



CaucasusSocialScienceReview
CSSR

Annual Report

Center for Social Sciences

2014

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ABOUT CSS

Founded in 2003 Center for Social Sciences (CSS) is a solid professional institution and represents one of the leading civil society organizations in Georgia.

The mission of the center is to support the development of a creative, evidence-based research in Social Sciences in Georgia.

The main objectives of the center are to develop academic and applied research in Social Sciences in Georgia, to ensure the integration of Georgian scientists into the international academic networks, to establish professional and ethical standards in Social Sciences and support the evidence-based research and teaching.

The key research areas of CSS are foreign policy and security, EU integration, gender equality, education and development.

The activities of the center include:

- ✚ Academic, applied and organizational scientific research in social sciences;
- ✚ Conferences and integration into the international academic network;
- ✚ Educational programs, certifying trainings and professional programs in social sciences;
- ✚ Publishing activities which include publishing of academic scientific literature and periodicals, educational and popular, informative literature;
- ✚ Translation activities;
- ✚ Creation of electronic data-base for the researchers and specialists working in the field of social sciences;
- ✚ Conducting of interdisciplinary research and assistance to the new academic fields of study;
- ✚ Granting scholarships and stipends to the students involved in the studies of social sciences and to the specialists and researchers working on the development of the academic, applied and interdisciplinary research, teaching and studies.

PROJECTS



HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMMES' EFFECTIVENESS IN CARRIER DEVELOPMENT: COMPATIBILITY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES OUTCOMES WITH THE LABOR MARKET REQUIREMENTS

The project is carried out with the support of the Open Society Georgia Foundation (OSGF) for the period of 2014-2015.

The project aims at measuring the effectiveness of Georgian academic programmes in respect to the labour market requirements: how efficiently do the Georgian universities prepare students to meet the criteria of a competitive labour market? How the potential employers are involved in the preparation and progress of the academic programmes, etc. The project deploys quantitative and qualitative methods for studying the abovementioned objectives.

PREPARING MANAGEMENT UNIFIED INFORMATION SYSTEM FRAMEWORK AND SUPPORTING CREATION OF STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT UNIT AT TBILISI STATE UNIVERSITY

With the support of Open Society Georgia Foundation (OSGF) CSS has carried out the project encompassing the assessment of information systems frameworks of TSU and preparation of recommendations concerning the improvement of the existing situation through introducing unified framework for the entire university. The recommendations were prepared by the international experts from AACRAO Consulting.



AN INITIATIVE OF GEBERT RÜF STIFTUNG
IN COOPERATION WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF FRIBOURG

PERFORMING EUROPEANISATION – POLITICAL VIS-À-VIS POPULAR DISCOURSES ON EUROPEANISATION IN GEORGIA

CSS carries out the project with the support of Academic Swiss Caucasus Net (ASCN) during 2014-2016.

Taking into consideration Georgia's long-lasting desire to integrate with the EU, as well as the fact that the country has signed the Association Agreement with the EU in 2014, it is both extremely important and timely to study the specifics of Europeanisation process in Georgia.

The project team views Europeanisation as a process of implementation of not only the EU's formal and informal rules and standards, but also “a shared social imaginary” at the both policy and popular levels.

GEORGIAN NATIONAL IDENTITY: CONFLICT AND INTEGRATION

The project is supported by the Academic Swiss Caucasus Net (ASCN) and is implemented during 2014-2016.

The project seeks for identifying Georgian national identity in two ways: ethnic and civic national identities, and how it contributes to the integration of Georgian society on the one hand and formation of modernity in contemporary Georgia - on the other.

The publication prepared in frames of this research project, including theoretical review and empirical evidence will be useful material/source for policy agencies and scholars working on both, internal and external conflict/integration processes and especially, in the context of Georgia as the post-soviet country.

One of the important contributions of this project will be 'locating' Georgia on the map of national identity classifications that will be accessible for the international society. In order to promote and share the study results with the broader audience, CSS will organize the international conference for the scholars working on the project relevant topics.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY IN EMPLOYMENT

In 2014, CSS in cooperation with 42 Article of Constitution and with the support of USAID Grant Partnership, implemented the study focused on the areas of gender inequality and discrimination in employment pointed out in various international studies, researches and theories. More specifically the study concentrated on categories where gender discrimination in labour market mostly occurs: recruitment, training and promotion, firing, wages, benefits, equality of treatment and (gender and sexual) harassment.



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE – “GEORGIA IN THE CONTESTED WORLD”

With the support of Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation, in December 2014, CSS organized International Conference at Tbilisi State University (TSU) “Georgia in the Contested World”. The conference aimed at enhancing the exchange of scholarly information and thought between Georgian and foreign scholars/researchers. For more information about the Conference please refer to pg. 13 of this report.

