



Joint Conference

60th anniversary of the UN Covenants: Bridging Rights Gaps for Vulnerable People

**Fourth annual International Conference in memoriam of 100th anniversary of
honorable Academician Professor Levan Alexidze**

in cooperation with

**COST Action CA23103 – Life, liberty and health: ensuring universal protection
of human rights at sea (BlueRights)**

&

Batumi State Maritime Academy

**24 - 25 September, 2026
Tbilisi, Georgia**



Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University



**European Cooperation
in Science & Technology**



Batumi State Maritime Academy



**International Law Institute
Faculty of Law, TSU**



BlueRights



**Jean Monnet Center of Excellence:
Democracy Resilience in Georgia
Erasmus+ ILI, TSU**

In memoriam of an honourable academician

Professor Levan Alexidze



Distinguished Scientist
Full Member of Georgian National Academy of Sciences
Public figure
Diplomat and The Founder of the Georgian School of International law

From the very first days since reinstatement of Georgia's independence in 1991, the Georgian School of International Law was established and developed under the initiative and leadership of Professor Levan Alexidze (1926- 2019), Full Member of Georgian National Academy of Sciences, Holder of numerous State Awards, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, globally recognized scholar, state and public figure. Professor Alexidze served as the responsible staff of Human Rights Department in New York and Geneva, UN Secretariat (1970-1977), Representative of Georgia at the UN Commission on Human Rights, Member of the Georgian delegation to the UN-led Geneva talks (aimed at resolving the conflict in Abkhazia, Georgia); Expert on Legal Affairs at the Rome Conference on the International Criminal Court (July 1998); Member of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance at the Council of Europe (1999 – 2012). He is the author of the first Georgian language textbook in International Law (1967), as well as more than 150 works published in Georgian, Russian, English, German, and Spanish languages, including his prominent work - “The Role and Place of Imperative Norms (Jus Cogens) in International Law” (1981).

The theoretical basis of Professor Alexidze's knowledge and attention to historical facts have laid ground for international condemnation of aggressive separatism ideology on the international arena.

Prof. Alexidze's writings, while indicating the factual circumstances, providing the comprehensive international legal analysis and qualification on the revealed

facts of the ethnic cleansing/genocide policy conducted in the territory of Abkhazia, Georgia, and asserting on the importance of bringing perpetrators to justice, become a bedrock for the OSCE and CIS Heads of States Summit final documents.. His scientific, legal and political assessments of the 2008 Russia's war on Georgia, including the comprehensive legal analysis and critique of the so-called "Tagliavini's Report", is invaluable.

Since 1970, Professor Aleksidze delivered lectures on the persisting problems of international law at famous scientific and educational institutions, including the Emory and Boston Universities (the United States); the Humboldt University (Germany); the Hague Academy of International Law; the State Universities of Kiev, Azerbaijan and Armenia; the Academy of Human Rights (Greece); and the State University of Latvia.

Professor Levan Aleksidze has left an indelible mark in the memory of many generations. International Law Institute is proud to continue his legacy.

Faculty of Law, Tbilisi State University

The Faculty of Law at Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University stands as the oldest and most distinguished institution of legal education in the Caucasus region. Its history began with the founding of the university in 1918, and while the institution initially opened with a single faculty of philosophy, legal education was present from the very first semester. The formal establishment of the Social-Economic Faculty in 1922, which included a legal section, marked a crucial milestone. In the 1930s, a separate law faculty was created, and in 1935–1936 it received its current name – the Faculty of Law. Over the following decades, the faculty expanded its academic departments and solidified its reputation as the primary center of legal scholarship in Georgia.

Since its establishment, the Faculty of Law at Tbilisi State University has served as a forge of jurists and has stood at the avant-garde of Georgian legal thought, actively participating in the country's socio-political life.

Today, the Faculty of Law serves as the undisputed leader in Georgian legal education, offering comprehensive programs across all three cycles of higher education. At the bachelor's level, students can pursue degrees in Law, International Law, or European Studies. The Law program has consistently been the most sought-after program in the country, with nearly two thousand first-choice applications in 2025 alone. The International Law program, administered by International Law Institute of the Faculty of Law, remains unique in Georgia and the broader region, as no other university has been able to offer a similar undergraduate specialization. At the master's level, the faculty offers six programs (Law, International Law, European Studies, Migration Management, English-language Public Administration, and the German-language “LL.M. zu Köln”) and doctoral programs are available in both Law and European Studies. The academic structure is student-oriented and based on the European Credit Transfer System.

The faculty boasts a distinguished academic staff of over one hundred specialists who studied at leading universities in Europe and the United States and whose scholarly works are actively published in foreign-language scientific publications. Many of them have served in international organizations and across all three branches of Georgian government – as members of parliament, government officials, judges of the common courts and the Constitutional Court and other public bodies, or as a judge of the European Court of Human Rights.

Internationalization represents one of the defining features of the faculty's contemporary identity. The English-language master's program in Public Administration, conducted in cooperation with German University of Administrative Sciences in Speyer, as well as the German-language “LL.M. zu Köln” program, conducted with the University of Cologne serve as the example of it. The faculty has also partnered with Harvard Law School to offer the CopyrightX certificate program since 2018 and maintains institutional ties with the Max Planck Institute (Germany), the Free University of Barcelona (Spain), Pomeranian University in Slupsk (Poland) and numerous other universities across Europe and beyond. Student mobility is facilitated through Erasmus+ programs and bilateral exchange competitions. The faculty's research activity is remarkably productive, with nearly eight hundred publications produced over the last decade, including monographs, textbooks, and scientific articles. A substantial portion of the legal textbooks used across Georgia are authored by TSU faculty members. The faculty publishes numerous bilingual scientific periodicals, including the Journal of Law, the Journal of International Law, the Journal of Public Law, the Alternative Dispute Resolution Yearbook, and other specialized journals in criminal, private, and comparative law. The faculty also oversees the ongoing commentary on the Georgian Civil Code, a major project involving over thirty legal scholars. In recent years, the faculty has hosted over one hundred academic events.

The research activities of the faculty are supported by scientific-research institutes, including institutes specializing in international law, criminology, criminal law, corporate law, notary law, private law, and the history of law. Approximately one hundred grant projects have received funding over the past decade from various organizations, including the the Max Planck Institute, GIZ, DAAD, the Volkswagen Foundation, the Humboldt Foundation, the European Union, USAID and Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation.

Since 2022, the faculty has also operated a successful internship program providing practical experience to approximately fifty students each semester. During the internship they become acquainted with faculty life and administrative processes, ultimately gaining opportunities for employment within the faculty's structural units upon successful completion.

The faculty's commitment to academic excellence is vividly demonstrated by the remarkable achievements of its students in international moot court competitions. In the 2024-2025 academic year, students secured first place at the All-European International Humanitarian and Refugee Law Moot Court Competition and won the Hugo Zinsheimer Moot Court competition in Bratislava. Previous years saw similarly impressive results, including multiple top placements in the Philip C. Jessup competition and the Telders International Law Moot Court.

Through these initiatives, combined with its century-old traditions and unwavering commitment to European integration, the Faculty of Law at Tbilisi State University continues to prepare critically thinking, ethically grounded, and professionally excellent lawyers who contribute meaningfully to the development of a just and democratic society.

International Law Institute (ILI)

Faculty of Law, Tbilisi State University

International Law Institute (ILI) is a structural scientific-research unit operating within the Faculty of Law, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (TSU).

