

PhD-topic Odeta Mikstaite

## **Cultural politics in Lithuanian Soviet Republic (1940-1991)**

My PhD project “Cultural politics in the Lithuanian Soviet Republic (1940-1991)” deals with the processes of cultural sovietization in the Baltic Sea Region. The main aim of the research is not only to reconstruct the soviet cultural transformation, but also to clarify the question of the relations between certain Soviet measures in culture and Lithuanian nation-building.

I argue that the soviet transformational processes pushed ahead the Lithuanian nation building because of several reasons. Firstly, the Soviet modernization measures led to the establishment of modern cultural structures, and consequently to the emergence of an expanded Lithuanian elites. Secondly, the activity of Lithuanian functionaries and elites, especially in lower cultural structures, was both communist and national oriented. Thirdly, some elements of sovietization stimulated Lithuanian national feelings when the Kremlin resorted to country-specific cultural patterns with a legitimizing intention.

With the focus on language politics, folklore and movies the research will demonstrate, how and to what extent the cultural sovietization as a frontier-crossing political action created the cultural connections between the imperial centre and the national periphery. Archival documents of the Lithuanian Communist Party and of the soviet cultural structures as well as materials of the daily press are sources reflecting general developments of Lithuanian cultural life in the context of the Soviet transformation.