



Georgia: The Making of a National Culture

May 15-18, 2008

**An International Conference
organized by the Armenian
Studies Program in the
Series "Armenia and its
Neighbors" at the
University of Michigan,
Ann Arbor**

**International Institute,
Room 1636
1080 S. University Ave.
Ann Arbor, MI 48109**

Sessions are open to the Public

**Conference will be Webcast Live
<http://umtv-live.rs.itd.umich.edu/asp/asp052008.asx>**

THURSDAY, MAY 15

7:30 – 9:30 pm – Opening Reception (not open to public).

FRIDAY, MAY 16

SESSION I

9:00 – 12:00 pm – **Christian Georgia: Culture and Identity in the Middle Ages and Early Modern Period.**

Chair: Kevork Bardakjian (University of Michigan).

Stephen H. Rapp, Jr. (Georgia State University): “The Land of Heroes and Giants”: Recovering the Iranian Heritage of Medieval Georgia.”

Armen Kazaryan (State Institute for Art Study, Moscow): “Early Medieval Architecture in Georgia: Its Historiography and its Place in East-Christian Tradition.”

Tamila Mgaloblishvili (Center for Exploration of Georgian Antiquities): “Georgians in the Holy Land.”

Dean Sakel (Bogazici University): “Eighteenth-Century Reflections of Moves Towards a Georgian National Consciousness: The Element of Historiography.”

SESSION II

1:00 – 3:30 pm – **The Emergence of Modern Georgian Nationalism.**

Chair: Ronald Grigor Suny (University of Michigan).

Hirotake Maeda (Hokaido): “Identity in Aleksandre Orbeliani (1802-1869).”

Paul Manning (Trent University): “Georgians, that is, Readers of *droeba*.”

Oliver Reisner (Delegation of the European Commission to Georgia): “The Beginnings of Georgian National Historiography: Ivane Javakhishvili's *kartveli eris istoria*.”

SESSION III

4:00 – 5:30 pm – **Kalaki: Tbilisi/ Tiflis- Culture and Politics.**

Chair: Ronald Grigor Suny (University of Michigan).

David Khoshtaria (National Research Center for Georgian Art History): “Tbilisi in the Nineteenth Century: Cultural Diversity and Urban Identity.”

Mzia Chikhradze (National Center for Georgian Art History, Tbilisi): “Cultural Life of Tbilisi, 1910-1920s.”

SATURDAY, MAY 17

SESSION IV

**9:00 – 12:00 pm – Diversity and Unity in the South Caucasus, I:
Discourses of Division.**

Chair: Kathryn Babayan (University of Michigan).

Medea Badashvili (Center for Social Sciences, Tbilisi): “Muslim Women’s Identity in Post-Soviet Georgia.”

Paul Crego (Library of Congress): “Georgian-Abkhaz Relations in the Context of Language Policy in the Twentieth Century.”

Silvia Serrano (CNRS/CERCEC, Paris): “Religion in Contemporary National Discourse.”

Kevin Tuite (Université de Montréal): “Sacred Sites of the Northeast Georgian Highlands and Representations of Georgianness in the Post-Soviet Period.”

SESSION V

1:00 – 4:00 pm – Diversity and Unity in the South Caucasus, II: Armenians and the Georgian Nation.

Chair: Jirair Libaridian (University of Michigan).

Thornike Gordadze (Paris Institute of Political Studies): “Historical Sociology of the Formation of Identity Boundaries in Georgia: The Case of the ‘Georgian’/‘Armenian’ Cleavage.”

Mariam Chkhartishvili (Tbilisi State University): “Armenians in the Process of Georgian Identity Forging.”

Tamara Vardanyan (Noravank Foundation, Erevan): “Armenian-Georgian Interethnic Relations in Tbilisi: Mutual Stereotypes and Perceptions.”

Asbed Kochikian (Florida State University): “Neither Enemies, Nor Friends: Georgian-Armenian Relations Between Old and New.”

SESSION VI

4:30 – 6:00 pm – Expressing the National, Performing the Nation.

Chair: Ronald Grigor Suny (University of Michigan).

Harsha Ram (University of California, Berkeley): “National Mythopoesis: Georgian Modernism, the National Question, and Socialist Realism.”

Clinton J. Buhler (Ohio State University): “Redefining a Georgian National Identity: Issues of Collective Trauma in Tengiz Abuladze’s *Repentance*.”

Nino Tsitsishvili (Monash University): “From Folk to Hip-Hop: Tradition and Globalization in the Music of Post-Socialist Georgia.”

SUNDAY, MAY 18

SESSION VII

9:00 – 12:00 pm – Evolution and Revolution in Georgian Political Development.

Chair: Ronald Grigor Suny (University of Michigan).

Jeremy Smith (Birmingham University): “Beria, Stalin, Khrushchev, and Georgian Nationalism: The 1956 Riots in Context.”

Stephen F. Jones (Mount Holyoke College): “The Role of Non-Violence in the Rose Revolution.”

Vicken Cheterian (CIMERA): “Georgia’s Rose Revolution: Democratization? State-Building? Or Permanent Revolution?”

Alexandre Kukhianidze (Transnational Crime and Corruption Center, Tbilisi): “Corruption, Transnational Crime and Smuggling in Georgia: Comparing the Shevardnadze and Saakashvili Periods.”

SESSION VIII

1:00 – 4:00 pm – Challenges of the Modern Moment: Georgia in the Globalizing World.

Chair: Jirair Libaridian (University of Michigan).

Jonathan Kulick (Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies): “Georgian Political Culture in Light of the 2008 Elections.”

David Darchiashvili (Open Society Georgia Foundation): “Modern National Interests and Post-Modern Threats: The Georgian Case.”

David Soumbadze (Independent Expert, Washington, DC): “Democracy, State Building and Security in Post-Rose Revolution Georgia.”

Sergei Markedonov (Institute of Political and Military Analysis, Moscow): “Russian-Georgian Relations: Contemporary Challenges and Tendencies.”

The conference on “Georgia: The Making of a National Culture” is organized by the Armenian Studies Program, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

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