

Tamara Grdzelidze

D.Phil., Ph.D.

tamara.grdzelidze@iliauni.edu.ge

APPOINTMENTS

- Professor at Ilia State University, School of Arts and Sciences, Religious Studies, 1 February 2023
- Lecturer at Caucasus University, Tbilisi, Georgia, 2021- 2022
- Associated Professor at Ilia State University, School of Arts and Sciences, Religious Studies, October 2020 -
- Cyrus Vance Visiting Professor in International Relations at Mount Holyoke College, MA, USA, January – May 2020
- Aileen Driscoll Research Fellow in Ecumenical Theology at the University of St. Michael's College, University of Toronto, Canada, January – December 2019
- Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Georgia to the Holy See (Vatican) and Sovereign Military Order of Malta, June 2014 – December 2018
- Program Executive at Faith and Order Secretariat, World Council of Churches, Geneva Switzerland, January 2001 – January 2014.
- Coordinator of the WCC Project on Ecumenical Theology, Tbilisi, Georgia, January-December 2000.
- Director of Education Program at the Soros Foundation in Georgia, July 1998 – October 1999.
- Research Fellow in Georgian Hagiography, Shota Rustaveli Institute of Georgian Literature, Tbilisi, Georgia, 1985–1991.
- Professor of Georgian Language and Literature, Guram Ramishvili Gymnasium, Tbilisi, Georgia, 1985-1991.

EDUCATION

- Doctor of Philosophy in Theology, University of Oxford, 1998.
Dissertation: "The Concept of Space/Place in the Writings of Maximus the Confessor."
Under the supervision of Bishop Dr Kallistos Ware, Pembroke College.
Committee: Rt. Rev. Dr Rowan Williams, Dr Sebastian Brock.
- Graduate Studies, Ripon College Cuddesdon, Oxford, UK, 1993 – 1994.
- Graduate Studies, St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary, NY, USA, 1992 – 1993.
- Doctor of Humanities, Tbilisi State University, 1984.
Dissertation: "Symbols in Georgian Hagiography of the 5th to 11th Centuries."

- MA and BA of Humanities in Georgian Philology, Tbilisi State University, Georgia, 1974-1979.
- Undergraduate Courses in classical Farsi language and literature, Tbilisi State University, Georgia, 1977 – 1980.

LANGUAGES

Georgian (mother tongue), English, Russian, French and Italian (working knowledge)
Reading knowledge of classical Greek.

HONORS, FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS

- Order of Pope Pius IX, Vatican City, 2017
- University of Bern, Doctor of Theology, *honoris causa*, 1 December 2007
- Research fellow at the Irish School of Ecumenics, Trinity College, Dublin, Republic of Ireland, October-December 2011.
- Reader at Dumbarton Oaks Library, Washington DC, USA, October – November 2006.
- Fellowship of St. Andrew's Trust of the Church of England, Lambeth Palace, London, UK, 1993-1997

TEACHING EXPERIENCE: Theology, Religion, Culture, Literature

- Course on Religious Motives in History designed for students in Psychology
- Courses on Church Unity, Religious Nationalism, Christian Civilization at Ilia State University, Tbilisi, Georgia, September 2020-
- Teaching Faith and Politics at Mount Holyoke College, MA, USA, January-May 2020
- Seminar on Maximus the Confessor, Visiting Professor at the Faculty of Theology of the Pontifical University of St Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum), Rome, Italy, 2016-2017 academic year (with the teaching effect in second term)
- Course on "Christian Church Unity", Visiting Professor at the Faculty of Theology of the Pontifical University of St Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum), Rome, Italy, 2015-2016 academic year (with the teaching effect in second term)
- "Orthodoxy and Gender", Visiting professor at the Faculty of Theology of the University of Bern, Switzerland, October – November 2015
- "Theologies of Peace", Ecumenical Youth Council of Europe Seminar on *Be the Generation of Peace!* Novi Sad, Serbia, 20-22 August 2013
- "Ecumenical Theology on the Way to Busan", A Winter Course on Beyond Divisions: Ecumenism in 21st Century, St. John's Theological College, Auckland, New Zealand, 12-13 July 2013
- "Ecclesiology versus Political Theology? Christian Anthropology between Deification and Hermeneutics", Seminar at Centre Sankt Ignatios, Tretaberget near Stockholm, Sweden, 16 February 2013
- "Ecumenical theology on Unity", The Irish School of Ecumenics, Trinity College Dublin, Republic of Ireland, October-November 2011
- "Just Peace in the Orthodox Theology", Graduate seminar on Theology of Peace, Irish School of Ecumenics, Trinity College Dublin, Republic of Ireland, 6 December 2011
- "The Church Tradition and church traditions", Visiting Lecturer at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas (Angelicum), Rome, Italy, November 2009

