

**Memory Studies Center in the Caucasus (MSCC)
Ilia State University**



Academic Swiss Caucasus Net (ASCN)



AN INITIATIVE OF GEBERT RUF STIFTUNG IN COOPERATION
WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF FRIBOURG

European Network Remembrance and Solidarity (ENRS)



Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS)



**Memory and Identity in Post-Soviet Space: Georgia
and the Caucasus in a Broader Eastern European
Context**

**1-2 June 2016
Ilia State University
(Tbilisi, Georgia)**

Conference Program

Venue: Ligamus – Ilia State University bookstore.

Address: I. Chavchavadze Ave # 32, 0179 Tbilisi, Georgia

Wednesday, 1 June 2016

09. 00

Welcome addresses

Giga Zedania (Rector, Ilia State University, Georgia)

Malkhaz Toria (Memory Studies Center in the Caucasus, Ilia State University, Georgia)

Jan Rydel (European Network Remembrance and Solidarity)

Thomas Schrapel (Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, Germany)

09. 30

Session 1: Post-Soviet politics of Memory and Nation Building

Jan Rydel (European Network Remembrance and Solidarity)

International Historical Disputes in Central Europe and the Attempts to Solve Them

Nutsa Batiashvili (Free University, Georgia)

‘Bivocal’ Identity: Distinct Form of Post-Colonial Subjectivity

Nino Chikovani (Iv. Javakhisvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia)

From 'Happy Socialist Future' to the 'Hard Soviet Past': Memory Construction in Georgia

Rauf Garagozov, (Center for Strategic Studies, Azerbaijan)

Managing National Memory and Reconciliation in the South Caucasus

Discussion

Chair: Elene Kekelia (MSCC, Ilia State University, Georgia)

11. 00 Coffee Break

11. 30

Session 2: Contested Mnemonic Communities

Przemysław Furgacz (College of Business and Entrepreneurship in Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski, Poland).

Polish-Russian History Disputes in 21st Century

Konstantine Ladaria (MSCC, Ilia State University, Georgia)

Non-Forgettable Phobia in Armenian-Georgian Vicinity: Trying to Maintain 'Plausibility'

Malkhaz Toria (MSCC, Ilia State University, Georgia)

Primordiality and Memory: Politics of Restoring "True" national Identity in Breakaway Abkhazia Region of Georgia

Ketevan Kakitelashvili (Iv. Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia)

Memorizing Jews of Georgia - Nostalgia of Exile

Discussion

Chair: Nino Chikovani (Iv. Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia)

13.00 Lunch Break

14.00 – 15.30

Keynote lecture by Elzbieta Matynia (New School for Social Research, USA)

Refugees and the Public Square: An Infrastructure for Hope

Thursday, 2 June 2016

Venue: Auditorium # 101. Ilia State University.

Address: I. Chavchavadze Ave # 32, 0179 Tbilisi, Georgia

10:00

Session 3: Sites and Realms of Memory in Georgia and in the Caucasus

Elene Kekelia (MSCC, Ilia State University, Georgia)

A comparative study of places of memory in Georgia and other post-Soviet states

Oliver Reisner (MSCC, Ilia State University, Georgia)

Recollections of Soviet Purges in 1937: Memoirs of Repressed Persons in Georgia

Irakli Khvadagiani (Soviet Past Research Laboratory, Georgia)

Looking for lost graves. Mass graves of victims of soviet repressions in 1921-1953 years in Tbilisi

Gayane Shagoyan, (Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, Armenia) Between Historiography and Memory: Memorializing Stalin Era Repressions in Armenia

Discussion

Chair: Konstantine Ladaria (MSCC, Ilia State University, Georgia)

11.30 Coffee break

12.00

Session 4: Memory politics in the framework of totalitarian and imperial legacies

Nino Doborjginidze (Ilia State University, Georgia)

The Lost Memory of the Eighteenth-century Georgian-European Relations from the Georgian perspective

Timothy Blauvelt (Ilia State University, Georgia)

Pedagogy, Modernity and Nationalism in the Caucasus in the period of Reaction (1880-1905)

Nino Pirtskhalava (Ilia State University, Georgia)

Transformation of Georgian Cultural Self-perception in Literature of the Last Two Centuries (in the context of collective memory)

Discussion

Chair: Malkhaz Toria (MSCC, Ilia State University, Georgia)

13.30 Lunch Break

14.30 – 16.00

Key note lecture by Jeffrey Olick (University of Virginia, USA)

Memory in motion

Alphabetical list of conference participants

Nutsa Batiashvili is a professor of Anthropology and the Dean of the Graduate School at Free University Tbilisi. She has obtained her PhD in Anthropology from Washington University in St Louis. Her research is concerned with discursive practices that engage memory narratives as culturally pre-established linguistic tools.

Timothy Blauvelt is an associate professor of Soviet and Post-Soviet Studies at Ilia State University in Tbilisi, Georgia. He defended his PhD in political science at the State University of New York at Buffalo in 2001. He is also Country Director in Georgia for American Councils for International Education: ACTR/ACCELS.

