

CURRICULUM VITAE

Dr. Sophie Zviadadze

Associate Professor, Religion and Cultural Studies, Ilia State University

3/5 Cholokashvili Av., office F417, Tbilisi 0162

sopiko.zviadadze@iliauni.edu.ge

Education

- 2014 PhD in Political Science and Sociology from Westfalen-Wilhelm-University of Muenster (WWU), Germany (magna cum laude)
- 2007 MA degree in Political Science, Sociology, Religious Studies (with honors) Westfalen Wilhelm-University of Muenster (WWU), Germany
- 2002 BA in International Relations (with honors) Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (TSU), Georgia

Professional experience

- 2016 - present Head of Religious Studies Program at Ilia State University, Tbilisi, Georgia
- 2014 - present Associate Professor, Religion and Cultural Studies, School of Arts and Sciences, Ilia State University, Tbilisi, Georgia
- 2021 – 2025 Researcher and Member of the Management Committee of the COST Action - CA20107 - Connecting Theory and Practical Issues of Migration and Religious Diversity (COREnet)
- 2018 – 2020 Member of Civil Integration Program Council, Open Society Georgia Foundation (OSGF)
- 2012 - 2019 Participant of the International Empirical Research Program “Religion and Human Rights 2.0”, led by the University of Wuerzburg, Germany
- 2015 – 2016 Principal investigator in the project «Religion – State- Society in Georgia and Azerbaijan», Caucasus Institute for Peace, Democracy and Development (CIPDD)
- 2015 – 2016 Principal investigator in the project “Religion, Society and Politics in Georgia “Academic Swiss Caucasus Net (ASCN)/Caucasus Institute for Peace, Democracy and Development (CIPDD)
- 2014 – 2015 Visiting scholar at Foundation Maison des Sciences de l’Homme (FMSH), Paris, France, Project CASCADE – Exploring the Security-Democracy Nexus in the Caucasus, 7th PCRD of EU.
- 2011 –2012 Project coordinator „Fostering integration of youth from Kvemo Kartli and Samtskhe-Javakheti through educational and cultural initiatives”, CIPDD
- 2008 -2010 Project coordinator “Improving environment for minority integration in Georgia through supporting reforms in the school education system”, CIPDD
- 2009 – 2010 Member of the editorial board of *Textbook of World Religion*, drafted by CIPDD, published by Ilia State University, Tbilisi, Georgia
- 2009 Project coordinator - International Conference on “Religious Dimension of the intercultural Education. Cultural Dialogue for development of the civil consciousness”, CIPDD/KAS

Conferences and other professional activities

- Oct. 2022 International conference "Seeing at the City – Seeing the city through", RN37 Conference Research Network 37: Urban Sociology, European Sociological Association (ESA), Berlin, Germany
- Jul. 2022 International conference "Religion in an Unstable world: Challenges, Transformations and Future Prospects", ESA-RN34 Sociology of Religion, European Sociological Association (ESA), Groningen, The Netherlands
- Oct. 2021 International symposium "30 Years after 1991: The New International Order and Religion", University of Helsinki, Finland
- Jul. 2021 Participant of the U.S. Institutes for Scholars (SUSIs), Seattle University in Seattle, US
- Nov. 2019 Conference "Visible Religion and Invisible – Socio-political and Cultural Dimension of Religious Issues in Georgia", Ilia State University/Konrad Adenauer Foundation in the Souths Caucasus, Georgia
- Jun. 2019 "Religion – Continuations and Disruptions" - 17th annual conference of the European Association for the Study of Religions (EASR), Tartu, Estonia
- Dec. 2018 International conference "The Impact of Religion on Human Rights among Adolescents", University of Bari Aldo Moro, Italy
- Dec. 2017 International conference "The empirical perspective of religion and socio-economic rights in the age of global migration", University of Uppsala, Sweden
- Apr.2017 Conference "Religion and Freedom in Germany and Georgia, Ilia State University/Friedrich Naumann Foundation, Georgia
- Jun. 2016 Conference "Religion, Society and Politics in Georgia "Academic Swiss Caucasus Net (ASCN)/Caucasus Institute for Peace, Democracy and Development (CIPDD)
- Dec. 2015 International conference "Religion and Political Rights", Catholic University of Zagreb, Croatia
- Sep. 2015 International conference "Dignity-Freedom- Human Rights", KAS/Krakow Pontifical University, Krakow, Poland
- Dec. 2014 International conference "Religion, Civil Rights and Democracy", University of Wuerzburg, Germany
- Mai 2013 International symposium "Religion and Politics in Eastern European Countries", University of Wuerzburg, Germany
- Dec. 2012 International conference "Religion and Human Rights", University of Wuerzburg, Germany
- May.2012 Participant of the "Open World Leadership Program", Open World Leadership Center, Los Angeles, US
- Dec. 2013 Workshop "Documentary Film For Social Changes", CAUCADOC, Tbilisi, Georgia
- Sept. 2010 Research colloquium "Faith, Religion and Politics", FKCI (Research Colloquium of Christianity and Islam)/Catholic Academy, Berlin, Germany
- Sept. 2010 International conference "Religion and Modernity in a Secular City", Catholic Academy, Berlin, Germany
- Aug. 2010 Weimar Summer Academy "Moral in Unmoral Age. In Searching of Ethical Orientation in Philosophy, Literature and Art", Weimar, Germany
- Sept. 2009 Conference "Hermeneutic in Islam and Christianity between Traditional Responsibility and Modern Challenges", FKCI (Research Colloquium of Christianity and Islam), Cologne, Germany
- Jul. 2007 Summer school "Christian-Islamic Relations in European Context", Catholic Academy Stuttgart, Germany

