

**Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University  
Faculty of Social and Political Sciences**

**The 8<sup>th</sup> International Scientific Conference**

**“Space, Society, Politics”**

**Dedicated to the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Faculty of Social and Political  
Sciences**

**PROGRAM**

**and**

**ABSTRACTS**



**25 - 27 June, 2020  
Tbilisi**

25-27 June, 2020

The 8<sup>th</sup> International Scientific Conference

**“Space, Society, Politics”**

Dedicated to the 15th Anniversary of the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences of the Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University

**Editors:** Tamar Dolbaia, Valerian Melikidze, Teona Mataradze, Salome Dundua

**Technical Group:** Teona Tabuashvili, Sandro Tabatadze, Miranda Mikadze

# PROGRAM

## 25 June, Thursday

### 10.00 Conference Speeches and Welcomes

**Giorgi Sharvashidze** - Rector, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University

**Tamar Dolbaia** - Dean, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University

### I Session (Working Language - English)

**Chairperson: Alexandre Kukhianidze**

10.20 **Alexandre Kukhianidze** – Professor, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. *“The Impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic on Transnational Organized Crime”*

10.40 **Vakhtang Maisaia** – Professor, Caucasus International University, **Miranda Mikadze** – PhD student, Caucasus International University, **Sebastian Bobkiewicz** – Expert, The Georgian Geostrategic and Euro-Atlantic Integration Studies Institute. *“EU Conflict Resolution Strategy on the Example of Regional Security in the South Caucasus”*

11.00 **Jaba Urotadze** – Assistant Professor, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. *“Comparative Analysis of Protection of Young People at Work in Georgian and European Union Laws”*

11.20 **Nadezhda Kazarinova**, Associate professor, **Anna Chugunova**, Invited Lecturer – Saint Petersburg Electrotechnical University “LETI” (ETU), Russia. *“Paradoxes of “Soft Power” of Tourism”*

11.40 **Cenay Babaoglu**, Associate Professor, Selçuk University, **Onur Kulac**, Assistant Professor, Pamukkale University – Turkey. “*A Blueprint of Turkey’s Covid-19 Policy*”

12.00 **Salome Dundua**, Associate Professor, **Sandro Tabatadze**, MA Student – Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. “*Liberal-Democratic Values in the National Curriculum of General Education of Georgia*”

12.20 **Nikoloz Esitashvili** – Professor, ISET – International School of Economics, TSU. “*The Role of External Economic Incentives in times of Political Transitions and Consolidations*”

12.40 **Luca Zarrilli**, Associate Professor, University “G. D’Annunzio” of Chieti-Pescara, Italy. **Miguel Brito**, Associate Professor, Estoril Higher Institute for Tourism and Hotel Studies, Portugal. “*Alcântara (Lisbon): From Industrial District to Tourist Destination. A Survey*”

13.00 **Constantin-Vasile Toca**, Lecturer, **Edinna Lilla Meszaros**, Teaching Assistant – University of Oradea, Romania. “*Cross-Border Cooperation under Magnifying Glass: An Assessment of the Projects Implemented at the Romanian-Hungarian Border in the 2004-2013 Period*”

13.20 **Julia Kaczmarek-Khubnaia** – PhD Student, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland. “*Socio-economic Development of the Georgian Regions- Chosen Theoretical Approach*”

13.40 **Valerio Della Sala** – PhD Student, Autònoma University of Barcelona, Spain. “*Olympics Games: The Organisation, the History, the Committee, the Projects. Rome 1960 -Barcelona 1992: From a Dream to the Urban Model*”

**14.00 – 14.40 Break**

## II Session (Working Language - English)

**Chairperson: Mariam Gersamia**

14.40 **Mariam Gersamia**, Professor, **Maia Toradze**, Associate Professor, **Liana Markariani**, MA Student – Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. *“Challenges of Gender Equality in Media (Case of Georgia)”*

15.00 **Luca Zarrilli**, Associate Professor, **Silvia Iacuone**, PhD Student – University “G. D’Annunzio” of Chieti-Pescara, Italy. *“The Role of Iceland in the Arctic Issue: Diplomacy, Threats, Opportunities”*

