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**“სივრცე, საზოგადოება, პოლიტიკა“**

**თეზისები**

Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University  
Faculty of Social and Political Sciences  
Geographical Society of Georgia

International scientific Conference

**“Space, Society, Politics“**

dedicated to 70th birthday anniversary of Professor  
Revaz Gachechiladze

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საერთაშორისო სამეცნიერო კონფერენცია

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## Content:

<b>Zviad Abashidze</b> - Multiculturalism and Georgia-----	7
<b>David Abesadze</b> - The Transformation of Islamic Movement in Turkey: Case of Naksibendi and Nurkuluk-----	8
<b>Alexander Alekseev</b> - Experiences of Settlement Management in Russia-----	9
<b>Tamar Belqania</b> - Assessment of the 14th of April within a Modern Informational Field-----	11
<b>Amiran Berdzenishvili</b> - Social Reality and Social Space-----	13
<b>Irina Bichikashvili</b> - The Concept of Multilingualism and the Paradoxes Associated with it-----	15
<b>Gideon Biger</b> - Enclaves as Means to Solve the Israeli – Palestinian Territorial Problems-----	16
<b>Peter Bordokoff</b> - A Phenomenological Perspective of Climate Change and Vulnerability in Georgia-----	17
<b>Marina Burdzenidze, Marina Kevkhashvili</b> - The Importance of Education and Employment Factors in Offenders’ Rehabilitation and Reintegration Process -----	19
<b>Tamar Charkviani</b> - Meritocratic Principles in Public Service-----	21
<b>Vladimer Chkhaidze</b> - Land Cadastre and Registration in Georgia-----	24
<b>Zurab Davitashvili</b> - Transformation of the Georgian Nationalism: the Problem of Formation of the Georgian Multiethnic Nation -----	25
<b>Tamar Dolbaia</b> - Comparative Analysis and Ranking of Black Sea Basin Ports -----	27
<b>Natela Donadze</b> - Erich Fromm’s Typology of Social Character-----	28
<b>Salome Dundua</b> - Ethnic Minorities and Some Aspects of Education Reform-----	30
<b>Nino Durglishvili</b> - Leibniz on General Science -----	31
<b>Nodar Elizbarashvili</b> - Geographical Barriers and “Georgian landscape”-----	32
<b>Mariam Gersamia</b> - Pattern of Analysis in Media-text: Major and Minor Elements-----	33
<b>Olga Glezer</b> - Settlement Network, Urban Framework, and Settlement Systems in Russia at the Beginning of the 21st Century -----	34

<b>Yulia Gordeeva</b> - Cluj-Napoca and Lviv in the Second Half of the 20th Century: Space, Society and Politics -----	36
<b>Pavel Ilyin</b> - Political Maps Issued during World War II: A Review-----	38
<b>Revaz Jorbenadze, Nata Meparishvili, Nino Gogichadze, Teona Lodia, Giorgi Biseishvili</b> - School and Family Cooperation-----	39
<b>Mikaella Kagan</b> - Emigration and Social Mobility-----	40
<b>Korneli Kakachia</b> - Impact of Social Network on the Party Politics of Georgia -----	41
<b>Giorgi Kvinikadze</b> - The World's Geo-Economical Transformation and Economic Geography-----	42
<b>Tamar Lekiaishvili</b> - The Issue of Georgia's Borders in Brest-Litovsk - Basic and Supplementary Treaties -----	43
<b>Levan Makhashvili, Ymke de Regt, Elina Tiihonen, Ivanka Mitreva</b> - Comparative Implementation Performance Research: The Case of the Biofuels Directive (2003/30/EC) in France, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain and the United Kingdom-----	44
<b>Maia Manchkhachvili</b> - Democratization of Turkey -----	46
<b>Teona Mataradze</b> - "Realization of Citizens' Political Rights during the Local Elections : The Case of Tkibuli Municipality"-----	47
<b>David Matsaberidze</b> - The Abkhazian and the Georgian Conflict Resolution Projects for the Political Settlement of the Abkhazian Problem - An Institutional Deadlock? -----	48
<b>Malkhaz Matsaberidze</b> - The Development of the Post-Soviet Georgia According to the Vanhanen's Democratization Index -----	50
<b>Valerian Melikidze</b> - Creating Conceptual Framework for Development Related Subjects at University Graduate Level -----	52
<b>Maia Mestvirishvili, Luisa Arutinov, Khatuna Martskvishvili, Natia Mestvirishvili</b> - Citizenship Identity: Socio – Cultural Perspective -----	53
<b>Mocanu Angela</b> - The Importance of the Studies of the Structure of Population in the Republic of Moldova-----	55
<b>Vakhtang Nadareishvili</b> - The Role of Set in the Regulation of Voluntary Activity-----	56
<b>Dali Nikolaishvili, Revaz Tolordava</b> - Determining Geographical Factors of Historic Transformation of the State Border of Georgia-----	58

<b>Donnacha Ó Beacháin</b> - Elections in De Facto States: Abkhazia, Transnistria and Nagorno-Karabakh-----	60
<b>Elzbieta Orłowska</b> -Cultural Aspect of Geographical Research-----	61
<b>Dali Osepashvili</b> - Public Trust and Online News Media-----	63
<b>Ekaterine Pirtskhalava</b> - Integration process of Muslim Meskhetians in Georgia and the USA-----	64
<b>Branislav Radeljic</b> - Debating European Identity: Does it still Make Sense?-----	65
<b>Michael Romann</b> - Ethnic Identity and Patterns of Economic Exchange: the Case of Polarized Jerusalem-----	67
<b>Manana Shamilishvili</b> - Political Satire in Georgian Cyber Writings-----	68
<b>Lali Surmanidze</b> - Some Psychoanthropological Aspects of Gender Awareness -----	69
<b>Nana Talakhadze</b> - Ideological Discourse in Georgian Futuristic Press -----	71
<b>Evgeny A. Terentyev</b> - Towards the Sociology of Place-Naming-----	72
<b>Maia Toradze</b> - Newspaper “Tbilisi University” in the 1930s -----	73
<b>Mari Tsereteli</b> - Nineteenth Century European Traveler-Authors Publicistic-Documentary Narrative about Georgia and its Modern Interpretation -----	75
<b>Tinatin Tsertsvadze</b> - Introducing of Karl Popper’s Debate Techniques in Georgia -----	77
<b>Alexander Tsurtsumia</b> - Positive and Negative Sides of Centrality of Geopolitical Space-----	78
<b>Avtandil Tukvadze</b> - Students’ Political Culture-----	79
<b>Jaba Urotadze</b> - Pension Policy of Georgia and Alternative Models -----	80
<b>Grazia Maria Vagliasindi</b> - Protection of the Environment Through Criminal Law: a Borderless Challenge-----	82
<b>Yury Vedenin</b> - Problems of Identifying Framework for Cultural Space -----	84
<b>Ana Zakaraia</b> - The Formation of the Armed Conflict as a Social Factor -----	86



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## **Multiculturalism and Georgia**

The article analyses the process of implementation of Multicultural policy in Georgia. A special interest has been dedicated to the analysis of actual practice against the background of the European Charter of Regional and Minority Languages and other international obligations. The author argues in favor of perils of multicultural policy implementation from the perspective of territorial integrity of the state.

*Dr. David Abesadze*

Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia

## **The Transformation of Islamic Movement in Turkey: Case of Naksibendi and Nurkuluk**

The paper focuses on one of the main actors of Islamic movement in Turkey: Naksibendi Order and Nurculuk, using the theoretical framework developed by one of the leading scholars of Islam and politics Professor Daniel Brumberg. Based on the study of the above-mentioned, one of the main Islamic actors from a historical chronological perspective, one inevitably will see a natural two-step transformation process from “radical fundamentalism,” to “moderate fundamentalism,” and from “moderate fundamentalism” to “strategic modernism,” encompassing the period from the 1920s to the beginning of 2000s.

By considering their transformation the following conclusions can be drawn: in the Turkish case the sponsor organization (religious orders) played an instrumental role in the moderation process. It is worth mentioning that in Turkey the moderation of Islamic movement was the result of long, two-step learning process that involved external constraints from the secular state establishment of Turkey and the European Union, and systemic changes in the Turkish economic and social systems. In Turkey the main actors were more or less informed about the outcome and democratic legitimacy was generated exogenously. Conclusions of this paper were basically drawn on the basis of the field research in Istanbul: observations of the Islamic parties of Turkey, organizations connected to Islamic movement, and in-depth interviews with their representatives and supporters.



*Dr. Alexander Alekseev*

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## **Experiences of Settlement Management in Russia**

The Soviet period was characterized by an exaggerated idea of state possibilities in settlement management. In reality the attempts to stop the growth of the largest cities or to develop small cities were rarely successful. However, the rural settlement pattern was by far more affected by the state policy.

The collectivization of 1929-1932 and the consolidation of collective farms in the 1940/50-ies have resulted in a sharp division of all rural settlements into two groups: a) central estates where all rural functions started to concentrate; б) other settlements which from the beginning were considered to be behind in all terms.

Another impact on rural settlement was mass integration of isolated farmsteads, which were formed as a result of Stolypin reform and in the first years of the Soviet power. The resolution of the Plenum of the VKP Central Committee and the USSR SNK from May 21-24, 1939 entrusted local authorities with a task to consolidate all farmsteads till September 1, 1940. The main aim was, probably, the strengthening of village life supervision, including such spheres as land use and activities of collective farms.

The phrase of the Third CPSU Program approved by XXII Congress in 1961 became the deification of the move to complete transformation of rural settlement: "Collective-farm villages will gradually be transformed into larger settlements of city type with well-planned houses, public services, household enterprises, and cultural and medical institutions."

The program of the "elimination of small villages" is often added to the general list of "the Soviet power sins in the village", along with collectivization and de-kulakization. But under the essential decrease of rural population, the reduction of the number of rural settlements was inevitable, particularly of small- and medium-size ones which predominated in the majority of the regions of Russia. However, wide propaganda of "being unpromising" psychologically affected the inhabitants of small villages, especially young people, who chose to move away from their native places – not to "model" settlements, but to the cities. As a result,

the practice of “consolidation” appeared to be absolutely absurd and was ceased at the end of the 1970-ies.

During the post-Soviet period the state obviously has fewer possibilities, but very often more ambitions. The rural policy of the Russian government is oriented towards the reduction of expenditures on education and health care facilities. So, in 1999-2010 the number of elementary schools (the majority of them are in rural areas) decreased almost three times. The maintenance of schools is now regarded “inefficient” if there are less than 12 pupils in a class – and it is a pretty usual situation in rural areas. Besides, the history of rural settlement of Russia showed that if rural schools are closed, the emigration of families with children grows sharply leading to a rapid extinction of the settlement itself.

***Tamar Belqania***

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## **Assessment of the 14th of April within a Modern Informational Field**

During the last decade 14 April was announced as a “day of the mother language”; the same took place in the current year: within the field of a Georgian informational field (Broadcasting Company “Rustavi 2”; TV Company “Imedi”; Georgian Public Broadcaster) 14th April was celebrated as “Georgian Language Day”.

The only exclusion from the rest was TV “Rioni”, which dedicated an extensive story, saying that the given day is the day for a Georgian State Language. In particular, it was said that: “therefore, 14 April is the day for the protection of Georgia’s State Language, rather than the day of the Mother language. This type of labeling gives less opportunity for ethnic Armenians, Azerbaijanians, Russians, Ossetians, Abkhazians and others to celebrate this day. In case of regarding the given day as a Mother language day, it is unclear what Armenian people should celebrate?..the most important is the fact that the reality has been falsified for purpose. At given day we protected the status of the State language”.

Assessment of the 14th of April as the day for the state language, would be beneficial for the development of national movement, and for the consolidation of Georgia’s diverse ethnic groups, according to Georgia’s state interests, the last issue is the most important. Contrary to this, by assessing the 14th of April as the day for mother language has increased contradiction between the ethnic groups of Georgia and, at the same time, it has activated the issue about the mother languages for each of the given ethnic groups. From this point, Abkhazians are to be the most important to mention.

Celebrating the mentioned day derives from the inertia of the Soviet union, when making the wrong focusing was a commonplace, in order to decrease national consciousness and then to make it disappear at all.

In our article we tried to give an answer to the following question: whether the naming of the 14th of April as the day of a mother language

is the issue of political trend of Georgia's Government or it is just an emotional decision of the Soviet Government?.

As in 1978, 14 April was celebrated by the whole civilian population of Georgia, regarding ethnic Georgians and rest ethnic group representatives, we conclude that this day must be announced as the day of the State language.

***Amiran Berdzenishvili***

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## **Social Reality and Social Space**

(Comparative Analysis of Pitirim Sorokin's and Pierre Bourdieu's Approaches)

A French sociologist Pierre Bourdieu argues that social reality is "social space." This category is not new, just to recall Pitirim Sorokin. The innovation of Bourdieu's approach is the identification of the relation between social and physical spaces, also the description of the internal structure of social space. Physical space is closely related to social space; physical space is the reflection of the social one; physical space is the external expression of social space. It is difficult to distinguish between physical and social spaces in our perception. Social space is a system of certain coordinates, where real social subjects are located and, at the same time, it is the layout of these subjects in a real space.

