

Curriculum Vitae

Current Position

Full Professor for Social Anthropology, Ilia State University, Georgia

Former Positions

February 2013 – Assistant Professor, Friedrich Schiller University, Germany,
January 2017 Caucasus Studies Program [Akademischer Rat]

October 2010 – Lecturer, Friedrich Schiller University, Germany,
January 2013 Caucasus Studies Program [wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter]

May 2009 – Visiting Professor, University of Campinas, Brazil, Department
April 2010 of Social Anthropology

February 2006 – Research Fellow (Post-Doc), Max Planck Institute for Social
September 2010 Anthropology, Halle (Saale), Germany

September 2005 – Lecturer, Tbilisi State University, Georgia, Department
January 2006 of Sociology

Academic Degrees

May 2012 Dr. phil. habil., Social Anthropology (*Ethnologie*), Martin Luther
University Halle/Wittenberg, Germany

November 2005 PhD in Social Anthropology (*Ethnologie*), University of Hamburg,
Germany

May 2000 MA in Social Anthropology (*Ethnologie*), University of Hamburg,
Germany

Research Interests

Politics, State, Citizenship, Religion, Mistrust, Invisibility, Egalitarianism, Migration,
Food, Methodology, Postsocialism, Caucasus

Fieldwork

Stationary (One Year)

2006 – 2007 “Citizenship from Below“, Tusheti, Georgia
2002 – 2003 “Feasting“, Tbilisi, Georgia

Temporary

April-October 2017 “Mistrust in Everyday Life“, Sukhum(i), Abkhazia
Spring 2016 “The Armenian Diaspora in Iranian Azerbaijan“, Tabriz, Iran
Summer 2015 “Muslim-Christian Relations“, Kakheti, Georgia
Summer 2014 “Jewish-Christian Relations“, Racha, Georgia
Summer 2013 “Contested Sacred Places“, Pankisi, Georgia
Spring 2013 “Contested Sacred Places“, Kabardino-Balkaria, Russian Federation
Summer 1997 “The Deserters’ Market in Transition“, Tbilisi, Georgia

Editor: Journal “Caucasus Survey”

Third-Party Funds

International Research Project CASCADE, funded by the European Commission (2014 – 2016), approx. 350.000€

International Research Project “„Transformation of Sacred Places, Pilgrimages and Conceptions of Hybridity in the Post-Soviet Caucasus“, funded by the Volkswagen Foundation, approx. 250.000€

Project Leader

Work package “Migration, Mobilities and Poverty“ in the research project CASCADE, participation in the work packages “Local Economic and Social Developments in the Caucasus“ and “Religion and Politics“; fieldwork in Abkhazia; board member

“Transformation of Sacred Places, Pilgrimages and Conceptions of Hybridity in the Post-Soviet Caucasus“ (2013-2015), funded by the Volkswagen Foundation

Academic Administration and Management

2021 – 2022: Preparation for Accreditation of MA Program “Socio-Cultural Anthropology” at Ilia State University, Georgia

2021: Preparation for Accreditation of MA Program “Caucasus, Black Sea and Eurasian Studies” at Ilia State University, Georgia

2014 – 2017: Managing Director of the Caucasus Studies Program at the FSU

2010 – 2014: Reform of the Caucasus Studies Program at the FSU

Fellowships and Grants

Leibnitz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies, Visiting Fellowship (March 2018)

Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), research project “State-Formation in Georgia after the Russo-Georgian War“ (2009-2012)

FAPESP, Visiting Professor at UNICAMP, Brazil (May 2009 – May 2010)

Open Society Foundation, Academic Fellowship Program (2004 – 2005)

University of Hamburg, grant for dissertation (2001 – 2003)

DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service), grant for fieldwork (2002, 2003) and language course in Georgia (2001)

University of Indiana, “Center for the Study of Global Change” (USA), travel-grant for attending a SOYUZ-conference (March 2005)

Reviews

Grants: Austrian Academy of Sciences, Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), Rustaveli Foundation (Georgian National Research Foundation), UNESCO / ICOMOS (Georgian Application for World Heritage Site)

Journals: American Anthropologist, American Ethnologist, Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute, Slavic Review, Political Geography, Central Asian Survey, Caucasus Survey, Nation and Nationalism, Nomadic Peoples, Journal of Refugee Studies, Anthropology and Humanism, Geopolitics, Sociologus, Laboratorium, International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy, Europe-Asia Studies, Problems of Post-Communism, New Diversities, Centaurus