Research interests

Religion and politics, secularism, lived religion, memory studies, urban sociology, sociology of public space, social capital, phenomenology of otherness, xenophobia, minority issues.

Awards

“Promoter of Tolerance Award” from the Public Defender Office and Tolerance Center by Public Defender Office in Georgia (2016)

Languages

German, English, Russian, French

Publications

- “Code of the Passenger and Situational Sociability in Public Transport in Tbilisi”, in: Sonja Lakić /Patricia Pereira/ Graça Cordeiro (eds.): *The Everydayness of c=Cities in Transition: Micro Approaches to Material and Social Dimensions of Change*, Palgrave Macmillan: London (forthcoming in 2024)
- “Christlich-nationale Dominanz und ethnische bzw. religiöse Minderheiten in Georgien”, in: Hutter, Manfred (Hg.): *Religionen im Kaukasus* Stuttgart: Kohlhammer Verlag, (Buchreihe: Die Religionen der Menschheit 4:4), (forthcoming 2024)
- “State, Church and Post-Soviet Political Theology of the Georgian Orthodox Church”, in: Vasilios N. Makrides/Mihai-D. Grigore (eds.): *Orthodoxy in the Agora. Orthodox Christian Political Theologies Across History*, Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht: Göttingen, 2024
- “History of Other Heroes”, HEINRICH-BÖLL-STIFTUNG – The South Caucasus Region – Tbilisi, 2023, <https://ge.boell.org/en/2023/02/20/history-other-heroes?fbclid=IwAR1uIJHT6nog995J-f1k3mNN8upbUESz6yTElfVT6AtigtM-M8k90WnIP8k>
- “The Many Faces of Islam in Post-Soviet Georgia – Faith, Identity, and Politics”, in: Egdūnas Račius/Galina M. Yemelianova (eds.): *Muslims of Post-Communist Eurasia*, Routledge: London 2022, 246-266
- “Das „Kreuz des 5. Juli“. Kampf gegen LGBT-Rechte in Georgien”, *Religion & Gesellschaft in Ost und West*, Nr.10, 2022, 26-28
- „The optical illusion of tolerance, and the politics of indifference“, HEINRICH-BÖLL-STIFTUNG – The South Caucasus Region – Tbilisi, 2022 <https://ge.boell.org/en/2021/11/05/tolerantobis-optikuri-iluzia-dagulgrilobis-politika>
- Special Issue: Religion in the South Caucasus: Tradition, Ambiguity, and Transformation, *Journal of Religion in Europe*, Volume 14, Issue 3-4: 2021 [guest editor]
- „Religion in the South Caucasus Tradition, Ambiguity, and Transformation- Editorial “, *Journal of Religion in Europe*, 2021, Volume 14, Issue 3-4, 1-17, https://brill.com/view/journals/jre/14/3-4/article-p207_1.xml
- “Church as a Homeland and Home as a Place of Worship – Transformation of Religiosity among Georgian Migrants in Paris”, in: Jayeel Serrano Cornelio/François Gauthier/Tuomas Martikainen /Linda Woodhead (eds.): *Routledge International Handbook of Religion in Global Society*, Routledge: London, 2021, 292- 302
- რელიგიური მრავალფეროვნება საქართველოში, სახალხო დამცველის ოფისი საქართველოში [*Religious Diversity in Georgia*, Public Defender's Office of Georgia], Tbilisi, 2021 [editor]
- ეთნიკური და რელიგიური მრავალფეროვნება საქართველოში, *The Ethnic and Religious Diversity in Georgia*, [co-author] Council of Europe, 2021
- ხილული და უხილავი რელიგია - რელიგიის საკითხების პოლიტიკური და კულტურული განზომილება საქართველოში [*Visible Religion and Invisible Religion – Cultural and Political Dimension of Religious Issues in Georgia*] [editor], Ilia State University Publishing: Tbilisi, 2021
- „Predictors of attitudes towards the right to work: An empirical analysis among young people in Moldova and Georgia“, co-author, in: Ziebertz, Hans-Georg (ed.): *International Empirical Studies on Religion and Socio-economic Human Rights*, Wiesbaden: Springer Publishing, 2020. 129-160

