



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

Academic Ethics in Higher Education: Study Approaches, Assessment, and the Role of AI

October 10, 2025

Holiday Inn

Address: Šeimyniškių St. 1,
09312 Vilnius, Lithuania

Time	Speaker	Institution	Title
08:30–09:00	REGISTRATION		
09:00–09:10	Vaida Aleknavičienė	Committee on Education, Science and Culture of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania	Welcome address
09:10–09:20	Prof. Dr. Dalius Serafinas	Lithuanian Scientific Society	Welcome address
09:20–09:30	Dr. Darja Nikitina	Lithuanian Society of Young Researchers	Welcome address
09:30–09:40	Dr. Reda Cimpmperman	Office of the Ombudsperson for Academic Ethics and Procedures	Welcome address
09:40–10:10	Prof. Dr. Ana Marušič	University of Split School of Medicine, Croatia	Current Challenges of AI in Academic Publishing
10:10–10:30	Dr. Rima Sinickė	Office of the Ombudsperson for Academic Ethics and Procedures	Do We Trust ChatGPT More Than Our Students? Exploring Academic Boundaries
10:30–11:00	COFFEE BREAK		
11:00–12:30	WORKSHOPS		
11:00–12:30	Dr. Eglė Ozolinčiūtė, Gabrielė Dambrauskaitė	Office of the Ombudsperson for Academic Ethics and Procedures	COALESCE: Science Communication Guidelines Aligned with Academic Ethics
11:00–12:30	Gabija Juzėnaitė	Lithuanian National Union of Students	Beyond Compliance: Building AI Ethical Cultures in HEIs
11:00–12:30	Povilas Virbašius	Vilnius University Students' Representation	Students & AI: Building Integrity in a Digital Age
11:00–12:30	Dr. Aurelija Novelskaitė, Dr. Raminta Pučėtaitė, Dr. Loreta Tauginienė	Vilnius University & Kaunas University of Technology	Research Ethics Committees: Navigating the Challenges of AI
12:30–13:45	LUNCH BREAK		
13:45–14:05	Anastasija Žonych	European Humanities University	Preventing Contract Cheating: The Lecturer's Role in Academic Integrity
14:05–14:30	Raimonda Soloha, Dr. Laila Silamiķele	Latvian Association of Young Researchers	Exploring Academic Integrity in Latvian Higher Education: Insights from a Survey
14:30–14:50	Gabija Juzėnaitė	Lithuanian National Union of Students	The Complex Relationship Between Students and Generative AI
14:50–15:10	Povilas Virbašius	Vilnius University Students' Representation	Academic integrity in the light of AI: Student perspective

WELCOME ADDRESS

Vaida Aleknavičienė

Chair of the Committee on Education and Science,
Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania

Prof. Dr. Dalius Serafinas

President of the Lithuanian Scientific Society

Dr. Darja Nikitina

President of the Lithuanian Society of Young Researchers

Dr. Reda Cimperman

Ombudsperson for Academic Ethics and
Procedures of the Republic of Lithuania

PROF. DR. ANA MARUŠIĆ

PRESENTATION

Current Challenges of AI in Academic Publishing



ABSTRACT

This presentation will explore the current challenges artificial intelligence poses to academic publishing, including issues of authorship, data integrity, and transparency. It will reflect on the shifting role of editors and publishers in the age of generative AI and offer perspectives on maintaining trust and ethical standards in scholarly communication.

SHORT BIO

Ana Marušić is Professor of Anatomy, Chair of the Department of Research in Biomedicine and Health, and Head of the Center for Evidence-based Medicine at the University of Split School of Medicine. She holds honorary doctorate from the University of Western Brittany in France. Prof. Marušić's research interests include evidence-based medicine and research integrity. She has published over 400 articles in peer-reviewed journals and was heavily involved with creating the policy of mandatory registration of clinical trials in public registries which helped change the legal regulation of clinical trials worldwide. She has participated in several EU projects related to research integrity and responsible research and innovation. Prof. Marušić is the founder of Cochrane Croatia and also serves on the Steering Group of the EQUATOR Network. She was the editor in chief of the *Croatian Medical Journal* and the *Journal of Global Health*. She is currently the Senior Editor-in-Chief of *ST-OPEN*, an overlay journal of the University of Split. She was the president of several editorial organizations: EASE, CSE, and WAME. She serves on the Council of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE), and as the president of [The Embassy Foundation](#). She is also the founding member of the Croatian Reproducibility and Integrity Network, [CroRIN](#).

