

Keti Tsotniashvili, PhD

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Education

Doctor of Philosophy – Education Policy and Evaluation

August 2019 – December 2023

Arizona State University, Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College (Tempe, AZ, the USA)

Dissertation “Transformation of academic identities in Georgia: Diffractive narratives in-between defuturing and refuturing”

Master of Education - International Education Policy and Management

August 2011 – May 2013

Vanderbilt University, Peabody College (Nashville, TN, the USA)

Recipient of the Edmund Muskie Graduate Fellowship for MA Studies, US State Department, 2011

Bachelor of Business Administration

September 2005-June 2009

Free University of Tbilisi, ESM Business School (Tbilisi, Georgia)

Professional Experience

Ilia State University

Tbilisi, Georgia

Associate Professor of Education Policy

March 2024-present

- Teaching and curriculum development
- Research and student supervision
- Administrative and faculty committee contributions

Lead researcher and curriculum development expert

in the project Higher Education, Research and Innovation

June, 2024 -present

Lecturer

September, 2018 – May, 2019

- Teaching (in Education Administration MA program)

European Training Foundation (ETF)

Turin, Italy

Educational Researcher (in-country expert in Georgia)

August 2023- March 2024

Provision of applied research expertise for Creating New Learning (CNL) Initiative

- Conduct applied research for the CNL Initiative, focusing on STEM/robotics/AI clubs
- Design research plan, collect and analyze data, and prepare case studies and blog posts

Erasmus+ National Office

Tbilisi, Georgia

Higher Education Reform Expert (HERE)

January 2018 – present

- Analysis and development of higher education policies and reforms in Georgia
- Contribute to the training of stakeholders
- Organization and participation in seminars, providing advice to institutions and policy-makers
- Working group member for the development of the internationalization strategy of higher education in Georgia

Arizona State University

Tempe, AZ, the USA

Research Assistant

August 2019 – August 2023

Participated and contributed to the following research projects:

- *Turn it Around! Flashcards for Education Futures (2021-2023)*
- *Decolonial and De-Cold War Dialogues on Childhood and Schooling (2019-2023)*
- *Reclaiming Multispecies Worlds: Childhood Memories of Common Worlding (2021- 2023)*
- *Women’s Pursuit of Undergraduate Engineering Degrees in Eastern Africa: Exploring Higher Education Retention in Kenya, Rwanda, and Uganda (2021-2023)*
- *The Trajectories of Black Immigrants and Refugees in Engineering in the U.S. (2022-2023)*
- Member of the *CIES 2020* conference planning and support committee (2019-2020)

Policy Management and Consulting Group, PMC Research Center

Policy Researcher

Tbilisi, Georgia

May 2021-January 2022

- *Carried out research on faculty professional development in Georgia*
- *Developed a policy research document*

National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement (NCEQE)

Higher Education Quality Assurance Consultant

Tbilisi, Georgia

September 2018-April 2019

- *Led the NCEQE's Self-Assessment and application process and drafted the Self-Assessment Report for membership of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA)*
- *Coordinated capacity building activities to support the implementation of the reformed higher education quality assurance system*
- *Cooperation with international partners and local stakeholders, including representing the NCEQE on ENQA official events.*

Head of Authorization Division (Inst. Accreditation) for Higher Education Institutions *January 2015 – September 2018*

- *Led the higher education quality assurance (QA) system reform of Georgia in line with the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in European Higher Education Area - 2015 with wide stakeholder participation*
- *Drafted the regulatory documents and amendments in bylaws related to the reform process*
- *Built up the pool of experts that includes international and local experts, students and employers*
- *Managed the institutional evaluations of Higher Education Institutions*
- *Planned, organized and conducted capacity-building activities for HEIs, experts and staff*
- *Cooperated with international partners and local stakeholders and represented the NCEQE at ENQA official meetings.*

Project Manager

"Higher Education Quality Enhancement and Internationalization"

January-December 2017

(The project was supported by the Ministry of Education and Science aiming at implementation of the reformed QA system in Georgia)

