

# ***Energy Security and (Geo)politics***

***October 22 (Saturday), 3-5 PM, Cisco Auditorium  
(Building C - First Floor)  
Georgia Gwinnet College***

***This event will explore the crucial subjects of energy security,  
environment and responsible sovereignty***

## ***Program***

### ***Part I: Energy Security from a European Perspective***

***Lithuania's Energy and Political Independence: Reality or Illusion?***

*Presenters:*

Hon. ***Julius Pranevičius***, Lithuania's Consul General in New York, "Lithuania's March towards Energy Independence"

Dr. ***Dainius Genys***, Kaunas Vytautas Magnus University, Research Center for Energy Security, "The Quest for Energy Independence in the Baltic States"

Dr. ***Giedrius Česnakas***, Kaunas Vytautas Magnus University, Lecturer of Political Science (via Skype), "Energy Security in the Baltic States: Possibilities for Broader Cooperation"

*Discussant:* Dr. ***Paul Grant***, GGC, Assistant Professor of Political Science

*Q&A:* session moderated by Dr. ***Dovilė Budrytė***, Professor of Political Science

## **Part II: Green Energy Security**

### ***Student Project “Measurement of Hazardous Air Pollutants and Policy Analysis with Regard to Environmental Justice in the Atlanta Metropolitan Region”***

#### ***Project Summary:***

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century technology brings with it many externalities that are harmful to the public; some more so than others. Unfortunately, the State of Georgia is currently one of only five states that have not implemented state-level initiatives to address the issue of environmental justice (disparate exposure of communities to pollution based on race, national origin, or income level). In order to build an evidence base for such legislative action in the state, measurements of pollutant exposures must be conducted with high spatial resolution. This study thus partners GGC faculty and students with an external advisor, Greenlaw – an environmental justice law firm in Atlanta, to collect data to build support for a policy initiative to increase environmental justice in Georgia.

***Project leaders:*** Dr. ***Laura Young***, GGC, Assistant Professor of Political Science, and Dr. ***Kathryn Zimmerman***, GGC, Assistant Professor of Chemistry

***Project participants:*** ***Max Doster*** (presenter), ***Whitney Hudson***, ***Amber Kembrew***, ***Jessica Kerrigan***, ***Drasti Patel***, ***Denicia Williams***, and ***Santessa Young***

Q&A: session moderated by Dr. ***Dovilė Budrytė***, Professor of Political Science

#### ***Bios***



***Dovilė Budrytė*** is a Professor of Political Science and Assistant Dean at Georgia Gwinnett College. She teaches American government, International Relations, International Development and other political science classes here. Her publications include articles and four books, *Taming Nationalism? Political Community Building in the Post–Soviet Baltic States* (2005), *Feminist Conversations: Women, Trauma and Empowerment in Post–Transitional Societies* (co-edited with Lisa M. Vaughn and Natalya T. Riegg, 2009), *Memory and Trauma in International Relations: Theories,*

*Cases and Debates* (co-editor with Erica Resende, 2013), and *Engaging Difference: Teaching Humanities and Social Sciences in Multicultural Environments* (co-editor with Scott A. Boykin). In 2014/15, she was the recipient of the University System of Georgia Excellence in Teaching Award.



**Giedrius Česnakas** is a lecturer at the Department of Political Science and Diplomacy at Vytautas Magnus University (Kaunas, Lithuania). His doctoral dissertation, “Energy Resources in Russia’s Foreign Policy towards Belarus and Ukraine (2000–2012),” won the award from the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences for the best research conducted by junior researchers in the areas of the humanities and social sciences in 2014. He served as a Vice-Dean at the Department of Political Science and Diplomacy at Vytautas Magnus University (2014-2016) and worked as a researcher at the Energy Security Research Centre at Vytautas Magnus University where he coordinated and co-authored the annual research publication “Lithuanian Energy Security: Annual Review” (2011-2015).