DICTIONARY-GUIDEBOOK OF SOCIAL SCIENCES: PSYCHOLOGY, GENDER, APPLIED STATISTICS, PUBLIC POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION

For the period of 2014-2016 CSS implements a project – Dictionary-Guidebook of Social Sciences: Psychology, Gender, Applied Statistics, Public Policy and Administration. The project is carried out with the support of Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation.

Within the framework of the project an online dictionary-guidebook will be prepared in four fields of social sciences: psychology, statistics, gender and public policy. The website, as well as desktop application will be freely available for scholars, students, translators, etc. The project employees the leading researchers/academics in respective fields for creating the list of necessary terminology and elaborating the explanatory notes for each term.



ARMENIAN-GEORGIAN RELATIONS: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE BILATERAL COOPERATION

In 2014, in partnership with Political Science Association of Armenia CSS carried out the project “Armenian-Georgian Relations: Challenges and Opportunities for the bilateral cooperation” funded by Friedrich Ebert Stiftung. The project identified major problems, challenges and prospects for cooperation of Georgia and Armenia.



MARIE CURIE INITIAL TRAINING NETWORK SCHEME

CSS participates as a partner organizations in Marie Curie Initial Training Network Scheme – ‘Caspian Dispatches: Creating and Training the next generation of experts in Caucasus/ Caspian Development and Strategic Studies’. Other partners involved in the project are:

Full partners

1. Dublin City University
2. Tallinn University of Technology
3. Oxford Brookes University
4. University of St Andrews
5. University of Coimbra
6. University of Gent
7. Bremen

Non-academic partners

1. Eastern Partnership Advancement Centre
2. Kimmage Development Studies Centre
3. Levada Centre
4. Ainouras Research
5. FIIA
6. CSS

Academic non-EU partners

1. Renmin University of China
2. JNU University
3. Marmara University
4. University of Harvard
5. Moscow Higher School of Economics
6. Hanyang University

PUBLIC LECTURES

STALINISM AND A WOMAN IN MOVIE

On 6 December 2014, CSS held a public lecture of Gogi Gvakharia on "Stalinism and a Woman in Movie" co-sponsored by the TSU Institute for Gender Studies [Read more](#).



GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN GEORGIA

On 31 October 2014, public lecture on "Gender Equality and Women's Rights in Georgia" was delivered by Ucha Nanuashvili, Public Defender of Georgia, co-sponsored by the TSU Institute for Gender Studies [Read more](#).



SPACES OF STALIN: HOMETOWN EFFECT, HISTORICAL LEGACY AND THE POLITICO-ECONOMIC LANDSCAPE

On 13 October 2014, Alexi Gugushvili, University of Oxford; Bremen International Graduate School of Social Sciences (BIGSSS); Center for Social Sciences (CSS) delivered a public lecture on "Spaces of Stalin: Hometown effect, historical legacy and the politico-economic landscape", co-sponsored by America Research Institute of the South Caucasus. [Read more](#).



LANDSCAPES OF METAL PRODUCTION AND SETTLEMENT IN KVEMO KARTLI, GEORGIA

On 6 June 2014, Nathaniel Erb-Satullo, Graduate Student at the Harvard University and ARISC Fellow delivered a public lecture on "Landscapes of Metal Production and Settlement in Kvemo Kartli, Georgia", co-sponsored by America Research Institute of the South Caucasus. [Read more.](#)



APPLYING TO GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN THE US

On 5 June 2014, Talin Lindsay, American Research Institute of the South Caucasus, and Purdue University, "Applying to Graduate Programs in the US", co-sponsored by America Research Institute of the South Caucasus. [Read more.](#)

PUBLIC POLICY ANALYSIS IN RESPECT TO MINORITIES IN GEORGIA

On 22 May 2014, Eka Aghdgomelashvili (Women's Initiative Supporting Group), Giorgi Gotsiridze (GYLA) and Lika Jalaghonia (Article 42 of the Constitution) delivered a public lecture on "Public Policy Analysis in respect to Minorities in Georgia", co-sponsored by the TSU Institute for Gender Studies. [Read more.](#)



THE DAUGHTER'S SEDUCTION: STORY AND SCHOLARSHIP IN MY FATHER'S WARS

On 17 April 2014, Professor Alice Waterston, City University of New York delivered a public lecture on "The Daughter's Seduction: Story and Scholarship in My Father's Wars". [Read more.](#)

PRESENTATIONS

PREPARING MANAGEMENT UNIFIED INFORMATION SYSTEM FRAMEWORK AND SUPPORTING CREATION OF STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT UNIT AT TBILISI STATE UNIVERSITY



In fall 2014, CSS conducted series of presentations on the outcomes of the project “Preparing Management Unified Information System Framework and Supporting Creation of Strategic Development Unit at Tbilisi State University.” The project was implemented in cooperation with Ivane Jvakhishvili Tbilisi State University with the financial support of Open Society Georgia Foundation, Higher Education Programme.