Books: Berghahn, Palgrave Macmillan, Austrian Academy of Sciences

Consultant

“Fluid Mobilities for Cities in Transformation – Spatial Dynamics of *marshrutkas* in Central Asia and the Caucasus”. Research Project funded by the Volkswagen Foundation and coordinated by the Leibniz-Institut für Länderkunde, Leipzig (2015 – 2018)

“Informal Markets and Trade in Central Asia and the Caucasus”. Research Project funded by the Volkswagen Foundation and coordinated by the University of Tübingen (2015 – 2018)

“Documenting Dargi Languages in Daghestan – Shiri and Sanzhi”. Research Project funded by the Volkswagen Foundation and coordinated by the University of Bamberg (2012 – 2017)

“The Revitalisation of Traditional Law in the Republic of Georgia”. Research Project funded by the Volkswagen Foundation and coordinated by the University of Marburg (2009 – 2011)

Summer School for Stipend Holders of the Heinrich Böll Foundation (Regional Office South Caucasus), Bazaleti, Georgia, July 2013

Supervisions

PhD Theses: W. Zmiejewski (Friedrich Schiller University Jena), J. Sparsbrod (Friedrich Schiller University Jena)

Current PhD Students: M. Shalvashvili, D. Laghidze, G. Khasaia (Ilia State University Tbilisi)

External Examiner: Viva of C. Curro (UCL London, January 2017, supervisors Prof. Alena Ledeneva and Dr. Ruth Mandel)

External Supervision PhD Projects (Erasmus+): T. Khomeriki (Tbilisi State University), N. Mzhavanadze (Ilia State University Tbilisi)

MA Theses: M. Razmadze (2007) (European University Viadrina, Frankfurt (Oder)), N. Odeishelidze (2011), S. Boeschoten (2011), N. Asanovski (2012), A. Rosenberger (2013), S. Sikharulia (2014), M. Gebert (2014), J. Sparsbrod (2015) (Friedrich Schiller University Jena)

Summer Schools

DAAD Summer School “Fascination Caucasus“, Ilia State University, Tbilisi, Georgia, September 2013-2018 (6 times)

Selection Committees

DAAD selection committee for grantees from Georgia, 27.4.2019

Conferences Organized

“Mistrust, Mobilities, Insecurities”, 16-17.11.2016, Jena, Germany

“Sacred Places, Emerging Spaces: Pilgrims, Saints and Scholars in the Caucasus and Beyond”, 9-10.10.2015, Jena, Germany

“Socialist Era Anthropology in the Caucasus and Central Asia” (with Sergey Sokolovskiy), 23-24.4.2009, Halle/Saale, Germany

Interviews

Radio: Ö1 “City Science Talk” (4.12.2019), Deutschlandfunk Kultur “Sein und Streit” (14.7.2019), RBB “Die Profis” (22.6.2019), WDR5 “Politikum” (20.6.2019); Ö1 “Schlag 1” (25.2.2019), WDR3 “Gutenbergs Welt” (1.9.2018);

TV: 3Sat “In 24 Stunden um die Welt” (2.12.2007);

Internet: EuropeNow (10.9.2019), OpEd Eurasiaview (2.8.2018), East European Film Bulletin (14.10.2015);

Book: Constanze John: 40 Tage Georgien. Ostfildern: Dumont 2018: 11, 117-23

Round Tables

“City Science Talk” (Vienna, 4.12.2019), „What’s Next for Eastern Europe?“ (FSU Jena, 25.6.2015), „Mountains, Blood and Oil – What is the Caucasus?“ (FSU Jena (31.1.2012)

Professional Organizations

European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA)

Research Network for Postsocialist Cultural Studies (Soyuz)

Other Non-Academic Experience

Free-lance copywriter for BBDO Interone (advertising agency) (2005)

Copywriter and online-editor for Kabel New Media (internet agency) (2001 – 2002)

Musician and performer, project “Idee des Nordens”, CDs (1995, 1997)

Languages: German, English, French, Georgian

Presentations

Transitology Reversed: Revisiting the Paradigms of Researching the Caucasus. *Research Center for the History of Transformations* (RECET), Vienna (Austria), December 2022

