

Education and Licensure:

Ilia State University, Tbilisi, Georgia
PhD in Psychology, March 2018

Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) credentials, License Number: 27227
California Board of Behavioral Science, CA, USA; since March, 2011

Columbia University School of Social Work, New York, NY
Master of Science in Social Work, May 2002

Tbilisi State University, Tbilisi, Georgia
Postgraduate Degree in Psychology, December 1998

Tbilisi State University, Tbilisi, Georgia
Diploma in Psychology, June 1994

Full-Time Employment:

Associate Professor/Senior Staff Scientist since June, 2018 (formerly assistant professor and invited lecturer)
ILIA STATE UNIVERSITY Tbilisi, Georgia

- Developed and currently teaches courses in Mental Health and Mental disorders I and II and Motivational Interviewing at graduate level; “Foundation of Psychology” at undergraduate level.
- Acts as a researcher at D. Uznadze Institute of Psychology.

Director 2015 - 2016
GEORGIAN ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS, Tbilisi, Georgia

Overall organizational management and leadership, project management and oversight, public relations, regional and international relations.

Acting Middle East & Eurasia Regional Representative of Child Protection Initiative 2011 to 2014
Project Manager

SAVE THE CHILDREN

- Promoted and coordinated the delivery of Child Protection objectives in MEE region and supported country offices in the design of their over-arching child protection strategies
- Ensured strategic and operational leadership of the Strengthening Child Care System and Services project, including its close alignment and synergy with other child protection projects
- Ensured child protection project management, reporting, technical expertise and supervision

Staff Psychotherapist 2007 to 2011
INSTITUTE FOR MULTICULTURAL COUNSELING & EDUCATION SERVICES
Los Angeles, CA, USA

Outpatient community mental health clinic providing culturally sensitive and linguistically appropriate mental health services to various groups of populations

- Performed clinical assessment, therapy, and treatment coordination of children and adults
- Provided mental health therapy to severely and chronically mentally ill individuals and their families
- Acted as a key program evaluator and advocate for vulnerable populations for/with Los Angeles county Department of Mental Health

Program Manager/ Social Worker Liaison 2004 to 2007
KIDSAVE INTERNATIONAL Los Angeles, CA, USA

Charitable organization dedicated to helping children find permanent relationships.

- Managed and Coordinated programs internationally in Russia
- Developed and delivered SW training program for in-country trainers
- Provided assessment of children and counseled families on adjustment problems

Technical Advisor 2002 to 2003

EVERY CHILD – Georgia, Infant Abandonment Prevention Program.

- Provided ongoing training and support for the teams of social workers and adjunct professionals
- Participated in child-family policy matters and development of Training curriculum

Research Assistant/Social Work Intern 2001 to 2002

FEDERATION FOR EMPLOYMENT AND GUIDANCE SERVICES New York, NY, USA

Health related and human service organization with employment, behavioral health and other services.

- Worked on a Neuro-Cognitive Research Project with Continuing Day Treatment clients Conducted neuropsychological tests, developed research database, analyzed data, ensured general oversight of the project

Social Work Intern Jan- Aug 2001

GLADNEY CENTER FOR ADOPTION, New York, NY

- Provided follow-up support to adoptive families and post-placement visits
- Coordinated group of single parents and organized post-adoption seminars

Psychologist 1998 to 2000

UMCOR – GEORGIA Psychosocial Rehabilitation Center for internally displaced Children

- Worked with children in need of therapy on individual and group basis; consulted teachers
- Carried out program evaluation surveys; assisted in the organization of educational programs

Part-time Work, Projects and Consultancy:

Deputy Chairperson and Senior Adviser 2011 to present

GEORGIAN ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS, Tbilisi, Georgia

Consultancy, development and evaluation of policies, standards, and tools; curricula development, provision of supervision and trainings in Clinical Social Work, Mental Health and Mental Disorders, Motivational Interviewing, Child Protection and Justice System

Senior Expert on Social Work and Motivation Interviewing Education and Training 2017 to 2020

EUROPEAN PROFILES

European Union project “Support to the Development of Penitentiary and Probation Systems in Georgia”

- Provides consultancy and guidance on social work and psychology education and training needs
- Delivers TOT training in Motivational Interviewing for groups of social workers and psychologists

Professional Supervisor 2013 to present

SOS CHILDREN’S VILLAGES INTERNATIONAL

- Provides professional supervision of staff psychologists and social workers

Invited Lecturer/Lecturer 2002 – 2003; 2011-present

TBILISI STATE UNIVERSITY Tbilisi, Georgia

- Developed/taught courses “Foundation of Clinical Social Work”, “Mental Health and Social Work”, “Foundation of Social Work”, “SW with Vulnerable Populations”; taught “Introduction in Psychology”

Consultant

ADDIGE-TEMPUS Project Addiction Studies 2014 - 2016

- Developed and delivered trainings in Addiction and Social Work to the groups of social workers
- Developed curriculum of MA level course in Motivational Interviewing
- Initiated translation and ensured editing of the book “Motivational Interviewing: 3rd edition”

Local Expert 2013-2015

HUMAN DYNAMICS Support to the Reform of the Criminal Justice System in Georgia

- Co-led development of standards for psychosocial rehabilitation services for children and adults
- Developed university curricula on juvenile justice and social work
- Supervised and consulted local staff in developing training modules in motivational interviewing

