

Latvia: some research idea pitches for international cooperation projects

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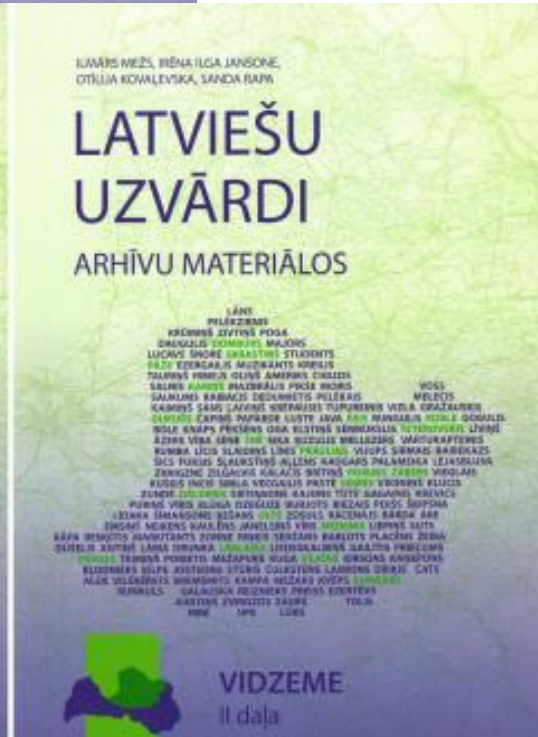
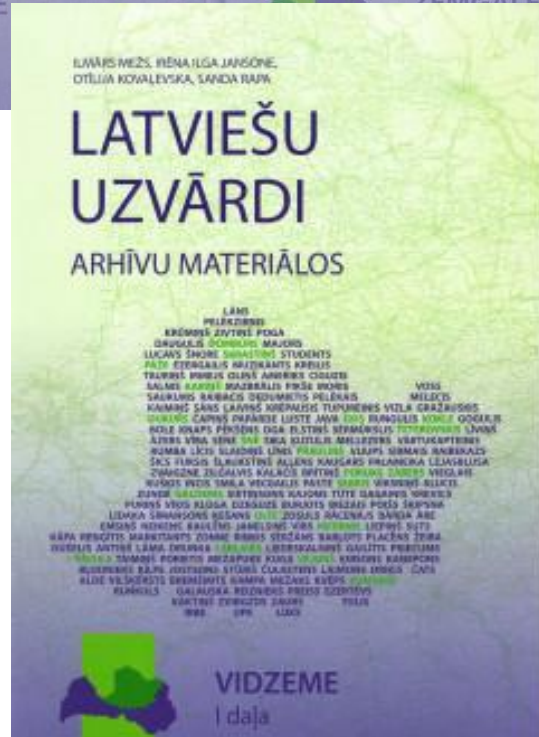
