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# Old Discipline, New Trajectories

**THEORIES, METHODS AND PRACTICES  
IN ANTHROPOLOGY**

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This conference is a joint initiative of the Society of Anthropological Sciences and the Institute of Asian and Transcultural Studies at Vilnius University



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**Žygimantas Bučius, Vilnius University**

## **A Freelist Appraisal of Marriage in Lithuania**

In this presentation, I will present results of data collected between April 2021-January 2022 on how Lithuanians across four age grades (18-29; 30-39; 40-59 and 60+) perceive marriage. The data was collected using the systematic emic method of freelisting, which is intended to find the main concepts that comprise a particular cultural domain. A cultural domain is any coherent culture construct that many members of a culture share a common understanding about. Freelisting is a simple and straightforward data eliciting methods in which you ask a sample (usually around 30 is sufficient) to list all the kinds of things (or concepts) you associate with some cultural domain. The domain may be a coherent set of things such as kinds of healthy foods, contagious diseases, prestigious jobs, or it can be more abstracts, such as what you associate with social justice, Russia, or in this case marriage. Our research group decided to ask a sample of Lithuanians to “list all the things that come to their mind when they think of marriage.” The instructions and question were all done in the Lithuanian language. Given that researchers have shown that ideas of marriage have changed significantly in recent times we thought it would be interesting to conduct freelists with four different age groups to compare both differences and similarities. While freelisting is just the first phase of a research project it allows us to elicit terms that reflect salient features of the concept of marriage and provides an extensive array of terms that show the distribution of ideas related to marriage. This report shows some of these results.