

About Authors

Naglis Kardelis, PhD, Chief Researcher at the Department of Contemporary Philosophy (Lithuanian Culture Research Institute) and a professor at the Vilnius University Faculty of Philosophy. He has authored two books – *Vienovės įžvalga Platono filosofijoje* (The Insight of Unity in Plato's Philosophy, 2007, in Lithuanian) and *Pažinti ar suprasti? Humanistikos ir gamtotyros akiračiai* (To Know or to Understand? The Horizons of Humanities and Natural Sciences, 2008, in Lithuanian). Kardelis mainly focuses on the reception and actualization of classical Greek philosophy in contemporary philosophy, on the philosophy of archaeology, and on the scholarly legacy of Arvydas Šliogeris and Marija Gimbutas. He is currently working on a book dedicated to the philosophical evaluation of Gimbutas' archaeomythological reconstructions.

Mindaugas Klusas, cultural journalist

James Lovelock was an English independent scientist, environmentalist and futurist. He is best known for proposing the Gaia hypothesis, which postulates that the Earth functions as a self-regulating system. Lovelock was also the inventor of several chemical-detecting devices, including the electron-capture detector (ECD). His books include: *Gaia: A New Look at Life on Earth* (1979); *The Ages of Gaia* (1988); *Gaia: The Practical Science of Planetary Medicine* (1991); *Homage to Gaia* (2000), *The Vanishing Face of Gaia: A Final Warning* (2009).

Hans Ulrich Obrist, Swiss art curator who never sleeps, contemporary art critic, and art historian; Artistic Director at the Serpentine Galleries, London; Obrist's publications include *Ways of Curating* (2015), *The Age of Earthquakes* (2015), *Lives of the Artists, Lives of Architects* (2015), *Mondialité* (2017), *Somewhere Totally Else* (2018), *The Athens Dialogues* (2018), *Maria Lassnig: Letters* (2020), *Entrevistas Brasileiras: Volume 2* (2020), and *140 Ideas for Planet Earth* (2021).

Rita Repšienė, PhD, Lithuanian Senior Researcher and Head of the Department of Contemporary Lithuanian Culture (Lithuanian Culture Research Institute) and Associate Professor at Vilnius University where she teaches at the Department of Communication. Her research interests include contemporary culture, communication theories, media studies, modern mythology, identity, critical thinking, and heritage. She explores the ideas of scary Lithuanian fairy tales, cultural network societies, humour and folklore, and mythical memes while connecting cultural figures through the times, between myth and the present in the formats of books and articles. She is currently working on the topics of creative thinking and metaverse reality.

Aida Savicka works as a Senior Researcher at the Lithuanian Culture Research Institute. She is the author or co-author of three books and about forty academic articles. Her research interests include topics such as value shifts in contemporary society, the development of Lithuanian culture in the context of globalization and generational change, and the impact of new communication technologies on personal self-awareness and identity formation.

Vytautas Rubavičius, PhD, Chief Researcher, Department of Comparative Culture Research, Lithuanian Culture Research Institute. His research spans the fields of philosophical hermeneutics, deconstruction, postmodern capitalist construction, consumer society and culture, urbanism, Euro-integration, national identity, cultural memory and new media. He has authored recent monographs, including: *Lotynų Amerikos naujoji civilizacinė ontologija* (Latin America's New Civilizational Ontology, 2022, in Lithuanian); *Civilizacinė vaizduotė Rusijos ir Turkijos geopolitikoje* (Civilizational Imagination in Russian and Turkish Geopolitics, 2021, in Lithuanian).

Daiva Siudikienė, Associate Professor, Department of Organizational Information and Communication Research, Faculty of Communication, Vilnius University, PhD, Chairwoman of the Business Information Management Program. In her spare time, she is interested in online creativity - memes.

Arūnas Sverdiolas, PhD, Senior Research Fellow, Department of Contemporary Philosophy Lithuanian Culture Research Institute; Professor and the Head of the A. J. Greimas Centre for Semiotics and Literature, Faculty of Philology, Vilnius University. He has authored the recent monographs: *Kultūra čia ir dabar. Penkios esė* (Culture Here and Now. Five Essays, 2021, in Lithuanian); *Initiation and Preservation: Modes of Cultural Philosophy*, New York: Nova Science Publishers, 2015.

Skaidra Trilupaitytė, PhD, Lithuanian art critic and cultural politics researcher; Senior Research Fellow, Department of Contemporary Lithuanian Culture, Lithuanian Culture Research Institute. Her recent monographs include: *Vizualioji kontrolė šiandienos visuomenėse: veidų ir emocijų (ne)atpažinimas* (Visual Control in Today's Societies: (Un)Recognizing Faces and Emotions, 2022, in Lithuanian). *Veidas kaip karo įrankis. Asmens (ne)atpažinimas* (The Face as a Tool of War. (Un)Recognizing the Individual, 2022, in Lithuanian).

Mikhail Shishkein, Russian-Swiss novelist and essayist, one of the leading figures of Russian intellectual dissent and a contemporary Russian literary figure who is the only author to win all three major Russian literary prizes (including the Russian Booker Prize). He is a long-standing and outspoken critic of the Putin regime whose essays have been published in *The New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *The Guardian*, *Le Monde*, and elsewhere. His works of fiction include, most notably *The Taking of Izmail* (1999); *Maidenkair* (2005); *Letterbook* (2010).

Irena Vaišvilaitė is a Lithuanian art historian and diplomat who served as Lithuania's ambassador to the Holy See and later Permanent Representative to the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization.