Santa Clara University California, etc.) and is a reviewer for defence research projects for the European Defence Agency (European Commission).



## DR. JASON PRIDMORE

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Project coordinator and an Associate Professor in the Department of Media and Communication at Erasmus University Rotterdam

### ABSTRACT

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This presentation will discuss how the sudden appearance and emphasis on AI and its effects on education actually connect with a number of previous experiences of technology developments. While this does not completely change the significant effects AI has recently had on education, reestablishing trust and preparing our education for the future can draw from the lessons of the past.

### SHORT BIO

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Jason Pridmore, PhD, is the coordinator of the SEISMEC project which will pilot innovation practices for human centric industry and the coordinator of the COALESCE project which focuses on building the European Competence Centre for Science Communication. Focusing on effective integration of new digital practices in the workplace alongside a concern for effective (data) science communication, Jason's work crosscuts the intersections of technology development, social science research, and educational and communication practices.



## DR. BIRUTĖ LIEKĖ

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Office of the Ombudsperson for Academic  
Ethics and Procedures

### ABSTRACT

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This presentation discusses challenges that arise, the general principles of the ethical use of artificial intelligence, intellectual property rights and consumer protection. I will provide information on how institutions should prepare and implement policies on the use of artificial intelligence in science and research, as well as guidelines on the ethical use of artificial intelligence or other documents, as well as the integration of aspects of the ethical use of artificial intelligence into other relevant institutional policies governing studies and science.

### SHORT BIO

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Birutė Liekė is a Senior Specialist (Senior Analyst) at the Office of the Ombudsperson for Academic Ethics and Procedures. She holds a doctoral degree in education and has over 20 years of teaching experience. In recent years, her work has focused on ethical issues in science and education, particularly with the emergence of generative artificial intelligence technologies and their ethical application in academic settings.



## BENEDIKTAS GIRDVAINIS

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AI Governance expert, AICR Consulting

### ABSTRACT

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The presentation emphasizes the role of ethics in the brand-new AI era. It exemplifies the intergovernmental efforts at drawing and legislating the principles of ethical AI governance as well as their adoption into the National AI Governance model of Lithuania. Where does AI ethics begin? Data input and content output. Transparency.

### SHORT BIO

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Benediktas Girdvainis is an expert in AI governance, having contributed to the development of frameworks for the promotion of safe and reliable AI at both national and European levels. Benediktas has played a significant role in aligning national AI governance aims with the EU AI Act by designing the National AI Governance Model for Lithuania and organising Lithuania's AI Governance forum. At the European level, he is part of the EU working group for Supervising AI by Competent Authorities and together with the Dutch Authority for Digital Infrastructure has led a multicountry technical support instrument request for the supervision of General Purpose AI systems





## AGNĖ MIKŠTIENĖ

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Project Manager, Create Lithuania

### ABSTRACT

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The presentation emphasizes the role of ethics in the brand-new AI era. It exemplifies the intergovernmental efforts at drawing and legislating the principles of ethical AI governance as well as their adoption into the National AI Governance model of Lithuania. Where does AI ethics begin? Data input and content output. Transparency.

### SHORT BIO

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Agnė Mikštienė served as a Project Manager at Create Lithuania (*Kurk Lietuvai*), where she collaborated with the Ministry of Culture to lead AI-related projects that examined the challenges AI posed to creators and journalists. Her work primarily focused on ethical issues, particularly concerning copyright during the training phase and transparency during the output phase. Agnė played a key role in organising and participating in important events that addressed critical issues at the intersection of AI, copyright, and journalism. Additionally, Agnė led discussions on data and ethics at the AI governance forum, contributing to the broader dialogue on responsible AI practices across various sectors.