Established in 1918 as the first European-style University in Georgia and the whole South Caucasus, TSU has been creating local intellectual workforce and paving way for human development.

Nowadays TSU is the biggest university in Georgia with more than 22,000 students and over 215 accredited academic programs on all levels of tertiary education, providing excellent ground for interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary and cross-disciplinary teaching, learning and research, international academic and scientific collaboration, currently implementing more than 150 international projects.

The Faculty of Law is one of the largest units within the premises of the TSU with overall enrollment of approximately 3900 students at BA, MA, and PhD levels. Under the umbrella of the Law Faculty, ILI offers special programs in International Law awarding qualifications of “Bachelor of International Law” and “Master of International Law”.

As the first and leading Institution for teaching International Law in the region, ILI has served as the model for promotion of human rights, equality, multiculturalism and diversity thought numerous educational/research activities.

ILI provides study and research of various areas of public international law (PIL), including humanitarian law, International and European law of human rights with particular focus on minority rights protection, national and international anti-discrimination mechanisms; international criminal law; refugee and migration law; law of the sea; environmental law; air and space law; cyber security law, etc.

ILI has successful record of organizing different extracurricular and advocacy activities of national, regional and international coverage. It successfully cooperates with state and non-state institutions, international organizations operating in Georgia as well as a number of foreign higher educational institutions.

With the support of the TEMPUS Programme, in 2011, Migration Centre was established within ILI. Since 2020, ILI is the Jean Monnet chair-holder raising awareness on the benefits of EU Associate Membership, with particular focus on human dimension of EU - Georgia cooperation.

COST Action CA23103 – Life, liberty and health: ensuring universal protection of human rights at sea (BlueRights)

COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) is a European funding organisation that supports research and innovation networks. COST Actions bring together researchers, practitioners and other stakeholders from different countries and disciplines, creating opportunities for collaboration, knowledge exchange, capacity building and the development of research and policy-relevant outcomes.

Life, Liberty and Health: Ensuring Universal Protection of Human Rights at Sea
COST Action CA23103 - BlueRights is a four-year international and multidisciplinary network, bringing together more than 200 experts from Europe and beyond, including academics, legal practitioners, public authorities, international organisations, NGOs and maritime-sector stakeholders.

BlueRights places people at sea at the centre of its work. Its objective is to ensure that all people at sea — including seafarers, fishers, migrants, passengers, tourists, maritime workers and others — can effectively enjoy and exercise their fundamental rights, regardless of who they are or where they come from.

The Action is led by Prof. Anna Petrig, Chair of BlueRights and Professor of International and Public Law at the University of Basel, and Prof. Irini Papanicopolulu, Vice-Chair and British Academy Global Professor of International Law at SOAS University of London.

Three Working Groups

BlueRights organises its work around three interconnected Working Groups, providing a platform for interdisciplinary collaboration, research, training and the development of practical and policy-relevant solutions.

WG1 – Protection of Life at Sea

Focuses on protecting people whose lives are at risk at sea, including through search and rescue, the use of force and risks arising from working conditions. The Group examines existing legal frameworks, gaps in protection and ways to strengthen their effective and universal application.

WG2 – Protection of Liberty at Sea

Addresses threats to freedom and personal liberty, including detention and confinement, forced labour, trafficking, modern slavery, migration-control measures and the abandonment of seafarers. It also examines accountability, State and private-actor responsibilities, and access to effective remedies.

WG3 – Protection of Health at Sea

Explores the protection of physical and mental health and well-being in maritime environments. Its work encompasses living and working conditions, maritime labour, mental health, harassment and discrimination, as well as health protection in situations of crisis and conflict.

Through these three areas, BlueRights seeks to bridge the gap between human rights law, the law of the sea and maritime practice — helping to ensure that fundamental rights are protected for everyone at sea.

Batumi State Maritime Academy

Batumi State Maritime Academy (BSMA) is an internationally recognised and accredited higher-education maritime institution in Batumi, Georgia, with a maritime education and training tradition spanning more than seven decades. The Academy's roots date back to the 1920s, when maritime courses were established at the Port of Batumi. In 1929, these courses formed the basis for the Batumi Maritime Technical School, which was subsequently transformed into the Batumi Maritime College in 1944. Over the following decades, the institution became an important centre for the education and training of generations of Georgian seafarers.

Building on this longstanding maritime heritage, the institution was reorganised as the Batumi State Maritime Academy in the 1990s. Today, BSMA combines its rich maritime traditions with contemporary higher education, professional training and international maritime standards. The Academy offers Bachelor's and Master's programmes as well as vocational education in key areas of the maritime sector, including navigation, marine engineering, ship electromechanics, maritime transport. Its educational programmes are developed in accordance with the requirements of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW) and relevant IMO model courses.

A central component of BSMA's mission is its commitment to professional maritime training and lifelong learning. The Academy's Seafarers' Training and Certification Centre provides professional training and refresher courses for seafarers across different ranks and areas of maritime service. Established as a high-standard, internationally oriented training facility, the Centre is equipped with modern simulation and practical training technologies, including a full-mission bridge simulator, ECDIS/ARPA simulators, an engine-room simulator, liquid cargo handling simulator, GMDSS equipment, firefighting facilities, life-saving appliances, medical training equipment and dynamic positioning training facilities. These resources enable seafarers to develop and maintain the practical competencies required for safe and effective operations at sea.

The Academy's training infrastructure is complemented by its Poti Branch – Poti Maritime Teaching and Training Centre, located in one of Georgia's principal maritime and port cities. The Poti Branch provides higher and vocational education, as well as short-term and professional training programmes. Its maritime training activities are likewise aligned with international and national maritime requirements, strengthening BSMA's

capacity to provide accessible, practice-oriented education and training along Georgia's Black Sea coast.

BSMA places strong emphasis on quality assurance, international cooperation and the continuous professional development of maritime personnel. Its quality-management systems have received international certification, while its programmes and training activities are connected to international maritime standards and professional networks. The Academy is also a member of the International Association of Maritime Universities (IAMU) and maintains cooperation with maritime and higher-education institutions in Georgia and abroad.

Located on Georgia's Black Sea coast and closely connected to the country's maritime infrastructure, BSMA plays a significant role in preparing qualified seafarers and maritime professionals for the national and international maritime industry.

With its combination of maritime heritage, specialised education and training, practical experience, international cooperation, and commitment to the professional development of seafarers, Batumi State Maritime Academy continues to play a central role in shaping the future of Georgia's maritime workforce and strengthening the country's position within the international maritime community.

Jean Monnet Center of Excellence: Democracy Resilience in Georgia

The first time in its history, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (TSU) has been awarded the prestigious status of the EU leading center, Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, within the framework For of the ERASMUS + program, which represents the highest level of Jean Monnet activities.

The Center serves as a significant interdisciplinary hub, both within and beyond the University.

The main objective of the Center of Excellence, 'Democracy Resilience in Georgia' (CoE DRG), is to facilitate the development of sustainable democracy within Georgia. In pursuit of this objective, the Center is oriented to enabling EU AA correspondent environment across four blocks of concentration: 1) equality and human rights, 2) information resilience, 3) societal security and 4) environmental security.