15.20 **Temur Gugushvili** – PhD Student, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. *“Mountain Resident’s Livelihoods: Adaptation Strategies in the Swiftly Progressing ‘Weather’ of Tourism in Protected Areas”*

15.40 **Nino Kukhianidze** – PhD Student, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, Poland. *“The Role of Peace Education in the Process of Conflict Transformation”*

16.00 **Ekaterine Lomia** – PhD Student, Caucasus International University. *“How Russian Propaganda Works in Georgia: The Consequences of the Russian Disinformation in a Long-Term Perspective”*

16.20 **Namig Karimov** – MA, Baku Engineering University, Azerbaijan. *“Turkey and Russia’s Strained Relations in Caucasia”*

16.40 **Keynote Speeches**

**Stephen F. Jones** – Professor of Russian and Eurasian Studies at Mount Holyoke College.

**Neil MacFarlane** – The Lester B. Pearson Professor of International Relations and Fellow at St Anne’s College, University of Oxford.

*“Recurrent Patterns in Georgian Politics: Culture, Geography and Institutions”*

## **26 June, Friday**

### **III Session (Working Language - Georgian)**

**Chairperson: Iago Kachkachishvili**

10.00 **Tamar Dolbaia** – Associate Professor, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. *“Geographical Features of Transport System Development of Georgia”*

10.20 **Revaz Gachechiladze** – Professor, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. *“Changing Political Geography and Geopolitics of the Central Europe”*

10.40 **Malkhaz Matsaberidze**, Professor, **Tamar Orjonikidze**, PhD Student – Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. *“The Representatives of National Minorities in the Constituent Assembly of Georgia (1919-1921)”*

11.00 **Iago Kachkachishvili** – Professor, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. *“Monitoring Knowledge, Risk Perceptions, Preventive Behaviours and Public Trust in the Current Coronavirus Outbreak in Georgia”*

11.20 **Valerian Melikidze**, Associate Professor, **Giorgi Kvinikadze**, Associate Professor – Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. *“Strange Bedfellows - a Comparative Analysis of Economic Geography and Geoeconomics”*

11.40 **Tengiz Verulava** – Associate Professor, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. *“Challenges of the COVID-19 Pandemic: German strategy”*

12.00 **Teona Mataradze**, Associate Professor, **Giorgi Shubitidze**, PhD Student – Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. *“How is the Urban Identity of Mtskheta Residents Represented in the External Image of the City”*

12.20 **Avtandil Tukvadze**, Associate Professor, **Valerian Dolidze**, Assistant Professor – Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, **Irakli Ubilava**, PhD Student, Peoples' Friendship University of Russia, Russia *“Post-Pandemic World Order-Place of Georgia in Transformative International System”*

**12.40 - 13.40 Break**

## IV Session (Working Language - Georgian)

**Chairperson: Teona Mataradze**

13.40 **Iago Kachkachishvili**, Professor, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, **Lasha Tughushi**, Assistant Professor, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, **Malkhaz Gagua**, Lecturer, International Black Sea University, **Aleksandra Kalatozishvili**, Lecturer, Ilia State University – *“Cultural and Political Dimensions of Anti-Liberal Populism and Religious Nationalism in the Regions of Georgia”*

14.00 **Shorena Turkiashvili** – Assistant Professor, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. *“The Orthodox Religiosity and Some Aspects of Family Lives”*

14.20 **Nino Popiashvili** – Dr. of Philology, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. *“Global and National Totalitarianism from a Literary Perspective”*

14.40 **Eka Darbaidze** – PhD in Political Sciences, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. *“The Policy of Cooperation of the Georgian Government in the Occupied Tskhinvali Region”*

15.00 **Mariam Khatiashvili** – PhD, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. *“Theoretical Conceptualization of Russia’s Soft Power toward Georgia”*

## **27 June, Saturday**

### **V Session (Working Language - Georgian)**

**Chairperson: Salome Dundua**

10.00 **Salome Kobaidze** – PhD Student, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. *“Existing and Prospective Geographical Areas of Economic Development of the Black Sea Coastal Zone of Georgia in Terms of the Blue Economy”*

