COMPILERS' FOREWORD

A symposium on late Soviet and post-Soviet issues entitled 'Being in the Soviet Network: Embracing, Interpreting and Escaping the System' took place on 11–12 November 2010. Historians, anthropologists, political scientists and representatives of communication sciences from Lithuania, Germany, the USA, the United Kingdom, Sweden and Latvia presented their research, shared experience on the ways of studying the late Soviet times and discussed various links between the past and the present as well as the methods of their analysis. A few historians representing the younger generation of Lithuanian Sovietologists read their papers at the symposium.

The majority of the phenomena of the late Soviet times, socio-cultural dynamics and the behaviour of members of society in the said period can hardly be explained when viewed strictly from the totalitarian perspective. The opposite approach is offered by a conceptual survey nurtured by post-revisionists claiming that network society which had created distinctive culture of survival and accommodation to the regime and was capable of manipulating the official rules of social and political life existed alongside the structures of government. This is a fairly novel approach to studying the humanities in Lithuania which received a point-by-point consideration at the first symposium in Vilnius. Echoes of this are still felt in the papers of the participants published here in a special issue of *Lithuanian Historical Studies*.

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