Project employ academic excellence to work through teaching and lifelong learning (T&LLL), research and development (R&D) and policy change and implementation (PC&I) thereby creating 'insulation pillow' against vulnerability to misinformation at all levels

The Center is focused on raising awareness among target groups (youth, academia, civil society), especially in areas where the risk of disinformation is most pervasive (e.g. equality, European integration) or there is a gap in primary information concerning pivotal project issues (e.g. migration policy, environment and climate change). The activities will address the specific needs of vulnerable groups (ethnic/religious minorities residing in Georgia, people with disabilities, young people living in mountainous regions).



Joint conference

"60th Anniversary of the UN Covenants: Bridging Rights Gaps for Vulnerable People."

**Fourth annual International Conference in memoriam of 100th anniversary of honorable
Academician Professor Levan Alexidze,
in cooperation with COST (CA23103 - Life, liberty and health: ensuring universal
protection of human rights at sea (BlueRights))**

*24 - 25 September, 2026
Tbilisi, Georgia*

PROGRAMME

Day I, 24 September, Thursday

11:30-12:00

Registration

12:00-13:00

Opening Ceremony

Location

Ivane Javakhishvili
Tbilisi State University
Main Hall (2nd floor)/
1st Building

- Vice Rector of Tbilisi State University
- Dr. Moris Shalikashvili, Dean, Faculty of Law, TSU
- Ms. Isabella Castrogiovanni, UNICEF Representative in Georgia
- Prof. Dr. Anna Petrig, LL.M. (Harvard), Chair of COST Action (BlueRights), Chair of International Law and Public Law of University of Basel - online
- Ms. Khatuna Totladze, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia
- Dr. Zviad Gabisonia, Deputy Minister of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia (TBC)
- Tamar Ioseliani, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Economy and sustainable Development of Georgia (TBC)
- Prof. Dr. Irine Kurdadze, Director, International Law Institute, Faculty of Law, TSU



13.00 – 14.30

Plenary Session I

Advancing the Right to Health at Sea: Legal Frameworks, Governance and Blue Rights

Location

Ivane Javakhishvili
Tbilisi State University
Main Hall (2nd floor)/
1st Building

Chair/Moderator: Dr. Eka Siradze, Associated Prof. TSU
Keynote Speaker:

1. **Prof. Dr. Irini Papanicolopulu**, COST Action (BlueRights) Vice Chair, British Academy Global Professor of International Law, Chair, ILA Committee on Protection of People at Sea: *Human Rights at Sea: Bridging the Maritime and Human Rights Domains*

Speakers:

2. **Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja**, Chief of Administration at IMLI: *Fisherfolks' Rights at Sea: The Contribution of the Work in Fishing Convention to the Protection of Health and Human Rights*

3. **Ms. Patricia Kennedy**, B.Soc. Sc. M. Soc. Sc. PhD Social Policy, Lecturer in Social Policy School of Applied Social Studies, University College Cork, Republic of Ireland: *Health policy and seafarers: is Universal Health Care (UHC) an achievable goal?*

4. **Dr. Khatuna Burkadze**, Professor, BTU, Georgia: *Implementing International Human Rights Covenants in an Era of Digital Transformation: Reinterpreting the ICCPR and ICESCR in the Context of Digital Governance and Data-Driven Societies*

14:00-15:00 Coffe break



15.00 – 17.30

Plenary Session II: Universal Human Rights Protection in Practice: Implementing the International Covenants in a Changing World

Chair/Moderator: Prof. Dr. Irine Kurdadze, TSU, Director of International Law Institute, Jean Monnet Chair holder

Keynote Speaker: Prof. Konstantin Korkelia, TSU, Member of UN Human Rights Committee: Human Rights in Survival Mode: Reforming the UN Treaty Body System

Speakers:

1. **Dr. Beqa Dzamashvili**, First Deputy Minister, Ministry of Justice: *From Universal Standards to Regional Protection: The Interplay between the UN Covenants and the European Convention on Human Rights*
2. **Dr. Tamar Gvaramadze**, First Deputy, Public Defender of Georgia: *From International Commitments to National Action: The Role and Practice of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs)*
3. **Dr. Niko Tatulashvili**, Advisor to the Prime Minister on Human Rights: *Implementation of UN Covenants at the National Level – Georgia's case*
4. **Dr. Tamar Zarandia and Dr. Nana Mchedlidze**, TSU: *Emissions in Private Law Neighbour Disputes and Environmental Issues in the Case Law of the European Court of Human Rights: A Comparative Overview*
5. **Dr. Nino Rukhadze**, Assistant Prof. TSU: *Cities and UN Human Rights Treaty Bodies*
6. **Dr. Natia Kalandarishvili-Mueller**, Professor of International Law, Alte University, Georgia: *Article 47 GC IV 1949 and application of international human rights law obligations: The Role of Agreements between the authorities of the Occupied Territory and the Occupying Power*

19:00 Dinner

Day II, 25 September, Friday

09:00-09:30

Registration

09:30-11:30

Plenary Session III: Mental Health Vulnerabilities in the Maritime Environment

Chair/Moderator: Prof. Dr. Irini Papanicopolulu

Location

Conference Hall,
Room N107 (1st floor)
1st Building, TSU

Keynote Speaker: Associated Prof. Dr. Nihan

Sensbursa, Fasta Marine Sciences Faculty, Ordu University, Turkiye: *Seafarers' Psychological Well-Being on Board: Challenges, Coping Strategies and Solutions*

Speakers:

2. **Associated Prof. Eka Siradze**, TSU: *Seafarers' Labour Rights and Mental Health: Assessing Georgia's Implementation of International Standards*

3. **Ms. Khatia Tchkonია**, Director of Maritime Hospital in Batumi, Georgia: *Delivering the Right to Health at Sea: Telemedicine as the Missing Link. A Georgian Perspective*

4. **Prof. Givi Tsitskishvili**, Master mariner, Personal Aide to the Rector in Academic Issues, BSMA, Georgia: *Human Element at Sea: Mental Health and Well-being challenges*

5. **Dr. Nino Begalishvili**, TSU: *The Right to Mental Health at Sea: Rethinking the Maritime Legal Framework for Seafarers' Psychological Safety*

11:30-12:00

Coffee break



12:00– 14:30

Plenary Session IV: Advancing Universal Human Rights Protection: Responding to New Vulnerabilities and Emerging Risks

Chair/Moderator: Prof. Dr. David Pataraia, TSU

Keynote Speaker: Associated Prof. Benedikt Harzl, University of Graz, Austria: *International Law and National Minority Protection: Selected Cases from Austria*

Speakers:

- **Dr. Katarzyna Zombory**, Research Director, Central European University of the University of Miskolc, Hungary and **Ms. Erzsébet-Zsófia Szabó**, PhD student, Deák Ferenc Doctoral School of the Faculty of Law of the University of Miskolc, Junior Researcher at the Central European Academy of the University of Miskolc, Hungary: *Artificial Intelligence and the Right to Equal Education Amidst Emerging Vulnerabilities and Inequalities*
- **Prof. Dr. Irine Kurdadze**, Director of ILI, TSU: *From the 1966 UN Covenants to the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights: Evolving Non-Discrimination Protections for Vulnerable Groups*
- **Dr. Guram Ghvinjilia**, Associated Prof. Caucasus International University, Georgia: *The Evolving Approach of the European Court of Human Rights to the Right to Education of Persons with Disabilities*
- **Dr. Mariam Kevlishvili**, Assistant Prof. TSU: *Contemporary Challenges of Irregular migrants behind closed doors*
- **Ms. Nino Tsagareishvili**, personal data protection specialist and researcher, PhD Student, TSU: *Modern Interpretation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in the Context of Automated Processing of Personal Data and Emerging Privacy Risks*
- **PhD Tamara Aleksidze**, TSU: *Vulnerable Franchises: Modern Challenges to Out-of-Country Voting at the Intersection of Constitutional and International Law*

14:30–15:00 Coffee break

15:00–15:30 Closing Remarks

Plenary sessions

Advancing the Right to Health at Sea: Legal Frameworks, Governance and Blue Rights

Dr. Eka Siradze



Dr. Eka Siradze is an Associated Professor of the Faculty of Law of the Iv. Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (TSU).