10.20 **Teona Tabuashvili** – PhD Student, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. *“Public Higher Education Institutions, as Developing Organizations: Students’ Assessments“*

10.40 **Inga Mikhanashvili** – Researcher, Institute of Political Sciences at Ilia State University. *“The “4 + 1 Program” in Higher Education Institutions as a Strategy for the Integration of Ethnic Minorities”*

11.00 **Kiarim Gumbatov** – PhD Student, Georgian Technical University. *“The Features of the Democratic Nature of Local Self-Government in the Public Administration System”*

11.20 **Tamar Orjonikidze**, PhD Student, **Natia Zedginidze**, PhD Student - Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. *“Issues of Election Finance and Political Ethics in the 2018 Presidential Elections in Georgia”*

11.40 **Nino Maisuradze** - PhD Student, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. *“Mikhako Tsereteli and the Conceptualization of Nation in Georgia in the Early 20th Century”*

12.00 **Mariana Kevkhishvili** – PhD Student, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. *“United National Movement's Lobbying Campaign in the USA”*

12.20 **Natia Zedginidze** – PhD Student, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. *“At the Origins of the Development of the Code of Parliamentary Ethics: Experience of the Constituent Assembly of Georgia (1919–1921)”*

12.40 **Zaza Tsotniashvili** – Professor, Caucasus International University. *“How Media Covers COVID-19 Impact in the Occupied Territories of Georgia”*

## **ABSTRACTS**

## **Julia Kaczmarek-Khubnaia**

PhD Student

Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland

### **Socio-Economic Development of the Georgian Regions- Chosen Theoretical Approach**

The geopolitical location, natural resources, history, and domestic situation make Georgia a subject of interest for researchers in a range of scientific disciplines.

The necessity of an analysis of the regional development in Georgia is demonstrated by the problem of deepening regional disproportions and the process of depopulation of the peripheries, including high mountainous areas that are valuable in terms of both nature and culture.

Understanding the specifics and mechanisms affecting the level of development of individual regions allows the researcher to choose concepts that will best explain the process. This stage is crucial for the identification of the factors in development. The way the process is understood is also very important in the programming phase of development policy by local and central authorities, e.g. when setting the main goals and directions of their actions.

The aim of this talk is to present an original approach to research on regional development in Georgia, based on a number of complementary theories of regional development. The proposed mix of concepts has not been used previously in the context of the Georgian development path. In my choice of theoretical foundations, I rely on three theories of regional development: (1) *The concept of growth poles* - formulated by François Perroux, (2) *The concept of circular and cumulative causality* - proposed by Gunnar Myrdal and (3) *The concept of path dependence* – proposed by Douglas Cecil North.

The development of the Georgian regions has an unbalanced character, as evidenced by the existence of the motor units, so-called *growth poles* (Tbilisi, Batumi, Kutaisi) whose presence determines the level and dynamics of the country's development.

The socio-economic development of Georgia's regions should be viewed through the prism of historical and social conditions, and is dependent on *unforeseen events*

(e.g. the collapse of the Soviet Union and Georgia regaining its independence or the global economic crisis).

Furthermore, available statistical data show that in relation to development processes taking place in the area of the country under study, there is the occurrence of a vicious circle mechanism, described by Myrdal, in which wealthier areas (with growth poles within their boundaries) are developing more and more rapidly and poor regions are characterized by a deepening stagnation.

The selection of theoretical concepts also refers to the specifics of factors in Georgia's regional development. The country is currently experiencing prolonged transformation processes, so it is difficult for Georgia to base its development on modern, intangible factors, e.g. knowledge, innovations and technological progress to which researchers from all over the world currently refer, e.g. under the popular *endogenous growth theory* or concepts of "*learning regions*".

This presentation is built on older concepts, based on "traditional", largely material development factors, which seem to more accurately relate the characteristics of the socio-economic development of Georgian regions.

The presented results are part of the research project No. 2018/31/N/HS4/00178 funded by the Polish National Science Centre.

**Keywords:** Region, development, Georgia, theory, theoretical approach.