

Sophia Gorgodze

sopho_gorgodze@iliauni.edu.ge;

Associate Professor of Education with over 20 years of experience as a teacher, trainer, professional development expert and education projects manager.

Education

Ilia State University, Tbilisi, Georgia

PHD in Education Policy

May 2017

Harvard University Graduate School of Education, Cambridge, MA

Master's in International Education Policy

June 2007

University of California, Los Angeles, CA

Graduate Research Program (Education)

March-June 2013

Tbilisi State University, Tbilisi, Georgia

MA in American Studies

September 2002–May 2004

BA in English Language and Literature

September 2001 July 2002

Westminster College, Fulton, Missouri, USA

One year non-degree exchange program

August 2000-May 2001

Work Experience

USAID Georgia Basic Education Program implemented by

RTI international

January 2024- to present

Chief of Party

Provide overarching leadership and direction across all technical and functional areas such as technical strategies, monitoring and evaluation, finance, operations, reporting, communications, and human resources. Serve as primary liaison to USAID/Georgia on management and strategic issues.

Ilia State University

Associate Professor

2017 – to present

Assistant Professor, Invited Professor

2008-2017

At different times, taught following courses to future teachers and school administrators:

1. Introduction to Education Research. 2 Classroom Assessment (formative and summative) 3.

Education Policy

Erasmus+ (Tempus) Project Coordinator:

September 2013-October 2015

Project envisaged development of MA in Higher Education Management in four universities in Georgia and four universities in Armenia.

National Assessment and Examinations Center (naec.ge)

October 2018- December 2024

Director

Manage and oversee national assessments for schools, school Olympiads and international assessments (TIMMS, PIRLS, PISA, TALIS, TEDS) as well as high stakes national exams: university entrance exams, teacher certification and competence exams, Master's degree exams, etc.

IREX (International Research and Exchange Board)

2016-2018

Professional Development Expert for the MCC funded national program “Training Educators for Excellence.” Ensured the quality of training materials for teachers and principals prepared by the experts; Attended training sessions and gave formative feedback to the trainers.

GOPA Consulting Group

September -November 2014

General Education Consultant - for the assignment funded by Millennium Challenge Account Georgia - “Improving General Education Quality: Consultant Services for Training Educators for Excellence and Classroom Assessment Support Activity Project Design”

World Bank

Local Consultant

March-June, 2014

Technical Assistance to support the preparation of Education Sector Strategy
Working closely with the World Bank Education team, the Ministry of Education and Science (MOES) staff and international consultant hired by World Bank to prepare Education Sector Policy Review and related processes to support public consultations and elaboration of the final education sector strategy.

Local Consultant

April 18 – June 30, 2011

1.Prepared the Report on the Reform on Curriculum and Teachers in Georgia
2.Prepared the Report on Educational Opportunities for Disadvantaged in Kakheti Region of Georgia.

SOS Children’s Villages Georgia

Education Expert- Prepared a grant proposal for disadvantaged children (proposal was funded)

Civic Development Institute

2011-2014

Teacher Trainer and Education Specialist

Consultant for the Project on Media Literacy

Trained in-service teachers in 1. Classroom Management 2. Media Literacy

Consulted on the standard and accompanying book in Literacy and Numeracy for the Project "No Child without Basic Education".

Wrote a manual for teachers on *critical thinking*.

Network of Education Policy Centers(NEPC)

Education Expert

September-October 2013

Prepared a report - **Analysis of Teacher Policies in Georgia** -later presented in Baku, Az and was used for a book on teacher policies edited by NEPC.

Mediclub Georgia

Certified Educator for ATLS (American College of Surgeons) training program

Trained Surgeons in Modern Teaching and Assessment Methods

September 2013

State Committee on Educational Reforms

Working group member on TPD issues

Committee created by the Prime Minister of Georgia in 2012 for advising the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia regarding teacher educational reforms

Sep 2012-March 2013

British Academy in Georgia (Private School) 2009 (Spring semester)
Teacher Trainer in Classroom Assessment
Teacher of Academic Writing 2007- 2008

National Teacher Professional Development Center 2007-2010
Director
Implemented Teacher Professional Development Policies in Georgia. Most important Projects included: Teacher Standards, Teacher Certification System, Teacher Induction Pilot Program, Teacher Professional Development Vaucher Program, Professional Development for Teachers in Ethnic Minority regions, Teach for Georgia Program (to fill the deficit of qualified teachers in remote areas)

Georgia Education Reform Realignment and Strengthening Project (funded by World Bank)
Administrative Assistant for PMU (project management unit) August 2004- March 2006

Tbilisi I. Javakhishvili State University September 2002- May 2006
Teacher of English Language

Daily English newspaper *The Messenger* December 2002 – August 2004
Reporter

Activities and Membership

Member of the Steering Committee for the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA). 2022-to present

Member of the PISA Governing Board. 2019-2024

Judge for the English Speaking Union International Public Speaking Competition, London, UK
May 2011

Delegate for Georgia for Council of Europe Committee on General Education 2009-2010
National Liaison Officer for Council of Europe *Pestalozzi* Program 2007- 2010

