

GIORGI MELADZE

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ACADEMIC PROFILE

Giorgi Meladze is an Associate Professor of Public Law at Ilia State University in Tbilisi, Georgia, and Director of the Center for Constitutional Research. His research focuses on constitutional law, human rights, freedom of expression, media law, courts, policing, civil society and the rule of law. He has worked with Georgian and international legal and human-rights organizations and has collaborated with institutions including the Council of Europe, Venice Commission and United Nations Development Programme. He was a visiting scholar at Columbia Law School, Jagiellonian University and is currently a Visiting Scholar at Freie Universität Berlin. His academic and public-facing writing examines how legal and institutional systems shape democratic resilience and democratic decline, with particular attention to Georgia and the post-Soviet legal environment. His publications have appeared in the Journal of Democracy, Constitutional Law Review, Just Security, University World News, Eurasianet, OC Media, Peripheral Histories and other academic and public-policy publications. He has also contributed a chapter on jury trials in Georgia to *Juries, Lay Judges, and Mixed Courts*, published by Cambridge University Press.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Ilia State University, School of Law — Associate Professor of Public Law, current and since 2013.
- Ilia State University, Center for Constitutional Research — Director, current and since 2014.
- Freie Universität Berlin — Visiting Fellow, 2026.
- Jagiellonian University — Visiting Fellow, 2025

EDUCATION

- Tbilisi State University — Law Degree, 1997-2002.
- Columbia University School of Law, New York — Public Interest Law Initiative, 2002-03
- Harvard University — Harvard Negotiations Project, 2006
- Ilia State University — PHD, 2023-26.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Public Law and Constitutional Law
- Rule of Law and Democratic Resilience
- Anti-Corruption and Public Accountability
- Media Law and Freedom of Expression
- Church and State / Freedom of Religion
- Jury Trials and Lay Participation in Justice
- Civil Disobedience and Nonviolent Movements
- Police State and Soviet Legal Legacies

SELECTED ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

- Meladze, Giorgi, Nikolai Kovalev & Anna Zhvania. “The Jury Selection Process in Georgia – Looking for a Needle in a Haystack.” *Constitutional Law Review* 18 (2026).
- Chakhunashvili, Konstantine, Giorgi Meladze, Eka Kvirkvelia & Davit G. Chakhunashvili. “Correlation of Drug Regulation Stringency with Global Drug Use Patterns: A Cross-Sectional Study.” *AJPM Focus* (2026).
- Meladze, Giorgi, Mariam Lortkipanidze, Malkhaz Nakashidze, Lasha Shainidze & Giorgi Chitidze. “Community Policing Reform in Post-Soviet Georgia: Decoding the Persistent Challenges through Soviet Legacies.” *Constitutional Law Review* (2023).
- Meladze, Giorgi. “Human Rights on the Scales of the Georgian State.” In Ghia Nodia & Thomas Schrapel, eds., *From Independence to Freedom* (2021), 101–135.
- Kovalev, Nikolai & Giorgi Meladze. “Trial by Jury as a Catalyst for Evolving Independent Courts in Georgia.” In *Juries, Lay Judges, and Mixed Courts: A Global Perspective* (Cambridge University Press, 2020). American Psychology-Law Society Lawrence S. Wrightsman Book Award, 2024.
- Meladze, Giorgi & Giorgi Mumladze. “Constitutional Agreement: History, Public Discussions and Impact on the Protection of the Rights of Minorities in Georgia.” *Constitutional Law Review* (2017).
- Meladze, Giorgi & Giorgi Noniashvili. “The Issue of Registration of Religious Organizations in Georgian Legislation.” *Constitutional Law Review* (2016).
- Meladze, Giorgi & Karlo Godoladze. “Constitution for ‘All’ or for ‘Chosen Few’: Problems of Constitution-Making in Georgia.” *Constitutional Law Review* (2015).
- Meladze, Giorgi. “Law and Revolution: Formation of the New Legal Tradition in Georgia.” *Turkish Policy Quarterly* (2007).
- Mytton, Barbara & Giorgi Meladze. “Legal Education in Transition: A Study from Georgia.” *Web Journal of Current Legal Issues* (2006).
- Meladze, Giorgi. “Rule of Law Reforms in Georgia.” In *UNDP National Human Development Report 2008: The Reforms and Beyond* (2008).