The project encompassed the assessment of information systems frameworks of TSU and preparation of recommendations concerning the improvement of the existing situation through introducing unified framework for the entire university. The recommendations were prepared by the international experts from AACRAO Consulting. In addition, within the frameworks of the project several reports were prepared concerning the structure of strategic development and institutional research units for universities based on the example of western European and US universities. As a final output of the project a small publication was published and uploaded on CSS website.

The project presentations were conducted in Tbilisi and other regional cities of Georgia: Telavi State University, Batumi and Kutaisi State Universities.



PROJECT PRESENTATION ON GENDER AND EMPLOYMENT



The presentation concerned the outcomes of the project of “Promoting Gender Equality in Employment”. The project was implemented in partnership with 42 Article of Constitution, Jumpstart Georgia, Georgian Trade Unions Confederation, New Media Advocacy with the financial support of USAID Georgia.

Within the frameworks of the project, CSS conducted a nationwide survey concerning the issues of harassment on labour market in Georgia. The study focused on the areas of gender inequality and discrimination in employment pointed out in various international studies, researches and theories.

More specifically the study concentrated on categories where gender discrimination in labour market mostly occurs: recruitment, training and promotion, firing, wages, benefits, equality of treatment and (gender and sexual) harassment. In order to find out, if Georgian labour market faces gender discrimination in above proposed categories, a representative survey was conducted in all over Georgia. 1364 people active in labour market (who defined themselves as employed formally or informally) were interviewed for the survey.



THE PRESENTATION OF THE BOOK “ARMENIAN-GEORGIAN RELATIONS: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE BILATERAL COOPERATION”



On 6 September 2014, the Political Science Association of Armenia, the Center for Social Sciences, Georgia and the Representation of Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Armenia organized the presentation of the book "Armenian-Georgian relations: Challenges and Opportunities for the Bilateral Cooperation".

The event was attended by the members of the Political Science Association of Armenia and the Georgian Social Sciences Center, experts in regional security dynamics, representatives from a number of NGOs. Opening remarks were delivered by the Chairman of the Political Science Association of Armenia, Doctor of Political Science Hayk Kotanjian and the Head of the Representation of Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Armenia Naira Gevorgyan. The event was chaired by the Executive Director of the Political Science Association of Armenia, PhD in History Benyamin Poghosyan.

From the Center for Social Sciences the event was attended by the Associate Professor of Tbilisi State University, PhD in international relations, Phikria Asanishvili, Tbilisi State University invited faculty member, Master in International Relations Ketevan Chumbadze, researcher at the Center for Social Sciences, Master in Peace and Conflict Studies Irine Osepashvili.



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE "GEORGIA IN THE CONTESTED WORLD"



On 9-10 December 2014, Ciss with the financial support of Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation organized international conference "Georgia in the Contested World". The conference aimed to bring together established and emerging international, as well as local practitioners and scholars willing to share their research findings about changes and transformations taking place in contemporary Georgia.



The conference mainly focused on: the position and status of Georgia in the contested world, its political, social, cultural and technological development in the light of globalization; its interstate relations and security, transformation in respect to identities and the future aspirations; impact of the international change on Georgia's political agenda, values, economy and identity.



Two days conference was dedicated to the presentation of the state-of-the-art academic and applied research findings about Georgia. The conference was divided in several panels: Euro-Atlantic Integration, Foreign Policy and Security, Transformations and Reforms, Education and Development, Identities and Values, Gender Equality, and Economic Development. Each panel was followed by a discussion session. [Read more.](#)



6TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN GENDER STUDIES - "SIMONE DE BEAUVOIR - GENDER ACTUALIZATION"

On 28 November 2014, CSS organized the 6th annual conference in Gender studies in partnership with TSU Institute for Gender Studies.

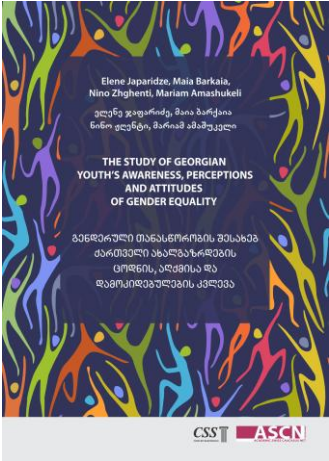
The conference was conducted in the framework of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign observed annually from November 25 (International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) to December 10 (Human Rights Day).