She has more than 20 years of experience in practicing, teaching and researching activities in international public law and international maritime law.

Dr. Siradze is visiting lecturer at IMLI, Malta; Levan Mikeladze Diplomatic Training and Research Institute of MFA of Georgia. Her academic activities started back in 2000 when she first joined TSU as the visiting lecturer.

After graduation of TSU Law Faculty, she joined MFA of Georgia, and during 1993-2000 was one of the key staff members of the International Law Department. Eka actively participated in the process of concluding bilateral and a number of multilateral agreements of Georgia during that period.

In 2000-2010 she was head of the legal department of the largest Georgian shipping company OSCO.

As a Maritime Law and Consular Crisis Management expert, since 2011 Dr. Siradze has been participating in various projects implemented by the EU, EMSA, IMO and ICMPD in Georgia and abroad. She provided expert-consulting services to the Maritime Transport Agency of Georgia, as well as Maritime Administrations of Thailand, Saudi Arabia, Libya, Moldova and Ukraine.

In 2024 Dr. Siradze was elected as a member of the Management Committee (MC) of the COST Action "liberty and health: ensuring universal protection of human rights at sea".

From July 2026, Dr. Siradze is member of ILA Headquarters bench.

Dr. Siradze actively participates in local and international conferences and seasonal schools. She is the author of numerous publications in the various fields of Public International Law, mostly in law of the Sea.

In 2021 Dr. Siradze has been awarded the Medal of Honor by the President of Georgia for exceptional contribution to the development of the maritime field and maritime education.

Dr. Irini Papanicopolulu



Irini Papanicopolulu is British Academy Global Professor of International Law at SOAS University of London, where she conducts research and teaches in international law and its different branches. She holds a PhD in international law from the University of Milano, and has previously worked at the University of Oxford, the University of Glasgow, and the University of Milano-Bicocca. Irini is a Visiting

She is the author of two monographs, including [International Law and the Protection of People at Sea](#) (OUP 2018), has authored numerous articles and book chapters and has edited several collective volumes, including the award-winning [Gender and the Law of the Sea](#) (Brill 2019) and the upcoming [Oxford Handbook of Human Rights at Sea](#) (OUP 2026). She is the Chair of the ILA Committee on Protection of People at Sea, Vice-Chair of COST Action Blue Rights and a member of the Coordinating Committee of the Interest Group on the Law of the Sea of the European Society of International Law. Irini has advised states, international organisations, civil society organisations and business actors on issues of international law, the law of the sea, human rights law and environmental law.

Professor at Catolica University (Lisbon, Portugal) and St. Gallen University (Switzerland).

Her work spans different fields of public international law with a particular focus on law of the sea and oceans governance. Prof. Papanicolopulu has advised the Italian Ministry of foreign Affairs, other state entities and governmental and non-governmental organisations on issues of international law, law of the sea and the regulation of maritime activities. She currently acts as Convenor for the Law of the Sea interest group of the Italian Society of International Law (Società Italiana di Diritto Internazionale).

Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja



Elda Kazara-Belja is currently the Chief of Administration at the IMO International Maritime Law Institute. She joined the Institute in 2008 and was a permanent member of the faculty until June 2026. She has lectured in many areas of international maritime law, including private shipping contracts, law of maritime safety, and law of the sea.

She has participated in international conferences and workshops where she has delivered presentations on issues of the law of the sea, shipping law, marine environmental law, and migration at sea. Ms Kazara-Belja joined the IMO's Roster of Experts in 2012 and the FAO's Roster of Experts in 2018. She is a contributor and co-editor of the Second Volume of The IMLI Manual in International Maritime Law and author of chapters in books and articles. Prior to joining the Institute, she worked as Senior Legal Officer at the Maritime Department under the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure of Albania.

Dr. Patricia Kennedy



Patricia Kennedy is currently a Lecturer in Social Policy in the School of Applied Social Studies at University College Cork (UCC). She was previously an Associate Professor at University College Dublin and the University of Wollongong, NSW.

She has published ten books on Social Policy-related topics. Her areas of interest include conceptual, theoretical, and methodological approaches to social policy, equality, and diversity. Her research has focused on comparative social policy, health policy, gender, equality, sexual and reproductive health rights,

maternity policy and services, criminal justice, migration, gender-based violence, and the rights of refugees, asylum seekers, undocumented migrants, Irish Travellers, and Roma.

Kennedy is the Principal Investigator on Seafarers Support, an Irish Research Council-funded project developing a collaborative response to meeting the health and wellbeing needs of seafarers, in collaboration with the Seafarers Christian Friend Society based in Cork.

She was the Senior Researcher on The Independent Familicide and Domestic Homicide Review (August 2020–April 2021) and Co-PI on a Feasibility Study into a Dedicated Support Programme for Traveller Women in the Criminal Justice System (2018–2020). She was also the Principal Investigator on Roma in Ireland: A National Needs Assessment (2018), a participatory research project involving 18 peer researchers.

Kennedy is a member of the Management Committee of CA23103 – Life, liberty and health: ensuring universal protection of human rights at sea (BlueRights).

Plenary sessions

Universal Human Rights Protection in Practice: Implementing the International Covenants in a Changing World

Dr. Irine Kurdadze



Prof. Dr. Irine Kurdadze is the Director of the International Law Institute, Head of International Law Bachelor and Master Programs and Professor of International Law at Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (TSU). Working at TSU since 1996, she previously served on the university's Academic Council from 2017 to 2021.

Her academic leadership includes directing the Jean Monnet Chair on "Understanding EU Policy for Equality" (2020–2023) and coordinating the Jean Monnet Center of Excellence (2024–present). In addition to her roles at TSU, she serves as a member of the Scientific Board at TSU's Child Rights Centre, a member of the editorial board for TSU's Journal of International Law, and a advisory editor for Springer's book series The EU and Its Neighbours in a Globalised World. She served as a visiting lecturer at different Universities under ERASMUS + mobility program.

Prof. Kurdadze's career bridges academia with public service. She was a Member of the Parliament of Georgia (2004–2008), a substitute member of Georgia's delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (2004–2008), Head of the Analytical Department in the Administration of the President of Georgia (2008–2009), and Deputy Minister of Education and Science of Georgia (2009–2012).

Her expertise in educational policy and legal reform has led to extensive consultancy work, serving at various times as a higher education expert for the National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement and as a national expert for prominent international organizations, including GIZ, UNDP, and the Open Society Georgia Foundation.

As a prolific legal scholar, Prof. Kurdadze focuses her research on international public law, EU law, and minority rights protection. Her scholarly works include articles in high-impact journals such as the *International Journal on Minority and Group Rights* (Brill), as well as chapters in peer-reviewed volumes published by Routledge, Springer, and the Central European Academy. She holds a PhD in Law from TSU.