The distance between subjects in social space is not only social, but also physical. This kind of relationship of social and physical spaces does not have a single meaning. For human beings social space is presented in the unity of generalization of its "symbolic" and "physical" parts. These two spaces intersect and meet each other, and their separation is only analytical as the same angle of symbolic ("purely social") space can be found in differing and quite distant physical spaces, and vice versa, separated parts of social space can be quite close in a physical sense.

The duality of social space, that is its both "purely" social and physical representations, implies the duality of organizing structures of social universe. Social structures are presented as both a reality, which is possible only via appropriation of property and distribution of material resources, and a reality existing in our imagination, thought and the schemes of activity. The dual representation of social structures implies the difference of positions and dispositions of social space. Position indicates an individual's real place in social space, while disposition indicates his/her perception of one's own place, also the schemes of activities, thoughts and evaluation. The unity of positions illustrates the objective picture of social space, while the unity of dispositions reflects its subjective aspects. Thus, social space could be considered as the dialectics of the symbolic

and the physical, as well as of position and disposition; therefore, as the dialectics of individuals having particular positions and involved in particular practices meant for organization and transformation of this space.

Thus, according to Pierre Bourdieu, social reality is the ensemble of social relations, the arena of social positions. Social space is a multifarious space structured according to the distribution of different types of capitals (such as economic, cultural, symbolic), which represent the goals and instruments of struggle within social space. At the same time, social division operates as a category of perception and evaluation that is a mental structure, which is simultaneously a product of incorporation of the objective structures of social space.

***Irina Bichikashvili***

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**The Concept of Multilingualism and the  
Paradoxes Associated with it**

(on the Example of the Fate of the Russian Language  
in Georgia)

We shall consider multilingualism in a sociopolitical aspect, particularly as a phenomenon that is interesting in connection with the vicissitudes in the highest echelons, which leads to changes in lives and fates of people, especially the younger generation (actual for past last 10-15 years).

The use of the Russian language in Georgia had both positive and negative impact. We shall speak about the experience of seven generations of Georgians who have, thanks to the Russian language, mastered a lot of scientific knowledge and joined the global cultural trends.

Multilingualism was inherent to the Georgian reality long before the Treaty of Georgievsk of 1783. There were many citizens who could speak Armenian, Turkish or Iranian. The existing trade contacts contributed to and promoted the multilingualism. However, the trajectory of interests gravitated mostly to the East and to Asia. After the Georgian realm had become a part of the Russian Empire, another bias began to develop - this time towards Western Europe, a part of which our northern neighbor was. I have already mentioned some advantages of mastering the Russian language. Disadvantages appeared in wealthy citizens missing their identity, in russification of names and surnames. The chosen topic of the speech has significantly touched upon my work and pedagogic activities. It is actually the examples from my daily work that shall constitute the essence of the report.

Since I am not a politician, nor a linguist or culturologist, but just a journalist - a representative of the polyphonic sphere of human activities, my speech shall, thus, encompass actual problems associated with the narrowing of the range of use of the Russian language.

***Dr. Gideon Biger***

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## **Enclaves as Means to Solve the Israeli – Palestinian Territorial Problems**

Enclaves are implicit territorial sovereign territory of the country that has no land connection to the main area of the country and are surrounded in whole or in part by the land area of another country. This situation exists despite a normally sought territorial contiguity of all the land area. The global political map shows a significant number – 300 territorial enclaves around the world. About 200 hundred of these enclaves were found near the border between India and Bangladesh (92!! Bangladeshi villages in India, particularly in Knots – Behar province and 116!! Indian villages in Bangladesh). Twenty other enclaves are on the border between the Netherlands and Belgium, and the rest are mainly in Europe and Asia.

These enclaves were created partly as a result of unclear delineation of boundaries. In other cases enclaves were created as a result of the ownership of land because of tribal loyalties or policy and those created by different historical processes. Their territorial enclaves span large areas of thousands of square kilometers, but the smallest enclaves occupy only a few miles less. In most cases these enclaves are inhabited by several hundred people, rural or urban. A connection with the enclave's state is influenced by the relations between the countries concerned. In most cases there is no problem to pass the state's enclave but sometimes the transition is made in the course of administrative complex.

As for now, there are many Israeli settlements inside the area designated to be the Palestinian state. The evacuation of these settlements, with about 70,000 people in them, will cause great difficulties for Israel. Thus, creating those settlements as Israeli enclaves inside the future Palestinian State, can solve this problem.



***Dr. Peter Bordokoff***

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## **A Phenomenological Perspective of Climate Change and Vulnerability in Georgia**

In Georgia, glaciers play a critical role in sustaining mountain communities by providing water for irrigation, domestic, and hydropower sectors. Across the Caucasus Mountains, efforts are underway to document and analyze the retreat of high elevation glaciers and their associated impacts. While the Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources has published Georgia's Second National Communication to the UNFCCC in 2009, there has, however, been no inclusion of components concerning the retreat of glaciers from physical or social standpoints, and little engagement of local communities in adaptive management strategies. The current set of adaptation strategies for the central mountainous region of Kvemo Svaneti include plans for landslide and flood monitoring as well as land erosion abatement tactics for the region. A new imperative of climate change science is to understand the social impacts as well as the physical changes on the landscape, and involve stakeholder communities in risk assessments. This study examines the human dimensions of glacial retreat while fostering community engagement in climate risk reduction in Georgia and result in a vulnerability assessment of Upper Svaneti. The district of Samgrelo-Zemo Svaneti lies to the west of the area in the Ministry's Second Communication, and its glacier runoff contributes over 40% of the country's hydro-generated power. This area is suitable for this analysis given its glaciers, vulnerable high elevation communities and proximity to previous studies for direct comparison. The focus of this research is to utilize in-depth qualitative methods to extract rich descriptive data, giving way to the roles that glaciers play in the lives of people in Western Svaneti. To better grasp those meanings I plan to address how vulnerable the mountain communities are to the trend towards deglaciation via semi-structured interviews. By incorporating localized perceptions of glacial flux and relating the impacts on local livelihoods and traditions, I can clarify the vulnerabilities of mountain communities in addition to their perceived threats. While the government has released its own plans for mitigating the mass wasting events in the higher elevation areas, the literature has shown that resource-dependent,

subsistence-based communities identify threats to livelihood success as the primary concern. What must be clarified is the potential for these communities to adapt to or cope with vulnerabilities and the feasibility of developing participatory approaches to adaptive management strategies. The involvement of local communities facilitated by international support will illuminate the impacts, risks and responses of mountain dwelling people in this area. This research will produce a thesis beneficial to academic and governmental circles concerned with creating equitable and deliberative adaptive strategies.

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## **The Importance of Education and Employment Factors in Offenders' Rehabilitation and Reintegration Process**

The penitentiary system reform is one of the criteria for democratic development in Georgia.

Also several effective steps have been taken in this country to improve the situation, prison humanization and socialization issues remain active. The solution of these issues must be based on the world's penitential practices, recognized priorities and international standards.

Council of Europe recommendation No R (89)12, under the terms of Article 15.b of the Statute of the Council of Europe considers that: the right to education is fundamental, education in prison helps to humanize prisons, improves the conditions of detention, and it is an important way of facilitating the return of a prisoner to the community. Therefore, education opportunities should be available to all prisoners (including basic and vocational education, cultural-artistic, sporting activities, etc.). Vocational education should be closely linked to labor markets. Measures should be taken to enable prisoners to continue their education after release.

A number of positive initiatives had taken place in Georgia by offering Educational and Vocational programs inside prisons within the framework of the project "Ensuring Access to Education and Employment Opportunities for Prison Youth". The programs - Stone and Tile Flooring; Plastering; Art of Floral Design; Communicational Georgian Language for Ethnic minorities; General English (Starter); General English (Remedial study) - were provided in "Ksani" establishment #15 and in women prison #5.

In order to study prisoners' (both male and female inmates') expectations and attitudes towards education as a form of self-improvement and its subsequent usage in the future, we have conducted a research in

the above mentioned prisons. The survey was based on questionnaires.

The results of the investigation have shown that improved skills assist to bridge the gap in education and enable prisoners to realize that they have capabilities, talents and self-esteem to conduct a positive change in their lives. Most of the respondents hope that they can have prospect for employment after release and a choice for meaningful work, a possibility to build a law-abiding career and a better life for their families and communities, which will decrease their chances of committing criminal act again.

***Tamar Charkviani***

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## **Meritocratic Principles in Public Service**

Commonness in Soviet and post-Soviet ways of governmental and informal practices is especially problematic in state institutions, as the state is the first guarantor of the protection and regulation of legal norms. After the Rose Revolution of 2003, Georgia began to reform many of its state institutions. The reform of public institutions is one of the most salient for ensuring the efficiency of the state. This research presents the hypothesis of prevalence of informal relationships over meritocratic principles in the system of public service management, which hinders the process of institutionalisation of meritocratic principles.

Therefore, one of the main aims of this research is the description/ study of strategies for public service management and identification/ analysis of factors assisting/hindering the formation of the new type of management - meritocracy.

Establishing meritocratic values is important for Georgia. Modern bureaucracy in Georgia is facing a challenge: To allow reforms to create a healthy system based on the principles of meritocracy, or to find alternative ways of functioning, which will hinder its development into an open, democratic system. The 21st century marks the establishment period of a new type of society; 'the knowledge society'. In this society, the measure for personal success is the maximal realisation of individual potential.

The sociological research was based mainly on qualitative research methods, although a quantitative research method was also employed. It is important to observe the principle of triangulation, which involves the logical use and combination of various quantitative and qualitative research methods in order to ensure the validity of both approaches.

A. The Analysis of Theories include the following: Conceptions of the bureaucratic system, social networks and social capital, sociology of management, the formation and functioning of social institutions, typology and reutilisation, management systems, communication processes and information circulation etc.

B. Analysis of Documents involves the study of any relevant written sources. These include both documents connected with public services (ratings, administrative documents) and those connected with job markets (CVs, HR department materials, etc.). Information about the professional and labour activities of public servants was obtained through the analysis of these documents, which enabled a study of general tendencies, and the classification of similar or homogeneous facts, etc. This would, in turn, allow for the identification of public servant career progress and the criteria met by public servants that permitted career advancement. It should be pointed out that the analysis of documents was carried out using both quantitative (traditional content analysis) and qualitative (content analysis, discourse analysis, etc.) methods.

C. Qualitative Research Using the Interview Method: Two target groups, totalling 50 respondents, were identified in the research:

a. Public servants occupying leading public positions (mainly departmental heads);

b. Public servants occupying senior or junior public positions (mainly departmental workers).

Meritocratic principles of management, as mentioned above, do not just involve formalisation and general adoption of criteria for success; the main indicator is the existence of a model of identification and measurement of knowledge, experience and professionalism that is open and obvious for public service employees. The research revealed that the criteria of career progression and success conforming to meritocratic principles are not clearly formed in public service, and discourse on it shows that public servants' reflection on this subject is superficial.

Non-formalized criteria of selection are employed not only in the process of promotion in public service but also at the stage of commencing employment, at the initial stage of the career. It has to be pointed out that public service organizes employment competitions, but respondents interviewed by us failed to identify the public servants employed at their department as a result of a competition. The dominant discourse on this topic is as follows.

The above examples show that employment to public service also happens on the basis of unclear criteria, since it depends on the manager's decision, as it does in the case of promotion. This manner of employing staff reinforces the importance of informal connections and their influence in public service. It is important to emphasize the problem of in-

formal relations as it is a distinctive indicator of the principles opposing meritocracy. Public servants, naturally, avoid talking on the subject of employment and promotion on the basis of friendly or family relationships, so projective questions on this topic reveal the following discourse.

Since the subject is taboo, the influence of informal connections on starting employment, promotion and keeping a position is revealed through indirect questions. This conclusion can be made on the basis of a question about the principles of team work. Discussing this topic reveals not just the extent of the influence of informal relationships but also the degree of their effectiveness. Public servants are not aware of meritocratic principles of teamwork; a team is understood and interpreted in the context of a clan. The latter carries a positive connotation in the respondents' reflections.

The lack of formalised criteria for career success, they are replaced by subjective manager evaluation, i.e., the commonly accepted selection criteria are very general and their identification is based on individual interpretation, allowing for a non-objective, informal approach. Consequently, according to the research results, work quality and efficiency evaluations carried out by public servants must become more standardised and formalised.

***Vladimer Chkhaidze***

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## **Land Cadastre and Registration in Georgia**

The article deals with preliminary conditions for the creation of the land cadastre for the digital registration system of the immovable property and the details of its implementation. It describes investigation and surveying tasks performed within the frame of various international projects, and scrutinizes specifications and results.