Nino Chikovani is a Doctor of Historical Sciences, Professor, head of the Institute of Cultural Studies at Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia. Her main research interests include: perception and representation of history; politics of memory; problems of identity, and issues of intercultural communication.

Nino Doborjginidze is a professor of Linguistic Studies at Ilia State University. Her research area includes problems of interrelations between language, identity and historical concepts in Georgian culture from medieval and modern perspectives.

Przemysław Furgacz has a PhD in International Relations from Jagiellonian University in Cracow. Currently, he is a lecturer of the College of Business and Entrepreneurship in Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski, Poland. Among his research interests are the international political disputes over history.

Rauf Garagozov is a Senior Research Fellow at Center for Strategic Studies. He obtained his PhD in Psychology from Lomonosov Moscow State University and was a Fulbright Visiting Professor at Washington University in St Louis. He has written extensively on memory and conflicts in the Caucasus region.

Ketevan Kakitelashvili is an Associate professor at the Institute of Cultural Studies, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. Her main field of research is concerned with identity studies, memory studies, and intercultural communication. Latest projects and publications were related to the construction of the Georgian Jewish identity building narrative in the 1860-1930s; interrelation of ethnic and religious identities at the turn of the 20th century – the cases of Georgian Muslims and Georgian Jews.

Elene Kekelia is a PhD candidate and a researcher from the Memory Studies Center in the Caucasus at Ilia State University (Tbilisi, Georgia). Her work is primarily cantered on historical narratives, collective memory, Soviet studies and Georgian nationalism. Her research interests motivated her to study the narratives of the public monuments of the 20th century and other sites of Memory in Georgia.

Irakli Kvadagiani is a PhD student at Ilia State University; His spheres of interest include the latest history of the Caucasus, the 1920s; Democratic Republic of Georgia 1918-21; the history of Caucasian emigration. the history of Georgian anti-Soviet movement and Georgian emigration in the 1920s. He joined the activities of the organization during Soviet Past Research Laboratory project “Red Terror Topography” and has since taken active part in the research process.

Konstantine Ladaria is a PhD student of interdisciplinary program of cultural studies and a member of Memory Studies Center in Caucasus at Iliia State University. Subject of his PhD thesis is the place of Stalin's symbol in post-Soviet Georgian national ideology. He also studied religious revival in post-Soviet Georgia.

Elzbieta Matynia is a Professor of Sociology and Liberal Studies and director of the Transregional Center for Democratic Studies at The New School for Social Research in New York. Her research in the sociology of politics and art focuses on democratic transitions in Eastern Europe and beyond, on the concept of borderlands in the new shared Europe, and more recently on the challenges faced by democracies emerging with a legacy of violence.

Jeffrey K. Olick is a Professor of Sociology and History at the University of Virginia, and Sociology Department Chair. His interests focus particularly on collective memory, critical theory, transitional justice, and postwar Germany. Current projects include on-going work on these topics, as well as editing a six-volume Cultural History of Memory and developing the outlines of "tragic sociology," an approach with origins in Nietzsche's writings on suffering and Weber's sociological approach to theodicy. He works with students on collective memory, sociological theory, symbolic politics, and history and theory of ideas and meanings, among other topics.

Nino Pirtskhalava is a professor at the School of Arts and Sciences, member of the Memory Studies Center in the Caucasus at Iliia State University (Tbilisi, Georgia). Her fields of interests include comparative literature studies, cultural studies, identity problems; the role of memory in the societies in transition; cultural production and imperial experience.

Jan Rydel, is historian and Professor at the Pedagogical University of Cracow. He research interest focus on Central and Eastern Europe and Polish-German relations in the 19th and 20th centuries. Rydel is Chairman of the ENRS Steering Committee and coordinates the Polish party in the European Network Remembrance and Solidarity (ENRS).

Malkhaz Toria is an associate professor and the director of the Memory Studies Center in The Caucasus at Iliia State University (Tbilisi, Georgia). His research interests focus on the role of the memory politics in formation of conflicting identities; memories of internally displaced communities from conflict zones in Georgia (nostalgic memories of pre-war homeland and scars of collective trauma); imperial legacies, ethnic boundaries and politics of exclusion in Georgia.

Oliver Reisner is a professor of European and Caucasian Studies at Iliia State University. His fields of expertise are history and memory in the Caucasus, Caucasian Studies as area studies, forms and consequences of Europeanisation in the Caucasus. From 2005 until August 2015 he was working as project manager at the EU Delegation to Georgia. His dissertation was a collective biography of the members of a Georgian learned society as the organisational backbone of the national movement in late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Gayane Shagoyan is a senior researcher at the Department of Contemporary Anthropological Studies in the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, National Academy of Sciences of Armenia. She received her PhD in anthropology at the IAE NAS in 2010. The areas of her scientific interests include Armenian traditional and contemporary everyday life, Soviet studies, and visual anthropology.