Ungovernance and Spiritual Feudalism in Northeast Highland Georgia. Institute for Social Anthropology, *Austrian Academy of Sciences*, Vienna (Austria), October 2021 and *Work in Progress-Series of the American Research Institute of the South Caucasus*, Tbilisi (Georgia), March 2021

Capitalist Syncretism: Financial Sovereignty and the Appropriation of Sacred Sites in Highland Georgia. Conference *Mutual Becomings: Sacred Sites, Identities and Place Ma(r)king*, University of Frankfurt (Germany), September 2021

Mistrusting the Obvious: Facade Politics and their Responses in the South Caucasus. *University of Manchester* (Great Britain), February 2020

Citizenship Gone Wrong. *Ilia State University* (Georgia), May 2019

The Scale of Mistrust. *Ilia State University* (Georgia), May 2019

Moments of Mistrust in the South Caucasus. *Heinrich Böll Foundation South Caucasus*, Tbilisi (Georgia), December 2018; available online:
<<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zm9FB1bJi9Q>>

In the Mistrust Machine: How Georgian Hospitality Works. *University of Bergen* (Norway), November 2018

Trusting Mistrust: Against the Grain of Social Anthropology. Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology Halle/Saale (Germany), October 2018

The Social Life of Mistrust, *Joint Central Asia / South Caucasus Projects Summer School*, Astana (Kazakhstan), September 2017 (keynote)

To Share or Not to Share: Is this the Question? *Summer Retreat* of the Institute for Social Anthropology of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, Kirchschlag (Austria), May 2017 (keynote)

Mistrust and Fraud, Conference *Fraud, Fake and Make-Believe*, Frankfurt (Germany), December 2016

Researching the Caucasus: Prospects, Conference *Der Südkaukasus zwischen Konflikt und Kooperation*, Berlin (Germany), December 2016 (keynote)

Don't Trust, Don't Fear, Don't Ask, Conference *Mistrust, Mobilities, Insecurities*, Jena (Germany), November 2016

The Issue of Migration in the EU-Caucasus Relations, *Permanent Representation of Sweden to the European Union*, Brussels (Belgium), October 2016 (keynote)

Sharing and Not-Sharing beyond Public Transportation: A Perspective from Social Anthropology. Workshop *Fluid Mobilities in Cities of Transformation*, Gransee (Germany), July 2016 (keynote)

Banditen im Kaukasus Gestern und Heute, *Austrian Orient Society*, Vienna (Austria), January 2017 and *AnthroLab*, University of Marburg (Germany), May 2016

- Is Trust a Precondition for Citizenship? *University of Aberdeen* (UK), March 2016
- Modes of Mistrust in the Caucasus and Beyond, *University of Glasgow*, March 2016 and *London School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS)*, London (UK), November 2013
- Not Sharing the Sacra, Conference *Sacred Places, Emerging Spaces: Pilgrims, Saints and Scholars in the Caucasus and Beyond*, Jena (Germany), October 2015
- Military and Diplomatic Relations of Georgian Highlanders to the Georgian Kingdom and Russia – Examples from the 17th Century and their Implications for Today, Conference *Ethno-Cultural Diversity in the Balkans and the Caucasus*, Wien (Austria), March 2015
- When Soft Turns Hard: The Georgian-Russian Border in the Past Decades, Conference of the Hrant Dink Society *Sealed Gate: Prospects of the Turkey-Armenia Border*, Ankara (Turkey), November 2014
- Uncanny Threats and Secret Resistances: On the Religious Situation in Kabardino Balkaria (with Raschid Alikajew), Conference *Northern and Southern Caucasus in the European Neighbourhood*, Darmstadt (Germany), July 2014
- Triple Winners and Simple Losers, *Annual Conference of the Association for the Studies of Nationalities (ASN)*, New York (USA), April 2014 and Conference „*The Caucasus and Central Asia, Twenty Years after Independences: Questioning the Notion of „South Countries“*“, Almaty (Kazakhstan), August 2011
- Das georgische Bankett als Spiegelbild der Gesellschaft. *Georgientag*, Technical University Chemnitz (Germany), January 2014
- Transformations of Sacred Spaces, Pilgrimages and Conceptions of Hybridity in the Post-Soviet Caucasus, *Work in Progress-Series of the American Research Institute of the South Caucasus*, Tbilisi (Georgia), September 2013
- Postsocialist Societies through the Lenses of Anthropology, *Summer School of the Heinrich Böll Foundation*, Bazaleti (Georgia), July 2013
- Von dreifachen Gewinnern und einfachen Verlierern – Zirkuläre Migration im Kaukasus und der EU, *Austrian Orient Society*, Vienna (Austria), June 2013
- Staatsbürgerschaft und andere politische Daseinsformen im Hochland von Georgien, *Humboldt University Berlin* (Germany), May 2013
- People and Places of Exception, *Annual Conference of the American Anthropological Association (AAA)*, Montréal (Canada), November 2011
- Johanna Stiglers Studien im Kontext der aktuellen Kaukasusforschung, *Austrian Academy of Sciences*, Vienna (Austria), June 2011
- Siedlungspolitik „von unten“ und „von oben“ im Hochland von Georgien, *Austrian Orient Society*, Vienna (Austria), January 2011
- Reserved Citizens in a Landscape of Post, *Workshop „Anthropologies of the South Caucasus“*, New York (USA), April 2010
- From Citizen to Subject, *University of Sao Paulo* (Brazil), April 2010