Dr. Konstantin Korkelia



Dr. Konstantin Korkelia is a Professor of International Human Rights Law at Tbilisi State University in Georgia. He earned his master's degree (cum laude) from Leiden University in the Netherlands and his doctoral degree from Tbilisi State University.

His core academic interests encompass international human rights law, European human rights law, international treaty law, and public international law.

In 2020, he was honored with the Academic Excellence in Human Rights Award on behalf of Georgian universities. His recent publications include *Protection of the Right to Life: European Convention on Human Rights and Georgia*.

Alongside his academic career, Dr. Korkelia has held several high-level diplomatic and public offices. He has served as the Ambassador of Georgia to Latvia, Permanent Representative of Georgia to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, Vice-Minister of Justice, and Government Representative to the European Court of Human Rights. He currently serves on the UN Human Rights Committee for the 2025–2028 term.

Dr. Beka Dzamashvili



Beka Dzamashvili is the First Deputy Minister of Justice of Georgia. In this capacity, among other responsibilities, he represents and protects the interests of the Georgian State before international courts, arbitral tribunals, and international human rights mechanisms, including the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the International Criminal Court (ICC), and UN treaty bodies.

Mr. Dzamashvili has extensive experience in public international law, international human rights law, and international litigation. Since 2016, he has played a leading role in representing Georgia in proceedings before international judicial and quasi-judicial bodies. Among other high-profile proceedings, he served as a Government Agent in the inter-State cases brought by Georgia against the Russian Federation concerning the 2008 Russia–Georgia war. These proceedings resulted in landmark findings in Georgia’s favour and have been described as a historic legal victory for Georgia in establishing Russia’s international responsibility for violations of international law and human rights.

Prior to becoming Deputy Minister of Justice, Mr. Dzamashvili headed the Public International Law Department and the Department of State Representation before International Courts at the Ministry of Justice. He also served as a member of the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH) of the Council of Europe and acted as Georgia’s contact point for several international and European institutions, including the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), the Council of Europe Gender Equality Commission (GEC), the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), and the European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (Eurojust).

Mr. Dzamashvili holds an LL.M. from Queen Mary University of London and a PhD from Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. He is a Professor at Georgian-American University and the author of two law textbooks and more than 20 academic publications. He has been awarded the Order of Honor for his contribution to the successful defence of Georgia’s interests before international courts.

Dr. Tamar Gvaramadze



Dr Tamar Gvaramadze has served as the First Deputy Public Defender of Georgia since January 2018. With over 17 years of experience in human rights advocacy, she is the Head of the Public Defender's Office, encompassing more than 20 thematic areas and is part of the strategic leadership of the institution.

She played a key role in strengthening the institution's influence on civil, political, cultural, social and economic rights and served as Acting Public Defender (Ombudsperson) during a transitional period (Dec 2022 – Mar 2023).

Tamar leads the institution's international work representing the organization in international forums and NHRI/Ombudsman networks. Recently, she has been elected as the Governing Board member of the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI) and The Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) (2025-2028). Since 2025, she has also served as Second Vice-President of the Association of Mediterranean Ombudsmen (AOM), representing the Public Defender of Georgia. She previously served as a member of the AOM Governing Board (2022-2025).

Tamar previously held leadership roles at the Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (GYLA), serving as Executive Director and Program Manager. As a human rights lawyer, she directly impacted hundreds of vulnerable individuals and successfully advocated for relevant legislative reforms. She also held key management positions in government, leading human resources at the Ministry of Education of Georgia and as the Head of the Law Academy at the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia.

Beyond public service, Tamar is a Doctor of Law and Associate Professor at Tbilisi State University, specializing in administrative, tax and human rights law. She has authored numerous studies for international organizations, including the Council of Europe and GIZ. She is also a fellow of Marshall Memorial Fellowship (MMF) program (2022).

Dr. Niko Tatulashvili



Mr. Niko Tatulashvili currently serves as the Head of the Human Rights Department of the Administration of the Government of Georgia. He currently chairs the Inter-Agency Commission on the Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and Children's Rights, the Inter-Agency Coordination Committee on the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the Inter-Agency Commission on Equality between Women and Men, Violence against Women and Domestic Violence.

Mr. Tatulashvili has extensive professional experience in the fields of human rights, public administration, international relations, and policy. Prior to serving as Advisor to the Prime Minister on Human Rights, he served as Deputy Minister of Justice of Georgia and Head of Administration at the Ministry of Defence of Georgia. He previously held senior positions at the State Inspector's Office and the Office of the Public Defender of Georgia.

Mr. Tatulashvili holds a PhD in Law from the University of Essex, an LLM in International Human Rights Law from Lund University, an LLM in Comparative Constitutional Law from Central European University, and a Bachelor's degree in International Public Law from Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University.

He is a Full Professor at Caucasus International University and an Invited Lecturer at Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, where he teaches subjects: International Public Law and Human Rights.

Dr. Tamar Zarandia



Dr. Tamar Zarandia is an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Law of Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. From 2017 to 2025, she served two terms as Dean of the Faculty of Law. Throughout her academic career, she has held several significant positions at Tbilisi State University, including Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Law and Chair of the Dissertation Council.

Prior to joining Tbilisi State University, Dr. Zarandia served as Dean of the Faculty of Law at Sokhumi State University and later as Director of its Institute of Private Law. In 2007–2008, she worked as a Senior Advisor at the Constitutional Court of Georgia and also held various legal positions at the Supreme Court of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia.

From 2014 to 2025, Dr. Zarandia served as a member of the Authorization and Accreditation Councils of the National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement of Georgia. She actively contributed to the quality assurance and evaluation of higher education institutions and also served as Chair of the Authorization Council.

Dr. Zarandia has been awarded research fellowships by the Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law and has participated in research projects funded by the Volkswagen Foundation. She has also been awarded the Gold Medal of the Academy of the Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Kazakhstan. She has published over 70 academic articles and monographs across ten countries in multiple languages.

Currently, Dr. Zarandia serves as Chair of the Editorial Board of the Commentary on the Civil Code of Georgia and Head of the Judicial Private Law Research Centre at the Institute of Contemporary Private Law.

Main Fields of Research: General Civil Law, Property Law, Law of Obligations, Family Law, Inheritance Law, and Education Law.



Dr Nana Mchedlidze is a Lecturer at Tbilisi State University's Faculty of Law and a Professor at Alte University's School of Law. She holds LL.M. degrees in International Development Law and Human Rights from the University of Warwick, UK, and International and EU Law from Utrecht University, the Netherlands. Since 2009, she has taught European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) case-law and related subjects at Tbilisi State University.

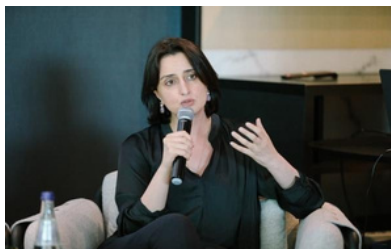
From 1998 to 2001, she worked at Georgia's Ministry of Justice, serving as Acting Government Agent before the ECtHR in 2001. She held various positions at Georgia's Constitutional Court from 2001 to 2007, heading its Legal Department from 2004 to 2007.

From 2008 to 2012, she worked for UNDP as a Legal Expert and Project Manager. From 2012 to 2016, with support from the US Department of Justice, Council of Europe and EU, she assisted Tbilisi City Court's Criminal Cases Section in applying ECtHR case-law. From 2017 to 2021, she was Senior Human Rights Expert in an EU project supporting Georgia's penitentiary and probation systems.