- *Managed the pilot evaluations of HEIs according to the revised QA standards and procedures*
- *Developed supplemental documents and guidebooks for HEIs and experts*
- *Planned and organized NCEQE's annual conference • Proposed final amendments of the reformed QA system.*

Research Coordinator

June 2013- December 2014

- *Evaluated organizational performance and elaborated annual reports;*
- *Analyzed education quality assurance system and elaborated reports of system-wide analysis;*
- *Coordinated ETF commissioned Torino Process 2014 of policy monitoring at the national level and drafted Torino Process Georgia 2014 Report.*

WorldTeach

Program Associate (Internship)

Cambridge, MA, the USA

May 2012 – August 2012

- *Evaluated WorldTeach programs*
- *Developed a WorldTeach volunteer Manual Handbook*

Gori State University

Strategic Development and Budgeting Department

Senior Specialist

Gori, Georgia

September 2009 – July 2011

- *Developed the university strategy and budget based on consultations with stakeholders*
- *Drafted projects for donor organizations*
- *Managed the university educational/research program (supported by the Ministry of Education and Science).*

Business Training Center for Regional Development (Supported by the US Embassy in Georgia)

Project Director

November 2010 – July, 2011

- Coordinated resource planning and management for the project and reported to the donor
- Designed, planned and managed training programs
- Collaborated with small business organizations in the Shida Kartli region for their capacity building activities

Other Professional Activities

Georgia I2Q – Innovation, Inclusion and Quality

Tbilisi, Georgia

Competitive Innovation Fund, expert-evaluator of project proposals

March 2023-present

- Review and evaluate the grant proposals
- Draft the evaluation report informing the decision on grant proposal selection

Current Issues in Education (peer-reviewed academic education journal at MLFTC, ASU) **Tempe, Arizona**

Associate Editor

January 2022 -January 2023

- Participate in the design and discussion of the journal's editorial policy
- Select and invite reviewers
- Oversee the peer-review process, ensuring that it is conducted in a fair, unbiased, and timely manner.

Malta Further and Higher Education Authority

Harmun, Malta

Accreditation Expert

June 2020 - present

- Analyze program/institutional documents
- Meet stakeholders of the university to verify and investigate issues identified from the document analysis
- Draft the evaluation report and present the results.

Kosovo Accreditation Agency

Pristina, Kosovo

Accreditation Expert

April 2019 - present

- Analyze program/institutional documents
- Meet stakeholders of the university to verify and investigate issues identified from the document analysis
- Draft the evaluation report and present the results.

National Commission of Academic Accreditation and Assessment

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Accreditation expert

January -May 2016

Institutional Developmental Review of University of Tabuk

- Analyzed program/institutional documents
- Met stakeholders of the university to verify and investigate issues identified from the document analysis •
Drafted the final report and presented the results.

Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia

Tbilisi, Georgia

Member of Strategy Development Working Group

February-April, 2018

Elaborating the Strategic Plan of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia for 2018-2023, specifically contributed for the development of the higher education strategic and action plans.

EFQM Licensed Trainer

Tbilisi, Georgia

March 2017- present

- Trainer of Basic Assessor Training, the Journey to Excellence, the Leaders for Excellence, and the Internal Assessor Training.