## ANDRIUS BAMBALAS

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Attorney-at-law at LITIGO

### ABSTRACT

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From early activities of Office of the Ombudsperson for Academic Ethics and Procedures, decisions of the Ombudsperson concerning breaches of academic ethics became subject to judicial review of Lithuanian courts. This presentation provides an overview of Lithuanian case law on academic ethics explaining legal rationale behind such decisions and potential pitfalls it had created. Moreover, it provides insights on challenges future cases related to improper AI use will bring in judicial proceedings on academic ethics in Lithuania.

### SHORT BIO

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Andrius Bambalas is an Attorney-at-law with over fifteen years of experience in representing clients in various disputes and transactions. He specializes in dispute resolution and has a strong focus on responsible business conduct and assisted Office of the Ombudsperson for Academic Ethics and Procedures in court proceedings. Currently, Andrius is with Law Studio LITIGO, serves as the Chairman of Independent Experts at the Lithuanian National Contact Point (NCP) under the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, works as Project Manager for Erasmus+ Project Cybersecurity Skills Alliance – A New Vision for Europe. He has also had a significant academic career, having lectured on Private International Law and International Investment Law at Mykolas Romeris University. Andrius holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in law from the same university and is pursuing a PhD focused on China's capital export and international investment law.



## **PROF. DR. GVIDAS URBONAS**

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Department of Bioethics, Lithuanian  
University of Health Sciences

### ABSTRACT

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Navigating the fine line between prohibiting and legitimizing AI in studies, science, and clinical practice is one of the greatest challenges faced by medical universities. During the presentation, guidelines for the ethical use of AI in these critical fields, along with related discussions, will be presented.

### SHORT BIO

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Gvidas Urbonas, a professor and head of the Department of Bioethics at the Lithuanian University of Health Sciences, works in the fields of research ethics, bioethics, and clinical ethics. He is also a member of research ethics boards at both the national and university levels.

## DR. RIMA SINICKĖ

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Office of the Ombudsperson for Academic  
Ethics and Procedures

### ABSTRACT

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This presentation covers the findings of the Responsible Research Barometer 2024 survey, which examined the experiences of researchers in Lithuanian research and education institutions regarding research and publication ethics. It also compares the results with previous surveys, focusing on ethical sensitivity, education, and malpractice within the academic community.

### SHORT BIO

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Dr. Rima Sinickė holds PhD in Social sciences and Master's degree in Higher Education Pedagogy. With over fifteen years of experience in applied research, data analysis, and project management in public and private sectors, she has extensive expertise in both quantitative and qualitative methodologies, including questionnaire design, statistical data analysis, and data visualization.



## DR. LORETA TAUGINIENĖ

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Vice-President of the European Network of  
Research Integrity Offices

### ABSTRACT

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This presentation shows the transformative journey of the European Network of Research Integrity Offices (ENRIO) from the sense of learning to the sense of care. I will also exemplify the learning experience of Lithuania, an ENRIO co-founder and member.

### SHORT BIO

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Dr. Loreta Tauginienė is a Vice-President of the European Network of Research Integrity Offices (ENRIO). As a long-lasting ethicist, she engaged in many different roles related to research ethics and research integrity promotion and continues to contribute to the field at both national and international levels. She is a social scientist, experienced in interdisciplinary research. Her main research interests: ethical aspects in academia, namely academic/research integrity, social responsibility of higher education institutions and citizen science.



## PROF. DR. CLAUDIA WIEGAND

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University Rennes, UMR CNRS 6553 ECOBIO  
(Ecosystems, Biodiversity, Evolution).

### ABSTRACT

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The regulation of scientific integrity in France is adopted by the universities, CNRS and other research institutions. It is comprising the French National Charter of Ethics for Research Professions, based on the Singapore Statement and contributing to the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity. Despite the fact that information is distributed via various channels to all levels of persons involved in scientific research, it may still not reach everyone, in particular younger researchers. In case of a conflicting situation, this may lead to a reluctance in asking for support in due time, which in turn impedes the process of finding compromises.