She collaborates with international organisations on research, curricula and professional training. She has trained legal professionals in Georgia and, as a Council of Europe expert, in Montenegro. As a trainer for Georgia's Justice Training Centre, she has trained penitentiary and probation officers across Europe through EPTA/EuroPris programmes. She has lectured at universities in Germany, Latvia and Türkiye.

Since 2020, she has been Strategic Litigation and Human Rights Expert at Rights Georgia. She also serves as an expert for the Georgian Bar Association's Training Centre and Georgia's National Centre for Educational Quality Enhancement. Main research fields: European human rights law and its domestic implementation.

Dr. Nino Rukhadze



Nino Rukhadze is an Assistant Professor at the Institute of Public International Law of the Tbilisi State University. Her research interests center on issues of general international law, problems of state immunity and human rights protection, international trade law, including the role of human rights in the system of WTO.

In her capacity as a member of the Tbilisi City Assembly, Nino Rukhadze was a delegate of the National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia (NALAG) to several international organizations, representing local authorities on European and global levels.

Through her engagement with European and international municipal platforms, she has become particularly interested in exploring issues, related to increasing role of cities in European and global agendas and how does this development shape the stance of municipalities under international law.

Nino Rukhadze holds LL.M degree from the University of Michigan Law School. She is a recipient of the prestigious Hugo Grotius Scholarship, awarded by the Michigan Law. She gained her Ph.D degree from the Tbilisi State University in 2013. Her doctoral research studied the problem of interrelation of principle of state immunity from civil jurisdiction and human rights, exploring the practice of international and national courts on the issue.

Dr. Khatuna Burkadze



Dr. Khatuna Burkadze earned her degree from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. She has been a Fulbright scholar at the MIT Center for International Studies and has served as a visiting professor at Columbia University, Bard College, and The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. Dr. Khatuna Burkadze completed programs in negotiations and security studies at Harvard University and the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies. She is an alumna of the U.S. Department of State's Program on American Foreign Policy.

Dr. Khatuna Burkadze has published articles in The Fletcher Forum of World Affairs, and her work has been cited in the Harvard National Security Journal. Between 2017 and 2018, she served on the organizing committee for the 2018 European Conference at Harvard.

Professor Khatuna Burkadze has professional experience across the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government. She has held positions in the Parliament, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Office of the Prime Minister, and the Supreme Court of Georgia. Professor Burkadze has also led projects in collaboration with representatives of the Diplomatic Corps to raise public awareness among Georgian citizens about the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the European Union.

Dr. Khatuna Burkadze received an award from the Ministry of Education, Science, and Youth of Georgia and the Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation for her contributions to science. In 2024, she was named "Scientist of the Year" for her work in innovation and digital transformation studies. Dr. Khatuna Burkadze is the first Georgian female scientist to receive a "Partnership for Peace" fellowship to explore AI.

Professor Burkadze teaches courses in Public International Law, American Foreign Policy, New Security Challenges, the Use of Force in International Law, EU Law, Cyber Law, Digital Governance, and Artificial Intelligence in Public Administration.



Natia Kalandarishvili-Mueller is a Professor of International Law at Alte University, Tbilisi, Georgia, and an Invited Lecturer and Course Leader in International Humanitarian Law at the International Law Institute (ILI), Faculty of Law, Tbilisi State University, Georgia. She is the author of *Occupation and Control in International Humanitarian Law* (Routledge, 2021).

In 2023, Prof. Kalandarishvili-Mueller was a Visiting Research Fellow at the Center for International and Operational Law at the Swedish Defence University in Stockholm, under the EU Grant for Georgian Scholars scheme. During her fellowship, she researched the inter-application of international humanitarian law, international human rights law, and international criminal law in the context of sieges.

Since 2008, Prof. Kalandarishvili-Mueller has taught international humanitarian law at the International Law Institute (ILI) of Tbilisi State University at both BA and LLM levels, delivering lectures and seminars in Georgian and English. Prior to her full-time academic career, Natia worked as a Chief Legal Specialist in International Law at the Office of the State Ministry for Reintegration of Georgia (now the State Ministry for Reconciliation and Civic Equality), where she dealt with matters relating to international humanitarian law. In 2026, Prof. Kalandarishvili-Mueller's article "Classifying Cross-Border Non-International Armed Conflicts in International Humanitarian Law" was published in the *Israel Law Review* (Cambridge University Press). The article analyses the legal classification framework applicable to cross-border non-international armed conflicts (NIACs) through the lens of international humanitarian law and explores the potential of extraterritorial application of Additional Protocol II of 1977 (AP II), by analogy with international human rights law. The article contends that, when a state exercises effective control over persons in cross-border NIACs, its obligations under AP II may extend extraterritorially to its armed forces.

Natia holds a Law Degree from Tbilisi State University, an LLM in International Humanitarian Law from the Geneva Academy, and a PhD in Law from the University of Essex.

Plenary sessions

Mental Health Vulnerabilities in the Maritime Environment

Dr. Nihan Sensbursa



Dr. Nihan Sensbursa is an Associate Professor in the Department of Maritime Management at the Faculty of Marine Sciences, Ordu University, Turkey. She received her PhD in Maritime Business Management from the Polytechnical University of Catalunya (UPC), Spain, in 2014. Her academic career at Ordu University began in 2018, and she has since become a pivotal figure in the institution's maritime management programs.

Dr. Sensbursa's research focuses on critical areas within the maritime industry, including organizational behavior, industrial and seafarers' psychology, leadership, and management. She is particularly interested in employee well-being, organizational justice, psychological well-being and mental health of seafarers, and the impact of contemporary challenges such as digitalization and remote work on maritime businesses. Her scholarly contributions include numerous articles and book chapters on topics ranging from corporate social responsibility and employee satisfaction to gender inclusion and work-life balance in the maritime sector. Beyond her research, Dr. Sensbursa plays an active role in academic administration and teaching. She serves as the Vice Dean of her faculty and coordinates international exchange programs such as Erasmus and Mevlana, fostering global academic collaboration. She is also a dedicated educator, supervising numerous graduate theses on maritime and transportation topics. Her commitment to advancing maritime management education and her active research agenda make her a distinguished contributor to her field.

Ms. Khatia Tchkonია



Khatia Tchkonია is a healthcare executive and university lecturer with experience in maritime healthcare, medical tourism, and healthcare management. She currently serves as Director of Maritime Hospital in Batumi, Georgia.

Since 2019, she has been actively involved in coordinating healthcare services for both seafarers and international patients. Her work in maritime healthcare includes pre-employment medical examinations (PEME), coordination of medical care for seafarers, medical repatriation and escort, as well as remote medical assistance and telemedicine for seafarers at sea.

She is also actively involved in medical tourism and the coordination of healthcare services for international patients.

Alongside her healthcare management activities, Khatia is a university lecturer, teaching Legal Aspects of Healthcare and Medical Tourism.

She holds a Bachelor's degree in Law from Caucasus University and a Master's degree from the Faculty of Law at Charles University in Prague.

Her professional interests include maritime healthcare, telemedicine, seafarers' access to healthcare, PEME, medical tourism, and healthcare management.



Givi Tsitskishvili, PhD, Master Mariner, is a Professor at the Batumi State Maritime Academy (BSMA), Georgia, and serves as Personal Aide to the Rector on Academic Issues. He holds an active Ship Master's Certificate of Competency and has more than 25 years of seagoing experience, complemented by two decades of teaching and training future maritime professionals.

