

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

**The 9<sup>th</sup> International Scientific Conference**

**“Space, Society, Politics”**

**PROGRAM**

**and**

**ABSTRACTS**



24 - 25 June, 2021  
Tbilisi

24-25 June, 2021

The 9<sup>th</sup> International Scientific Conference

**“Space, Society, Politics”**

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

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

Speeches - 15 Minutes

Discussions - 5 Minutes

# PROGRAM

## 24 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: Teona Mataradze**, Associate Professor, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University

### 10.15 Keynote Speech

**Dr. Pawel Stawarz** - University of Warsaw; Secretary of the Scientific Council of the Poland-East Cooperation Association; Deputy Editor-in-Chief of the scientific journal "Studia Wschodnioeuropejskie"; Member of the Scientific Editorial Board of the American Scientific Journal "Journal of Political Science and International Relations"; Member of the Polish Society for European Studies.

*"Post socialist Transformation in Poland and Georgia, comparative overview"*

11.00 **Revaz Gachechiladze**, Professor, **Giorgi Gogsadze**, Professor - Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. „*Voter Turnout in Parliamentary Elections of Georgia: Dynamics and Geography*“

11.20 **Alexandre Kukhianidze** - Professor, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. *"Democracy and Super-Mafia"*

11.40 **Biró A. Zoltán**, Professor, **Kinga Katalin Székely**, Assistant Professor - Sapientia Hungarian University of Transilvania, Romania. „*Tourism development opportunities in an Eastern European rural area after COVID*”

12.00 **Mariam Gersamia**, Professor, **Maia Toradze**, Associate Professor - Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, **Marina Goksadze**, MMED, Tbilisi Psychological Center - “*Gender stereotypes in Georgian media*”

12.20 **Cenay Babaoglu**, Associate Professor, Selçuk University, **Onur Kulac**, Assistant Professor, Pamukkale University - Turkey. “*Incremental Policy-Making in Public Health During the Covid-19 Pandemic in Turkey*”

12.40 **Agnieszka Tomczyk** - PhD candidate, University of Warsaw, Poland. “*How new global challenges shape political leadership?*”

13.00 **Tornike Zurabashvili** - PhD Candidate, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. “*The Question of Georgia’s Foreign Policy Orientation in the Parliamentary Election Manifestos of 1990 and 1992*”

13:20 **José G. Vargas-Hernández**, PhD, **César Omar Mora Pérez**, PhD, **Miguel Angel Esparza Íñiguez**, PhD - University of Guadalajara, Mexico. “*Green innovation business (GIB) as a comprehensive entrepreneurship model for the internationalization. The case of BIO-FOM in the urban area of Guadalajara*”

## **13.40 – 14.40 Break**

## **II Session (Working Language - English)**

**Chairperson: Leo Lin**

14.40 **David Matsaberidze** - Associate Professor, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. “*The Challenges of Post-Soviet Transformation in Georgia: Democratization and its External and Domestic Rivals*”

15.00 **Sumit Mukerji** - Professor, University of Kalyani, India. “*From Negative to Positive Peace: Meeting of two Seminal Minds*”

15.20 **Leo Lin** - Phd Candidate, The University of Southern Mississippi, USA. *“A Comparative Analysis of ASEAN Countries’ Responses to Human Trafficking during COVID-19”*

15.40 **Nino Kukhianidze** - PhD Candidate, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, Poland. *“Peace education: the experience of Finland and the United States of America”*

16.00 **B. Alper Torun** - PhD Candidate, Ankara University, Turkey. *“The Second Karabakh War in the Context of Turkish-Russian Relations”*

16.20 **Sercan Yavan** - PhD, Research Assistant, Aydın Adnan Menderes University, Turkey. *“External Intervention against Satellite Pollution in the World Circulation: The Orbital Tax”*

16.40 **Shamal Hussein** - PhD Candidate, Political Science Institute, Poland. *“The Real Reason Behind Occupying Iraq in 2003”*

17.00 **Ved Pal Singh**, Senior Assistant Professor, **Arjun Deswal**, Student of LL.M. - Maharshi Dayanand University, India. *“Digitalisation as a Key in Rural Development: Glimpses from India”*

17.20 **Giorgi Beridze** - PhD Candidate, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. *“Europeanization of Georgia and Changes in Labour Relations”*

17.40 **Svetlana Akkueva**, Professor, Institute of Humanitarian Studies-Branch of the Federal Scientific Center Kabardino-Balkar Scientific Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences, **Muzhigit Ismailovich Akkiev**, Candidate of biological sciences, Kabardino-Balkar State Highland Nature Reserve, Russia. *“The relations between humans and nature: the problem of developing of tourism in the North Caucasus”*

18:00 **Samira Garayeva** - PhD Candidate, Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, ANAS Center of Anthropology. *“Cultural attitudes and stereotypes in the family of an Azerbaijani woman”*

## 25 June, Friday

### III Session (Working Language - Georgian)

**Chairperson: Zurab Davitashvili**

10.00 **Zurab Davitashvili** - Professor, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University.  
*„National Identity and Foreign Policy”*

10.20 **Vazha Lordkipanidze** - Professor, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. *“Did the conflicts in Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region have ethnodemographic underpinnings?”*

10.40 **Giorgi Kvinikadze** - Associate Professor, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. *„Foreign Trade Problems in the Occupied Regions of Georgia“*

11.00 **Akaki Abzianidze**, Professor, Georgian National University SEU, **Avtandil Tukvadze**, Associate Professor, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. *“Political leadership in post soviet countries”*