The conference was devoted to the life and work of prominent French feminist and philosopher Simone de Beauvoir (1908 - 1986). Union Women's Initiative for Equality has finalized the translation of Simone de Beauvoir's foundational work - Second Sex (1949) to Georgian language. [Read more.](#)

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS



THE STUDY OF GEORGIAN YOUTH'S AWARENESS, PERCEPTIONS AND ATTITUDES OF GENDER EQUALITY

CSS published the publication in late 2014. It is based on a study of Georgian youth awareness conducted by CSS in 2012-2014 with the financial support of the Academic Swiss Caucasus NET (ASCN).

The aim of this study was to explore the nature of gender attitudes and beliefs among Georgian youth. Specifically, this study focused on three intersecting themes: (1) attitudes towards gender roles at home (2) attitudes towards women's careers (3) attitudes towards sexuality. These themes form gender beliefs, which in turn are a significant component of the gender system. [Read more.](#)

ONLINE PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL

THE CAUCASUS SOCIAL SCIENCE REVIEW (CSSR)

The CSSR is a principal outlet for scholarly articles on the Caucasus published by the Center for Social Sciences (CSS). It provides a unique forum for academic debates and evidence based research that welcomes interdisciplinary approaches to the issues. CSSR strongly encourages interdisciplinary analysis of contemporary social change in the Caucasus by offering a meeting space for international scholars across the social sciences, including foreign policy and security, applied social research, higher education, development, gender studies, political science, anthropology, cultural studies, psychology, and sociology. It publishes internationally peer-reviewed research articles and special thematic issues.



WORKING PAPERS

THE COMPARATIVE ANALYSES OF MEN AND WOMEN WITH DRUG USE PROBLEMS by Elene Japaridze

The literature demonstrates that females and males with drug use problems differ in many ways, including the patterns of drug use, psycho-social characteristics, physiological consequences of drug use, and treatment needs. There are many studies which suggest that men and women start to experiment with drugs for different reasons, give priority to different substances, develop the syndrome of drug dependence in different ways, and encounter different difficulties and problems due to their dependence on drugs. [Read more.](#)

DRUGS, GENDER AND STEREOTYPES by Elene Japaridze

This paper explores gendered claims about drug use in the views of contemporary drug rehabilitation experts in Georgia. When scholars separate motivations of men and women for drug use, gender is playing a critical role in structuring plausible empirical accounts of drug use. Yet gender may also operate in a less explicit way in shaping experts' assessments of drug addiction. Indeed, a number of scholars invoke gender stereotypes, explaining women's drug dependence in terms of their emotional nature, depression, and other types of psychological problems, while attributing men's drug dependence to risk-taking behaviours and adolescent male bonding. [Read more.](#)

A HISTORICAL REVIEW OF DRUG RELATED AFFAIRS IN GEORGIA by Elene Japaridze

When thinking and working on the issues of drug addiction, I realized that I could not escape the necessity of describing the local situation in Georgia, as the current situation in Georgia regarding drug policy is radically different from that of the European countries, and, accordingly, it is necessary to give a detailed review of what is happening in Georgia today and, more generally, what has happened in the recent period. Therefore, the aim of this paper is to present an overview analysis of the drug situation in Georgia, in order to describe today's situation in clearer and more understandable terms. [Read more.](#)

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY OF GEORGIAN ECONOMIC POLICIES IN 2004-2013 by Ia Eradze

Georgia has gone through drastic socio-economic and political changes in the last few decades. However, most of the research conducted on Georgia is based on foreign policy issues and reviews the problems and perspectives of the country's relations with Russia, USA or European Union. Another well-studied area is security studies and covers the conflicts with Abkhazia and South-Ossetia, as well as the topics of energy security. Security and foreign affair issues have dominated and outweighed the importance of internal problems in academic circles, public discussions, media and political party programs. Especially the questions of economic development in the environmental framework have been more or less left in shade. [Read more.](#)

DEFENCE OF THE PHD DISSERTATIONS

DEFENCE OF PHD THESES IN GENDER STUDIES



On 11 December 2014 CSS and TSU held a defense of PhD theses within the Gender Studies international PhD programme. The abovementioned programme was developed and introduced by the Center for Social Sciences at Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, under the framework of the CSS project Graduate Programs at the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, TSU (Grant Code: EO476) funded by Higher Education

Support Program of Open Society Institute (OSI HESP). The head of the Gender Studies programme is Professor Joanna Regulaska, Vice President for International and Global Affairs, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey.

This is the first cohort of young researchers defending their doctorates within the CSS project.

Three students of the abovementioned programme, Maia Barkaia (Academic supervisor: Dr. Parvis Ghassem-Fachandi, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey), Elene Japaridze (Academic supervisor: Professor Darja Zavirsek, University of Lubljiana) and Ketevan Chkheidze (Academic Supervisor: Professor Joanna Regulaska, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey) defended their PhD dissertations and received the Doctorate Degrees in Gender with Magna Cum Laude.



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