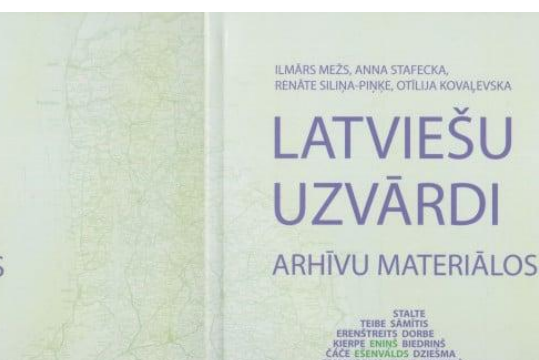
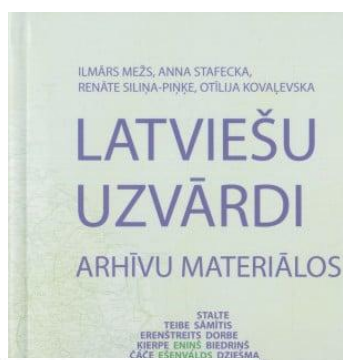
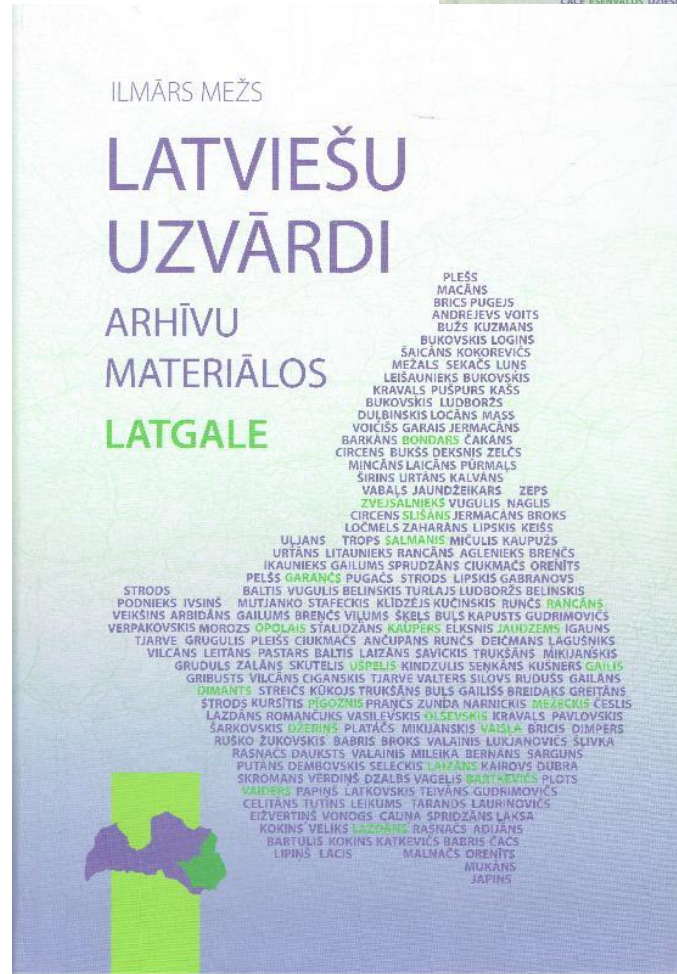
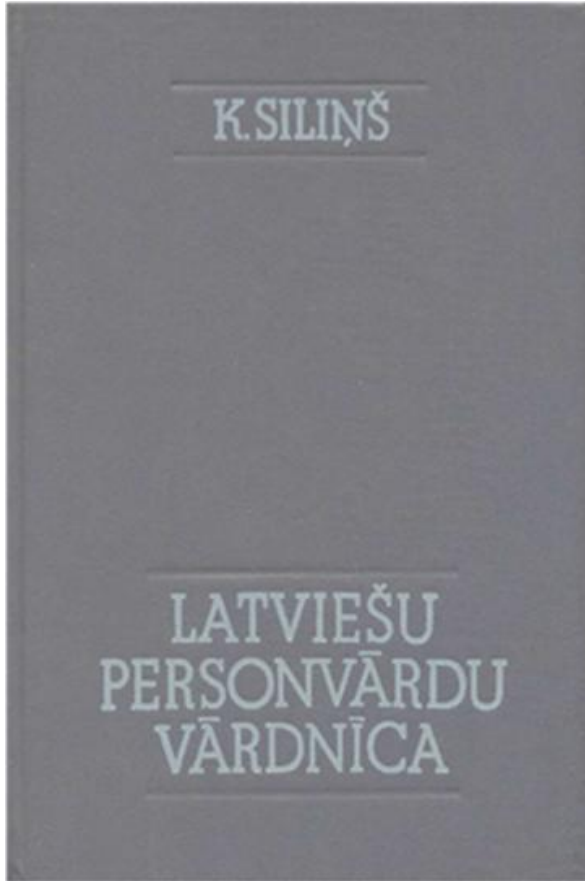
University of Latvia, Latvian Language Institute

