

**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, 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**

## **Mariam Khatiashvili**

PhD

Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University

### **Theoretical Conceptualization of Russia's Soft Power toward Georgia**

From a global perspective, in 2008-2018 Russia fundamentally transformed its soft power strategy. From a regional perspective, this transformation can be seen clearly in the case of Georgia. The aim of this paper is to examine Russia's soft power theoretical conceptualization toward Georgia. The paper is built upon the insight introduced by Craig Hayden in his book "The Rhetoric of Soft Power: Public Diplomacy in Global Contexts" (2012). According to Hayden "a crucial step toward understanding soft power is to ascertain how international actors understand the concept and make use of it, explicitly or implicitly, in their strategies and actions." This particular standpoint is important to better analyze an actor state's process of soft power formulation. In the framework of this viewpoint the specific objective of this paper is to evaluate Russia's soft power theoretical conceptualization by discussing it according to one of the soft power behaviors - agenda-setting. In this paper the term "Soft Power" is used in its narrowest terms presented by Joseph S. Nye in his book "The Future of Power" (2011). According to Nye, soft power refers to "the ability to get preferred outcomes through the co-optive means of agenda-setting, persuasion, and attraction." Presented in Georgian, the research is interdisciplinary as it integrates various academic fields from the humanities, social and political sciences. Different research methods have been utilized to identify and characterize the issue, including comparative historical research and critical and document analysis. The present research is based on the primary sources, such as foreign policy documents, i.e. Foreign Policy Concept and National Security Strategy of the Russian Federation. Author highlights the international and regional issues that accelerated Russia's soft power theoretical conceptualization and the need of its practical use in modern Russian diplomacy. The paper discusses Russian soft power in contrast with the traditional, classical meaning of the term proposed by Joseph S. Nye. Moreover, paper analyzes those foreign policy issues that are put into the center of Russia's soft power theoretical conceptualization toward Georgia. Research results show that Russia's soft power toward Georgia is formulated in a relatively detailed manner.

**Keywords:** Soft power, foreign policy, Georgia, Russia.