The work discusses cadastre coding and zoning principles, which have been implemented in the Georgian Cadastre System, usage and creation of the cadastral administrative boundaries and approaches for the creation of geographic boundaries. It also presents description and classification of the necessary cadastral objects for the current cadastral and registration activities.

The electronic addressing project was started in Georgia in 2011. The first stage of the project is designated to create the inventory of the streets, buildings and flats. During the first stage the geometrics of the objects in GIS are created. At the next stage flats will become cadastral objects with related attributes.

As a result, it will be possible to present all the information on built-up objects in digital format and publish them on the internet web site. Current results can be found on [www.maps.napr.gov.ge](http://www.maps.napr.gov.ge)



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## **Transformation of the Georgian Nationalism: the Problem of Formation of the Georgian Multiethnic Nation**

The nationalism of each people of the Soviet Union was an ethnic nationalism in which the uniqueness of an ethnos was accented. The Georgian nationalism followed this pattern, for which the Georgian Nation (in its ethnic terms) was particularly valued and which was aimed at the consolidation of the Georgian ethnos. The latter should be ready for the creation of its own, independent nation state. For such nationalism the concept of nation is identical to the concept of ethnos. Correspondingly, ethnically Georgian population was seen as the part of the Georgian nation, whereas a representative of another ethnic group could be counted as Georgian if the degree of his integrity into the Georgian ethnos led to the ethnic assimilation and the change of ethnic self-consciousness occurred. In other cases, he would remain as alien and to some extent distrust would be shown towards him in the case of independence of Georgia or in respect with any other national purpose.

The building of the independent state of Georgia started in the midst of and in parallel with the civil war, ethnic conflicts and economic collapse. The transformation of the mentality of the population came as one of the main challenges in this respect. Changing mentality means the substitution of ethnic nationalism with the civic (state) liberal nationalism. Ethnic nationalism may be justified and it comes as a progressive force only in the times of the loss of statehood of a nation and the maintenance and strengthening of the ethnic consciousness comes as the sole tool of achieving one's own nation state. Although after gaining independence ethnic nationalism comes as an extremely negative occurrence, hindering the exercise of the primary aim – formation and strengthening of the nation-state, i.e. the state in which every citizen would consider himself as a member of one nation, irrespective of his ethnic belonging. Correspondingly, the change of the concept of nation takes place: it transforms from an ethnic category into a political category, for which the basis is formed by the union of citizens, not by the ethnic entity.

The formation of the Georgian nation-state, the multiethnic Georgian nation and the transformation of ethnic nationalism into civic, liberal nationalism is one of the top priorities in contemporary Georgia. Two crucial tasks should be settled for the solution of this aim: 1. The state should show the highest level of support to the preservation and development of ethnic minority languages and culture in order to avoid the abatement and mislay of ethnic self-consciousness; 2. The teaching of the Georgian language and familiarization with the Georgian culture should be particularly strengthened in the regions of the compact settlement of ethnic minorities, for the promotion of the integration of ethnic minorities into the Georgian society; they should no feel themselves to be aliens in the state of Georgia.

Obviously, the transformation of the Georgian nationalism and the formation of the Georgian multiethnic nation is the matter of generations, but this is an inevitable process. The Georgian nation-state could not be formed without Georgian Armenians, Georgian Azeris, Georgian Ossetians and Georgian Abkhazians. If it does not work this way, then the country will be transformed into the arena of ethnic conflicts, bringing distress to all ethnic groups residing in Georgia. Such a perspective does not serve the interests of any part of this story.

***Tamar Dolbaia***

Associate Professor

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## **Comparative Analysis and Ranking of Black Sea Basin Ports**

Interest of the world towards the Black Sea (BS) region is high. The USA has military-political, the EU – energy security interests, while changing the strategic directions of transit flows of fuel is the most important for both of them. In order to get involved in the global space and come out of the Soviet legacy, it is necessary for the BS region countries to create deep political-economic ties and to organize a new politico-economic and cultural-geographical space.

The main support for the region's economic development are its sea ports. The purpose of our research is to carry out a comparative analysis of the BS basin ports and determine the competitiveness, place and role of the Georgian ports in the region.

For research purposes have been selected the biggest ports in the BS basin: Novorossiysk - in Russia, Burgas – in Bulgaria, Constanta - in Romania, Odessa and Ilyichevsk - in Ukraine, Samsun - in Turkey, Batumi and Poti - in Georgia.

In order to estimate the above mentioned ports, we applied several parameters for their comparative analysis and ranking. Parameters: I. Legal, II. Capacitive, III. Hydrotechnical, IV. Financial-economical, V. Level of involvement in international economic relations.

We made the ranking of ports by each parameter of 2008-2011 years. Data processing was done in SPSS 19.0. The highest rank is 1.

The ranking of the ports was made in a logical way. Georgian ports (6-7 rank) only have comparatively high geopolitical parameters. If the country becomes strong enough to develop the internal market and manages to attract not only the South Caucasus cargo, but also Asian, Chinese and the Pacific Ocean cargo, then Georgian ports will be considered as important actors in the BS basin.

***Natela Donadze***

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## **Erich Fromm's Typology of Social Character**

One of the most essential problems of the modernity is relation between Society and Person. The theoretical approach to this subject is complex. It has been studied by different scholars – philosophers, sociologists, anthropologists, psychologists, etc. who consider human being's problem from different angles.

Society and person are two interdependent parts of social reality. According to Erich Fromm, a representative of each culture is always the manifestation of human being's nature, but determined by the social conditions in which he lives.

In the process of historical development not only societies and dominant social types are changing, but interdependence between personality and society as well.

Erich Fromm considers social character as an intermediate link between the social-economic structure and the ideas and ideals dominant in a society. At the same time, social character is a mediator in both directions: from the economic basis to the ideas and from the ideas to the economic basis, that is, not only the economic basis creates a certain social character; social character, on its part, creates some ideas. The ideas, just once formed, influence the social character too and indirectly impact the social-economic structure of a society.

According to Erich Fromm, the social-economic structure of a society (economic factor, as the firmest factor, is of paramount importance in the genesis of a social character) creates a social being's character. On the other hand, a human being's nature influences those social conditions, in which he lives.

The unity of a personality's specific value orientations in a given society, the unity of some main features and traits, characteristic of a certain social group, is called a social character.

Erich Fromm considers that “social character is a main element of the functioning of a society.” He proposes the typology of social characters consisting of the following five elements: receptive, exploiter, accumulative, marketing, and productive.

In the article these types and their characteristic features are discussed.

Erich Fromm considers that a social character is of great importance to understand social processes. The individuals' social character is formed according to the lifestyle of the given society, and the main features and traits of this character, on the other hand, become creative forces, forming a social style. Social character is a structure, by means of which human being's energy is specifically formed. Society uses it for its own purposes.

Many sociologists and psychologists (especially the American sociologist David Riesman) truly note that their scientific conceptions have been greatly influenced by Erich Fromm's doctrine of social character and modern capitalist society.

## ***Salome Dundua***

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### **Ethnic Minorities and Some Aspects of Education Reform**

Nowadays the low percentage of knowledge of the state language by ethnic minorities of Georgia and, consequently, the low level of education is one of the main (but not the only) hindering problems in the integration process. In this regard, the situation has clearly improved after the Rose Revolution. Since 2003, a number of steps have been taken by the government in relation to ethnic minorities, which mainly consisted of two directions. On the one hand, compulsory teaching of the Georgian language to the non-Georgian population; and, on the other hand, caring on the preservation of native language and cultural values of the ethnic minorities.

In spite of the fact that the recent policy of the Georgian government in relation to the education of ethnic minorities is positively evaluated, there are still some disadvantages. We will try to outline some of them.

1. The number of hours devoted to the study of the Georgian language at school is insufficient. In order to achieve a result, it is necessary to further strengthen the teaching course of the Georgian language.

2. The intensity of contact with Georgians at the level of everyday relationships is insufficient in the out of school space.

3. Certain threats can be revealed with respect to the quota system, which, in our opinion, is tolerable at a certain section. However, we believe that for a long-term period this system is not appropriate.

4. Under the conditions of removal of the necessity to pass the skills exams in the Georgian language at the United National Exams, there is a likelihood that among ethnic non-Georgians, whom the government gives the opportunity to take the Unified National Exams in their native language, the motivation for studying Georgian will be decreased. However, from the fact that in case of admission to the Georgian Institutions of Higher Education the students have to study in the State (i.e. Georgian) language, we believe that under the conditions of proper understanding of long-term interests, ethnic minorities will perfectly understand that the state education policy on the school-level and their active engagement in this program serves again to their interests for the improvement of the daily relations, as well as for continuing the study at Higher Education Institutions, for getting education and, therefore, for better engagement in the public-political space.

***Nino Durglishvili***

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## **Leibniz on General Science**

Leibniz's main idea consisted in the representation of universal knowledge through deduction system which itself assumed that a possibility of creating a universal method could exist, which is common for all scientists and in which concrete methods are considered as parts of the General.

Together with the projects on "Encyclopedia", the idea of creation of General Science was initiated (*Initiae Scientae generalis*). Leibniz believed that General Science, which is universal methodology, is a means for verification of all the knowledge.

Leibniz's methodology is based on the rationalist approach towards cognition. According to this approach, the basic line of the cognition process lies on a human's ability to discover universal verities (true formulae). All other factors including experiment are considered as secondary. The factors can be used as auxiliary in the case when current circumstances make it impossible to rationally prove the verity of a thesis. It should be mentioned that Leibniz brings the analytical component of the methodology of rationalism into the foreground.

***Nodar Elizbarashvili***

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## **Geographical Barriers and "Georgian landscape"**

Identifying geographical barriers and studying their peculiarities is a topical scientific problem. The geographical barriers have always determined the landscape and ecological surroundings, the diversity of natural environment, historical and geographical processes, ethno-cultural peculiarities, etc. In addition, proper identification of the role of geographical barriers is an important aspect for the realization of a number of nature management and economic projects.

Georgia is located in the most complex geopolitical area with its interwoven religious, ethnic, economic and political interests, historical and geographical and geo-ecological problems. The situation is further complicated by the existence of some ethnic groups, who live in the Caucasus, recently showing dissimilar attitudes towards the Georgian historico-geographical area, with territorial claims being the most severe of them. These claims are based on some specific geographical reasoning acceptable for certain ethos. Such kind of reasoning tends to ultimately ignore the historical and geographical, socio-economic and most importantly, ethno-geographical development of the region. Only in some cases, opposing by the Georgian politicians is quite fairly based on the analysis of the geographical barriers showing the nonsense of such geopolitical claims.

The natural environment of Georgia and the peculiarities of its geographical barriers clearly evidence the natural and historical-geographical area of formation of the Georgian state, the Georgians' ethnic genesis and settlement. The geographical barriers of the "Georgian area", despite their large diversity (mountains, rivers, landscapes) are clearly seen along the whole perimeter – the main Caucasus watershed and lateral ridge in the north, water catch basins and watershed ridges of the rivers Chorokhi, Mtkvari and Debeda in the south, the Black sea in the west and the borderline of semi-deserts and deserts landscapes in the east.

The world natural diversity and natural heritage scholars actively discuss the problems of fixing, nominating and protecting the "Georgian landscape". In this respect, not only the opinions of some famous Georgian scientists (Vakhushti Bagrationi, Ivane Javakhishvili, Niko Ketskhoveli and others) are important, but also the comparative analysis of the geographical barriers, natural landscapes and historical settlements of the Georgians should be considered.



***Mariam Gersamia***

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## **Pattern of Analysis in Media-text: Major and Minor Elements**

Every seasoned journalist has an agenda, puzzle pieces to construct and present their analysis properly, but even when the story seems reader-oriented, it might still leave the reader with a sense that: something is missing from the analysis... In essence, this something in media-text actually has a concrete definition, such as explanation, background, statistics, quotes, argument, perspective, evaluation, etc.

The research goals are to identify:

Elements of journalistic analysis in media-text and categorize them as Major and Minor elements;

What the pattern of well-structured analysis is like.

Methods: More than 130 stories in *The Economist* (UK) and *Tabula* magazine (*Geo*) have been analyzed (research period: 2011). The data obtained from content analysis have been processed in the Statistical Program for Social Sciences (SPSS);

Main findings: There are 17 elements of analysis in media-text. Among them, the top component is explanation (exists in 100% of articles in *The Economist* and 96.2 % in *Tabula*). At least 6 elements but no more than 14 elements are used in every article for constructing analysis.

The analysis in *The Economist* is more prognosis-oriented and draws the perspective of the story in 83.1% of articles, while in *Tabula* this element is detected only in 46.2%.

Most frequently used nine elements of analysis in both periodicals are: explanation (96.2 %), background (89.2%), evaluation (86.2%), examples (77.7%), comparison (68.5 %), conclusion (65.9%), perspective (total: 64.6%), statistics (63.1%), and quotation (62.3%). These are the Major elements of analysis. *The Economist* uses all the above-mentioned elements more frequently than *Tabula*. The exception are quotes (*Tabula*: 64.6%, *The Economist*: 60.0%) and conclusion (*Tabula*: 73.3%, *The Economist*: 59.4%).

