



TBILISI STATE UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF SOCIAL & POLITICAL STUDIES

Department of Human Geography at TSU: A Brief Profile

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Presentation for „EastMig” kick off meeting

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Tbilisi State University



- Founded: 1918
- The oldest in the South Caucasus
- The largest university in Georgia
- ~ 20,000 students are enrolled in all three levels of teaching
- Structure: 6 faculties (institutes)

Tbilisi State University

- Faculties

- Social and Political Sciences

- Humanities

- Economics and Business

- Law

- Exact and Natural Sciences

- Medical Science

Social and Political Sciences

- 6 Departments
 - Political Science
 - International Relations
 - **Human Geography**
 - Sociology
 - Psychology
 - Media Studies (Journalism)
- ~ 3,000 students in all three (bachelors, masters, doctors) levels

Department of Human Geography

- First established: 1923 (as a Katedra of Economic Geography, since 1970s - of Socio-Economic and Political Geography)
- Up to 2005 (the year of the beginning of high education reforms): a part of the Faculty of Geography and Geology
- Staff: 11 persons in 2012 (max. 14 -in 2006-07); 3- full prof.; 5- associate prof.; 3- assistant prof.
- Students: ~ 200 (~80%-bachelors, ~15%-masters, ~5%-doctoral)

Academic Programmes at HGD

- Academic programmes: 1 bachelors + 1 masters + 1 doctoral
- The title of each programme: ‘**Human Geography**’
- **Bachelor’s programme**: 240 credits. *Major* in HG requires min. 120 credits in specific geographical disciplines; *Minor* in HG – 60 credits
- **Master’s programme**: 180 credits incl. 30 – master’s thesis. 2 modules – (i) social and political geography; (ii) Tourism geography and spatial development
- **Doctoral programme**: 180 credits incl. 120 – PhD thesis

Research Interests

- *Political Geography/Geopolitics and Conflict Studies* – R.Gachechiladze, G.Gogsadze, D.Sichinava
- *Population Geography, **Migrations*** – R.Gachechiladze, G.Gogsadze, I.Iashvili
- *Economic Geography* – M.Bokeria, T.Dolbaia, G.Kvinikadze, B.Tsereteli
- *Urban Geography* – J.Salukvadze, D.Gogishvili
- *Tourism Geography* – N.Pavliashvili, I.Iashvili
- *Environmental Issues and Sustainable Development* – V. Melikidze, J.Salukvadze
- *Land Policy and Governance Issues* – J.Salukvadze, V. Chkhaidze
- *Application of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) (in social and geographical research)* – V. Chkhaidze, D.Sichinava, D.Gogishvili

Partners and Commissioners

- **Partners:** Technical University of Munich, Giessen University (Germany), Rutgers University (USA), Chieti-Pescara 'G.D'Anunzio' University (Italy), Royal Holloway (University of London, UK), Łódź University (Poland), Institute of Geography of Hungarian AoS, etc.
- **Commissioners:** World Bank (urban issues), UN Habitat (urban issues), UN FAO (land issues), GIZ (municipal development/self-governance), KfW (land issues), NDI and CRRC (electoral geography), Tbilisi City Hall (urban issues), NOKIA (GIS development), etc.

Ongoing and Upcoming Projects

- Projects, relevant to migration topic:
 - ❖ Coping with marginality and exclusion: can refugees communities successfully integrate into mainstream urban societies in Georgia? (Duration 2011-13) Funded by the Academic Swiss Caucasus Network (ASCN)
 - ❖ GOVAK – Training and methodology for migration study for Moldova and Georgia
 - ❖ Managing Migration and its Effects in SEE – Transnational Actions towards Evidence Based Strategies. Hungarian Central Statistical Office (HCSO) et al. [HGD is an observing partner]

Final Announcement

- In the first week of September 2013 Tbilisi (TSU) will host an international conference, organized by the Cities After Transition (CAT) network.
- It will be the 5th CATference on urban issues; the previous ones have been launched in Lund (2005), Stockholm-Tallinn (2007), Tartu (2009), and Bucharest (2011).

I would like to kindly invite you to participate in this event. The details will be disseminated upon request