Publications

- **Tsotniashvili, K.** (forthcoming). Academic identities in transition from Soviet to Western time and space. *European Education*
- Coley, B., Hailu, M.F., Kwarase, P., & **Tsotniashvili, K.** (2024). Cultural (In)congruence: How Black women navigate individual, academic, and societal dimensions of engineering. *International Journal of Engineering Education*, 40(5), 1114–1128.
- **Tsotniashvili, K.** (2024). STEM school clubs in Georgia as Creative Learning Practice. ETF, Turin
- Jiang, J., Pretti, E., **Tsotniashvili, K.**, Anayatova, D., Nielsen, A., & Silova, I. (2024). Re-membering ceremonies: Childhood memories of our relationships with plants. In Mnemo ZIN (Ed.), *(An)Archive: Childhood, memory, and the Cold War*. Open Book Publishers
- **Tsotniashvili, K.** (2023) Transformation of academic identities in Georgia: Diffractive narratives in between defuturing and refuturing [Doctoral dissertation, Arizona State University]
- Hailu, M. F., Lee, E. E., Halkiyo, A., **Tsotniashvili, K.**, & Tewari, N. R. (2023). Gender and higher education in African universities: A critical discourse analysis of key policy mandates in Kenya, Rwanda, and Uganda. *Education Policy Analysis Archives*, 31.
- Anayatova, D., Chachkhiani, K., Hovsepian, S., Silova, I., & **Tsotniashvili, K.** (2023). Literacies of childhood and nation in the Anthropocene: Insights from (post)soviet early literacy textbooks. In D. Tröhler (Ed.), *Education, curriculum and nation-building. Contributions of comparative education to the understanding of nations and nationalism*. Oxford Studies in Comparative Education
- Chachkhiani, K., Palandjian, G., Silova, I., & **Tsotniashvili, K.** (2023). Pedagogies of Time: “Editing” Textbooks, Timelines, and Childhood Memories. *Journal of Childhood Studies*, 48 (1), 111-125.
<https://doi.org/10.18357/jcs202320568>
- Anayatova, D., Basu, M., Darira, S., Freiband, A., Glanz, D., Halkiyo, A., Hovsepian, S., Jenik, A., Jiang, J., Komatsu, H., Kwarase, P., Law, L., Nielsen, A., O'Neill, J., Palandjian, G., Pretti, E., Rappleye, J., Sanchez, B., Silova, I., **Tsotniashvili, K.**, & CONTRIBUTING ARTISTS (2022, May). Turn it around! An education guide to climate futures. Arizona State University and Artists’ Literacies Institute.
- **Tsotniashvili, K.** (2022) Uncovering the state of play of faculty professional development in Georgian higher education institutions. PMC Research Center, Tbilisi
- Koro, M., Carlson, D. L., Basu, M., & **Tsotniashvili, K.** (2022). Ontologies of Relation and Difference in ‘Research Designs’. In U. Flick (Ed.) *The SAGE Handbook of Qualitative Research Design* (pp. 155-174)
- Garcia, D., Laczkó-Kerr, I., Bartlett, T., Clement, V., Jiang, J., Jin, J.I., Lujano Vilchis, I., & **Tsotniashvili, K.** (2021). Evaluation report of the Beat the Odds School Leadership Academy program. Center for the Future of Arizona.
- **Tsotniashvili, K.** (2020). Ecosystem and Internalization of the Higher Education Quality Assurance System in Georgia. In *15 Years of Bologna Process in Georgia: Achievements, Challenges and Recommendations* (pp. 71-86). Erasmus+ National Office Georgia, Tbilisi
- Darchia, I., Grdzeldze, I., Glonti, L., Sanikidze, T. & **Tsotniashvili, K.** (2019). Analysis of Development and Implementation of the Authorization Mechanism for Higher Education Institutions. Erasmus+ National Office Georgia, Tbilisi
- NCEQE (2018). Self-Assessment Report of the National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement for the ENQA Review. Tbilisi, Georgia
- **Tsotniashvili, K.** (2015). Torino Process 2014 - Georgia. ETF, Turin
- **Tsotniashvili, K.** (2014). Annual Report of NCEQE for 2014 and Trends in Education 2011-2014. NCEQE, Tbilisi
- Gurchiani, K., Bregvadze, T., Janashia, S., Dalakishvili, M., Rcheulishvili, N. & **Tsotniashvili, K.** (2014). Doctoral research quality enhancement in Georgia. Tempus Project, Tbilisi
- **Tsotniashvili, K.** (2013). Annual Report of NCEQE for 2013 and Analytical Review of 2011-2013. NCEQE, Tbilisi