- “Eastern Christian Studies”, Distance learning course, The Catholic University of Lviv, Ukraine, September 2008 – June 2009
- “*Philokalia* and the Orthodox Tradition”, Seminar held at the Convent of St. Nino together with Bishop Kallistos Ware, Bodbe, Georgia, October 2003
- “Ecumenical Theology/Christian Traditions”, Ecumenical Institute of Bossey, Geneva, Switzerland, 2002 – 2013.
- “Georgian Culture”, Visiting Professor, Mount Holyoke College, MA, USA, 1992 January term.
- Georgian Language and Literature, Guram Ramishvili Gymnasium, Tbilisi, Georgia, 1985 – 1991.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Ecclesial Boundaries and National Identity in the Orthodox Church (Notre Dame University Press, 2023)

Georgian Monks on Mount Athos: Two Eleventh Century Lives of the Hegoumenoi of Iviron, Translation, notes and introduction by Tamara Grdzeldze (London: Bennet&Bloom, 2009)

Editor: *Roma e i Georgiani*, Le relazioni diplomatiche tra la Georgia e la Santa Sede, 1992-2017, (Roma: Cultura, Studium, 109, 2017)

Sources of Authority: The Early Church, Volume 1, Papers from the Faith and Order Consultation on The Teachers and Witnesses of the Early Church: a common source of authority, variously received? 1st-6th September 2008, Cambridge, United Kingdom, Faith and Order Papers no. 217, edited by Tamara Grdzeldze (Geneva: WCC Publications, 2014)

Editor: *Sources of Authority: Contemporary Sources in the Church*, Volume 2, Papers from the Faith and Order Consultation on Sources of Authority in our Churches at Present, Reflections from Where we are No, 22 June-2 July, 2011, Moscow, Russia, Faith and Order Paper no. 218, edited by Tamara Grdzeldze (Geneva: WCC Publications, 2014)

Editor: *Reading the Gospels with the Early Church: A Guide*, Faith and Order Paper no. 213, edited by Tamara Grdzeldze (Geneva: WCC Publications, 2013)

Editor: *A Cloud of Witnesses, Opportunities for Ecumenical Commemoration*, eds. Tamara Grdzeldze & Guido Dotti, Faith and Order Paper No. 209 (Geneva: WCC Publications, 2009)

Editor: *BEM at 25: Critical Insights into a Continuing Legacy*, eds. Thomas F. Best & Tamara Grdzeldze, Faith and Order Paper No. 205 (Geneva: WCC Publications, 2007)

Editor: *Witness through Troubled Times: A History of the Georgian Orthodox Church, 1811 to the Present*, with contributions by N. Abashidze, Z. Abashidze, E. Bubulashvili, G. Saitidze & S. Vardosanidze, eds. Tamara Grdzeldze, Martin George & Lukas Vischer (London: Bennet&Bloom, 2006)

Editor: *One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic: Ecumenical Reflections on the Church*, edited by Tamara Grdzeldze, Faith and Order Paper No. 197 (Geneva: WCC Publications, 2005)

Editor: *The Limits of the Church: Essays from Orthodox Theologians on Ecumenism*, edited by Tamara Grdzeldze (Tbilisi, Georgia: Kvirioni, 2000) [in Georgian]

Education Reform in Georgia: What It Is and What It Should Be, Discussion Paper Series, UNDP (Tbilisi, Georgia, 1998)

Translation from English into Georgian of the Second Edition of *Faith and Reason* by Richard Swinburne (Clarendon Press, Oxford, 2011) (forthcoming May 2023)

Articles in Reference Books (among the others)

in *The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church*, the fourth edition by F. L. Cross, E. A. Livingstone and A. Louth (Oxford University Press, 2022)

“Orthodox Church of Georgia”, “Orthodox Ecclesiology”, “Ecumenism and Orthodoxy” in *Encyclopaedia of Eastern Orthodox Christianity*, edited by John Anthony McGuckin (Wiley-Blackwell, 2011)

“Georgia”, “Orthodox Church of Georgia”, “Creation, Ecology and the Orthodox Church” in *The Cambridge Dictionary of Christianity*, edited by Daniel Patte (CUP, 2010)