LATEST PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP AND POLICY WRITING

- Meladze, Giorgi & Tamar Gamkrelidze. “The Fatal Flaws in Georgia’s National Police Modernization.” *Just Security* (2026).
- Meladze, Giorgi. “Why History Matters: Georgia’s Soviet Legal Inheritance and the Structural Origins of Democratic Decline.” *Peripheral Histories* (2026).
- Meladze, Giorgi & Konstantine Chakhunashvili. “HE Reforms Will Shape Georgia’s Future Democratic Prospects.” *University World News* (2026).
- Meladze, Giorgi. “Movement without Memory: Tracing Rise and Fall of Georgian Civil Society.” *Eurasianet* (2026).
- Meladze, Giorgi. “Saving Georgia’s Judiciary Requires an Examination of the Past.” *OC Media* (2026).
- Meladze, Giorgi, Konstantine Chakhunashvili & Nadia Assad. “Georgia at the Crossroads: The MEGOBARI Act as a Rule-of-Law Lifeline.” *The Global Anticorruption Blog* (2025).
- Meladze, Giorgi & Nadia Assad. “Why Georgia’s Democracy Is Collapsing.” *Journal of Democracy* (2025).
- Meladze, Giorgi & Nana Shamatava. “Universities at the Centre of National Democracy Struggles.” *University World News* (2025).
- Cevallos, Albert et al., including Giorgi Meladze. *Defending the Vote from Authoritarians: Lessons for Nonviolent Movements*. Center for Applied Nonviolent Action and Strategies (2025).
- Meladze, Giorgi & Srdja Popovic. “How to Defend the Vote from Authoritarians.” *Journal of Democracy* (2024).

BOOKS, EDITED VOLUMES, TRANSLATIONS AND LEGAL PUBLICATIONS

- Meladze, Giorgi, ed. *Civic Education: Textbook for Teacher Training*. Tbilisi, 2023. Supported by Open Society Georgia Foundation.
- Meladze, Giorgi, Saba Brachveli, Tamar Gegelia & Teona Gelashvili. *Limits of the Criminal Law*. Tbilisi, 2021.

- Meladze, Giorgi, trans. and scientific ed. Thomas A. Mauet, *Trial Techniques and Trials*, 11th ed. Tbilisi, 2024. Supported by the U.S. Embassy in Georgia.
- Meladze, Giorgi, scientific ed. Neil Vidmar & Valerie P. Hans, *American Juries: The Verdict*. Tbilisi, 2019. Supported by the U.S. Embassy in Georgia.
- Meladze, Giorgi, trans. and scientific ed. Tony Honoré, *About Law: An Introduction*. Tbilisi, 2016.
- Meladze, Giorgi, scientific ed. Mark Tushnet, *Advanced Introduction to Comparative Constitutional Law*. Tbilisi, 2016.
- Meladze, Giorgi, translation editor. Stefan Trechsel & Sarah Summers, *Human Rights in Criminal Proceedings*. Tbilisi, 2009.
- Meladze, Giorgi, ed. and co-author. *Freedom of Religion*. Liberty Institute, 2005.
- Meladze, Giorgi, ed. *Introduction to Human Rights*. Liberty Institute, 2005.
- Meladze, Giorgi, ed. *Article 19, International Standards of Freedom of Expression*. Liberty Institute, 2004.
- Meladze, Giorgi. *Protecting Religious Minorities in Georgia – Analysis of Legal Framework*. Tolerance and Diversity Institute, 2010.
- Meladze, Giorgi. *Volunteerism – International Experiences and Law Reform in Georgia*. Eurasia Foundation, 2010.
- Meladze, Giorgi. *Various Methods of Participatory Decision-Making*. Liberty Institute, 2007.

TEACHING

- Current courses: Human Rights Law; Introduction to Jurisprudence; Constitutional Law – Contemporary Problems; Introduction to Public Law.
- Previous courses: Introduction to Law (BA, 2013–2018); Introduction to Public Law (BA, 2013–2018); Human Rights (BA, 2014–2018); Media Law (MA, 2014–2018).

SELECTED CONFERENCE AND ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

- Law and Society Annual Conference, Lisbon (2022) — Jury Trial Reform Progress in Georgia.
- Cornell Law Conference (2020) — Distance Trials in Georgia.
- Law and Society Annual Conference, Mexico City (2017) — Jury Trials in Georgia.
- ECPR International Conference, Wrocław (2016) — Rule of Law Reform in the Making.
- World Congress of Constitutional Law, Norway (2014) — Instrumentalization of the Constitution: Story of Post-Revolutionary Constitution-Making.
- Law and Society Annual Conference, USA (2011) — Jury Trials in Georgia.
- 12th International Anti-Corruption Conference, Guatemala City (2006) — Georgia’s Anti-Corruption Rose Revolution.

RESEARCH FUNDING AND SUPPORT

Research and academic projects have been supported at various times by the U.S. National Science Foundation, Oslo University, U.S. Department of State, Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation, U.S. Embassy in Georgia, United Nations Development Programme, Open Society Georgia Foundation, GIZ and others.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

- American Psychology-Law Society Lawrence S. Wrightsman Book Award (2024), for the chapter “Trial by Jury as a Catalyst for Evolving Independent Courts in Georgia,” co-authored with Nikolai Kovalev.

ONLINE PROFILES

- Personal website: <https://meladzegiorgi.com>
- Ilia State University faculty profile: https://faculty.iliauni.edu.ge/en/law_faculty/giorgi-meladze/