Conference Presentations

- **Tsotniashvili, K.** (2024, 8-11 July) *Academic Identities in Transitions from Soviet to Western Time and Space*. Comparative Education Society in Europe XXIX Conference, Thessaloniki, Greece
- **Tsotniashvili, K.**, Hailu, M.F., & Njiru, R. (2024, 11-14 April) *Women's Pursuit of Undergraduate Degrees: Exploring Higher Education Retention in Kenya*. American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, United States
- Nilsen, A., Silova, I., Karsgaard, C., Basu, M., Tsotniashvili, K., & Weinberg, A. (2024, 10-14 March) *Weather watchers: Reconfiguring relationships between children and the earth*. CIES 2024, 68th annual conference, Miami, FL, United States
- Coley, B., Hailu, M.F., Kwarase, P.K., & **Tsotniashvili, K.** (2023, 13-16 April) *Cultural (In)Congruence: How Black Women Navigate Individual, Academic and Societal Dimensions of Engineering*. American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, United States
- **Tsotniashvili, K.**, Silova, I., Chachkhiani, K., Anayatova, D. & Hovsepian, S. (2023, 14-22 February) *Literacies of childhood and nation in the Anthropocene: Insights from (post)Soviet early literacy textbooks*. CIES 2023, 67th annual conference, Washington DC, United States
- Silova, I., Nielsen, A., **Tsotniashvili, K.**, Anayatova, D. (2023, 14-22 February) *Reclaiming multispecies learning: Childhood memories of common worlding*. CIES 2023, 67th annual conference, Washington DC, United States
- Anayatova, D., **Tsotniashvili, K.**, Darira, S. & Hovsepian, S. (2023, 24-28 January) *Turn it around! Workshop*. Learning Planet Festival. Tempe, AZ, United States
- Anayatova, D., Darira, S., Nilsen, A., Pretti, E., Silova, I. & **Tsotniashvili, K.** (2022, 28-30 June, 2022) *Turn it around! Youth visions of education futures*. Transforming Education Pre-summit, UNESCO, Paris, France
- Silova, I., Anayatova, D., **Tsotniashvili, K.**, Hovsepian, S., Basu, M., Pretti, E., Glanz, D., Palandjian, G., Nilsen, A., Kwarase, P. & Jiang, J. (2022, 25 April – 2 May) Highlighted Session: Stacking the Deck for Sustainability: Youth “Lessons” to Turn it Around. CIES2022, 66th annual conference. Minneapolis, MN, United States
- **Tsotniashvili, K.** (2022, 17-19 March) *Uncovering state of play of faculty professional development in Georgian higher education institutions*. AEF 47th Annual Conference. Denver, CO, United States
- Pretti, E., Silova, I., Nielsen, A., Jiang, J., **Tsotniashvili, K.**, & Anayatova, D. (2021, 20-21 October) *Reclaiming multispecies worlds: Childhood memories of common worlding*. Spinning the sticky threads of childhood memories: From Cold War to Anthropocene. Tampere, Finland
- Silova, I., Chachkhiani, K., Palandjian, G., & **Tsotniashvili, K.** (2021, 10-12 May) *Pedagogies of time: “Editing” the timelines of childhood(s) through memories and textbooks*. IX Conference on Childhood Studies: Childhood and Time. Tampere, Finland
- **Tsotniashvili, K.** (2021, 25 April – 2 May) *Academics making sense of the higher education reforms in Georgia*. vCIES2021, 65th annual conference. Seattle, WA, United States
- **Tsotniashvili, K.** (2021, February 26) *Ecosystem and internalization of higher education quality assurance system in Georgia*. TCDC education research conference, Tempe, AZ, United States
- Papoulas, A. & **Tsotniashvili, K.** (as co-chairs of the Bologna Peer Group QA) (2018, 27-28 November) *All quality assurance agencies operating in Europe align their work to the ESG*, EQAR Member's Dialogue, Berlin, Germany
- **Tsotniashvili, K.** (2017, 14-15 December) *Pilot Institutional Evaluations: Analysis of Preliminary Results*. NCEQE Annual Conference “Reforming the Higher Education Quality Assurance System: Results and Steps Forward,” Tbilisi, Georgia.
- **Tsotniashvili, K.** (2014, 18 November) *Quality Assurance: Examples of Good Practices*. Structural Reform in the European Higher Education Area: Challenges and Opportunities”, Council of Europe, Minsk, Belarus