Throughout his seagoing career, including in senior officer positions, he has been responsible for the safety of life at sea and the security of vessel operations, as well as the health, welfare, and well-being of crew members. He has also served in various capacities at the Georgian Maritime Transport Agency (MTA), including as Head of the Seafarers Department and Head of the Flag State Department, contributing his practical maritime experience to regulatory administration and the professional development of seafarers.

His academic and professional interests include maritime safety, human factors, navigation, decarbonization, digitalization, and maritime education. His career, spanning seagoing practice, maritime administration, and academia, reflects a longstanding commitment to the human element in shipping and to the safety, professional development, and long-term well-being of those who work at sea.

Dr. Nino Begalishvili



Dr. Nino Begalishvili holds a PhD degree in Law from Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, where her research focused on The Role of State Immunity in the Recognition and Enforcement of International Arbitral Awards.

She also holds an LL.M. in International Financial Law from the University of Manchester (UK), as well as master's degree in Private Law and a bachelor's degree in Jurisprudence from Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University.

Dr. Begalishvili has published in international peer-reviewed scientific journals and has participated in a number of international academic and research programmes. Her academic experience includes serving as a Guest Researcher at Max Planck Institute Luxembourg for International, European and Regulatory Procedures, Luxembourg. She also participated in international academic programmes, including the International Summer School - Mediterranean Security: Old Conflicts and New Challenges, at the University of the Aegean, Rhodes, Greece, and the American Institute on Political and Economic Systems (AIPES) in Prague, Czech Republic.

With more than 15 years of professional experience across various areas of law, Dr. Begalishvili has combined legal practice with academic teaching and research. Since October 2020, she has been engaged in teaching International Investment Law at the International Law Institute, Faculty of Law, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. She has also completed numerous specialized training programmes in various fields of law in Georgia.

Plenary sessions

Advancing Universal Human Rights Protection: Responding to New Vulnerabilities and Emerging Risks

Dr. David Patariaia



Dr. David Patariaia is a professor at Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia and the head of the Migration Competence Center of the University. Professor Patariaia has been a practicing lawyer and held certain high-ranking positions in Georgia, inter alia, he served as a member of the State Council of Georgia, a commissioner in the Georgian National Communication Commission, the Parliamentary Secretary of the President of Georgia and the Head of the Administration of the President of Georgia.

Together with other professors and colleagues Ivane Javakhishvili State University, he is the co-author of the Dictionary of Modern International Law, the co-author and editor of the book International law: Selected Issues (2021), also co-editor of the Journal of International Law (which is published since 1996 mostly on a yearly basis). He is the author of many scientific articles and the following books:

- David Patariaia, State Succession in International Law and Georgia, Saar, 2002;
- David Patariaia, International Relations: Discipline and Theory, Tbilisi, Arete, 2015;
- David Patariaia, Rechtsnachfolge im volkerrecht, Dismembration der sowjetunion and Georgien, Jus Press, 2016;
- David Patariaia, Traditional Theoretical Approaches in International Relations, Jus Press, 2017;
- David Patariaia, International Law: Text, Cases and Materials, Routledge, 2021;
- David Patariaia, Public International Law, Book 1, TSU Press, 2023;
- David Patariaia, Public International Law, Book 2, TSU Press, 2025.



Benedikt C. Harzl is Deputy Director of the Centre for East European Law and Eurasian Studies (CEELES) within the Law School at the University of Graz and Associate Professor of International Law, Political Sciences and Comparative East European Law. He serves as General Editor of both the *Review of Central and East European Law* and the *Law in Eastern Europe* book series (Brill Nijhoff). His research focuses on the intersection of law and politics in the post-Soviet space, particularly in the context of international and European law.

Professor Harzl holds a law degree from the University of Graz and a Master's in East European Studies from the Free University of Berlin (2010). He has held scholarly positions at the Institute for European Studies in Minsk and the German Council on Foreign Relations in Berlin. From 2007 to 2012, he was a researcher at the European Academy in Bolzano/Bozen and later served as a university researcher at the Russian East European and Eurasian Studies Centre (2012–2016).

He completed his PhD in law at the University of Frankfurt, and his habilitation at the University of Graz. Professor Harzl was also a Marshall Plan Foundation Fellow at Johns Hopkins University in Washington, D.C. (2016–2017). Most recently, he was a guest professor at Rutgers University in Camden (2023) and held the distinguished 2024 Botstiber Professorship at the University of California, Berkeley. He has also provided consultancy to the European Commission and the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on matters related to his expertise.

He is the co-editor of *Unrecognized Entities: Perspectives in International, European, and Constitutional Law* (Brill Nijhoff, 2022) and *Diversity Management in Russia* (Routledge, 2013). He is the author of *Secessionist Entities and International Law* (Brill Nijhoff, 2025).

Dr. Katarzyna Zombory



Dr. Katarzyna Zombory serves as Director of Research at the Central European Academy of the University of Miskolc, Hungary, where she is responsible for the coordination of international academic cooperation and multidisciplinary legal research programmes. In addition to her role at the Academy, she is actively involved in the work of the Hungarian Accreditation Committee (MAB). Her main areas of research are public international law, with a particular focus on international human rights law and international cultural heritage law, as well as international higher education law.

She is also actively engaged in higher education, particularly doctoral education, where she mentors doctoral students.

She holds a PhD in public international law from Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin, Poland (2015), where she also completed her Master's degree in law. During her academic training, she undertook extensive international studies and fellowships, including at the Centre Européen Universitaire in Nancy, The Hague Academy of International Law, Leiden University, and Pázmány Péter Catholic University in Budapest.

In addition to her research activities, Dr. Katarzyna Zombory is the Chairwoman of the Human Rights Center of the Central European Association for Comparative Law and a member of several international scientific societies, including the International Law Association – Hungarian Branch. She serves on the advisory and editorial boards of peer-reviewed journals and academic book series, contributing to the development and dissemination of comparative and international legal scholarship in Central Europe and beyond.

Ms. Erzsébet-Zsófia Szabó



Erzsébet-Zsófia Szabó is a PhD student and Junior Researcher at the Central European Academy, as well as a PhD researcher at the Deák Ferenc Doctoral School of Law of the University of Miskolc. Her principal research interest lies in the potential human rights risks arising from the application of artificial intelligence, with particular emphasis on the protection and evolution of second-generation human rights in the AI era.

Her primary research explores how the increasing integration of artificial intelligence into social, institutional, and economic life may affect the effective enjoyment of fundamental rights. Particular attention is devoted to the implications of AI for social rights, the right to work, social security, and, increasingly, the right to education, examining how technological transformation may create new forms of inequality, exclusion, dependency, or barriers to the effective exercise of rights. Her work seeks to approach these developments from a human-rights and constitutional perspective, while maintaining a strong focus on the practical consequences of technological change for individuals and vulnerable groups.

Szabó has an active international academic profile and has presented her research at conferences, doctoral workshops, and scholarly forums across Europe, including in Stockholm, Strasbourg, Rome, Warsaw, Messina, and Budapest. Her presentations have addressed questions of AI governance, constitutional risk, digital sovereignty, automation and social rights, national sovereignty, criminal law, and Central and Eastern European legal development.

Alongside her principal research agenda, Szabó has explored a broader range of contemporary legal questions, including AI-assisted crime, online crime affecting children and marginalized youth, digital sovereignty, national sovereignty, constitutional risks, minority rights, and Central and Eastern European legal history.

