

# KINGS, QUEENS, PRINCESSES. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE 500TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF CATHERINE JAGIELLON.

We invite you to an international academic conference celebrating the 500th anniversary of the birth of Catherine Jagiellon, Polish-Lithuanian princess, daughter of Sigismund the Old and Bona Sforza, later Duchess of Finland and Queen of Sweden. We will focus on the following topics:

- Women and their dynastic roles
- The phenomenon of the female king (in Poland and Scandinavia)
- Mother, wife, sister, daughter, queen: between politics and privacy
- Women's role models in the 16th and 17th centuries

The conference will take place on June 29-30 , 2026, at Vilnius University. The conference is co-organized by Centre for Polish Studies at Vilnius University and the Centre for Early Modern Research of the University of Opole (CBEW). Online participation is also possible. The organizers will provide participants with refreshments in the form of a coffee buffet and a gala dinner on the first day and lunch on the second day of the conference. On the second day of the conference there will be a tour of Vilnius University, including the university library and astronomical observatory. We also plan to publish post-conference materials.



Filologijos  
fakultetas



Centrum Badań  
Epok Wczesnonowożytnych

UC UNIWERSYTET  
OPOLSKI



Embassy  
of the Republic of Poland  
in Vilnius

KINGS, QUEENS, PRINCESSES. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE  
500TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF CATHERINE JAGIELLON.

VILNIUS, 29-30.06.2026.

VILNIAUS UNIVERSITETAS, FILOLOGIJOS FAKULTETAS UNIVERSITETO G. 5,  
DONELAIČIO AUDITORIJA.



**Day I: 29.06.2026**

Opening of the conference: prof. Mindaugas Kvietkauskas Dean of the Faculty of Philology Vilnius University, prof. Erika Sausverde Institute for the Languages and Cultures of the Baltic Vilnius University, Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Republic of Poland in the Republic of Lithuania, Mr. Andrzej Dudziński, dr Ewa Cybulska-Bohuszewicz IBL PAN and CBEW, dr Regina Jakubėnas Vilnius University

Session I (10.30-12.30), chaired by prof. Michał Kuran, Univeristy of Łódź.

1. Anu Lahtinen, University of Helsinki: Women's networks and shared family histories
2. Peter Sjökvist, Uppsala University, Catherine Jagiellon's books in the Uppsala University Library
3. Anna Nowicka-Struska, Maria Skłodowska-Curie University: The "Bright Star" of the Discalced Carmelites Nuns - Narratives Maria Clara Wittelsbach, a Bavarian Princess, in the Context of the Monastic Writings and Culture of the 17th-Century Polish Women's Convents
4. Tupu Ylä-Anttila, University of Helsinki: The evolvement of the dynastic role among the Habsburg regent princesses of the Low Countries - from Margaret of Austria to Isabella Clara Eugenia 1507-1633

12.10 – 12.30 Discussion  
Coffee break 12.30 – 12.45



Filologijos  
fakultetas



Centrum Badań  
Epok Wczesnonowoczesnych

UC UNIWERSYTET  
OPOLSKI



Embassy  
of the Republic of Poland  
in Vilnius

Session II (13.10-14.00), chaired by prof. Anu Lahtinen, University of Helsinki

1. Seda Gaznevi, Istanbul University: Women Behind the Throne: Female Power and Political Authority from Ancient Rome to Early Modern Northern and East-Central Europe
2. Mariola Jarczyk, University of Silesia: The fate of women from the Radziwiłł family of Birża in the light of preserved correspondence and funeral writings
3. Michał Kuran, Łódź University: Rulers, warriors, noblewomen, slaves (victims and scandal-mongers) – women on the pages of Alexander Gwagnin's European Sarmatian Chronicle

14.30 -16.00 lunch

16.15-18.00 Visiting the architectural complex of Vilnius University and the Chapel of St. Casimir in the Vilnius Cathedral

## Day II: 30.06.2026

Session I (10-12.45), chaired by dr Peter Sjökvist, Uppsala University

1. Kendra Willson, University of Turku: The musical "Jagellonica": bringing the 16th century closer to a 21st-century audience
2. Milda Kvizikevičiūtė, Independent researcher based in Cambridge: From Research to Public Narrative: Curating Catherine Jagiellon and the Challenges of Accessible Queenship

3. Giedrius Tamaševičius, Vilnius University: Saint Bridget of Sweden and the Cultural Legitimacy of Female Authority in Scandinavia

4. Przemysław M. Raczyk, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, "Pamiętaj że ja Polka i że jezuitka!" (Remember that I am a Polish Woman and a Jesuitess): Maria Leszczyńska between Queenship, Piety, and Jesuit Networks at the Court of Louis XV

Discussion 11.40-12.00

Coffee break 12.00-12.15

Session II (12.20-13.10), chaired by prof. Giedrius Tamaševičius, Vilnius University

1. Emrah Gaznevi, Istanbul University: Between Emotion and Power: Epistolary Strategies of Polish and Ottoman Court Women in the XVI-XVII Centuries
2. Marta Chachulska, University of Warsaw: Vittoria Colonna: A Role Model for Polish Women According to Lucjan Siemieński
3. Ewa Cybulska-Bohuszewicz, CBEW, Reading True History and its role in shaping women's attitudes towards adversity: Preface to True History and its addressee Zofia from Sprawa

Discussion 13.10-13.30 and closing the session

13.45-16 lunch



Filologijos  
fakultetas



Centrum Badań  
Epok Wczesnonowożytnych

UC  
UNIWERSYTET  
OPOLSKI



Embassy  
of the Republic of Poland  
in Vilnius