

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

The 8th International Scientific Conference

“Space, Society, Politics”

**Dedicated to the 15th Anniversary of the Faculty of Social and Political
Sciences**

PROGRAM

and

ABSTRACTS



**25 - 27 June, 2020
Tbilisi**

25-27 June, 2020

The 8th 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, Autonomia 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

Iago Kachkachishvili

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Cultural and Political Dimensions of Anti-Liberal Populism and Religious Nationalism in the Regions of Georgia

In recent years, Georgia has clearly seen an increase in anti-liberal populism and religious nationalism, both in the discourse produced by political forces and in the attitudes of individual citizens. Processes triggered by the spread of the Covid-19 virus have once again exposed the vulnerability of the public in this regard, as evidenced by the strengthening of xenophobic attitudes in certain segments of society. This, in turn, has the potential to escalate into a serious confrontation of an ethnoconfessional nature. In this regard, the study of the public attitudes (both quantitative and qualitative) in the regions of Georgia carried out together with our partners is impressive.

The research revealed deep cultural differences, both between regions and within regions, among different groups of the population. There are also differences in public attitudes towards foreign policy priorities, which invoke additional dramatism to the socio-political life.

Populism, especially of an anti-liberal nature and the ultra-right sentiments built on it, are at the same time a powerful foreign policy tool for Russia. Thus, the study of public opinion is particularly important in this context.

In the report, we'll analyze the views of the population on anti-liberal populism and ultra-right, and the attitudes prevalent in the regions of Georgia. From a regional perspective, we'll also discuss endogenous (identity, including ethnicity, orthodoxy, family purity) and exogenous (risks from different states, immigration issues) aspects of the perceived threats.

In addition, based on our surveys and analysis we'll overview the acceptance of different minorities, as well as the extent to which existing attitudes create the possibility of confrontation or agitation of varying degrees. At the same time, we'll discuss how strong nativist attitudes are, the degree of prevalence conservative and liberal sentiments among regional micro-societies in terms of age, gender and religion.

Keywords: Populism, Anti-Liberalism, Religious Nationalism, Far-Right, Ethnic and Religious Minorities.