



II International Scientific Online Conference

“Georgia and the World”

(Intercultural Relations)



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AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL – EUROPEAN SCHOOL
GEORGIA



Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University



COGNIA (International Educational Services, USA)



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Prof. Dr. Natia Phiphia (*Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Assistant Professor; European School, Teacher; Georgia*)

Time Limit:

Presentation at the section meeting- 15 min.

Participation in discussion – 5 minutes

Working Language – English



Abstracts

Plenary Session

ANA CHIKOVANI (*Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Associate Professor, Georgia*)

Travel to Georgia - Georgia with the eyes of the Modern Greek Writer - Dimitris Nollas

The present paper aims at contributing to the study of perceptions of Georgia, focusing on the prosaic works by Dimitris Nollas. Dimitri Nollas's works are distinguished by cosmopolitan character. Critics of contemporary Greek literature consider the unique peculiarities of his prose to be bringing forward the individual, personal on the foreground and the introduction of travel topics. The experience of multiple travels had influence of writer's vision for the world and thus a theme and image of the host and guest, local and immigrant plays crucial role in Nollas' literary works.

The Greek writer's relationship with the country of the Golden Fleece is long-standing. Dimitris Nollas visited Georgia for the first time in 1997. As he himself confesses: This place exerted a charm on him even before he knew it.

Close reading as well as interpreting and comparing literary sources is used as a foundation for the research. This paper – in which culture is considered both as text and context – is both literary and cultural study at the same time.

Analysis of Dimitris Nollas' works shows the ways of portrayal of places, people, art and human relationships in Georgia closely linked to a cultural identity approach. Special emphasis is placed in the narrative on the interchangeability, alteration of the pictures in the narrative.



I PARALLEL SESSION

Cultural exchanges (Literature)

SOPHIA GULIASHVILI (*PhD Student, Invited Lecturer, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia*)

Intercultural Relations of Georgia and Byzantine in the Light of the Early Medieval Hagiographical Literature

Supervisor: Prof. Acad. Elguja Khintibidze

Over the centuries, Georgia's close ties with neighboring countries had a great impact on the development of Georgian culture, in particular, literature. The vector of relations through which the Georgian world connected with the western world is special. Byzantine culture, which was in the vanguard of advanced thought, ideas and trends, became a role model and example for Georgians, and later on the object of rivalry.

Christianity is essentially a cosmopolitan religion. It can be said that the hagiographic literature is also cosmopolitan in nature. The Armenian Shushanik, the Persian Eustathy, and the Arab Habo are considered saints. That is why, in general, the promotion of national ideas and patriotic spirit and its open expression is not typical for hagiography. This is also the case in the samples of original hagiography of the 5th-7th centuries, despite the fact that in the same period, the religious was also understood as the national.

Completely different processes are developing in the Georgian religious writings of the 8th-12th centuries. Unlike the Byzantine hagiography, strong national-religious tendencies appear in it, which clearly contradicts the character of the genre. When the author of the 8th century, Ioane Sabanisdze, using the example of Arab Habo ("The Martyrdom of Habo Tbileli"), exposes Islam and justifies the superiority of the Christian religion, this is a regular event; But, when the same writer compares Georgians with monotheistic Greeks, preaches the idea of religious equality with them and shows a kind of rivalry, here it is already completely clear not only his general Christian, but also national spirit. Thus, one of the most important specific signs of Georgian original hagiography is its national character

The aim of the current paper is to present and illustrate the specific trends of early medieval Georgian hagiographical texts and to analyze the factors and reasons which could cause such tendencies.

NIKOLAZ KHADURI, ANDRIA LAITADZE (*X B class, American High School - European School, Georgia*)

Akaki Tsereteli's *Media* and *Medea* of Euripides

Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Ekaterine Kobakhidze

Countless oral narratives, books, plays, and movies, have been dedicated to her: Medea has enjoyed the status as one of the most famous characters from mythology, with many differing interpretations and versions of her character and her actions. This presentation will focus on "Media", the play, written by Akaki Tsereteli, which is the Georgian, modified interpretation of the story of Medea. The differences in the versions of Medea's tale do not only lie in the plot and the characters' names, but also in the way those characters think and behave; some may argue that Akaki's characters are versions of the contemporaries of the author, as their thinking differs from the standard, mythical thinking previously featured in other versions of "Medea". The story of Colchis, their headman, the Chalybes, Amiran, Media, and her aunt is told in the play. The author's belief that the Prometheus myth originated in Georgia and not in Greece is projected in the play through the Georgian narrative of Amiran, which plays the same role as Prometheus. The play "Media" by Akaki Tsereteli is intriguing due to the author's attempt to blend two tales: the Argonauts' and Amiran's/Prometheus' mythology. He demonstrated his conception of prehistoric Georgian-Greek relations as well as the social concerns of Georgia in the 19th century through these tales.