Minor elements are: Hypothesis (50.0%), well-formulated main question (46.2%), argument (44.2%), recommendation (34.6%), counterarguments (26.9%), opinion (33.1%), well-defined problem (20.0%), and context (19.2%).

According to the research, the unique pattern of journalistic analysis has been detected in both periodicals and then compared to each other.

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## **Settlement Network, Urban Framework, and Settlement Systems in RUSSIA at the Beginning of the 21st Century**

In the 1960-1980s geographers fruitfully investigated various aspects of known spatial structures in the USSR. But in the 1990-2000s settlement pattern in Russia changed greatly. These concepts are widely used in Russian scientific studies and in urban planning, however, they are not introduced into the legal field (a term of settlement pattern is absent in the Town Planning Code of the Russian Federation). The text emphasizes the actual trends, focusing on the main structures of settlement pattern.

According to the understanding of settlement pattern as a set of settlements, their spatial relationships and functional connections within a certain territory, its main spatial structures are the following: A settlement network includes all settlements, an urban framework – the largest cities and urban agglomerations, being the major socio-economic junctions of the territory and forming together with the main transport lines a framework of the territorial organization of the country; A settlement system is characterized by information flows and return migrations between central places and ordinary settlements.

There are 1100 urban settlements in Russia, but only 164 cities have more than 100,000 residents and could be the junctions of the framework of the territory (only 73 cities have more than 250,000 residents, and only in 12 of them population exceeds a million). Thus, enormous population is scattered in hundreds of very small towns (156 have less than 10,000 people, plus 264 do not reach 20,000, 361 have from 20,000 to 50,000 people) and 1250 urban type communities with less than 5,000 residents in half of them. Only 17 of 52 urban agglomerations are growing. Huge territory and depopulation are the reasons why the number of cities and towns, their size and location pattern are insufficient even for the inhabited part of Russia.

Near 9/10 of Russian ecumene is of rural type. There are 133,700 villages, but the number of residents in 36,000 of them is less than 10 people, plus in more than 60,000 villages population doesn't reach 100

people. Social environment is very depressed there. Only 7,800 settlements have more than 1000 residents and could form a municipality according to the Russian Law on Local Self-Government. Only in 3,000 settlements among them live more than 2,000 residents, in 974 – more than 5,000.

Settlement systems have formed only within urban agglomerations and integrated urban-rural local areas mainly in the steppe territories of European Russia, Urals and West Siberia. The connectivity of most territories in Russia is quite low.

The actual trends of settlement pattern dynamics in Russia are: concentration (being intensified by centralization of governance), polarization, and shrinkage of social space. Settlement pattern is a factor of socio-economic development at different spatial levels, thus the analysis of its structures is very important. We can conclude that the present-day settlement pattern in Russia is unbalanced and ineffective, it does not integrate the socio-geographic space and can scarcely contribute to the solution of regional and local problems, being itself a great social problem. It needs to be essentially transformed.

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## **Cluj-Napoca and Lviv in the Second Half of the 20th Century: Space, Society and Politics**

Both Cluj-Napoca and Lviv are cultural borderline cities. Cluj-Napoca is a city where Romanian, Hungarian, German, Jewish and Roma cultures coexist. Ukrainian, Polish, Armenian, Jewish, German and Russian (in the second half of the 20th century) communities in different periods coexisted in Lviv. Each of those nations left their print on the development of those cities and each of them survived in their own way the World War II trauma. Both of these cities were part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and both of them changed their country appurtenance and found themselves within the borders of a state in the so called communist block after World War II. In the lives of both of them the Jewish community used to play an important role until World War II, and in both cities Roma communities are present (even if these communities are not too large).

Apart from the aforementioned similarities, there is a series of differences between Cluj-Napoca and Lviv that can be observed. Unlike Lviv which was deserted after the war by the majority of its Polish inhabitants, the Hungarian population of Cluj-Napoca remained in the city and continues to play an important role in the city's life. Apart from that, during the second half of the 20th century, Lviv was part of the USSR while Cluj-Napoca was situated within the borders of socialist Romania, a country belonging to the communist block with its own nationalist specificity.

In the first post the WW2 years, both in Cluj-Napoca and in Lviv the new authorities tried to adjust the city to the new political reality by changing its landscape and symbols. The meaning of the "places of remembrance", street and institution names changed; new monuments were built, while the significance of others was changed, new exhibitions were held in museums and new celebrations and festivals took place in the rebuilt city space. All those changes, together with urban planning, served to adjust the city to the new realities of a Socialist state and to legitimize the new authorities' power.

The second half of the 20th century both for Cluj-Napoca and for Lviv became the time when the character of those cities was changed radically. In both cities the composition of the population has fundamentally changed after the Second World War. The population policy of the new authorities changed linguistic and cultural landscapes of those cities. The communist industrialization transformed them from the cultural and educational centers into industrial ones, and the Austro-Hungarian architecture of historical centers was balanced with the communist style neighborhoods on the periphery. The economical foundation of the cities' functioning has changed, as well as their overall image.

The paper that follows aims to discuss the relationship between space, power and society on the examples of the changing images of Cluj-Napoca and Lviv in the second half of the 20th century, the influence that power and a given political regime could have on urban landscape and the character of the city's society.

*Dr. Pavel Ilyin*

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington

## **Political Maps Issued during World War II: A Review**

Throughout World War II, the political map of Europe underwent a significant number of changes. A comparison of a 1942 map of the continent with one from 1937, the last prewar year, reveals the disappearance of seven countries and the appearance of two new ones; 11 other countries had new boundaries. One can also see four new separate administrative units. Only three countries involved in the war remained the same as in 1937. Some prewar boundaries were restored in the aftermath of 1945, but nevertheless by 1947, 11 countries had different borders than they had prior to the war and four prewar countries disappeared entirely as independent states. In all, during the war, state boundaries in Europe changed about 40 times. Sometimes, the changes occurred so fast that publishers could not keep up with them. As a result, they resorted to overprinting and often depicted approximate borders rather than the actual ones. This paper offers a review of some maps published during the war in Germany, Italy, the Soviet Union, the United States, and other countries, and it discusses questions of the accuracy of maps and the degree to which they are reliable for researchers. The importance of the border changes discussed is illustrated with examples from the field of Holocaust studies.

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*Dr. Nata Meparishvili,*  
*Nino Gogichadze,*  
*Teona Lodia,*  
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## **School and Family Cooperation**

1. The major task of model high school is to shape an inclusive learning environment. The creation of the whole school cooperative climate is fundamental for such environment and the establishment of family and school relationships is one constituent of this inclusive climate. Promotion of family and school relationship is based on formal and informal elements of communication providing the parties an opportunity to exchange information and enhance the possibility to share experiences and attitudes.

2. Six high schools were selected for the action research. The schools were specified in accordance to the previous experience of inclusive education. The study targeted school administrators, teachers, and parents respectively.

3. The initial stage of research described the existing forms of family and school co-operation. The results indicated the necessity to strengthen the basic elements of school community. To pursue cooperation two major aspects were identified. Namely, it is particularly important to consider that: 1. Family members and school representatives should have the time and relevant conditions for communication; and 2. internal school strategy should support such communication.

4. At the second stage, one group of students (class) was selected from each school for the intervention program. Prior to the intervention, we obtained baseline data on the rate of school participation and satisfaction with the relationship. The basic assumption is that parents' satisfaction with the quality of the relationship depends on its rate. The more intense is the relationship between the parties, the higher the parents' satisfaction with this relationship. The intervention program was to be developed and implemented at selected groups.

***Dr. Mikaella Kagan***

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## **Emigration and Social Mobility**

The decision to emigrate is one of the most dramatic decisions in human life. Making this decision requires special personal qualities including the ability to change, and being socially mobile. Emigration is therefore a sign of predisposition for social mobility. This paper is based on twenty years of observation made working with two immigrant communities in the North Shore, Massachusetts, and Greater Washington, as well as a survey conducted by the author. Jewish immigrants from the Former Soviet Union experience successful integration into American society and professional adjustment because of their high motivation and transferable professional skills. This population is characterized by a high percentage of educated people, which also causes a paradox: while good education helps successful integration, the same people experience a painful loss of status at the beginning of resettlement. Most immigrants tend to stay within the same field, but have to start at a lower level in the new country. Once immigrants get established, the survey shows that they remain with the same employer much longer than Americans do because they cherish stability. The majority of these immigrants stay at the city of arrival and are reluctant to move to other cities, which is similar to the Russian pattern of resettlement with relatively low territorial mobility. At the same time, another aspect of territorial mobility is relatively high for this population: immigrants travel more often than their American counterparts due to their connections with their country of birth, Israel, and interest in other countries. In our observation, there people experience professional adjustment faster than cultural adjustment. They also maintain traditional social stereotypes including the structure of family relations and other aspects of non-professional activities.



***Korneli Kakachia***

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## **Impact of Social Network on the Party Politics of Georgia**

Recently there has been an increase in the role of communication and social network in the world as well as in Georgia, which is reflected in political life. This work studies the impact of social network on the party politics of Georgia and also on the means by which political parties can activate the electorate and encourage them to take part in political processes through social network. The purpose of the current research is to study the most innovative international experience and observe the practice which was used by Georgian political subjects and their leaders in everyday and pre-election activities.

In this work, using the adapted methodology which is applied in western countries, considering the existing reality, the estimation of dynamic and non-dynamic parts of web-sites of political parties are given according to the theses given below: party ideology, internet management system, strategy of attracting new members and supporters, system of human resource management, career opportunities in parties, strategy of public relations, political analysis skills, information, new page, blog, communication with users and accessibility, possibility of feedback. 2) Communication with social media, campaigns of political parties and their leaders on facebook: frequency of spreading of information, intensity of advertisements, participation of society, comparative analysis of the results of election campaigns.

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## **The World's Geo-Economical Transformation and Economic Geography**

The efficiency of politicians' influence on real economic relations is too low, despite the fact that they make the final decision.. The Geo-Economics was formed in a context, when it directed itself towards the study of the current economization process of geopolitics in the world, where the powerful subjects of world economy using geo-economic (less geopolitical) levers are trying to establish control over the territories they are interested in. The transnational companies, which are characterized by the effect of deterritorialization, are active during this process. They form more or less unified global economic space. The scholars of spatial studies orient themselves towards the research of connections between the current and previous space, which. first of all, should be done by economic geographers..

Economic Geography is a wide discipline. Economic geographers use a different methodology when studying economic geographical phenomena, while "geo-economical" approach involves a different methodology. The World's Geo-Economical Reality changes the idea of Economic Geography's basic concepts ("national economy", "frontier", "geographic location", etc.) and devaluates them. Due to the fact that state borders no longer coincide with economic borders, there are formed such boundaries, where it is difficult to ascertain the parameters of a country's border. At the same time, the qualitative change of the space was expressed in the development of the informative technologies, which turned economy, finances and intellect into essential resources more than the geographical space itself with its fixed product. According to the new context, Economic Geography can be defined as follows: "A field of geographical science, in context of interaction between society and the geographical environment, which studies the spatial aspects of action of the World Geoeconomical System subjects in the part of geographical space (ecosphere), where the above-mentioned subjects act".

***Tamar Lekiasvili***

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### **The Issue of Georgia's Borders in Brest-Litovsk -Basic and Supplementary Treaties**

The Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, which was signed on March 3, 1918 between the Soviet Russia (the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic) and the powers of the Quadruple Alliance (the German Empire, the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the Ottoman Empire, the Kingdom of Bulgaria) significantly determined the relations between Georgia and the Ottoman Empire in 1918-1921. The fourth article of the basic treaty and the second article of the supplementary treaty between Russia and Turkey deal with Georgia, especially its borders. According to the basic treaty, the question of political orientation of Kars, Ardahan and Batumi should be discussed on the basis on the referendum. Especially the border (1877-1878) between Turkey and Russia must be restored, where Ardahan, Batumi, and Kars belonged to Turkey. The result of the referendum was pre-determined and formal.

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***Elina Tiuhonen***

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## **Comparative Implementation Performance Research: The Case of the Biofuels Directive (2003/30/EC) in France, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain and the United Kingdom**

The European Union has been active in setting supranational legislation in order to cut greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change. The Directive 2003/30/EC on the promotion of the use of Biofuels or other renewable fuels for transport is one of the EU directives aimed not only at reducing carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuels but also at decreasing dependency on imported fossil fuels, especially oil.

The so-called Biofuels Directive sets targets at the EU level on the use of Biofuels by 2005 and 2010. But there are considerable differences between the EU Member States in terms of the directive's transposition and implementation. This paper aims at explaining these differences and presents a transposition research concerning the Biofuels Directive in selected five EU Member States: France, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain and the United Kingdom. The formal transposition and practical implementation of the Biofuels Directive will be examined in order to answer the following research question: What factors explain the differences in the implementation performance of the Biofuels Directive in the selected EU Member States? (ES, FR, IT, NL, UK). By means of this research, we hope to shed some light on the overall Europeanization debate on what variables account for differences in implementation performance.

