



## 5<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM OF GENEALOGY, HERALDRY, AND VEXILLOLOGY (ICGHV5)

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Theme: “The State and Noble Families:  
Political, Social, and Cultural Heritage”



### **Administrative Elites and Heraldic Heritage in Early Singapore: Butterworth, Cavenagh, and the Formation of Civic Memory**

**Dr. Adriana Patricia Manea (Singapore)**  
The lecture will be delivered in English.

#### **Summary**

The presentation entitled *Administrative Elites and Heraldic Heritage in Early Singapore: Butterworth, Cavenagh, and the Formation of Civic Memory* examines the role of British administrative elites in shaping heraldic heritage and civic memory in nineteenth-century Singapore, within a colonial context that lacked a traditional local nobility. The study proposes a comparative reading of two key figures of early governance – Sir William John Butterworth and Sir Orfeur Cavenagh – as functional equivalents of European “noble families”, whose symbols and actions transformed state authority into an enduring cultural legacy.

The first part of the presentation is devoted to Sir William John Butterworth, Governor of the Straits Settlements between 1843 and 1855, whose activity illustrates how institutional heraldry was employed to build loyalty, cohesion and civic identity. The founding of the Singapore Volunteer Corps and the adoption of the heraldic motto *Primus in Indis* reflect a symbolic language of imperial prestige and intercolonial competition, transferring state values into local society. His commemoration through memorial stained glass in St Andrew’s Cathedral and through funerary epitaphs underscores the integration of administrative elites into the city’s sacred and memorial landscape, where symbols of power become enduring landmarks of collective memory.

The second part focuses on Sir Orfeur Cavenagh, the last Governor of the Straits Settlements under Indian administration (1859–1867), whose legacy is expressed predominantly through personal heraldry embedded in the urban space. His coat of arms, incorporated into the structure of Cavenagh Bridge – the oldest bridge in Singapore preserved in its original form – functions simultaneously as a marker of authority, an element of infrastructure and a national monument, transforming an individual symbol into a component of collective visual memory. The comparative analysis highlights two complementary modes of transmitting power through heraldry: an institutional mode, oriented towards civic and military bodies, and a personal mode, anchored in the urban landscape. Together, Butterworth and Cavenagh demonstrate that in Singapore heraldry functioned as an instrument through which the colonial state transformed administrative authority into political, social and cultural heritage, thereby contributing decisively to the formation of civic memory in a post-colonial city.

## CV

**Dr Adriana Patricia Manea** is a historian and heritage diplomacy expert whose research explores symbolic power, elite cultural networks and visual representations of authority in trans-imperial interactions across Europe and Southeast Asia. She holds a PhD in History (*summa cum laude*) from the University of Bucharest.

Based in Singapore since 2022, she works as a historical and heraldic consultant, offering specialised expertise to Singaporean institutions in matters related to heraldry, genealogy and symbolic representation. Her research draws on heraldry, genealogy and material culture to advance heritage diplomacy as an analytical framework for understanding cultural collaboration, symbolic legitimacy and political identity.

Dr Adriana Patricia Manea is affiliated with numerous national and international academic and heritage institutions. She is a member of the International Society for Cultural History, the Singapore Heritage Society, the National Committee of Heraldry, Genealogy and Sigillography of the Romanian Academy, the Romanian Institute of Genealogy and Heraldry “Sever Zotta”, and the Balkan History Association. She is also an Honorary Member of the Transylvanian Heraldic and Vexillological Association and is affiliated with the Centre for Medieval Studies, University of Bucharest.

## **Administracinis elitas ir heraldinis paveldas ankstyvajame Singapūre: Butterworthas, Cavenaghas ir pilietinės atminties formavimas**

**Dr Adriana Patricia Manea (Singapūras)**

**Paskaita bus skaitoma anglų kalba.**

### **Santrauka**

Pranešime analizuojamas britų administracinio elito vaidmuo formuojant heraldinį paveldą ir pilietinę atmintį XIX a. Singapūre – kolonijinėje visuomenėje, kurioje nebuvo susiformavusios vietinės aristokratijos. Lyginamoji sero Williama Johno Butterwortho ir sero Orfeuro Cavenagho veiklos analizė atskleidžia, kaip administracinė valdžia, pasitelkdama heraldinius simbolius, buvo įtvirtinama viešojoje erdvėje ir ilgainiui transformuojama į kultūrinį bei politinį palikimą.

Butterwortho veikla parodo, kaip institucinė heraldika buvo naudojama lojalumui, pilietinei tapatybei ir imperiniam prestižui stiprinti. Cavenagho atvejis išryškina asmeninės heraldikos integraciją į urbanistinį kraštovaizdį – jo herbas, įkomponuotas į Cavenagho tilto konstrukciją, tapo ne tik valdžios ženklu, bet ir kolektyvinės vizualinės atminties dalimi.

Pranešime teigiama, kad Singapūre heraldika veikė kaip simbolinis instrumentas, leidęs kolonijinei valstybei administracinį autoritetą paversti politiniu, socialiniu ir kultūrinio paveldu, reikšmingai prisidėjusiu prie pilietinės atminties formavimosi.

## CV

**Dr. Adriana Patricia Manea** – istorikė ir paveldo diplomatijos ekspertė, tyrinėjanti valdžios simboliką, elitų kultūrinius tinklus ir vizualines valdžios raiškas transimperialinėse Europos ir Pietryčių Azijos sąveikose. Istorijos mokslų daktaro laipsnį (*summa cum laude*) ji įgijo Bukarešto universitete.

Nuo 2022 m. gyvena ir dirba Singapūre, kur teikia specializuotas konsultacijas heraldikos, genealogijos ir simbolinės reprezentacijos klausimais. Savo tyrimuose ji plėtoja paveldo diplomatiją kaip analitinę prieigą kultūriniam bendradarbiavimui, simboliniam legitimumui ir politinei tapatybei suprasti.

Dr. A. P. Manea bendradarbiauja su nacionalinėmis ir tarptautinėmis akademinėmis bei paveldo institucijomis, yra kelių mokslinių ir kultūros organizacijų narė bei garbės narė.