Media Interviews and Podcasts

- *“Doctoral studies – what challenges do researchers face?”* by Lela Dumbadze, Batumelebi, October 17, 2022
- *“Impact of Covid-19 on education”* by Levan Nanobashvili, US Government Exchange Program Alumni Association, June 12, 2020
- *„Challenges and prospects of distance learning”* by Nino Nadaria, Freeuni Alumni Fund, July 7, 2020
- *“International experts will participate in the authorization of higher education institutions”* by Mariam Bogveradze, Netgazeti, February 28, 2018

- *“New regulation for accreditation and authorization of higher education institutions”* by Natia Arveladze, February 6, 2018, Georgian Public Broadcaster

Conference Planning and Organization

- Conference Planning Committee Member, CIES 2020 64th annual conference ‘[Education Beyond the Human](#)’ (planned for March 22-26, 2020 in Miami, but transferred to virtual conference because of the COVID-19 pandemic)
- Organizer, NCEQE Annual Conference “Reforming the Higher Education Quality Assurance System: Results and Steps Forward”, 14-15 December, 2017, Tbilisi, Georgia.
- Co-organizer, Revised Standards of Programme Accreditation and Internationalization of Higher Education, NCEQE, 22-23 September, 2017, Gudauri, Georgia
- Organizer, Revised Approaches to Higher Education Quality Assessment, NCEQE, 13 April, 2017, Tbilisi, Georgia
- Organizer, NCEQE Annual Conference “Reforming the Higher Education Quality Assurance System: Promoting Development and Outcome Oriented Mechanisms”, NCEQE, 6-7 December, 2016, Tbilisi, Georgia

Awards, Grants and Fellowships

- Best Dissertation Award 2024, Eurasia Special Interest Group, Comparative and International Education Society
- Dissertation Writing Grant, Association for Slavic, Eastern European and Eurasian Studies, 2023
- Doctoral Program Travel Grant, ASU, 2023
- Education Policy and Evaluation Program Research Grant, ASU, 2022
- Graduate and Professional Student Association Travel Grant, ASU, 2022
- Doctoral Program Travel Grant, ASU, 2021
- Doctoral Program Travel Grant, ASU, 2020
- Tuition remission and stipend for doctoral studies, ASU, 2019-2023
- Higher Education Quality Enhancement and Internationalization, Ministry of Education and Science, 2017
- Erasmus Mundus Electra Research Fellowship, University of Minho, 2015-2016
- Edmund Muskie Graduate Fellowship for MA Studies, US State Department, 2011-2013
- Democracy Commission Small Grant Program, US State Department, 2010

Participation in Seminars, Workshops and Trainings

- **May, 2022** – Three approaches of qualitative data analysis, organized by the American Educational Research Association (Washington DC, United States)
- **December, 2021** – Grounded Theory, Organized by Ilia State University (Tbilisi, Georgia)
- **April, 2021** - New Scholars Pre-Conference workshop: Identifying, Refining, and Narrowing: How to Develop a Good Research Question. Organized by CIES2021 (Seattle, WA, United States)
- **March, 2019** - Social Inclusion: University policies and practices, Study Visit at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. Organized by Erasmus+ (Amsterdam, the Netherlands)
- **September, 2018** - Professional Development of Staff in Higher Education, Study Visit at the King’s College London and London School of Economics, organized by Erasmus+ (London, UK)
- **November, 2017** - 12th European Quality Assurance Forum (EQAF) titled “Responsible QA – committing to impact” (Riga, Latvia)
- **December, 2016-March, 2017** - EFQM Excellence Model (Leaders for Excellence, Internal Assessor Training, Trainer Accreditation Workshop), organized by GIZ (Tbilisi, Georgia)
- **June, 2014** - Promoting quality and recognition of transnational education, organized by QAA (Gloucester, UK)
- **March, 2014** - Research in education and quality assurance, organized by QANU (Utrecht, the Netherlands)
- **January, 2014** - Publication of quality assurance results: purpose, structure and content, organized by ENQA (Zurich, Switzerland)

Language Skills

Georgian (Native), English (Fluent), Russian (Good), Spanish (Beginner)