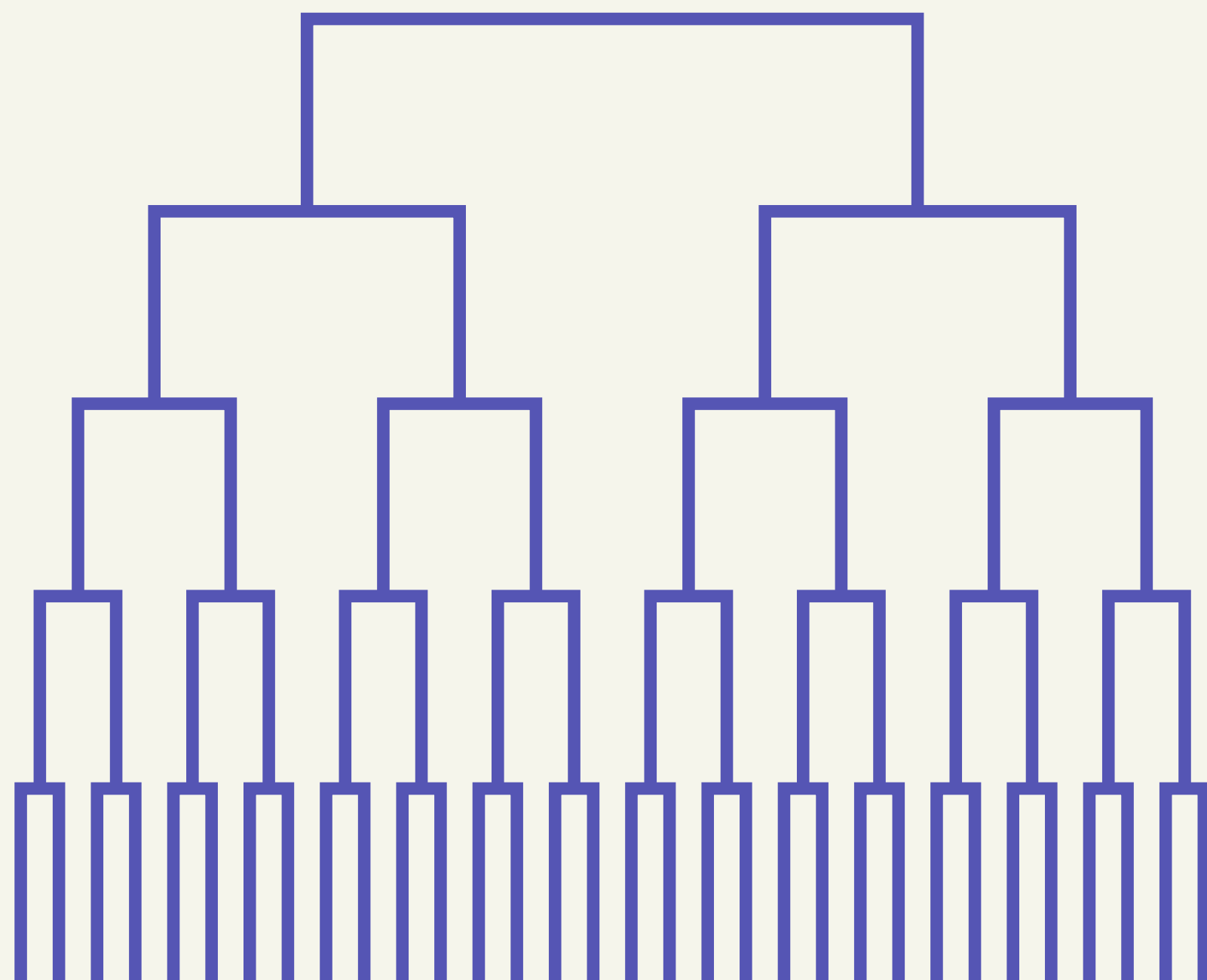


SYMPOSIUM

JUNE 8–9 2026 RIGA



REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH IN FRAGILE DEMOCRACIES: BODIES, TECHNOLOGIES AND FUTURES

OPEN CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Pauls Stradiņš Medicine History Museum
June 8–9, 2026, Riga, Latvia

The symposium takes reproduction as a lens for examining points of intersection between healthcare, democracy and inequality, particularly in a context of fragile or shifting democratic institutions. We explore ways in which reproductive technologies open possibilities for care, belonging and inclusive futures, while also reinforcing exclusions and hierarchies; personal desires are entangled with state interventions, markets or global inequalities; authoritarian and totalitarian legacies continue to shape contemporary debates over access, justice and normality.

We welcome contributions from the social sciences, humanities and healthcare areas, including anthropology, sociology, history, philosophy, political studies and medical humanities focusing on the social dimensions of reproductive health. We invite work that explores reproduction as a key site for thinking about democracy, inequality and the politics of care, broadly defined.

Themes may include (but are not limited to):

- Histories of reproductive governance, eugenics, pronatalism, etc.
- Assisted reproduction, surrogacy, donation, global fertility chains
- Lived experiences of infertility, pregnancy loss, disability, and care
- Reproduction, democracy, rights and authoritarian resurgence
- Planetary futures, reproductive labour, care economies

Submission Details:

Please submit the title, affiliation and a 200-word abstract by March 1, 2026 (11:55 PM CET) via the online form: forms.gle
Notification of acceptance: March 15, 2026.
Participation is free of charge.

Reproductive health technologies have always been entangled with shifting ideas of normality, moral economies of care and political visions of the future. They enable people to pursue self-determination, intimacy and kinship, while also serving as instruments for shaping populations and policing boundaries of family formation and citizenship.

From eugenic projects in the interwar Europe to the ongoing debates about abortion, assisted conception and genetic interventions, decisions about reproduction have never been purely medical. Reproduction becomes a site where biomedicine and personal aspirations meet social inequalities and political power.

Keynote Speakers:

AGNIESZKA KOŚCIAŃSKA

University of Warsaw: "‘I’m not leaving the Church, it’s the Church that is leaving me’: Polish private and public deliberations on reproductive rights, Catholicism and the state’

ANIKA KÖNIG

Freie Universität Berlin: ‘Reproductive Entanglements: Local Worlds and Global Markets in Times of Crisis’

The symposium accompanies the exhibition “Unaccountables” at the P. Stradiņš Medicine History Museum, exploring how scientific and political visions shape the understanding of human value, capability and futures.