Researcher 2002

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, NEW YORK, NY - NEW YORK CITY YOUNG CHILDREN’S PROJECT

A study of the impact of the World Trade Center Disaster on young children and their parents in NYC

Local Consultant/ Researcher 1998 - 1999

WORLD BANK AND THE GEORGIAN MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Study on Universities, Teacher Practices, and Assessment of Training Needs

Publications/Manuals/Textbooks/Other:

Impact of COVID-19 Lockdown in Eating Disorders: A Multicentre Collaborative International Study, *Nutrients*, 2022
Text-book “Modern Principles of Assessment and Management of Autism”, Ilia State University, Tbilisi, 2021
Text-book “Foundation of Crime Prevention and Probation”, European Profiles, Tbilisi, 2021
Culture Related Patterns May Shape Coping during Pandemics, *Frontiers in Psychology*, 2021
COVID Isolation Eating Scale (CIES): Analysis of the impact of confinement in eating disorders and obesity - A collaborative international study, *European Eating Disorders Review*, 2020
Text-book “Counseling in Social Work: international and local experience”, Ilia State University, 2020
Culture Change and Eating Patterns: A Study of Georgian Women, *Frontiers in Psychiatry*, 2019
Editorial and translation work, Georgian translation of book “Motivational Interviewing: 3rd Edition”, 2017
Protocol “Identification, Diagnosis and Management of Autism Spectrum Disorders”, 2017
Acculturation to Western Culture in the Context of Eating Disorders, *Encyclopedia of Eating/Feeding Disorders*, Springer, 2016
Validation of Research Tools, D. Uznadze’s 130th anniversary conference, Tbilisi, 2016
Is Cultural Change Associated with Eating Disorders: Systematic Review of literature, *Springer International Publishing*, 2015
Mental Health Workforce: Local Trends, GASW, GIP, EU, 2015
Social Work in Criminal Justice System, Human Dynamics, 2014
Multidisciplinary Work in Mental Health, Georgian Mental Health Coalition, 2014
Needs Assessment of Reintegrated Families in Georgia, UNICEF 2014
Social work in Health Care/Child Welfare, NSP Alumni Development Grant, Tbilisi 2003
Translation of a textbook chapter, “Psychology and Life, 16th edition” Gerrig & Zimbardo; 2003
Influence of the Georgian Language Counting System on Categorization of Quantitative Material, *Journal of Young Scientists in Psychology*, TSU, Tbilisi 1998

Continuous Education:

Visiting Professor, Catholic University of Freiburg, Germany; 2023
11th European Conference of Mental Health, Ljubljana, Slovenia, 2023
International Congress Migration and Society, Utrecht, Nederland, 2023
Visiting Professor, Palacky University, Czechia, ERASMUS/MUNDUS, 2023
International Congress on Psychology and Mental Health, Paris, France, 2022
Visiting Professor, University of Lyon, France; ERASMUS/MUNDUS, 2020
International Conference in Health Psychology, Dubrovnik, Croatia, 2019
International Conference on Eating Disorders, New York, NY, USA, 2019
International Conference of Migration and Health, Rome, Italy, 2018
ToT, Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy with Various Mental Disorders, London Kings College, Tbilisi, 2017
International Federation of Social Workers conference, Reykjavik, Iceland 2017; Edinburgh, UK 2015
2-Month Internship, London Kings College, Department of Psychiatry and Psychological Medicine, 2016
Study Visit, Care System for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders, Czech Republic, June 2016
ToT Advanced Training, Addiction Studies, University of Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany, 2015
World Psychiatric Association conference, Tbilisi, 2016; 2022
ToT Advanced Training, Addiction Studies, Jagellonian University, Cracow, Poland, 2014
Training of Trainers, Motivational Interviewing, MINT J. Allison and G. Undrill, June-July-Nov, 2014
Study Visit, Role of Social Rehabilitation in Correctional Settings, Oslo, Norway, Nov 2013
Training of Trainers, Positive Discipline, Save the Children, Stockholm, March 2012
3-Month training, Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Los Angeles, USA, 2010
Training of Trainers, Foster/Adopt PRIDE, Boise, USA, November 2006
Child Poverty and Social Protection conference, Jakarta, Indonesia, Sept 2013
Evolution of Psychotherapy Conference, Anaheim, USA, December 2009
International Mental Health Conference, London, UK 2005
Conference, Update on PTSD, GAD and Trauma, New Orleans, USA, April 2002
American Psychological Association Annual Convention, San Francisco, USA August 2001
VI European Congress of Psychology, Rome, Italy, July 1999

Awards:

Young Scientist Research Grant, Rustaveli National Science Foundation, 2021
Book Publication Grant, Rustaveli National Science Foundation, 2021 and 2020
Junior Scientist Short Stay Visit Abroad Scholarship, King’s College London, Rustaveli Foundation, 2016
Open Society Institute Social Work Fellowship 2000 – 2002

Other:

Deputy-Chairperson, Founder and Board Member, Georgian Association of Social Workers
Founder, Alliance for Better Mental Health
Delegate, UREP Committee, Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, USA (2007-2011)

Languages:

Native - Georgian; Fluent - English, Russian; Proficient - French