



**International Online Conference**

**“In the Radiance of the Vilna Gaon:  
History of Lithuanian Jewry”**

**Wednesday, 18 November, 2020**

**POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews,  
Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania to the Republic of Poland,  
Vilnius University are pleased to invite you  
to the International Online Conference**

## **“In the Radiance of the Vilna Gaon: History of Lithuanian Jewry”**

**Wednesday, 18 November, 2020**

**The Vilna Gaon is undoubtedly one of the most famous people to have lived in Lithuania.**

**He became an influential religious leader in the Jewish world and has remained important for the Litvak religious tradition. The Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania declared 2020 as the year of the “Vilna Gaon and Lithuanian Jewish history”.**

**The international conference “In the Radiance of the Vilna Gaon: History of Lithuanian Jewry” will discuss new approaches in academic research to the history of the Jewish community in Vilnius in the times of the Gaon, alongside Jewish history and culture in Lithuania.**



**Conference language: [English](#)**

**For advance registration to the online conference, please use the e-mail: [gaonconference@polin.pl](mailto:gaonconference@polin.pl)**

**More information: <https://www.polin.pl/en>**

# PROGRAMME

**10.00–10.30 | welcome speeches | chair ARTUR MARKOWSKI**

**MINDAUGAS KVIETKAUSKAS**

Minister of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania

**FAINA KUKLIANSKY**

President of Lithuanian's Jewish Community

**MICHAŁ TRĘBACZ**

Head of the Research Department of the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews

**EDUARDAS BORISOVAS**

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Lithuania to the Republic of Poland

**10.30–11.00 | keynote lecture | chair JURGITA VERBICKIENĖ**

**LARA LEMPERTIENĖ |** Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania

**The Year(s) of Elijah. Vilnius with and without the Vilna Gaon**

**11.30–11.45 | discussion**

**11.45–12.00 | break**

## **Lithuanian Jews in the days of the Vilna Gaon**

**12.00–13.30 | session 1 | chair VLADIMIR LEVIN**

**ANNA MICHAŁOWSKA-MYCIELSKA |** University of Warsaw, Poland

**Lithuania as a Jewish Province**

**JURGITA VERBICKIENĖ |** Vilnius University, Lithuania

**Vilnius Jewish community in the times of the Vilna Gaon:  
people, families, and the patterns of everyday life**

**SHAUL STAMPFER |** Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel

**Why were there so many Jews in Vilna and in Lithuania?**

**13.30–14.00 | break**

## **Social and religious life of Lithuanian Jews**

**14.00–15.30 | session 2 | chair ANNA MICHAŁOWSKA-MYCIELSKA**

**AIVARAS POŠKA |** The Lithuanian Institute of History, Lithuania

**Jewish communities in the towns of different branches of the Radziwiłł family  
in the 16th–18th centuries: comparison of the formation of local statuses**

**VLADIMIR LEVIN |** Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel

**The synagogues of Lithuania: how they differ from those in other areas of Eastern Europe**

**SAULIUS KAUBRYS |** Vilnius University, Lithuania

**Portrait of a Jewish gymnasium student in Lithuania in 1918–40**

**15.30–16.00 | closing remarks | ANNA MICHAŁOWSKA-MYCIELSKA,  
JURGITA VERBICKIENĖ**

**Organisers and Partners  
of the Conference**

POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews  
Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania to the Republic of Poland  
Vilnius University



**The Conference is organized within**

The Global Education Outreach Program



**The Conference was made possible  
thanks to the support of**

Taube Philanthropies  
The William K. Bowes, Jr. Foundation  
The Association of the Jewish Historical Institute of Poland



**WILLIAM K. BOWES, JR.  
FOUNDATION**