Dr. Guram Gvinjilia



Guram Gvinjilia is an Associate Professor of Law at Caucasus International University, where he currently serves as Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Law and Head of the Bachelor's Degree Programme in Law. His academic work is situated primarily within the fields of international law, with a particular research focus on the international law of cyber operations and international human rights law.

His research examines emerging challenges confronting the international legal order in the digital age, with particular emphasis on the legal regulation of cyber operations, attribution of cyberattacks, evidentiary standards in international law, and the application of the prohibition of the use of force to cyberspace. His broader scholarly interests also encompass the protection of human rights in contemporary international law, including the rights of minorities, as well as the protection of personal data and cultural property in the context of cyber operations and international humanitarian law.

Guram Gvinjilia has authored and published scholarly works addressing these issues in national and international academic journals. His recent research includes “When Cyber Operations Target Personal Data: A New Challenge for IHL?”, forthcoming in the *International Journal of Social Sciences* (2026), and “Protection of Digital and Digitized Cultural Property under International Humanitarian Law” (2025). His previous scholarship has addressed the attribution of cyberattacks and the need for evolving evidentiary standards in international law, the relationship between cyberattacks and the prohibition of the use of force, and minority participation in political activities from the perspective of the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights.

In 2022, he published the monograph *Cyber Operations and the International Law of the Use of Force*, contributing to the scholarly debate on the application and development of international legal rules governing cyber operations and the use of force.

In addition to his research and teaching, Gvinjilia has editorial experience. He served as Editor of the International Law Journal for the 2019–2020 publication and subsequently as Executive Editor during the 2021–2022 publication. Both editions were published in 2026.

Dr. Mariam Kevlishvili



Dr. Mariam Kevlishvili is assistant-professor of International Law Institute at law faculty at Tbilisi State University since 2004. She has gained PhD degree in international law with migration issues. She was a researcher in Tempus projects: “Promoting Migration Studies in Higher Education/PROMIG” and “Migration and Higher Education Developing Skills and Capacity”.

She was also coordinator-curator of the project “Building training and analytical capacities on migration in Moldova and Georgia”, International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) and simultaneously was a researcher at the same organization. She is leading the courses for Bachelor and Master students: “International Public Law”, “Introduction to Migration Law” and “European Commission against Racism and Intolerance and Georgia”. She was speaker at international and national conferences, among them: “UN Based Global Approach to Migration and its Implication for Georgia’s Migration Policy”, ICMPD; “Migration Tendencies in Georgia”, ELSA Georgia; 61th International Study Congress AWR “Integration and Identity”, Webster University, Leiden, the Netherlands, etc. She is author of several publications among which are: “Citizenship policies in Georgia and the European Union”, Vienna- Tbilisi, September/October 2011, ICMPD; “The Role of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) in Forming International Negative Stance towards the Fact of Massive Deportation of Georgian Migrants from Russian Federation”, “Journal of International Law”, 2015 N2-2016 N1; “Legal Regulation of Migrants in the Perspective of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI)”, Tbilisi, 2022 (monography).

Dr. Mariam Kevlishvili is an assistant Professor at the International Law Institute of the Faculty of Law, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (TSU), where she has been teaching since 2004. She holds a PhD in International Law from TSU, specializing in the role of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) in protecting migrant status. Since 2016, she has also served as Assistant to the Director of the International Law Institute at TSU.

Her academic leadership includes serving as co-coordinator, expert, and researcher for the Jean Monnet Center of Excellence "Democracy Resilience in Georgia" (COE DRG) since 2024, and participating in the Jean Monnet Chair on "Understanding EU Policy for Equality" (2020–2023). Additionally, she was a researcher and project coordinator for international initiatives supported by Tempus and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), focusing on migration studies and capacity-building in Georgia and Moldova. Since 2020, she has been the founder and chair of the annual conference Contemporary Challenges of International Migration Processes in Europe.

Dr. Kevlishvili teaches courses on International Public Law, Introduction to Migration Law, and ECRI standards at TSU, and has served as a visiting lecturer internationally. She has been a speaker at numerous national and international conferences, including the U.S.–Europe Security Forum, organized by Wall St New York Magazine (wallstnewyorkmagazine.com), held at Rockefeller Center in the United States, as an expert on the return of migrants and security issues in post-war Europe, the presentation was subsequently published in Wall St New York Magazine; also "UN Based Global Approach to Migration and its Implication for Georgia's Migration Policy" (ICMPD), "Migration Tendencies in Georgia" (ELSA Georgia), and the 61st International Study Congress AWR on "Integration and Identity" at Webster University in Leiden, Netherlands.

Her research focuses on international migration law, refugee protection, non-discrimination, and disability rights. She is the author of numerous publications, including the monograph Legal Regulation of Migrants in the Perspective of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) (2022) and book chapters published by Routledge and the Central European Academy (Hungary).

Ms. Nini Tsagareishvili



Nino Tsagareishvili is a lawyer, personal data protection specialist and researcher with several years of professional experience in the field of personal data protection and privacy. Her professional background encompasses legal practice, research, policy development and engagement with data protection and privacy issues at both national and international levels.

She has gained substantial experience in the public sector, including several years of work at the data protection supervisory authority, where her responsibilities included legal and policy analysis, research, international cooperation and the development of strategic and professional documents in the field of personal data protection. Her work has involved the analysis of international standards and practices, the preparation of legal and analytical materials and participation in international working groups and professional forums. She has also contributed to the work of Global Privacy Assembly working groups and represented Georgia in international discussions on data protection and privacy.

Nino currently pursues her professional career in the private sector, where she works in the field of personal data protection and privacy. Alongside her professional work, she is a PhD student in Law at Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University.

Her academic and professional interests encompass personal data protection, the right to privacy, international law and the legal challenges associated with technological development. She is the author of several academic and professional publications addressing contemporary issues in personal data protection, privacy and related areas.

In addition to her professional and research activities, Nino regularly delivers training sessions on personal data protection and contributes to the professional development and qualification of Data Protection Officers (DPOs) in both the public and private sectors. She is also a visiting lecturer in International Public Law at Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University.

Ms. Tamara Aleksidze



Tamara Aleksidze is an international lawyer by training. She is part of the International Law Institute, Tbilisi State University, Faculty of Law, and teaches human rights and comparative constitutional law at TSU, and GIPA (Georgian Institute of Public Affairs). Tamara has over 15 years of academic and professional experience serving in different capacities across sectors.

For the last 10 years, she has worked on legal analysis and capacity building of Georgian legal professionals, including judges and members of the Georgian Bar Association, has trained people from different backgrounds in human rights and related sensitive issues (violence, religion, expression, discrimination etc.) Tamara has consulted the Council of Europe, UNDP, UNHCR, OSCE and other institutions on rule of law/human rights, capacity related issues.

As a freelance consultant, she provides expertise to individual organizations. She provides rule of law expertise to individual organisations. Since 2024 she also serves as the founder and director of ALEKSIDZE Centre - an educational, research and consultancy centre on rule of law, democratic citizenship and international human rights.

Ms. Aleksidze currently co-represents 10 applicants before the European Court of Human Rights in key electoral cases on principles of universality and secrecy of the vote (Art. 3 Prot. I ECtHR). She also consults human rights defenders and legal professionals on litigation and human rights monitoring mechanisms.

Notes

Notes

Notes

Notes