### SHORT BIO

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I studied Biology at the Free University Berlin, conducted my PhD, Post Doc and Junior-Professorship at the Leibniz Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries in collaboration with the Humboldt University Berlin. After being an Associate Prof. at the SDU-Denmark, I have been a full professor at the University Rennes since 2015. My research field is Ecotoxicology in aquatic and terrestrial systems, which I also teach (and taught in the past) at all the aforementioned Universities, in additions to other topics. I supervised 6 PhD candidates and numerous Masters as their main supervisor. I took the responsibility for Scientific Integrity for my research unit UMR CNRS 6553 ECOBIO in 2019.



## DR. AGATA GURZAWSKA

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Cluster Lead - Ethics, Human Rights and  
Emerging Technologies

### ABSTRACT

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The ecosystem of trust in science is changing, and trust is moving into the hands of the many. In this new state of affairs, trust is co-governed by 'new' stakeholders as stewards of trust having a critical role and responsibility in nurturing trust in science through science production, education, communication, policy, funding and advocacy, implementation, oversight and protection as well as science-society facilitation and citizen science. This presentation builds on the findings of the EU-funded VERITY project and presents the avenues to enhance public trust in science from the ecosystemic perspective.

### SHORT BIO

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Dr. Agata Gurzawska, Research Manager at Trilateral, leads a research group on ethics, human rights and emerging tech. She has worked on +15 EU-funded projects as a human rights and ethics expert in the context of technology. Currently, she is coordinating the Horizon Europe VERITY project on the ecosystemic approach to trust in science. Driven by curiosity and human rights values, she believes that strategic responsible innovation management (StRIM) can boost economic benefits and lead to responsible, sustainable and ethical technology.



## PROF. DR. EUGENIJUS GEFENAS

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Professor and Director of the Centre for  
Health Ethics, Law, and History at the  
Medical Faculty of Vilnius University

### ABSTRACT

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irecs is a Horizon Europe project that aims to train researchers and research ethics reviewers to address ethical challenges raised by four technologies: Genome Editing, AI in Healthcare, Extended Reality and Biobanking. The project goals are crucial for sustaining public trust in science and applying new technologies in research. In my talk, I will present key challenges to the ethics review of the mentioned technologies used in research.

### SHORT BIO

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Eugenijus Gefenas is a professor and director of the Centre for Health Ethics, Law, and History at the Medical Faculty of Vilnius University. He was a member of the European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies (EGE) in 2016-2021. In 2021, he was elected as a chairperson of the European Network of Research Ethics Committees (EUREC). His recent academic activities include projects related to research ethics and integrity, focusing on research in disaster situations, research with new technologies and ethical implications of changing regulatory frameworks of clinical trials and health data research.





## JULIJA BANIUKEVIČ

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IANUS Project Coordinator,  
Research Council of Lithuania

### ABSTRACT

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In this presentation, I will emphasize the critical role of collaboration among scientists, public and communicators in effectively conveying science and technology-related information. I will discuss the outcomes of an organised media panel that explored scientific information reliability, personal trust in science, and the challenges of science communication, with a focus on the role of AI. Structured into four focus groups, i.e. Science Communicators, Science Journalists, Scientists, and Students, this discussion engaged participants with three distinct questions, highlighting how coordinated efforts can enhance public understanding, trust, and responses to pressing scientific and ethical issues during times of urgency and uncertainty.

### SHORT BIO

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Julija Baniukevič is the project coordinator of IANUS project for the Research Council of Lithuania, dedicated to enhancing trust in science and fostering collaboration among researchers. She also leads the OPUS project, aimed at reforming research assessment to promote practical applications. Recently certified as a European Commission ethics expert, Julija contributes to discussions on research integrity. She collaborates with the Nature Research Centre research community, emphasizing the importance of collaborative communication in building trust and funding opportunities. With her experience as a European Commission expert-evaluator and JRC trainer, Julija empowers researchers to inform policy and navigate ethical challenges in academia.

# Navigating Ethical Challenges in Academia: the Role of AI and Trust

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