Chapters in Books

“Receptive Ecclesial Learning through Ecumenical Engagement: an Orthodox Perspective”, *Receptive Ecumenism as Transformative Ecclesial Learning: Walking the Way to a Church Reformed*, edited by Paul D. Murray, Gregory A. Ryan and Paul Lakeland (Oxford University Press, 2022)

“The Georgian Tradition”, *Handbook on Mount Athos* (Routledge, forthcoming 2023)

“Divisions Beyond Differences: An Orthodox Reflection on the Ecumenical Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace”, in *Walking Together. Theological Reflections on the Ecumenical Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace*, eds. Susan Durber and Fernando Enns (Geneva: WCC Publications, 2018)

“Human Rights – Orthodox Church – Dignity of Human being created in *Imago Dei*” in *Orthodox Christianity and Human Rights in Europe, A Dialogue Between Theological Paradigms and Socio-Legal Pragmatics*, eds. Elisabeth Diamantopoulou and Louis-Leon Christions, God Humans and Religions series, Vol.24 (Peter Lang, 2018)

“Orthodox in the Ecumenical Movement” in *The Oxford Handbook of Ecumenical Studies*, eds. Geoffrey Wainwright, Paul McPartlan (Oxford: OUP, 2018, online version)

“The Georgian Tradition”, in *The Orthodox Christian World*, edited by Augustine Casiday (London and New York: Routledge, 2012)

“The Church” in *Systematic Theology and Climate Change: Ecumenical Perspectives*, eds. Michael S. Northcott, Peter Manley Scott (Routledge, 2014)

“The Orthodox Church in Situations of War and Conflict”, in *Just Peace: Orthodox Perspectives*, eds. Semegnish Asfaw, Alexios Chehadeh & Marian Gh. Simion (Geneva: WCC Publications, 2012)

"The Georgians on Mount Athos", in *Mount Athos: Microcosm of the Christian East*, eds. Graham Speake and Metropolitan Kallistos Ware (Peter Lang, 2011)

"Current Theological Issues and Challenges for Women's Ministry in the Church", in *Many Women Were Also There, The Participation of Orthodox Women in the Ecumenical Movement*, eds. Eleni Kasselouri-Hatzivassiliadi, Fulata Mbano Moyo & Aikaterini Pekridou (Geneva: WCC Publications, 2010)

"From Bangalore to Bose", in: *A Cloud of Witnesses, Opportunities for Ecumenical Commemoration*, eds. Tamara Grdzeldze and Guido Dotti, Faith and Order Paper No. 209 (Geneva: WCC Publications, 2009)

"Ecclesiology and Shared Identity," in: *BEM at 25: Critical Insights into a Continuing Legacy*, eds. Thomas F. Best and Tamara Grdzeldze, Faith and Order Paper No. 205 (Geneva: WCC Publications, 2007)

"The Holiness of a Human Being: A Mark of Christian Spirituality," in *Orthodox and Wesleyan Ecclesiology*, edited by S.T. Kimbrough, Jr. (Crestwood: SVS Press, 2007)

"The Eucharist and Creation, an Orthodox View," in *Spirituality, Creation and the Ecology of the Eucharist*, The European Christian Environmental Network, John Knox Series 18 (Geneva, 2007)

"A Theological Reflection on Being the Church," in *Women's Voices and Visions of the Church, Reflections of Orthodox Women*, eds. Christina Breaban, Sophie Deicha & Eleni Kasselouri-Hatzivassiliadi (Geneva: WCC Publications, 2006)

"The Presence of the Holy Spirit in Ecumenical Convergence Text on Ecclesiology," in *Der Heilige Geist im Leben der Kirche*, Forscher aus dem Osten und Western Europas and den Quellen des gemeinsamen Glaubens, (Pro-Oriente-Studentagung "Der Heilige Geist bei den griechischen und lateinischen Kirchenvätern im ersten Jahrtausend," Vienna, 2003), eds. Ysabel de Andia & Peter Leander Hofrichter (Vienna, 2005)

"The Authority of Scriptural Interpretation: An Orthodox Perspective on the Positions of John Wesley and Modern Methodism," in *Orthodox and Wesleyan Scriptural Understanding and Practice*, ed. ST Kimbrough, Jr.,(Crestwood: SVS Press, 2005)

"Liturgical Space in the Writings of Maximus the Confessor," *Studia Patristica*, vol. XXXVII, Papers Presented at the Thirteenth International Conference on Patristic Studies held in Oxford 1999, eds. M. F. Wiles & E. J. Yarnold with the assistance of P .M. Parvis, (Leuven: Peeters, 2001)