The paper is structured as follows: After presenting the content and requirements of the Directive, a chapter on theoretical framework will follow discussing the transposition research theory more generally as well as the choice of independent variables for explaining the implementation performance in this research. The role of these independent vari-

ables (namely, the countries' positions and existing policies before the Bio fuels Directive, governmental and regional actors, stakeholders, legal instruments and policy instruments) will be discussed in the case of each country. The explanatory power of each independent variable in answering the research question will be reflected upon in a separate chapter. Before a final conclusion is drawn, a critical assessment of the Directive itself will be provided in order to evaluate its possible effects on implementation performance of the five countries in question.

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## **Democratization of Turkey**

(The Case Study of Improvement of Legislation Base)

Democratization is a versatile process. According to modern understanding, building of a democratic state, along with many other measures, implies adjustment of legislation and its compliance with the European law, so that the state had a legal basis for further development, as well as an opportunity to share and develop those values that are valuable for the whole mankind. Turkey met big challenges in this respect and one can find particular consequences the country has experienced currently. The present work aims to show these processes more or less completely.

The background of legislation development demonstrates the Turkish government's needs for reaching high benchmarks of democracy for constitutional and general legislative improvements. During the last twenty years Turkey has laid a foundation to huge legislative changes and entered an absolutely new stage on its way to building a democratic state.

The nearest decades of XXI century will give an answer to the question whether or not it is possible for the country with Islamic culture to adapt itself to the western civilization.

***Teona Mataradze***

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## **“Realization of Citizens’ Political Rights during the Local Elections : The Case of Tkibuli Municipality”**

The presentation (which was presented at Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology) is based on the ethnographic material, which was gathered during one year fieldwork carried out in Tkibuli district (village Sats’ire) during 2006-2007. The empirical data of the presentation are survey results as well as observations made before and during the elections of self-governmental body.

The data I present is discussed within the framework of theory of political citizenship. The work of Thomas Janoski and Brian Gran “Political citizenship: Foundations of rights” helps me to explain the empirical material. The process of election observed in one of the districts of Georgia gives me a possibility to explore and analyze the implementation of political rights of citizens from below, at grass root level. According to the behavioral activity and value involvement, Janoski and Gran suggest a typology of six different types of citizens-selves: Incorporated, active, deferential, cynical, opportunistic, marginal citizens-selves. According to the political practices, I classify the citizens of Georgia in different types of citizens-selves.

The presentation will include the explanations about the local understanding of politics as “Dirty business”, differentiation between the “big” and “small” politics, legitimacy of persons while participating in politics. Furthermore, the presentation will highlight the attitudes of citizens towards the elections, participation in elections, their political activities as well as the main actors in the election process.

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**The Abkhazian and the Georgian Conflict Resolution  
Projects for the Political Settlement of the Abkhazian  
Problem - An Institutional Deadlock?  
(Early 1990s and early 2000s)**

The offered study will be a moderate attempt to analyze the Georgian and Abkhazian conflict resolution projects of the early 1990s and the early 2000s, which were aimed at the political settlement of the conflict over Abkhazia. The research explores the main elements of the Georgian and Abkhazian propositions of those times and points to the existing contradictions between them. The study argues that the main deficiency and failures of the projects of both sides stemmed from the divergent interpretation of the future institutional relations between the Georgian and Abkhazian ethnic groups –different political communities. Moreover, none of them considered the possibility of creation of joint institutional space for future inter-ethnic relations. The local secessionist authorities in Sokhumi were aspiring at the creation of the common state, whereas Tbilisi denied any offer which brought the Abkhazian Autonomous Republic out of the state borders and the political control of the central authorities of Georgia. Thus, irreconcilability of the two principles, that of territorial integrity and secessionism was proved once again and the two different conflict resolution projects collided. The third section will demonstrate that there might be the alternative option to the Georgian and Abkhazian peace projects for future inter-institutional relations and mutual accommodation within joint institutional structures.

Summarizing the prospects and failures of the peace plans of the early 1990s in respect to the solution of the conflict over Abkhazia, I would argue that the main problem related to Abkhazian and Georgian peace plans of those times and federal or confederal solutions of the conflict stemmed from the lack of information concerning debates on political strategy taking place on the other side. The main contradictions ran across the formation of new institutional relations between Sokhumi and Tbilisi. The vertical subjugation of Abkhazia preserved from the Soviet period, even with the guaranteed broader autonomous rights, was unac-



ceptable to the Abkhazian elite, whereas the re-consideration of territorial integrity of Georgia and any type of status granted to Abkhazia beyond the territorial framework of Georgia was unacceptable to the central authorities in Tbilisi. Overall, this was the ultimate outcome of the hard task of re-negotiation of new institutional relations after the break with the Soviet institutional framework as a result of the war. Nevertheless, not only institutions, but the post-Soviet geopolitics should also be seen as a crucial aspect in structuring new institutional relations between Tbilisi and Sokhumi after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

## ***Malkhaz Matsaberidze***

Full Professor

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### **The Development of the Post-Soviet Georgia According to the Vanhanen's Democratization Index**

The Democratization Index, elaborated by Tatu Vanhanen, enables to analyze the existing stage of formation of democracy and the attitude of this process to the distribution of governmental resources in society. Vanhanen refers to the concept of Robert Dahl for the determination of the level of democracy and mainly applies the two variables – political participation and political competition. Exactly these two variables form the basis of democratization index.

The first index – the level of competition – is determined by the share of voices accumulated by opposition parties and candidates in parliamentary and presidential elections.

The second index – the level of participation of the electorate – is determined as a share of population participating in elections. Although, considering the Georgian reality – where the exact figure of the population is not set – it is better to rely on the figure of registered voters, which is clearly determined before the elections.

Vanhanen considers that the level of competition and the level of participation of the electorate are equally important for democracy. The index of democratization is calculated according to the following formula: level of competition X level of participation of electorate divided by 100.

In the case of conducted presidential elections in Georgia, the democratization index of Vanhanen stands as follows:

- 1991 – (President Zviad Gamsakhurdia) – 11, 4857
- 1995 – (President Eduard Shevardnadze) – 25, 6760
- 2000 – (President Eduard Shevardnadze) – 15, 3083
- 2004 – (President Mikheil Saakashvili) – 3, 2840
- 2008 – (President Mikheil Saakashvili ) – 26, 1530

It is evident that the process of democratization in Georgia bears a waving character according to the index of democratization. I would argue that the two main factors influence its general standing: generally, the winner of the election is a charismatic leader, who is capable of using governmental resources.

The lowest index of democratization was fixed in the presidential elections of 2004, following the Rose Revolution of 2003. The highest level of democratization was fixed during the presidential elections of 1995 and 2008. In terms of Parliamentary elections, the Vanhanen's Democratization Index does not reflect the existing reality in Georgia as the outcomes of elections in terms of representation in the parliament are corrected according to the two following factors: high barrier set for the entry to the parliament (7% or 5%) and the majoritarian elections, when the nominees of the government emerged as winners (except the Parliamentary elections of 2012).

*Valerian Melikidze*

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## **Creating Conceptual Framework for Development Related Subjects at University Graduate Level**

In the modern social and economic sciences (human geography included) there are either no proper definitions for a number of key concepts and terms or there is a curious mixture of approaches and emphases dealing with concepts and terms that are often in tension with each other. Many terms are simply used by default, i.e. are accepted in the absence of proper definitions. Such an approach can be tolerated in mass media or popular science, but creates problems in the academic process at university graduate level.

As a result, a teacher has either to turn an academic course into a set of quotations and base it on the one hand – on the other hand principle, or develop an independent definition of the core concept and build the whole course around it. The author is the strong advocate of the latter approach, which was successfully tested in the process of writing the textbook “Globalization of World Politics”. In the case presentation deals with the concept of development as related to the human society. The author uses the same approach as the case of globalization, i.e. attempts to create a kind of conceptual framework to assist students to deal with a multitude of concepts, ideas and facts surrounding development, around which they can build their own body of facts, ideas, concepts, solutions, etc. Using this framework, it is attempted to promote certain approaches, certain logic for understanding the development phenomenon, which might be easily grasped by students.

The majority of arguments and propositions, brought forward in this framework are rather well known and widely circulated, some may even be seen as truisms. They were just brought together and present in the form enabling students with various educational backgrounds to apply them in the learning process.

The main criteria applied to this reference framework are:

- Since it does not claim to promote a new theory of concept, it should be based on Occam’s razor principle;
- It should address underlying causes, not visible effects of development; should not attempt to evaluate development as such;
- Should be easy to comprehend;
- Should not use “loaded” professional terminology;
- Should be politically neutral.

*Dr. Maia Mestvirishvili,*  
*Dr. Luisa Arutinov,*  
*Dr. Khatuna Martskvishvili,*  
*Natia Mestvirishvili*

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## **Citizenship Identity: Socio – Cultural Perspective**

The goal of the proposed research is to determine the effects of (1) cultural constructs of self – identification, (2) Patriotism and Nationalism (3) attitudes toward religion on citizenship representation in individuals.

415 female and 270 male students between the ages of 18-24 (mean=1.66; SD=21.04) completed the set of questionnaires measuring patriotism and nationalism (Kosterman & Feshbach, 1989), citizenship representation style (Vanbeselaere, 2007), individualism/collectivism (IC) (Fisher, 2009) and religious orientation (Duriez et al., 2005).

The data show that 56% of respondents represent cultural style of citizenship, 25% civic and 19% ethnic citizenship. The analysis shows interesting correlational patterns between the constructs of national identification: Cultural citizenship style is positively associated with patriotism ( $r=.544$ ,  $p<.01$ ) and orthodoxy ( $r=.422$ ,  $p<.01$ ), whereas, civic citizenship style has no association with nationalism and is only weakly associated with orthodoxy and patriotism ( $r<.3$ ;  $p<.01$ ). Ethnic citizenship style is also positively associated with nationalism and orthodoxy ( $r=.518$ ;  $r=.358$ ,  $p<.01$ ) but shows very weak association with patriotism ( $r<.2$ ).

Regression analysis revealed that cultural citizenship style is significantly predicted by the degree of national identification ( $\beta=.26$ ), nationalism ( $\beta=.26$ ), patriotism ( $\beta=.21$ ), ingroup attitude ( $\beta=.13$ ) and second naviette ( $\beta=.16$ ),  $F(7,416)=60.22$  (adjusted $R^2=.495$ , all  $ps<.00$ ). When civic citizenship style was regressed on the same set of predictors, patriotism showed no significant predictive value, nationalism became a significant negative predictor ( $\beta=-.19$ ) but national identification ( $\beta=.24$ ), ingroup attitude ( $\beta=.17$ ) and second naviette ( $\beta=.21$ ) still positively contributed to the prediction of civic citizenship style ( $F(9,373)=10.416$ , adjusted $R^2=.18.2$ ,  $a$ ;  $ps<.00$ ). When predicting ethnic citizenship representation patriotism ( $\beta=-.15$ ) and second naviette ( $\beta=-.21$ ) became significant negative predictors, national identification ( $\beta=.20$ ) and nationalism ( $\beta=.43$ ) remained as positive ones and orthodoxy ( $\beta=.22$ )

and collectivism ( $\beta=.10$ ) emerged as new positive significant predictors ( $F(9.379)=26.99$ , adjusted $R^2=.376$ , all  $ps<.00$ ).

These findings highlight the importance of attitudinal and cultural actors in understanding citizenship representation style and pointing out that degree of identification, nationalism and religious attitudes are the key predictors of citizenship style.

***Dr. Mocanu Angela***

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## **The Importance of the Studies of the Structure of Population in the Republic of Moldova**

The evolution of socio-economic processes in Moldova in the last two decades has greatly impacted the structure of population and social stratification. Today these phenomena require a new scientific approach. For these reasons, in the frame of the proposed research project, different theoretical perspectives on social stratification and population structure will be developed and a new research methodology will be worked out. Social mobility will be examined both vertically and horizontally, paying special attention to the multiple conditions of the middle class formation and development.

Also, there will be determined criteria and indicators for measuring population structure and social stratification in Moldova. This data will be used for theoretical and practical purposes, especially in developing social policies oriented towards poverty reduction and welfare increase. Thus, the respective study will have an impact on theoretical as well as practical aspects of the case, will be focused on methodological innovations and specific empirical results, which will be compared with similar surveys in the region.

***Dr. Vakhtang Nadareishvili***

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## **The Role of Set in the Regulation of Voluntary Activity**

Acting on the basis of social values and the relationship of different levels of mental regulation in ensuring similar activities is a central issue in human sciences. The article focuses on the synergism of conscious and unconscious mental resources in the production of functions falling under the category of volition (arousal, blocking, filtration, maintenance) and the adaptive value of such synergism. The discussion of the above issues is based on the studies of volitional activity conducted by Georgian School of Psychology.