**Dainius Genys** is a researcher at the Energy Security Research Centre at Vytautas Magnus University. Having earned a doctorate in Sociology, he recently completed a post-doctoral project “The Impact of Energy Threats to Lithuanian Social Cohesion.” He was a visiting fellow at The Harriman Institute of Russian, Eurasian and East European Studies (Columbia University, New York, USA), at NATO Energy Security Center of Excellence (Vilnius, Lithuania), at the Maxwell School for Citizenship and Public Affairs (Syracuse University, Syracuse, USA), and Eco Energy Ltd and the Harry S. Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace (Hebrew University, Israel). Dr. Genys has participated in many projects financed by the Research Council of Lithuania and the European Commission.



**Paul Grant** is an Assistant Professor of Political Science at Georgia Gwinnett College. He teaches American Government, State and Local Government, Introduction to Political Science and other political science classes at GGC. He earned his PhD in Political Science at the University of Illinois in Chicago. Dr. Grant is a founder of GGC’s Community Garden.



**Julius Pranevičius** is Consul General of the Republic of Lithuania in New York. He holds BA and MA degrees from the Institute of International Relations and Political Science, Vilnius University. His previous positions include serving as a Director of the European Union Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania and the Director of the EU Council Presidency Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania.



**Laura D. Young** is an Assistant Professor of Political Science at Georgia Gwinnett College. She received her PhD in Political Science from Purdue University with a concentration in International Relations, Comparative Politics, and Political Behavior and Institutions. Her research interests focus on security studies, specifically issues related to environmental crises and resource scarcity and the resulting impact of these events on state development and society.



**Kathryn Zimmermann** is an Assistant Professor of Chemistry at Georgia Gwinnett College. She received her PhD in Environmental Toxicology from the University of California, Riverside. She has extensive research in atmospheric reactions of PAHs and completed a post-doc in Atmospheric Chemistry from the University of California, San Diego.

*Project participants:*

**Max Doster** is a Junior at Georgia Gwinnett College majoring in Political Science with a minor in History. He has experience with policy formation and headed a committee at GGC pertaining to the expansion or addition of gerontology and dementia programs for all colleges in the University System of Georgia.

**Whitney Hudson** is a Senior at Georgia Gwinnett College majoring in Biochemistry. She is a member of the Beta Beta Beta, Chi Lambda Chapter and the GGC Biology Club. She recently presented her work on an analysis of GGC dining operations and the potential use of waste oil and grease as a biofuel at the Students and Technology in Academia, Research, and Services (STaRS) conference.

**Amber Kembrew** is a Sophomore at Georgia Gwinnett College majoring in Environmental Studies. She is the President of DECA and the Vice-President of the Environmental Club.

**Jessica Kerrigan** is a Senior at Georgia Gwinnett College majoring in Political Science. She is the President of the Law Society and a member of the Political Science Club. She has experience in political behavior and voter participation and has been actively involved in legislative work with several local policymakers.

**Drasti Patel** is a Senior majoring in Biochemistry. She recently presented her paper on the “Development and Validation of a Disposable Pipette Tip Extraction Method for Determination of Pesticides in Water” at the Students and Technology in Academia, Research, and Services (STaRS) conference.

**Denicia Williams** is a Junior at Georgia Gwinnett College majoring in Political Science with a concentration in legal studies. She is a member of the Four Pillars Society, a spokesperson for the Animal Law Source and for Ahimsa House, as well as the Miss World Guyana 2014 2<sup>nd</sup> Princess.

**Santessa Young** is a Junior at Georgia Gwinnett College majoring in Political Science with a concentration in legal studies. She is a member of The Law Society, a GGC Student Ambassador, and a charter member of the Four Pillar Society.



Energy study student project participants, from left to right: Drasti Patel, Whitney Hudson, Amber Kembrew, Denicia Williams, Jessica Kerrigan, and Santessa Young. Not present: Max Doster.

***Acknowledgements***

Dr. Dainius Genys's visit to the United States was supported by the Lithuanian Foundation, a nonprofit organization investing in education. Additional support was provided by Atlanta's Lithuanian-American Community, a nonprofit organization based in Atlanta, and Dr. Scott Boykin, Political Science program coordinator at Georgia Gwinnet College.