DR. RIMA SINICKĖ

PRESENTATION

Do We Trust ChatGPT More Than Our Students? Exploring Academic Boundaries

ABSTRACT

This presentation is based on a national survey conducted with 725 members of the Lithuanian academic community. It explores how academics view trust in science and AI, the use of ChatGPT and other AI tools, and ethical issues in higher education. The talk discusses perceptions of the role of AI in research and learning, as well as the challenges of maintaining academic integrity. It also presents examples of how different situations - such as cheating or misuse of authorship - are interpreted by the academic community.

SHORT BIO

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. EGLĒ OZOLINČIŪTĒ

WORKSHOP

COALESCE: Science Communication Guidelines Aligned with Academic Ethics



ABSTRACT

This workshop presents the COALESCE project's science communication guidelines, developed in alignment with academic ethics principles. Participants are introduced to practical tools and recommendations for communicating science in an ethical, responsible, and inclusive manner. The session also explores challenges and solutions for strengthening public trust in science.

SHORT BIO

Dr. Eglė Ozolinčiūtė holds a doctoral degree in Sociology and has several years of experience in higher education policy analysis within the governmental sector. At the Office of the Ombudsperson for Academic Ethics and Procedures, she is responsible for coordinating the prevention of unethical behavior in academia. Her work includes conducting national case studies, developing guidelines, and delivering training sessions to promote ethical practices in the academic community.

GABRIELĖ DAMBRAUSKAITĖ

WORKSHOP

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SHORT BIO

Gabrielė Dambrauskaitė is a Senior Public Relations Specialist at the Office of the Ombudsperson for Academic Ethics and Procedures of the Republic of Lithuania. She has over 7 years of experience in public relations, media, social media, as well as internal and external communication. Gabrielė stands out for her strong skills in crisis management, communication strategy development, project coordination, and enhancing organizational visibility and reputation.

GABIJA JUZĖNAITĖ

PRESENTATION

The Complex Relationship Between Students and Generative AI

WORKSHOP

Beyond Compliance: Building AI Ethical Cultures in HEIs



ABSTRACT

This workshop explores how higher education institutions (HEIs) can go beyond formal compliance to foster strong ethical cultures around the use of artificial intelligence. Participants will discuss institutional responsibilities, values-based approaches, and strategies for promoting ethical awareness, critical thinking, and integrity among students and staff when engaging with AI tools in academic settings.

SHORT BIO

Gabija Juzėnaitė has been active in the student movement since 2019 and is currently the Vice President of the Lithuanian National Union of Students. Her career path has taken her through IT, social sciences, and higher education, creating her curiosity and engagement with the topic of ethical AI in education today.

POVILAS VIRBAŠIUS

PRESENTATION

Academic integrity in the light of AI: Student perspective

WORKSHOP

Students & AI: Building Integrity in a Digital Age



ABSTRACT

The session explores how students perceive academic integrity in the context of growing AI use in higher education. It addresses emerging challenges, shifting boundaries, and the need for clear guidance and support. Through discussion and reflection, the workshop encourages a shared understanding of responsible AI use and the role of students in fostering a culture of integrity.

SHORT BIO

Povilas Virbašius is a law student at Vilnius University and currently serves as the Coordinator for Academic Affairs at the Vilnius University Student Union. He heads the University's Working Group for the Prevention of Academic Ethics Violations, where he focuses on strengthening academic integrity policies and student awareness. In 2025, he led a research examining academic dishonesty among Vilnius University students. His work centers on student perspectives in the evolving landscape of academic ethics, particularly in relation to the challenges and opportunities posed by artificial intelligence.

DR. AURELIJA NOVELSKAITĖ

WORKSHOP

Research Ethics Committees: Navigating the Challenges of AI



ABSTRACT

Join us for an interactive workshop designed to immerse participants in the decision-making processes faced by research ethics committees today. We will explore challenges such as conducting ethical review for studies involving synthetic GenAI data, addressing algorithmic bias, and considering their potential contribution to open science. Through group work and peer exchange, participants will share institutional experiences and personal perspectives on conducting ethical review in the era of AI. This is an opportunity to broaden your understanding, benchmark cross-disciplinary practices, and contribute to shaping ethical standards in AI-driven research.

SHORT BIO

Dr. Aurelija Novelskaitė is full professor at Faculty of Communication and senior researcher as well as a chairperson of Research ethics committee at Kaunas Faculty of Vilnius University (Lithuania). Currently, her research focuses on ethics in relation to gender (equality) in the context of responsible research and innovation, and institutionalization of inclusive gender equality in academic institutions.