It is assumed that interiorized social values exist in the form of fixed dispositional sets. Conscious and voluntary regulation of activity and a certain level of the development of the unconscious, that is normative social expectations and the systems of dispositional sets, are considered to be the attributes of the highest level of organizational development specific to human being. Dispositional sets are responsible for the initiation and regulation of prosocial activity. Expectancy mechanisms are responsible for the maintenance of the system of personal goals, formed as a result of voluntary activity (e.g. content of values). They also ensure the maintenance of the directedness of set on the named system. Expectancy could be described as a) one of the stages in the structuring of set; b) a form of conscious representation of set; c) volitional attention (concentration of directedness). Expectancy can ensure a permanent experiential presence of an event belonging to the category of possibility (e.g. goal), and its preservation in time. This increases the possibility of prospective events (subjective probability) and their attractiveness (valiancy) which augments the determining power of cognitive and affective motivational formations.

Since social norms are based on social expectations and adherence to social norms (or normative character of human activity) depends on the existence of guarantees ensuring a high level of certainty of expectation fulfillment, several factors, responsible for normative social activity (or, in the opposite case, responsible for deviant behavior) have been identified. These are: 1. External factors - The space needed for expectation



fulfillment or actualization of set or the space for the guarantees needed for the performance of normative activity. Such space is created by state of law, civil society and supremacy of law. 2. Internal factors: a) On the individual level – formation of value based systems of dispositional sets with the needed level of readiness ensuring the actualization of the corresponding values; formation of skills, needed for the performance of voluntary activity, through socialization. b) collective/community level – normative expectations, social attitudes and legal culture (legal awareness and experience in performing legal activity).

Coexistence and compatibility of the above factors is the only precondition for stable and normative activity and prevention of deviant behavior.

***Dali Nikolaishvili***

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***Revaz Tolordava***

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Sokhumi State University, Georgia

## **Determining Geographical Factors of Historic Transformation of the State Border of Georgia**

The work deals with geographic-cartometric analysis of historic transformation of the state border of Georgia. Special emphasis has been made on the changes which occurred during the recent two hundred years. We have studied and analyzed the historical-geographic and cartometric materials depicting a spatial-temporal transformation of the state border, as well as acts of delimitation commissions.

With the aim to determine the exact picture of historic transformation of Georgia's borders, within the research we have used historical-genetic, historical-comparative methods as well as GIS-technologies, which enabled us to receive a combined explanation of this transformation, its aims, peculiarities and scale.

It is determined that throughout XIX-XX centuries territorial losses of Georgia made up 18 thousand km<sup>2</sup>, which equals to the area of summarized territories of present Abkhazia, Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti and Guria regions.

The work also includes the analysis of factors determining historic transformation of the state border and their classification. Three main groups have been determined:

- Space - natural factors, facilitating transformations (contact physical-geographical borders, changeable phenomenon along the border, etc.);
- Politics - changeable geopolitical and corresponding economic area (hostilities and conflicts, changing “status” of territory, unfair political decisions, contradiction with norms of international law, uniform confessional structure in trans-boundary line, etc.);
- Society – attitude of the society which may be called socio-cultural “syndrome” (desire to restore historical justice, low level of consciousness,

inaccuracies and falseness of different time historical and cartographic sources, etc. ).

On the basis of analysis of the determining factors of transformation not only the whole perimeter of the state border, but its separate parts have been evaluated. Leading and secondary factors in accordance with the above-mentioned parts has been held.

On the basis of the performed research the condition of contemporary state border has been evaluated, also certain ways for stabilization of problematic parts have been offered. The main results of the research are modeled in a complex map depicting the process and a transformation qualification scheme.

*Dr. Donnacha Ó Beacháin*

Dublin City University, Ireland

## **Elections in De Facto States: Abkhazia, Transnistria and Nagorno-Karabakh**

While the post-Soviet space contains many states that fix elections, recent elections in de facto states (2011-12) have been noteworthy for the fact that voters and analysts could not with certainty predict the outcome. Moreover, unlike many of the successor states of the USSR, Abkhazia and Transnistria have already witnessed a post-election transfer of power from government to opposition. In the small but increasing literature on de facto states (Pegg, 1999, Lynch, 2002, 2004, Mihalkanin 2004) the post-Soviet unrecognized states are usually examined exclusively in the realm of conflictology, international relations or geopolitics. Assessments or analyses of elections are virtually non-existent. The works that have examined aspects of domestic affairs within the de facto states have not focused on electoral politics but rather the economy (Popescu 2006), minorities (Berge 2010, Kølsto and Blakkisrud 2011), inter-ethnic relations (Trier et al 2010), nation-building (Kølsto and Blakkisrud 2008), civil society (Popescu 2006) or they survey popular attitudes within Abkhazia (O'Loughlin et al 2010). Even those few articles that have looked at the state-building process in Abkhazia (Kølsto and Blakkisrud 2008, Casperan 2011) have eschewed a detailed examination of electoral politics.

This paper charts the development of electoral politics in post-Soviet unrecognized or partially recognized de facto states, namely Nagorno-Karabakh, Abkhazia, and Transnistria. In particular, it examines presidential elections in Abkhazia (August 2011), Transnistria (December 2011) and Nagorno-Karabakh (July 2012). This research addresses the existing lacunae by providing a comprehensive assessment of the dynamics of electoral politics within these three unrecognized or partially recognized post-Soviet states. The paper's analysis is framed by scores of interviews conducted within Abkhazia, Transnistria and Nagorno-Karabakh.

***Dr. Elzbieta Orłowska***

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## **Cultural Aspect of Geographical Research**

Questions about the essence of geography are also questions about the sense of a human's life and cultural identity in multicultural space of the Earth. Culture is one of the most important aspects of humanity that differentiates people and shapes the way they live and the places they create. Culture serves as a guide for how we act and interpret the world around us. The author presents the cultural aspect of geographical researches related to the modern Earth's space, constantly undergoing various globalization transformations. The humanization of geography by viewing geographical space through a cultural prism has become a necessity. The humanism contained in culture is a kind of criticism helping to overcome the excessive abstractness of the scientific method applied so far in regional studies. A cultural geography fills the main strand of contemporary humanities, which describing the world tries not only to explain, but understand it and define the status of a person in it. Space diversity implies the necessity to use the research methods of humanist geography drawing on other disciplines. The complexity of the problems of space and its internal relations, as well as the wide variety of research methods used by geographers (a specific methodological eclecticism), calls for the integration of specialists dealing with regional studies. In the opinion of Polish geographers (Rembowska, Orłowska, Jedrzejczyk, Czepczyński), a "cultural turn" in geography has created a new perspective for seeing traditional and often isolated spheres of the examined reality - has uncovered their social meanings and cultural basis of their variety.

In the processes of widening *Ecumene*, particular human communities have developed different lifestyles (active forms of human adaptation to the environment through hereditary transfer of their knowledge and models of behavior) suited to their cultural levels and specific existential conditions. They are components of culture, as a product of a society on the way of shaping the image of its own region. When studying how cultural characteristics of place come to be, geographers often focus on a region as a form of classification - a basic building block of geographic

analysis. In every geographical region we discover certain events, which are related to culture and serve as its reflection. To understand them, it is necessary to understand their cultural context first.

Cultural geography at the beginning of the 21st century is looking for a change and for a new paradigms and research questions. The cultural turn in geography appeared in at least two forms: the less common one is the so called new cultural geography and the more popular – the cultural point of view in geography. This new approach brought changes initiated by the end of the 1980's, mainly in Great Britain, and since then have been established in many countries. The new theoretical topics were discussed in Poland (Wroclaw University) from 2002 ("Cultural Aspect of Geographical Research. Theoretical and Regional Studies" in the works edited by Elzbieta Orłowska) and in Sosnowiec (Cultural Landscapes Commission's studies edited by Urszula Myga-Piatek in 2001). Geographers try to understand how people live in their world and how they take advantage of their environment, how they shape it according to their ideas and representations, and also how they fill it up with the meaning of significance.

Another big field of new cultural studies is geography of the cultural landscape - the indicator of culture in a region. Landscape is more an intellectual than a material notion. In every social environment one can distinguish distinct cultural features (including religious ones), which influence the formation of the model way of thinking, commonly observed within this environment. Thus interpreted, cultural landscape makes a certain visual whole and physiognomic unity, which expresses the sense of space and its organization (sense of order, form and color). Modern geographers perceive the relations between symbolic culture and the space of existence in terms of human links, with their place and the meaning of the systems of signs in creating these links. The most important point of interest of cultural geography is the level of identification with the place. The relations between a human and the environment have also become important for contemporary geographers and have occurred in the form of humanistic and cultural approach.

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## **Public Trust and Online News Media**

The main goal of this paper is to present the results of the research, which indicates how much Georgian society trusts online news and what the advantages of such news are comparing it with traditional media. It is also aimed to determine the key factors causing confidence in it.

For this purpose the survey has been conducted among 500 internet users. It was conducted in February 2012. According to the research, the majority of the enquired people mainly prefer the online news spread by the news agencies. Supposedly, this preference is caused by the selectivity and timelines of information. Although Georgian internet users generally prefer online news and often choose to obtain information from this source, they consider that the news provided by traditional media is much more reliable as it is mostly based on various sources, is more balanced as well as more profound.

Citizen Journalism, which means preparing and broadcasting news by citizens has just been launched in Georgia. Though, it is worth mentioning that confidence in this type of news is not very high because sometimes the information presented by them is unchecked and lacks credibility. The online news produced by the professionals and then spread through online newspapers and the websites of the news agencies is much more popular.

## ***Ekaterine Pirtskhalava***

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### **Integration process of Muslim Meskhetians in Georgia and in the USA**

The Muslim Meskhetians (or “Meskhetian Turks”) refer to a local population who historically lived in Samtskhe-Javakheti region of Georgia. In the early morning of November 15, 1944 -92,307 persons from five administrative rayons (districts) of southern Georgia - Adigeni, Akhaltsikhe, Aspindza, Akhalkalaki and Bogdanovka (Ninotsminda) were deported to Central Asia (Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan) as a result of Stalin’s social policy to clean the southern border of the Soviet Union from “undesirable peoples”. The Muslim Meskhetians had to overcome many obstacles in order to return to their homeland. Only a small part was able to come back, a significant part still resides outside Georgia.

Repatriation of Muslim Meskhetians to Georgia started in 1977. In 1989, a violent conflict began in the Fergana Valley in Uzbekistan, after that they moved to Russia (mainly to Krasnodarski Krai). Despite living in Russia for several years, they did not have either Russian citizenship or passports. In 2006, the government of the US made a decision to give shelter to the Muslim Meskhetians.

Today, a repatriation of the Muslim Meskhetians to Georgia is on the agenda of the Georgian Government. Therefore, it is important to study the issues connected with the Muslim Meskhetians.

As a psychologist I was interested to study the closed and traditional society such as the Muslim Meskhetians and how different social environment can influence their lives.

This paper attempts to give an overview of some aspects of the Muslim Meskhetians’ new life in Georgia and in the USA. It demonstrated the crucial role of social environment for the process of adaptation.

In-depth interviews were conducted with the Muslim Meskhetians living in the state of Pennsylvania, USA (cities of Lancaster and Philadelphia) and the Muslim Meskhetians living in the village of Abastumani, Georgia. Both groups migrated to these places in 2006. The interviews were carried out in 2012.

This article includes an analysis of the in-depth interviews and tests. A differing degree of adaptation in two different countries has been observed. It also presents Muslim Meskhetians’ opinions about their homeland and the identification process in the new social environment.



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## **Debating European Identity: Does it still Make Sense?**

Questions such as ‘What is Europe?’, ‘Who is European and who is not?’, and ‘Is a European identity possible?’ are heard regularly. With regard to the founding fathers of the present European Union, they seemed to be convinced about their European project. Later, in his memoirs, Jean Monnet, a chief architect of European unity, noted that ‘the essential thing [was] to hold fast to the few fixed principles that [had] guided us since the beginning: gradually to create among Europeans the broadest common interest, served by common democratic institutions’ (Monnet 1978: 522). From an academic viewpoint, the European project is often, quite rightly, viewed as a big work-in-progress, yet some question the very sustainability of the project. One author described it as ‘an animal in motion’, without ‘fixed’ destination and ‘not something quite separate from and independent of the states that set it up’; while seeing the evolution of the then European Community as a puzzling business and ‘a strange creature, a kind of hybrid’, the author underlined: ‘The world of the Community is full of paradox and irony’ (McAllister 1997: 7–9).