11.20 **Aleksandre Tsurtsunia** - PhD, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. *“Recep Tayyip Erdogan - The role of a leader in the political process”*

11.40 **Maia Manchkhavili** - PhD, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. *“The Platform of Six” - A New Model of Cooperation for the South Caucasus”*

12.00 **Phikria Asanishvili** - Associate Professor, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. *“Impact of Nagorno Karabakh War over the Regional Powers”*

12.20 **Lasha Tughushi**, Invited Lecturer, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, **Aleksandra Kalatozishvili**, Visiting Lecturer, Ilia State University, **Malkhaz Gagua**, Invited Lecturer, International Black Sea University - *“Identity, conservatism and political views of the Kvemo Kartli population”*

12.40 **Salome Elisashvili** - PhD student, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. *“The Integration Problem of Ethnic Minorities in the Higher Education System of Georgia”*

13.00 **Vakhtang Maisaia**, Professor, **Miranda Mikadze**, PhD student - Caucasus International University. *“The Impact of Asymmetric War on Euro-Atlantic Security”*

13.20 **Natia Kuprashvili**, Associate Professor, **Nino Chalaganidze**, Associate Professor - Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. *“Perception of hate speech in the of freedom of speech context - Georgian media culture example”*

13.40 **Maia Toradze**, Associate Professor, **Liana Markariani**, MA Student - Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. *“Covid-19 Infodemic and Fake News in Georgian Social Media”*

## **14.00 - 15.00 Break**

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

**Chairperson: Salome Dundua**

15.00 **Malkhaz Matsaberidze** - Professor, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. *„The War of February-March, 1921 and the Constituent Assembly of Georgia“*

15.20 **Revaz Gachechiladze** - Professor, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. *“Formation of Political Boundaries in the 20<sup>th</sup> century South Caucasus”*

15.40 **Nino Maisuradze** - PhD student, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. *“Influence of the European Conceptions on the Idea of a Nation in Georgia (1893-1917)”*

16.00 **Amiran Berdzenishvili**, Professor, **Kakha Ketsbaia**, Associate Professor - Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. *“World Religions in the Globalization and Information Age”*

16.20 **Valerian Dolidze** - Assistant professor, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. *“Cumulative process of development of democracy in Georgia”*

16.40 **Salome Dundua**, Associate Professor, **Tamar Karaia**, Assistant Professor - Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. *“Let's Defend My, Your, Our Batumi” - Social Movement to Save the Historic Look of Batumi*”

17.00 **Ketevan Jishiashvili** - PhD Student, Shota Rustaveli Theatre and Film Georgia State University. *“Modelling of postmodern urban space in contemporary Georgian painting”*

17.20 **Sandro Tabatadze** - PhD Student, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. *„Policy transfer: attempt for new classification and synthesis with policy change framework”*

17.40 **Goga Lobjanidze** - PhD Candidate, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. *“Party Cleavages in Georgia”*

18.00 **Tamar Orjonikidze** - PhD Student, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. *“Myths about Stalin in Modern Georgian Politics”*



**Maia Toradze**

Associate Professor

**Liana Markariani**

MA Student

Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University

### **Covid-19 Infodemic and Fake News in Georgian Social Media**

The mankind has been battling fake news, misinformation and propaganda for years, however, this problem has become more threatening and persistent with the advancement of technologies.

It is well-known, that spreading of any fake news needs a precondition – an event, which causes the intensity of its spread in a specific time. Recently, this precondition has become COVID-19 pandemic, about which an overabundance of information can be observed in traditional and new media.

Thus, it is interesting and vital to research what place the fake news has held in information flow and what influence it has had on a society in a crisis.

The significance of our research lies in the fact that it is conducted during the pandemic and examines the topics that are most often subjected to fraud. Scientific research about the origin of fake news and the consequences of its spread will help us share correct and verified information and aid the fight against fake news.

The aim of this research is to demonstrate the causes and manipulators of the fake news, which was spread during COVID-19. Also to find out mainly what type of information is faked and what is the reason behind this (the ways of treating COVID-19, faked statistics, where the virus comes from, anti-vax movement, etc.).

The study, in the future, will make a consequential contribution to combating misinformation and preventing its negative effects.

In the research process, we observed the information about the corona virus published on the social media, particularly on Facebook, monitored the original

sources of the information, separated the falsified information from the main information flow and identified the prime manipulators. The study was conducted over a one year period, from March 2020 to March 2021.

On the first stage of the research, these hypotheses were developed:

H1: During infodemic, the sharing of fake news and misleading of media users increases.

H2: The information, which was spread on social media about COVID-19 is harmful and alarming, as it can have damaging influence on an individual's health.

The research was based on the theory of Uses and Gratification.

The following research questions were formed by the analysis of the theoretical framework:

RQ1: What is the comparative share of Covid-19 information on the websites, that are regarded as original sources, during the infodemic?

RQ2: What type of fake news was shared on social media about COVID-19?

RQ3: Which specific manipulators are included in fake news about the spread of COVID-19?

RQ4: What kind of responses and feedbacks does the fake news have (likes and shares)?

RQ5: what were the impacts and results of the spread of fake news about COVID-19?

Quantitative and qualitative content analysis were used in the research, as well as a form of qualitative research - in-depth interviews conducted with media experts, psychologists and physicians.

In this paper the fake news is structured by types and contents and the reasons for the origin of fake news and its influence on social media users is analyzed.

**Keywords:** Covid-19, Disinfodemic, Fake News, Social Media