Being a State and States of Being, *Museu Nacional*, Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), November 2009, and *Conference “Re-Thinking Citizenship”*, *Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology*, Halle/Saale (Germany), November 2008

Citizenship at War. The State and It's Borders, Roundtable “20 Years Without Wall in Berlin” (with João de Pina-Cabral, Hauke Brunkhorst, Sebastião Nascimento), *Annual Meeting of the Brazilian National Association of Post-Graduation and Research in the Social Sciences (ANPOCS)*, Caxambu (Brazil), October 2009;
<<http://www.anpocs.org.br/portal/content/view/812/1/>>

Newborn Citizens in a Post-Soviet Landscape, *University of Brasília*, April 2010, *University of Sao Carlos* (Brazil), November 2009, and *Biannual Conference of the European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA)*, Ljubljana (Slovenia), August 2008

Of Hidden Treasures in the Hills and a State Coming and Going, *University of Campinas* (Brazil), April 2010, *Werkstatt Ethnologie*, Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology and Institute for Ethnology of Martin Luther University, Halle/Saale (Germany), December 2007

Introduction, *Conference “Socialist Era Anthropology in the Caucasus and Central Asia”*, Halle/Saale (Germany), April 2009

Discussant for Jarrett Zigon's “Moral Breakdown and the Ethical Demand: An Outline for an Anthropological Approach to the Study of Moralities,” *Werkstatt Ethnologie*, Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology and Institute for Ethnology of Martin Luther University, Halle/Saale (Germany), June 2006

Celebrating Identities in Post-Soviet Georgia, *Conference “Hierarchy and Power in the History of Civilizations” of the Russian Academy of Sciences*, Moscow, (Russian Federation), June 2006

Post Socialist or Post-Post Socialist? Feasting in the Republic of Georgia, *VII. World Congress of the International Council for Central and East European Studies (ICCEES)* Berlin (Germany), July 2005

Thinking Double – The Georgian Banquet and it's Fate, *Conference “Language, History and Identity in the Caucasus”*, Malmö (Sweden), June 2005

Post-Soviet Feasting—A Case Example from Georgia, *Conference of the Research Network for Postsocialist Cultural Studies (Soyuz)*, Bloomington/Indiana (USA), March 2005, and *Conference of the British Association for Slavonic Studies (BASEES)*, Cambridge (UK), April 2005

The “True Academy”: Georgian Banquets and the Construction of National Identity, *Conference of the Central European Studies Society (CESS)*, Bloomington/Indiana (USA), October 2004

Culture and Cuisine in the Republic of Georgia, *Biannual Conference of the European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA)*, Vienna (Austria), September 2004

Feasting the Georgian Way, *Special Convention of the Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASN)*, Warsaw (Poland), July 2004

Erinnerung als Widerstand – Bankette in Georgien, *Conference „Gemeinsame und getrennte Wege im (post)sozialistischen Europa“*, Berlin (Germany), July 2004

The *supra* reconsidered, *Conference “Closed Society and Open Society: Conflict and Dialogue” by the International Institute of Peoples of Caucasus (IIPC)*, Moscow (Russian Federation), November 2003

R. Bleichsteiner und der Rückzug in den Inneren Orient, *Biannual Conference of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Völkerkunde (DGV)*, Göttingen (Germany), October 2001