DR. RAMINTA PUČĖTAITĖ

WORKSHOP

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SHORT BIO

Dr. Raminta Pučėtaitė is full professor and a member of research ethics committee at Kaunas University of Technology (Lithuania). Her research focuses on ethics management in private and public sector organizations and broader questions of social sustainability and inclusion in society and organizations.

DR. LORETA TAUGINIENĖ

WORKSHOP

Research Ethics Committees: Navigating the Challenges of AI



ABSTRACT

Join us for an interactive workshop designed to immerse participants in the decision-making processes faced by research ethics committees today. We will explore challenges such as conducting ethical review for studies involving synthetic GenAI data, addressing algorithmic bias, and considering their potential contribution to open science. Through group work and peer exchange, participants will share institutional experiences and personal perspectives on conducting ethical review in the era of AI. This is an opportunity to broaden your understanding, benchmark cross-disciplinary practices, and contribute to shaping ethical standards in AI-driven research.

SHORT BIO

Dr. Loreta Tauginienė is Associate Professor at Kaunas University of Technology (Lithuania), Editor-in-Chief of *Journal of Academic Ethics* and member of the COPE Council. She is also involved in doctoral supervision at the University of Helsinki (Finland). In the past, she fulfilled different roles (e.g. a national ombudsperson for academic ethics in Lithuania, vice-president of ENRIO). She has been working in the field of academic ethics for more than 10 years and has contributed to this field in various forms, ranging from research to practice.

ANASTASIJA ŽONYCH

PRESENTATION

Preventing Contract Cheating: The Lecturer's Role in Academic Integrity



ABSTRACT

Contract cheating is becoming an increasingly complex issue in the higher education institutions. Since this form of academic dishonesty involves students purchasing original study papers, the role of lecturers is particularly important in preventing academic dishonesty. During the presentation, the ways in which this issue occurs and why the role of lecturers is crucial in preventing contract cheating, will be presented. Additionally, the presentation will showcase examples of good practices from foreign countries.

SHORT BIO

Anastasija Žonych is a Study Quality Manager at European Humanities University. She holds Master's degree in Public Administration, with specialization in Education and science policy and management. In recent years, her research interests have focused on academic ethics, especially on the issue of contract cheating and use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in higher education.

RAIMONDA SOLOHA

PRESENTATION

Exploring Academic Integrity in Latvian Higher Education: Insights from a Survey



ABSTRACT

In 2023, the Latvian Association of Young Researchers conducted a study to explore the state of academic integrity in higher education institutions. The research focused on two groups: employees of higher education and research institutions, as well as representatives of the Academic Ethics Committees at institutions implementing PhD programmes. As data on a national level is scarce, the study aimed to deepen understanding of academic and research integrity, identify challenges employees face in addressing misconduct or seeking support, and explore differences in perspective between employees and Academic Ethics Committee representatives.

SHORT BIO

Raimonda Soloha is a researcher and Ph.D. candidate in natural science (environmental science). She works in the Circularity and Sustainability Research Group at the Institute of Microbiology and Biotechnology (University of Latvia). Her research interests include responsible resource use, circular bioeconomy, and data-driven sustainability solutions.

Raimonda is a board member of the Latvian Association of Young Researchers (LJZA). She engages in topics related to the new academic career framework in Latvia, in particular doctoral education. She has also been contributing to the development of the PhD roadmap and the LJZA study on research integrity.

DR. LAILA SILAMIŅELE

PRESENTATION

Exploring Academic Integrity in Latvian Higher Education: Insights from a Survey



ABSTRACT

In 2023, the Latvian Association of Young Researchers conducted a study to explore the state of academic integrity in higher education institutions. The research focused on two groups: employees of higher education and research institutions, as well as representatives of the Academic Ethics Committees at institutions implementing PhD programmes. As data on a national level is scarce, the study aimed to deepen understanding of academic and research integrity, identify challenges employees face in addressing misconduct or seeking support, and explore differences in perspective between employees and Academic Ethics Committee representatives.

SHORT BIO

Ph.D. Laila Silamiņele is a researcher at the Latvian Biomedical Research and Study Centre with a Ph.D. in natural sciences (biology). Her areas of specialisation include the gut microbiome, multi-omics approaches, and preclinical studies. She is actively engaged in issues related to scientific reproducibility—an essential component for building trust in scientific findings and laying a robust foundation for future discoveries. Laila Silamiņele is also a board member in the Latvian Association of Young Researchers (LJZA). There, Laila focuses on academic and research ethics. She is also interested in advancing science communication practices, facilitating dialogue between the early-career research community and the wider public.



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