

SCIENCE PROGRAM NO. 2

1. The Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore (hereinafter—“the Institute”) implements the Research and Experimental Development Program for 2022-2026, “**Transformations of 20th- and 21st-Century Lithuanian Literature: Canon, Poetics and Contexts**” (hereafter—“the Program”).

2. Program’s Goals:

- 2.1. To examine the key aesthetic and social aspects of the development and functioning of contemporary Lithuanian literature;
- 2.2 To investigate the modernization of literature and the (trans)formations of the canon in Lithuania in the 20th-21st centuries;
- 2.3. To research the corpus of the 20th-century egodocuments in Lithuania and to prepare its fundamental sources for publication.

3. Program’s Objectives:

- 3.1. To analyze Lithuanian literature of the late 20th and the early 21st centuries from the aesthetic, cognitive, reception and sociological point of views;
- 3.2 To analyze the participation of Lithuanian literature of the late 20th and the early 21st centuries in the process of world literature, and to develop comparative literary studies;
- 3.3. To observe and analyze the changes in contemporary literature, to assess the emerging aesthetic and thematic tendencies and the dynamics of the literary field;
- 3.4 To analyze the modernization of 20th-century Lithuanian literature in terms of individual and collective self-understanding and the changes of ideas and creative style;
- 3.5. To theoretically and historically research the corpus of egodocuments of 20th-century Lithuanian literature (diaries, (auto)biographies, epistolary, and interviews);
- 3.6. To carry out ongoing work on the preparation of fundamental sources of Lithuanian literature and the publication of academic works;
- 3.7. To disseminate and publish Program’s results.

4. Methodological Approach:

The Program consolidates and continues the two long-term programs carried out by the Institute in 2017-2021: “Literature as a Witness of Sociality: Aesthetics, Memory, Mentality in the Late Soviet Era-Early 21st Century” and “The Literary Canon of Modern Lithuania,”

thus, expanding the research's chronological boundaries and analytical aspects.

The Program will proceed in four main, closely interlinked directions: 4.1. research on modern Lithuanian literature; 4.2. research on the modernization of Lithuanian literature and the development of the canon; 4.3. research on 20th-century egodocuments; and 4.4. preparation of publication of fundamental sources of 20-century Lithuanian fiction and egodocuments.

4.1. In order to integrally examine the literary and cultural process of the late 20th and the early 21st centuries, the researchers of contemporary literature at the Institute use literary theories of a sociological orientation (literary sociology, socio-criticism, literary anthropology, feminist literary critique, cultural semiotics, and in some cases, post-colonial theory). In order to collect material for the study of the self-perception of the participants in the contemporary literary field, the method of oral history will be used (interviews). The research of literary texts will inevitably involve the use of the tools of textual criticism, such as semiotics, discourse analysis, and the hermeneutic reading of the text. The Program will not be limited to Lithuanian literature and will employ a comparative perspective (which is particularly important for the dissemination of research at the international level and for the expansion of the reception of Lithuanian literature).

Such a methodological combination allows revealing the singularity of individual author's works in the more general social and cultural atmosphere of the time, to observe the patterns of aesthetics and ideas, and to identify the principles of how culture and society functioned in different historical periods.

The object of this integral interdisciplinary research will be literary works and phenomena of literary life in the last decades of the 20th and the early 21st century:

- the poetics of contemporary literature and its transformations and the change of literary narrative types, the synthesis of genres and media, literary trends and conjunctures;
- forms of giving a meaning to memory and testimonies of a memoir nature;
- writers' creative attitudes and 'agendas'; literary groups and generations; literary festivals and events; writers' links with institutions, changing centers of power in the literary field and negotiations on the contemporary literary canon;
- the participation of national literature in the world literary process and comparative studies of 'minor literatures.'

Regular academic seminars to discuss recent fiction and literary phenomena are important for monitoring and analyzing the current process, which allow to identify both

annual and more general shifts in the development of literature.

4.2 The modernization of Lithuanian literature and the development of the canon will be explored through analysis of:

- the change in the self-perception of women writers in the early 20th century, identifying the stages of its development, its specificity in the European context and using a feminist theoretical approach;
- melodrama as a specific phenomenon of the modernizing Lithuanian literature and theatre, using a socio-cultural theoretical approach;
- the dynamics of biographical narratives and interpretations of the work of one of the central figures of Lithuanian culture, Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis, in 20th-century fiction and documentary literature, using a socio-critical theoretical approach;
- projects for the transformation of the 20th-century Lithuanian literary canon, using the theoretical approach of literary sociology.

4.3 Theoretical, historical and textual research on 20th-century Lithuanian egodocuments (diaries, (auto)biographies and epistolary works) will be carried out by analyzing:

- the concept of the author figure in autobiography and autobiographical fiction, revealing the relationship between autobiography and autobiographical fiction, using the approach of contemporary communication theory;
- egodocuments of the participants of the armed anti-Soviet resistance as a distinctive socio-cultural phenomenon determined by special communication conditions, using the theoretical approach of the study of egodocuments.

4.4 The Program includes the preparation of fundamental sources and egodocuments of 20th-century Lithuanian fiction for publication (in series of academic essays and as separate editions) in accordance with the newest requirements of textual science, based on the works of Lithuanian and foreign textual studies. The textual research will enable to prepare a corpus of the creative heritage of a particular writer, to identify authentic texts, to draw up principles of scholarly publishing, and to prepare and publish the sources in accordance with them.