

PRANEŠIMŲ TEZĖS¹ ТЕЗИ ДОПОВІДЕЙ

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Songs that Unite: Research of Lithuanian and Ukrainian Songs in the CRIES Project

This talk will present the C R I E S project: CRIses Established Singing. Investigations into the Inherent Potential of Collective Singing in Times of Social Crises in the Scandinavian and Baltic Regions. Project participants: Aarhus University, University of Tartu, Latvian Academy of Culture, and Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore. Researchers from Lithuania: Dr. Austė Nakienė, Dr. Halyna Pshenichkina, Vaiva Aglinskas, Dr. Jurga Sadauskienė. Scandinavian and Baltic countries, known for their rich traditions of collective singing, have historically used song to foster cultural resilience, resolve conflicts, and promote inclusivity. Examples range from Denmark's singing resistance after the Second Schleswig War and WWII to Norway's response to the 2011 Utøya attack, and from Lithuanian deportees singing in Siberian labor camps to Baltic citizens singing for independence from the Soviet Union. Singing together seems to be a universal human response to crisis – a notion recently reinforced by viral videos of singing in Ukrainian bomb shelters. Scholars agree that singing traditions play a key role in shaping social cohesion, cultural identity, and heritage. Yet, despite these apparent similarities, no studies have directly compared singing practices across Scandinavia and the Baltics. The CRIES project addresses this gap, investigating the diverse social impacts of collective singing during crises. Recent activities of this project are: 1) Investigation of patriotic songs: compilation of song book presenting collective singing in times of social crisis in Scandinavia and the Baltics 1800–2025; 2) Investigation of the forced emigration during the war in Ukraine: collecting interviews and songs from the war refugees settled in Scandinavian and Baltic countries, analysing of song repertoire of the Ukrainian communities in exile.

Raktažodžiai: Lithuanian songs, Ukrainian songs, cultural memory and identity, collective singing, social impact.

¹ Pranešimų tezės neredaguotos / Тези доповідей в авторській редакції