Co-founder and co-chair of *Education for Global Citizenship*
Student Organization at Harvard Graduate School of Education October 2006- May 2007

Chair for Undergraduate and Graduate Student's Academic Union of the Western European Languages and Literature Department Tbilisi State University. Sept. 2003 –May 2005

Member of the English Speaking Union, Georgian Branch May 2002 – to present

Awards and Scholarships

Research Scholarship for conducting experiment in Georgia on the use of pre-prepared lesson plans by classroom teachers.
Awarded by National Rustaveli Scientific Foundation. 2018

Financial award for conducting research in University of California in Los Angeles, Spring Semester 2013. Awarded by Caucasian Research and Training Initiative

Winner of the ESU International Public Speaking Competition

Awarded “Best Public Speaker 2002” certificate by Prince Phillip, at the Buckingham Palace, London, Great Britain.

December 2002

Recipient of the MoES, OSI and Harvard University Scholarship

for completing MA program at Harvard Graduate School of Education

April 2006

Recipient of the Open Society Institute Scholarship to study

in the United States as an exchange undergraduate student at Westminster College, Fulton, USA

August 2000 - May 2001

Publications and Editorial Work

Gorgodze, Sophia. 2024. “Teacher Education Policies in Georgia.” In Menter, I. (Ed.). *The Reform of Teacher Education in the Post-Soviet Space: A Comparative Analysis of Fifteen Independent Countries* (1st ed.). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003348047>

Sophia Gorgodze & Lela Chakhaia. 2021. The uses and misuses of centralized high stakes examinations-Assessment Policy and Practice in Georgia, *Assessment in Education: Principles, Policy & Practice*, 28:3, 322-342, DOI: [10.1080/0969594X.2021.1900775](https://doi.org/10.1080/0969594X.2021.1900775)

Maia Chankseliani, Sophia Gorgodze, Simon Janashia & Kairat Kurakbayev. 2020. Rural disadvantage in the context of centralized university admissions: a multiple case study of Georgia and Kazakhstan, *Compare: A Journal of Comparative and International Education*, 50:7, 995-1013, DOI: [10.1080/03057925.2020.1761294](https://doi.org/10.1080/03057925.2020.1761294)

Gorgodze, S., Macharashvili, L., & Kamladze, A. 2020.

Learning for Earning: Student Expectations and Perceptions of University. *International Education Studies*. DOI: [10.5539/ies.v13n1p42](https://doi.org/10.5539/ies.v13n1p42)

Gorgodze, Sophia. 2016. Rise and Fall of Decentralized School Governance: Decision-making Practices in Georgia. *International Education Studies* 9 (11)

Campbell, Anne and Gorgodze Sophia. 2015. Internationalization of Georgian higher education. *HERJ Hungarian Education Research Journal*. 6 (1)

Sales, Gregory, Sonja Sentocnik, Jayson Richardson and Sophia Gorgodze. 2018. Reforming Georgia Education. Recommendations for Using Classroom Assessment to Improve Student Outcomes. *Khazar Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*. DOI: [10.5782/2223-2621.2018.21.2.5](https://doi.org/10.5782/2223-2621.2018.21.2.5)

Chanturia Rusudan, Sophia Gorgodze and Tamar Chkhaidze. 2016. Inclusive Education Practices in Georgia. Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Individuals with Disabilities in Georgia – Alternative Report. Civic Development Institute. (In English)

“**Conflicted Teacher**”. Published in *Flip the System: Changing Education from the Ground Up*. Edited by Jelmer Evers and Rene Kneyber. Routledge, 2016.

Policy Note on Decentralization. Published in *Decentralization of General Education System*. Mtsignobari Publishing, Civic Development Institute. 2013 (in Georgian).

“Teach and Learn Critical Thinking.” Published in *Teach and Learn Critical and Creative Thinking*. Mtsignobari Publishing, 2013 (in Georgian).

“How to Make Teacher Professional Development More Effective.” 2012.
http://cdi.org.ge/?page_id=374#tabs-374-0-4

“Ensuring Safe School Environment: International Experience” published in *Safe School without Community Involvement*, USTARI, 2011 (in Georgian).

“Knowledge Economy,” Teacher Magazine, Tbilisi, 2008 (in Georgian)

“Montesorri Method,” “Dewey’s Laboratory School,” and **“David Perkins: Teaching with Pandora’s Questions and Theory One”** in *Learning and Development Theories*, TPDC, 2008 (in Georgian)

Articles on Education 2010, editor, TPDC, 2010 (in Georgian)

Professional Ethics Code for Teachers: Cases from Georgian Schools, Editor, TPDC, 2009, (in Georgian)

What hampers equalizing force of Unified National Examinations in Georgia, 2007. (paper presented in Paris at UNESCO conference on private tutoring, cited in the publication of M. Bray on private tutoring) (In English)

Language Skills

Georgian-native; English-Advanced; Russian-intermediate; French- basic; German–basic Spanish-basic

Computer Skills

MS Office, MS Project, MS Sharepoint Server, SAS, SPSS, NVivo.