Online Meeting of the International Network for Personal Names Research

“Given names in different countries: similarities, differences, historical and contemporary developments”

12.06.2025.

Introduction



<https://uzvardi.lv/>



Latviešu valodas
aģentūra

[Uz sākumu](#)

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[Iestatījumi](#)

Latviešu uzvārdu **vārdnīca**

Dati par latviešu un Latvijā dzīvojošo personu uzvārdiem no Fizisko personu reģistra (2020. gads) un pētījuma „Latviešu uzvārdi arhīvu materiālos” (1935. gada tautas skaitīšanas dati) vārdnīcām, kuras izdotas 2017., 2019. un 2022. gadā.



Meklēt uzvārdu



A Ā B C Č D E Ē F G Ģ H I Ī J K Ķ L Ļ M N Ņ O P R S Š T U Ū V Z Ž

Latvian given names (as well as names of Latvian inhabitants) have barely been studied in an international context, although they have had contacts with the anthroponymic systems of various languages over the centuries.



German-Latvian

- One almost unexplored topic is the fate of German personal names (both given names and surnames) in Latvia:
 - the similarities/differences of local German personal names from the corresponding time and personal names of the same time in Germany (especially in Northern Germany);
 - the influence of language contacts in the Baltics on the traditions of giving personal names in local German society;
 - the influence of Low German and Baltic German on German personal names;
 - the influence of German personal names on Latvian names.

Polish-Latvian

- We would like to offer cooperation to Polish anthroponymists:
- here are many written documents in Polish from the 16th cent., there recorded personal names from Latgale –

Eastern part of Latvia



Cross-border anthroponymy: Estonian-Latvian

- On personal names in the borderlands (cf. Jansone)
- On common borrowings from the German language (cf. Siliņa-Piņķe, Saar in 17th cent.)
- This research area also includes historical personal names in language islands – Ludza Estonians (Lutsi), Leivi in Latvia and Latvian villages in Estonia.



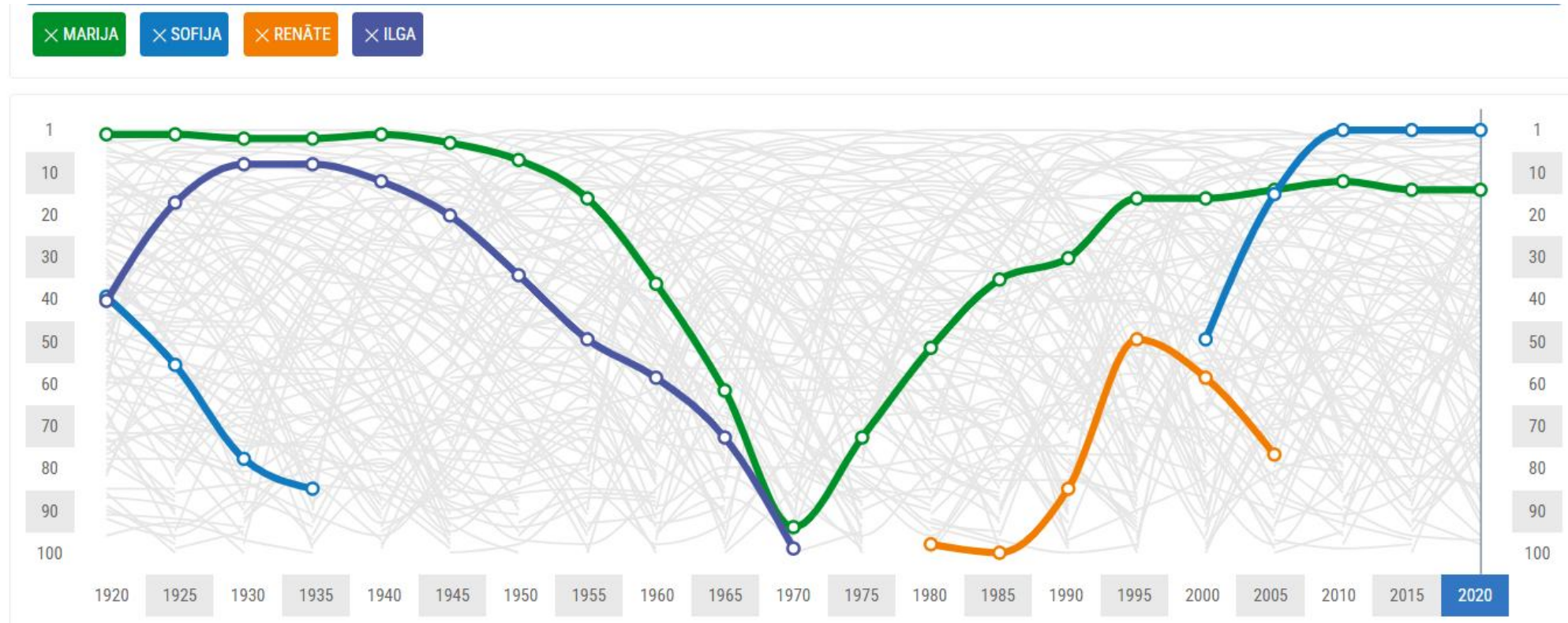
Cross-border anthroponymy: Lithuanian-Latvian

- Common Baltic roots (no common research and publications).
- Catholic naming traditions have developed patterns on both sides.
- Mutual cultural influence and the creation of personal names during the national revival (19th/20th cent.).
- Mutual borrowings in given names (cf. Balode) and surnames.



Contemporary name tendencies

- International cooperation could also focus on comparison of contemporary given names, for instance, analyzing new-born given names and their trends.



Looking forward to cooperation!



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