

Applied History Forum 2023, 16 November

Weaponized pasts around Europe

History is back. The past has been a tool in the hands of Vladimir Putin; has underpinned voting in the Brexit referendum; has led to sensitive discussions amongst and within EU member states; and has shaped the policies of countless countries in Europe's geopolitical orbit. Even those who once believed that only the future counts, can no longer deny that history again matters deeply to contemporary politics.

This newfound importance of politicized history demands a response from European policymakers and historians. How should we answer the challenges put before us by multiple variants of 'weaponized pasts'? Factcheck and debunk? Study and educate? Or take up arms and create alternative histories of our own?

Three of Europe's leading experts will discuss these (re)emerging questions, in partnership with the Permanent Representation of Lithuania to the European Union (<https://eu.mfa.lt/eurep/lt/>) and Corvus, the applied history project of the University of Leuven and the Belgian State Archives (<https://www.arts.kuleuven.be/nieuwetijd/english/applied-history>).

Programme:

17h: Opening by **Arnoldas Pranckevičius**, Ambassador, Permanent Representative to the EU

17h15: Introductory note by **Laimonas Briedis**, author of *Vilnius, City of Strangers*

17h40: Discussion with **Donatas Kupčiūnas** (Centre for Geopolitics, University of Cambridge), **Marie-Gabrielle Verbergt** (University of Ghent), **Ivo van de Wijdeven** (author of *The Power of the Past*)

18h40: Reception offered by the Permanent Representation of Lithuania to the European Union

Location:

Permanent Representation of Lithuania to the European Union, Rue Belliard 41-43, 1040 Brussels.

Registration: <https://forms.office.com/e/FZUMvjzwQ4>

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