- "აჭარის ხილული და უხილავი საზღვრები - ისლამის და კოლექტიური მეხსიერების საკითხი აჭარის თანამედროვე სურათისთვის", მიქელაძე, თამთა (რედ.): *რელიგია, პოლიტიკა და სოციალური კონტექსტები*, თბილისი, 2020, 138 – 211 [The Visible and Invisible Boundaries of Ajara - Islam and Collective Memory Towards Ajara's Contemporary Picture, in: Mikeladze Tamta (ed.): *Religion, Politics, and Social Context*, Tbilisi, 2020, 138-211]
- "The Main Features of Islamic Religiosity and Its Cultural and Political Dimension among Georgian Muslims in Ajara", in: *Religion & Gesellschaft in Ost und West*, 2/3, 2020, 25-27
- „The Unbearable Lightness of Being Muslim and Georgian - Religious Transformation and Identity Question among Adjara’s Muslim Georgians“, *REGION: Regional Studies of Russia, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia* 7(1): 23–42, January 2018.
- "Identity Issues among Azerbaijani Population of Kvemo Kartli and Its Political and Social Dimensions", Working Paper, The Human Rights Education and Monitoring Center (EMC), Tbilisi, 2018
- „საქართველოს მართლმადიდებელი ეკლესიის გზა წარსულსა და აწმყოში, პოლიტიკური და საზოგადოებრივი ცვლილებების კონტექსტში“, ცოფურაშვილი თამარ (რედ.): *რელიგია და თავისუფლება გერმანიაში და საქართველოში - კონფერენციის მასალები*, თბილისი, 2017, 101-127 [The Way of Georgian-Orthodox Church in Past and in Present Day in the Context of Political and Societal Changes“, in: Tshopurashvili, Tamar (ed): *Religion and Freedom in Germany and Georgia. Conference Papers*, Tbilisi, 2017, 101-127]
- "სამი მეჩეთის ისტორია - მუსლიმების ხმები რელიგიურ რადიკალიზმსა და დემოკრატიული სახელმწიფოს მოთხოვნებს შორის", [The story of three Mosques – Muslim’s voices for a democratic state in Georgia] Working Paper, CIPDD, 2017 <http://www.cipdd.org/upload/files/sami-mechetis-istoria.pdf>
- „ისლამი, პოლიტიკა და იდენტობა პანკისში“ [Islam, Politics and Identity in Pankisi], Working Paper, CIPDD, 2016 <http://www.cipdd.org/upload/files/pankisi-web.pdf>
- „Почитание преподобного Габриэла: институционализация народной религии и ее политическое измерение в Грузии“, *Государство, религия, церковь в России и за рубежом* [The Cult of Monk Gabriel: Institutionalization of Popular Religion and its Political Dimension in Georgia“, *State, Religion, and Church in Russia and in Abroad*,]. No. 2 (34), 2016, 226-254
- "მე არ ვარ თათარი, მე ვარ მუსლიმი ქართველი - რელიგიის ტრანსფორმაციის და რელიგიური იდენტობის რამდენიმე საკითხი აჭარაში," *რელიგია, საზოგადოება და პოლიტიკა*, თბილისი, [I am not Tatar, I am a Muslim Georgian- Some aspects of religious transformation and identity issues in Adjara, in: *Religion, Society, and Politics*], 2016, 15-32
- „Die Georgische Orthodoxe Kirche und die Herausforderungen der Moderne“, *Religion and Politics in the Caucasus*, "Religion & Gesellschaft in Ost und West", June/Juli 2015, 16-20
- „Georgian Orthodox Church and Human Rights: Challenges to Georgian Society“, in: Ziebertz, Hans-Georg/Cripic, Gordon (eds.): *Religion and Human Rights: An International Perspective*, Wiesbaden: Springer Verlag, 2015, 45-60
- *Religion und Politik in Georgien. Die Beziehungen von Staat und Kirche und die Säkularisierungsproblematik im postkommunistischen Georgien*, [Religion and Politics in Georgia. The State and Church Relations and Secularism Problems in Post-communist Georgia] Hamburg, 2014
- „I ‘like’ my Patriarch - Religion on Facebook. New Forms of Religiosity in Contemporary Georgia“, *Online - Heidelberg Journal of Religions on the Internet*, Vol. 6, 2014, 164-194
- „Islam in Georgia“, *Kaukasus im 21. Jahrhundert - Schweizerische Gesellschaft Mittlerer Osten und Islamischer Kulturen*, Bulletin 39, Herbst, 2014, 14-18