Later, in 1973, following the Oil Crisis and clear awareness of potential challenges, the European Community introduced the concept of European identity in order ‘to achieve a better definition of their relations with other countries and of their responsibilities and the place which they occupy in world affairs’ (European Communities 1973). Over time, it has become clear that European identity had to do much more with the presence of European otherness, primarily the presence of Muslims in Western Europe, rather than Europeans themselves. Often, these minorities prefer to continue cultivating their own, imported identity and therefore have to go through two phases of identity formation, first one focused on the acceptance of national identity of the host country and second one focused on the switch from a new national to supranational, thus European identity. The success of such a process is highly questionable as, for example, the importance of Islam in Muslim communities in Europe seems to be on the rise. According to one study, ‘[i]n France, 85 percent of Muslim students describe their religious beliefs as “very important,” versus 35 percent of non-Muslims. In Germany, too, religiosity is more widespread among Muslim immigrants than among natives – 81 percent of Turks come from

a religious background, versus 23 percent of Germans' (Caldwell 2009: 143). Accordingly, this paper addresses the relevance of the European identity talk for European national identities (which are still very strong across the European Union), and for the members of European otherness that have often find it difficult to meet European expectations. Although the European Union talks about its future enlargements, including Turkey, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Albania and Kosovo (with Muslim population of over 100 million), they are likely to accentuate questions of tolerance and solidarity, and thus the construction of European identity; and this is why many European Union representatives tend to be reserved when assessing future integration of the Union, in general.

***Dr. Michael Romann***

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## **Ethnic Identity and Patterns of Economic Exchange: the Case of Polarized Jerusalem**

Beyond its traditional multicultural diversity, contemporary Jerusalem presents an extreme case among polarized cities, considering the cultural and national cleavage between Israeli Jews and Palestinian Arab residents.

Indeed, in Jerusalem different personal and collective identities are all inclusive, since unequivocal different identities can also be attributed to practically all economic entities, public institutions and sections of the urban space.

Thus, ethnic identity is not only responsible for widespread segregation, but it further interferes in a whole range of daily functional interactions between members of the two sectors. In particular, this is expressed by different, selective forms and terms of economic exchange in such cases, as compared to those practiced in similar transactions within each ethnic sector.

It is suggested, that these particular patterns of interactions across the ethnic boundary might be explained by referring to the various components making up the ethnic identity of economic entities in the city and their differential importance in this respect. These include factors like the Jewish versus Arab identity of owners, employees and customers, the language practiced and more. Thus, whenever interactions with the other sector take place, this implies, by definition, engaging one or more of its identity components in a kind of "transactions of identities". It is argued, that under such circumstances, both sides tend to avoid involving those components most significant in this respect. Regarding the particular patterns of Arab-Jewish daily interactions in a broader perspective, additional factors should be considered; as often related to the ongoing political conflict. Chief among them are the issues of identity versus identification, the kind of majority – minority relations, the essential role of space and not least what can be termed as the "geography of fear".

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## **Political Satire in Georgian Cyber Writings**

Political satire is a creative strategy of the so-called cyber generation of Georgian writers. Modern Georgian writers address internet space for self-expression more often. By blogging and writing in internet mass media they make accents on the topics that are relative and important for the public. From various methods of creation used by them, I would like to draw attention to the importance of political satire. In general, satire, sarcasm, irony and sometimes even infernal laughter, is an effective weapon in the arsenal of a writer for critical realization of socio-political problems of the country.

The purpose of the article is to find out how often our modern Georgian writers address new media for self-presentation, what are the characteristics of Georgian blogs, how the keen political topics are presented by writer-bloggers in cyberspace; How effectively political satire is used by writers, whether or not it is used in ideological marking; How are writer-bloggers avoiding unconstrained negativity and sarcasm, what is the purpose of such publications. Publishing imperfections of the public, disclosure of fallaciousness has a purpose of understanding the cyber texts better, mobilizing public opinion for their correction; or the role of self-presentation of the authors who stand far from public position and work only for their self-worship. And finally, what kind of journalistic forms are used, how the thoughts of the writers are formed.

For a clear presentation of problems, we discuss cyber writes of Zurab Qarumidze, Zaza Burchuladze, Lasha Bughadze, Rati Amaghlobeli and others. The analysis of exact online texts gives the basis to discuss their handwritings, about those main signs, by which this type of creativity is characterized and also, the difference from the position of regular bloggers, the so-called blog posts; all the above mentioned helps us discuss the characteristics of creative processes in new media, about the main tendencies, that were exposed by observing the creation of Georgian cyber generation writers.

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## **Some Psychoanthropological Aspects of Gender Awareness (Children and Parents)**

The formation of multi-factor gender awareness is affected by cultural beliefs, moral values, family, and reference groups, and is strongly intertwined with reproductive values, sexual behavior-related cultural morality, etc. Although traditional cultural values related to gender maintain their leading role, the transformation of gender awareness is also obvious. Such opposite vectors complicate the process of gender socialization. This problem is not alien to Georgia either. And our research is encouraged by the significance of this issue.

The study is aimed to reveal the actual psycho-anthropological aspects of gender awareness. The research is based on the focus group method. Four main groups participated in the research (mothers, fathers, school students - boys and girls) and 12 focus groups were interviewed in three cities of Georgia (Tbilisi, Batumi, and Telavi).

The data have been analyzed on the basis of the cultural-typological characteristics, as well as the definitions of implicitly meant, fixed mental-cultural codes. The paper presents the results of the analysis.

The overwhelming majority of our respondents, regardless of sex and age, perceive the traditional as a positive fact. On a cultural-normative level, the value of "Senior/Junior" does not mean a strict hierarchy with juniors' unconditional subordination to the seniors. On a personal level, an individualistic, independent personal position, as well as the internal locus of control, is ascribed the highest value. The research has also revealed a critical attitude to traditional values though such criticism does not apply to the basic cultural principles: respect for family (parents), interdependency, social support, etc.

All groups of respondents have positively evaluated the relations with the Western world. Parents do not perceive the impact of Western values

as a threat. However, teenagers showed negative attitude towards westernization, which is reflected, on the one hand, in a negative assessment of the Western individualism (regarding "personality/social group"), on the other hand, in the rejection of sexual freedom in relation to a woman.

The traditional values revealed by the research are typical to small group-oriented collectivistic cultures. It is obvious that parents' attitudes strongly influence teenagers' attitudes and opinions, and there is no discrepancy between these two groups. The widespread tendency of "interdependency conflict" is confirmed. The content of female/male ideals also reflects both the general tendencies characteristic to the modern epoch and the culture-specific perceptions.

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## **Ideological Discourse in Georgian Futuristic Press**

In the 1920s, political and ideological changes in Georgia put Georgian society in front of a new reality. Communist ideology took root in all spheres of material or mental life, among them in the sphere of art, and assisted the formation of new creative groups. Apologia of the Socialist Revolution and propaganda of the Soviet regime became the basis for the creative work of futurists. Futurists were representatives of avant-garde school, distinguished by eccentricity and originality, for their aesthetic beliefs, which refused historical-cultural heritage and proposed an idea to create anti-art. Futurists were trying to radically renew Georgian culture and via the so-called ``Zaumuri`` (mis-shapen) language, by violating morphological and syntactic norms, by using technical terminology, texts enriched with graphic schemes, strange and unclear information and theoretical articles were propagandizing Soviet ideology and considered the futurism and constructivism to be the appropriate art forms for Socialist revolution. According to their opinion, art is the same part of ideology and takes such part in general Socialist development, as manufacturing, industry, economy, etc; and an art worker is an organizer and constructor of a new life. In political context, the futurists were examining literary processes, without joining traditional writers or other literary groups and bravely declaring: "There is no other direction in Georgian art which would have a right of dictatorship, except H2 SO". The ideological discourse of futurists was based on the formula: "To destroy in order to build". They believed that state development of the country could not combine aesthetic traditions of the past, just newly created futuristic art is the only thing a motto of which is: "We deny everything that is behind us, since Georgia begins from us".

Theoretical ideas and artistic creation of Georgian avant-gardism were fully displayed in periodic press, founded by them. In 1924-28 futurists edited a newspaper under the title ``Drouli`` and three magazines: "H2SO4", "Literatura da skhva" (Literature and Other) and "Memartskhe-neoba" (Leftism), which made leftist ideology and communistic development quiet popular.

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## **Towards the Sociology of Place-Naming**

The so-called “critical turn” in social sciences produced a large amount of studies, where previously neglected political factors of space production were taken into consideration. Uncovering the place-naming politics started to play a crucial role in the new approach called “critical place-name studies”, or “political toponymies”.

While the scholars in such orientation produced some significant conceptualizations, emphasizing the social aspects of nomination, critical understanding has a range of limitations, which can be traced to the basic theoretical assumptions and metaphors, applied within the approach.

The paper will examine these problems and outline the ways of overcoming them, using the theoretic-methodological resources of French pragmatism and discourse analysis.

Four main critical points about “political toponymies” are: 1) subjective character of interpretations, based on the critical position of the researcher; 2) reductive character of such interpretations (the complex process is reduced to one political dimension); 3) the lack of strong methodological program of analysis; 4) limitations concerned with the use of the textual metaphor (landscape as text).

The key idea of the paper is that a theoretical toolbox of French pragmatism and discourse analysis provides the powerful vehicle for the reorientation toward the sociology of place-naming instead of critical place-name studies. Such a pragmatic turn moves the emphasis from the critics of social borders to the understanding of place-naming practices and actions of actors involved in them. The discourse analysis perspective provides, firstly, the metaphors for the landscape conceptualization, secondly, the methodological tool for analysis, and finally helps not to reduce the naming process to one political edge.

In conclusion, some practical examples regarding the toponymic practices in Saint-Petersburg, Russia, will be given to illustrate the opportunities of utilization of the suggested scheme.



***Maia Toradze***

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## **Newspaper “Tbilisi University” in the 1930s**

The media of the 1930s was studied fundamentally in terms of its contents, though there is lack of materials connected with local newspapers in the researches which have been published so far. The materials which show the real picture of the mechanism of how Stalinist repressions worked are absent.

The newspaper under investigation is “Tbilisi University” which recently celebrated its 85 th anniversary. In the 1930s, it was published under the name “Bolshevikuri kadrebisatvis” (“For the Bolshevik personnel”) characteristic of the Communist regime of those days .

The main goal of our research was to find out what the main role of the newspaper was in the propaganda of the Communist ideology; what journalistic methods and means were used in terms of educating mass audience; what kind of newspaper materials were published and how the type of journalism was transformed.

According to the research, we can conclude that:

1) In spite of the materials published in the newspaper which referred to the University programs, studying environment, the organization of the faculties and the analysis of the students’ social conditions, “Bolshevikuri kadrebisatvis” was not relevant to the format of the University newspaper. It still stayed as a means of conveying the ideas and decisions of the official authorities.

2) The newspaper as a “mass organizer and mass propagandist” (this was a Leninist formula of media) was used to justify the necessity of political repressions.

3) The fact that “Bolshevikuri kadrebisatvis” is a typical soviet newspaper is revealed by the trend that a frequent change of the University rectors and the editors of the newspaper (6 rectors and 6 editors in the the 1930s) directly influenced its publishing policy: the newspaper was dedicated to the implementation of the decisions of the soviet authorities . In 1933-1936 the newspaper paid attention to the preparations connected with the reorganization and improvement of academic environment and

adoption of the new Constitution of the USSR. In 1936-1937 the newspaper displayed an obviously aggressive attitude which was reflected in the articles dedicated to the search of the “enemies of people” within the University (in 1938-1939 this trend weakened). We can conclude that, the newspaper reflected the attitude of the editor and his/her group towards the political events.

4) In the news covered by the newspaper one can find some abusing facts regarding personal interests which was characteristic of that period.

The above-mentioned materials were earlier studied using the methods of the “soviet journalism”. We attempted to evaluate the same material according to the standards of modern journalism.

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## **Nineteenth Century European Traveler-Authors Publicistic-Documentary Narrative about Georgia and its Modern Interpretation**

In the 19th century Caucasus and Georgia have become Europeans' subject of special interest. Journey books of the famous authors: Alexander Dumas, Bertha von Suttner, Oliver and Marjory Wardrop, Arthur Leist, Baron de Baye, Knut Hamsun, exactly represent this epoch.

“Journeys” are distinguished according to text function and composition - stylistic peculiarities. There is a publicist documentary traveling text and “journey” as an artistic mode.

“Journeys” of traveler researcher-geographers, writers and journalists differ from each other. Except the content of the above-mentioned authors' books, permanent continuity toward the time is stipulated by the live, dynamic text, with typical signs of literary journalism: factuality, author's, subjective perception, publicity. Journalistic forms create a united mosaic picture: reporting, comment, portrait, interview, review, essayistic insertion.

The authors' goal is to familiarize European readers with distant geographic environment, so, they set a goal to represent multilaterally something strange, exotic as a “newly discovered” part of the universe, but by the comparative analysis of separate texts it is established that except journey interests and motives, the authors are distinguished with a personal relationship toward the geographical environment.

The political reality of 19th century Georgia annexed by the Russian Empire is so adequately understood, as far as they are informed from the reliable documentary sources. Despite the centuries-old history and original culture of Georgia, the travelers reflect realism characteristic of the epoch positively, sometimes sincere pompousness. That is why the majority of “journeys” were unpublished and tabooed in Georgian during the soviet period.

The texts are significant from the point of view of European-Asian political judgments, despite the country's political status of those times, Georgian European space parallels, represent Georgian universe as full part.

