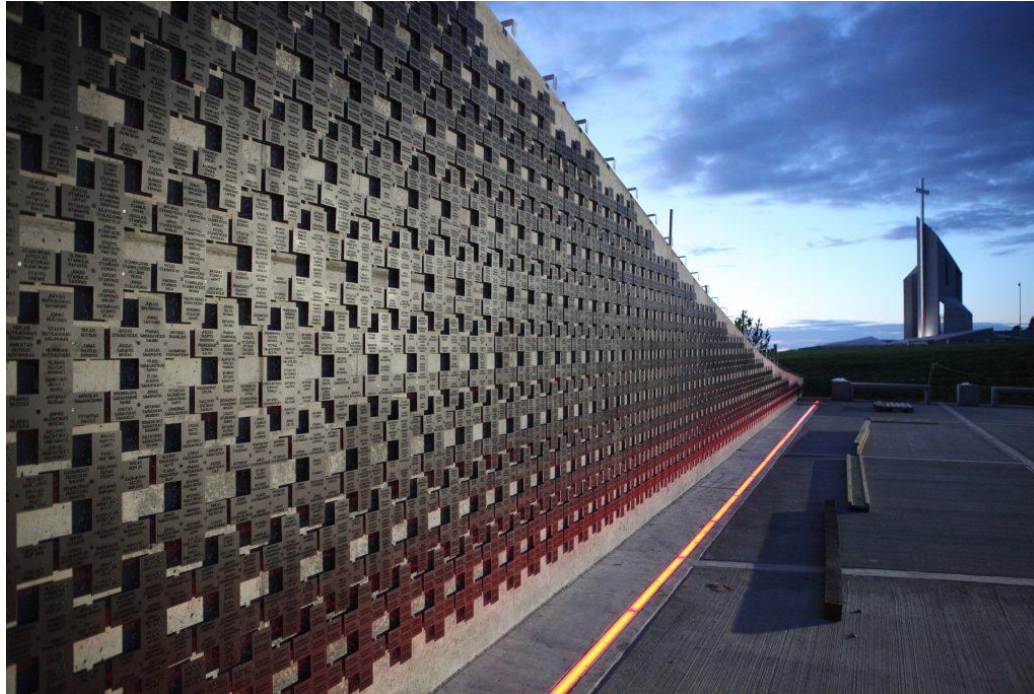


# Transitional Justice in Lithuania



*Fragment of the memorial to anti-Soviet underground fighters,  
Kryžkalnis, Lithuania*

**Prof. Dr. Rasa Čepaitienė**  
**Lithuanian Institute of History**

# Introduction

- **What is transitional justice?**
- **Why is it relevant for Lithuania?**



# Historical Context

**1940–1990: occupation,  
repressions,  
deportations,  
collectivisation, mass  
indoctrination and  
resistance**



# Ambivalent Legacy of the Soviet Period



# Early Independence

- 1990 – March 11 Act
- Rehabilitation and restitution
- Genocide and Resistance Research Centre



*Solemn ceremony of returning deportees' remains from Siberia to Lithuania in 1989*

# De-Sovietization of Public Space

- **3 waves: 1990s, post-2014, post-2022**
- **Monument removal, museums, memorials**





# Second wave of public space de-Sovietization

*Green Bridge,  
Vilnius, statues  
removed in 2015*



# Third wave of public space de-Sovietization



*Soviet Soldiers Memorial in Vilnius Antakalnis cemetery (sculptor J. Burneika, architect R. Dičius, 1984) and its dismantling in summer 2022*

# Soviet Ideology, Terror, and Everyday Life in Lithuanian Museums



**Grūtas park**



**Museum of Occupations and Freedom  
Fights in Vilnius**



**Project “*Homo Sovieticus*” exhibition at  
Tuskulėnai Peace Park, Vilnius**

# Lustration and the KGB Legacy

- Fate of archives
- 1998–1999 laws
- 90-year secrecy – criticism



*The Special Archives of Lithuania*

# **Restitution and Reparations**

- **1991 property restitution**
- **1997 Victims of Occupation Law**
- **Partial compensation**

# Recent Laws and Symbol Bans

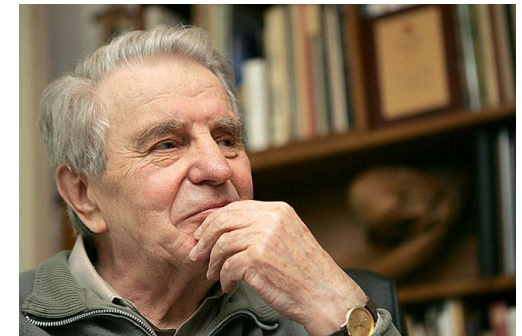
- **2022 De-Sovietization Law**
- **Commission resignation in 2025**
- **Debates over poets**



*Monument to Salomėja Nėris*



*Replacement of the Salomėja Nėris Street Plaque*



*Poet Justinas  
Marcinkevičius*

# Peculiarities of Lithuanian de-Sovietization

- **occupation paradigm:** victims and resistance to both totalitarian regimes;
- **desovietization** *without finished lustration*;
- ignoring the *colonization* dimension;
- drift towards the **collaboration paradigm** after 2014 (*law on desovietization, commission, 2023*);
- **growing political appropriation** and usage of Soviet period



*Removal of writer Petras Cvirka's Monument, Vilnius 2019*



**Thank you for your  
attention**

*Good Bye, Party Comrades! Photo by  
Antanas Sutkus, Vilnius, Lithuania,  
1991*