European travelers' books familiarize foreign readers with the geographic, historical, ethnographic and cultural space, which is no less actual for Georgian readers. That is why, 19th century Georgian democratic press does not leave their voyage without attention. Printed information and impression fragments, as well as separate books published in recent years, whose goal is critical cognition of the Georgian reality, return modern reader into a significant, multilateral Georgian socio-cultural environment, seen through the Europeans' eyes.

Nowadays "journeys" have gained a new importance both from the point of view of text interpretation and the development of Kartvelology and cultural communication with European countries.

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## **Introducing of Karl Popper's Debate Techniques in Georgia**

The issue of informal education of adults is the central concern nowadays. Psychological processes always trigger personality changes on cognitive, as well as behavioral and emotional levels. Contemporary methodology of teaching is based precisely on this assumption. Accordingly, training methods are being continually refined and developed.

Teaching Karl Popper debate is one of the most widespread training practices around the world. In everyday life, debate has an informal character. Opponents might be following ethical norms, listening to each other and presenting their justified opinions, but this sort of debate has no particular structure, or time-frame and it does not follow certain rules or laws. As a result, it can proceed without consequences and therefore be useless for a person.

Our research refers to Karl Popper debate, which is one of the types of formal debate. Formal debate or a debate with rules, is rooted back in Anglo-Saxons, where implementation of similar games in educational institutions and adult recruitment centers is still a common and popular approach.

Karl Popper debate, as an educational game, develops skills for critical thinking, presentation, organizational management, and respect toward opponents, research, listening and argumentation between students - these skills being absolutely necessary to expand in the process of creating a complacent personality.

The research aims to learn the adaptation and efficiency of the program in Georgia. A few major questions linked with our subject of research are:

1. To learn the lack of justified, constructive discussion based on situation analysis;
2. To define the necessity of such training in educational institutions, or other recruitment centres;
3. To measure the cognitive, emotional and behavioural parameters of participants that, assumedly, must change after trainings;
4. Define the efficiency of exercises used during adult training;
5. Learn about the successful history of the program: conducting focus groups and in-depth interviews with people who have already attended Karl Popper debate program in the past.

*Alexander Tsurtsunia*

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## **Positive and Negative Sides of Centrality of Geopolitical Space**

Political processes are characterized with certain regularity and features. It may be proved by the fact that the most crucial processes taking place throughout the world were developed in Eurasian space. Especially in space located between the 30th and 55th parallels.

Sir Halford Mackinder identifies “Pivot Area” with the space occupied by Russia. He emphasizes one very important circumstance – Russian can receive and implement impact from and to all sides except the North side. We would like to mention the opinion, in particular the fact that central location is the most favorable.

We think that the negative side of central position is the fact underlined by Mackinder himself; in such condition, particular impact will be admitted practically from all directions. According to the mentioned, maybe outer location is more favorable to Eurasia, for example, the location of Great Britain, Japan and America. Past and toward political processes also approve our position.

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## **Students' Political Culture**

Students' political culture plays a key role in ongoing political processes. 600 students from 6 Georgian universities (TSU, Georgian Technical University, Sokhumi State University, Ilia State University, University of Georgia and University of Tbilisi) were questioned by TSU Political science students. The research aimed to study of the level of their political culture, so the questions were about political engagement, political parties, NGO sector involvement, legitimacy of political institutions, perspectives of peacefully changing the government through elections, satisfaction with democracy practice, "political games" and the role of opposition. The analysis was carried out twice, in the same universities but in different periods of time (May-June of 2012 and December-January of 2012-2013).

On the one hand, the research results gave us an opportunity to find out the level of political culture and, on the other hand, show the change of political orientation in dynamics.

Students' political culture is changing very fast and is different from other social groups: irrational actions play a big role in identifying political priorities, 51% of students did not show the interest in politics and the number did not change even after the elections. 52% of them were sure that they could change the government through elections and their percentage rose up after the October parliamentary elections (65%); 63% of interviewees were not satisfied with the democracy practice in Georgia (May-June of 2012); only Ilia University was an exception, where students were three times more pleased with democracy than the research of developing democratic countries shows. However, after the October elections, they, by common consent, expressed their dissatisfaction with the quality of democracy, and the reason is "successful" propaganda work. The number of people being content with democracy reached up to 47%. 60% of students believe that the tendencies of political games to go out of constitutional norms are rising.

In total, we can sum up the following: the political culture of students is undergoing evolution; the elements of active engagement and the citizen's responsibility are in progress. And this leads to the development of the influence of legitimate mechanism tendency and reducing the syndrome of power-based involvement.

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**Pension Policy of Georgia and Alternative Models**

The presented work analyzes the necessity of implementing the mandatory funded pension system in Georgia as an optimal means of improving pensioners' socio-economic conditions . The paper reveals the problems in the existing pension system and emphasizes their actuality. It also identifies the problems that the country's economy will face if the existing pension system will not be reformed and offers some alternative ways of solving the problem. Recommendations are presented in order to implement the chosen alternative.

Matrix of probable results of alternative pension policy

criteria of estimation (maximum 5 points)	alternative I status quo, state pension system	alternative II mandatory state funded pension system	alternative III mandatory private funded pension system
expenditures	1	2	4
results	1	2	4
institutional abilities	1	2	4
politically suitable	1	2	3
level of satisfaction of beneficiaries	0	2	4
terms of fulfillment	N/A	3	2



The best alternative is the third one - mandatory private funded pension system. To fulfill this alternative several recommendations have been drawn out:

1. The source of filling up of private pension funds must be determined. The responsibility in this respect will be shared by both, employer and employee.

2. The participation in private pension funds must be mandatory only for the part of the population, who will be able to save enough money during their working career to ensure a decent quality of living after retirement.

3. It is essential to carry out active informational campaign among the population in order to increase trust in the new pension system. High activity and initiative of the population will ensure the success of this reform.

The implementation of proposed mandatory private funded pension system will increase the importance of private sector and social responsibility of population in terms of pension insurance. An employee himself/herself will be responsible for his/her financial condition after the retirement, while the state will be oriented only towards assisting socially unprotected people. A large amount of financial resources will be allocated in funds and will be used as investment resources, which will be an important factor for the development of Georgian economy.

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## **Protection of the Environment Through Criminal Law: a Borderless Challenge**

For the ontological characteristics of its components (air, water, wildlife etc.), the environment is an interest which doesn't recognize conventionally-fixed national borders. Any policy or regulatory action aimed to environmental protection would therefore result to be more efficient if it is adopted taking into account the transnational nature of the environment and the transnational nature of the activities potentially dangerous for the environment (international shipment of waste, industrial plant emitting polluting substances, etc.) as well as of the economic entities often carrying out such activities.

This idea, along with the acknowledgment of the interaction between the protection of the environment and the development of a competition-based economic market, seems to inspire the numerous environmental policies and juridical instruments developed over the decades in the European Union, which greatly influence Member States' action and legal systems. Although before the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, the European Community did not have competence in criminal matters, the need to foster compliance with the EU environmental regulation brought to the enactment of EC Directive 2008/99, imposing Member States to consider a crime and to adequately punish the listed illicit conduct breaching environmental provisions as well as to introduce the liability of collective entities for environmental crimes.

The paper therefore focuses on how criminal law, traditionally an exclusive national prerogative, is now involved, along with other instruments, on the road towards the development of increasingly effective supranational tools of protection of the environment.

The paper analyses the provisions on the harmonization of environmental criminal law in the European Union and their implementation. It assesses the legitimacy and effectiveness of such provisions in light of the need of protection of individual rights underlying the fundamental principles of criminal law, the empirical-criminological needs of protection of the environment and the need to find a balance between the protection of the environment and protection of economic freedoms; on these grounds,

the paper shows if and how the choices of criminal policy taken at the EU level fulfill the above-mentioned contrasting needs and points out the exigencies of a corrective intervention. While conducting such analysis, the paper also faces a more general question whether criminal law is an effective tool to protect the environment, stressing the advantages and disadvantages of other tools, such as administrative sanctions, consensus-based tools (e.g. the environmental management and auditing scheme) and corporate social responsibility; at the same time, it considers the effects of a supranational harmonization of criminal law on the concept of national sovereignty.

The paper takes into consideration the global dimension of environmental crime and its links with organized crime, confirmed by several empirical studies; consequentially, the paper calls for the awareness by social and political actors of every State regarding such phenomena as well as the importance of developing an international action framework and fostering cooperation among national authorities in order to achieve the objective of a global environmental protection conceived not only as a limit to individual freedoms, but also and mainly as a growth opportunity, in conformity to the latest declination of the sustainable development principle.

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## **Problems of Identifying Framework for Cultural Space**

Balanced cultural space of the nation-state should display such properties as stability and dynamics. These characteristics significantly depend on the framework of cultural space based on interaction between centers of innovative culture and foci of traditional culture. Innovative culture centers subdivided into creative and presentation hubs, resolve the development of the cultural space, delineate its point of reference to progressive cultural forms. Traditional culture foci expose high concentration of heritage sites accompanied by living traditional culture. They are subdivided into hubs of creation, conservation and presentation of traditional culture and cultural heritage.

Appropriate combination of innovative centers and traditional culture foci control the ways for sustainable development of the country or the region, and provides the opportunity for the novelty and the tradition balance, and adaptation of the innovations towards the traditions. Centers of the innovative and traditional culture are characterized by mutual approximation. It is most visible in a particular role played by the capital or big cities in the generation of innovative cultural centers and by small towns and rural lands in the preservation of traditional culture. The significance of innovation centers might be thoroughly studied by the emergence of new art styles and schools – Paris and New York are fine examples of such centers having established the world known art schools. Innovative culture, both its emergence and presentation, is often materialized in the capital cities or metropolises. At the same time, presentation of the innovative culture might occur outside of its birthplace. Centers of presentation and conservation of traditional culture usually coincide with the tradition creation loci. If traditional culture is presented outside of its emergence, its value is significantly lost.

Centers and foci of cultures are characterized by various stability and production intensity. Innovative culture centers differ by durability of the productive process and might be long-lived and stable or short-time and erupt. Well known centers of Paris, New York, Moscow or St-Petersburg have been long enough sustained as producers and presenters of

avant-garde art. On the other hand, some of the less known places served as such centers for a rather short period of time – these are Vitebsk for Chagall and Malevich school in Russia in 1910-1920, Weimar and Dessau for Bauhaus architecture and art school in Germany in 1919-1932.

Sustainability of traditional culture foci also differs depending on balance between the internal and external factors. Internal factors are justified by man-made actions, in particular, by political situation in this particular country, ambitions of the local elites, or natural factors such as tradition rootedness, religious customs, linguistic barriers, etc. External factors correlate with the policy of state to preserve traditional culture, indigenous people's way of life and cultural diversity of the nation.

Certain imbalance in the framework of cultural space exists in the majority of world states. The reasons are primarily either the lack of perpetually functioning centers of innovative culture or total destruction of the traditional culture foci. These factors inhibit sustainable development of the country and its cultural identity preservation.

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## **The Formation of the Armed Conflict as a Social Factor**

(Based on 1989-1991 Sokhumi Press)

The goal of the work is to define the role of Russian propaganda in the formation of the armed conflict as a social factor in Georgia by analysing newspapers published in Sokhumi.

The materials used for this work have been studied for the first time and they follow the trail of Russian propaganda and substantiates that there is a close relation between the messages in the separatist press of the research period and the messages of the Russian government.

The work materials: Abkhazian press published in Russian-speaking Sokhumi in 1989-1991. Hundreds of publications have been studied. The materials which have been used in the research and which have been studied for the first time follow the Russian trail and prove that:

1) All the separatist newspapers are pro-Russian which identify the then legitimate president of Georgia as the main enemy from the 26th of May, 1991.

2) The existence of Georgia as an independent state is identified as a threat in the press, and the legitimate government of Georgia is seen as a deterrent to Georgian Abkhazian cohabitation.

3) The overthrow of the legitimate authorities is preceded by alarming rhetoric in pro-Russian press, namely: phrases containing threat appear in the newspapers (for example: "We will confront Georgia"), there is a coverage of meetings in Moscow (for example: there appear headlines such as " Hoping for Great Support from Russia"), etc.

4) There is a close relation between the messages in the separatist press of the research period and the messages of the Russian government;

5) The separatist press pays great attention to fabrications, anonymous letters, ignores important events. Falsification of history takes place (about which our scientific elite of the period unfortunately stays silent), etc.

Research questions: If the USSR had not collapsed, and Georgia had not won independence, how would events around Abkhazia have developed? Who or What factors served as provocation for the conflict? What role did the press play in the formation of the armed conflict as a social factor? How did we immediately get this so called ethnic conflict and can the

secret player, who conducted and still conducts propaganda for disintegration of Georgia, be seen on newspaper pages?

The answer is clear: “The Russian Factor” on both sides of Inguri. A tragedy, plotted and implemented by one and the same secret player. Russia hiding behind sometimes Georgian and sometimes Abkhazian masks.

Several main theses characteristic of Russian propaganda can be identified, including characteristics pointing to the falsification of history by Russia.

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