LIA SHARASHIDZE (*Undergraduate Student, EU Business School, Spain*)

Lost in the picture theory of Vazha-Pshavela's language

Supervisor: American High School - European School Teacher Tekla Beradze

Every genius is nourished by his native land. Geniuses are those who can be received by other nations like their native sons," Writes famous Georgian poet, Vazha-Pshavela in his iconic essay, "Cosmopolitanism and Patriotism." Little did he realize that he himself was the personification of all this: A genius, whose work accurately portrays the divinity of earthly energy that unites all life on earth, a child of mountainous region of Pshavi, who felt both the beauty of nature and the chaos humanity caused to it. Sadly, due to the fact that southern Caucasian literature is unknown to the mainstream audience, other nations barely had any chance to receive Vazha as their "native son", which is why I am here today, writing a short summary of his work and analyzing it through my translations, so please, hear both me and Vazha-Pshavela out, as we have a lot important things to say.

In the 1930's, a famous philosopher and the founding father of phenomenology, Edmund Husserl, developed various theories that involved Humanizing the Animal and Animalizing the Human. In that study he claimed that an animal's psyche is far more anthropomorphic than previously thought. Amazing, isn't it? Vazha realized the same thoughts, but used literature instead of scientific experiments. He made allusions to a proud eagle or an antagonistic spade with his poems and stories. His writing contains many interesting and deep characters, despite the fact that some of them aren't even homo sapiens.

EKATERINE KOBAKHIDZE (*Associate Professor, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, American High School – European School, Teacher, Georgia*)

Men from Phrotatos- Who are They?

The report attempts to determine the origin of the place and people mentioned in one passage from Georgian Medieval Chronicles “Life of Kartli”. The country "Phrotatos" and "people from Phrotatos" appear in the "Life of Georgian Sovereigns and Fathers and Relatives", written by Leonti Mroveli at the beginning of the 11th century. Many researchers tried to figure out the meaning of the word "Phrotatos", but, in my opinion, their explanations could not be correctly correlated with the context of writing. I believe that in this episode, connected with the fictional story of Alexander the Great's campaign against Kartli, the term "Phrotatos" (in Georgian: „ფროტათოს“) and "People of Phrotatos" (in Georgian: „ფროტათოსელები“) mean "Phtia" - the region of ancient Thessaly and “the inhabitants of this region”. Together with the analysis of the text and various explanations of the passage, I give several arguments clarifying not only my point of view, but also the reason for the error, most likely made by the copyist of the manuscript.

NATALI GVINIASHVILI (*X B, American High School – European School, Georgia*)

The Heroes of the Trojan war and their role in *The Life of Kartli*

Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Ekaterine Kobakhidze

It has been revealed time and time again how Georgian and Greek histories intertwine with one another. From cultural influences of Greek society on classical Georgia to the prevalence of Georgian civilization and figures in Greek mythology and classical texts, numerous discoveries have been made regarding the relationship between these two countries. But it's time to look past historical events to define the interconnections they share. Instead, it is integral that we also analyze literature. Most of the research on Greek-Georgian relations that utilizes literature is done using literature from classical Greece. In order to further develop our understanding of how these countries viewed one another, it is important to also research Georgian literature. In my own research, I've specifically analyzed the appearance of Greek heroes and mythological figures in the Kartlis Tskhovreba, also known as *The Life of Kartli*. These medieval Georgian chronicles, written from the 9th to the 14th century, showcase many references to classical Greek events and personages. By researching these texts, I've compiled many of these citations, including my interpretations as to why they were added and their importance, and can showcase a view of classical Greek society through the eyes of medieval Georgian writers.



II PARALLEL SESSION

Cultural exchanges (Art, Music)

GIORGI BARNABISHVILI (*Undergraduate Student, Bachelor program of History, Faculty of Humanities, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia*); **ILIA BLUASHVILI** (*Undergraduate Student, Bachelor program of Applied Geology, Faculty of Mining and Geology, Georgian Technical University, Georgia*)

For an interdisciplinary study of the Dionysus and Ariadne mosaic in the ancient city of Dzalisa

Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Irine Darchia

Another connecting chain and proof that Georgia was constantly involved in the intercultural relations that determined the world agenda. As we have mentioned, one of the manifestations of this is the ancient city of Dzalisa, where the greatest find of antiquity is preserved, specifically the mosaic of Dionysus and Ariadne. There are quite a lot of scientific works about the ancient city of Dzalisa, but it remains almost unknown to the non-scientific community. We hope that the presented research will have a certain role in getting to know this important historical monument in society.

It is our goal to consider the mosaics in the ancient city of Dzalisa from several perspectives, specifically - geological and humanitarian aspects. Which includes the archeological-historical study of the archaeological monument and the Dionysus and Ariadne mosaic, in addition, it will be important to study it from the point of view of art history, through which we will determine what technique was used to create it and whether it will have an analogue in worldwide. From a geological point of view, the mineralogical study of the material used in the mosaic will help us to determine the minerals used in the mentioned mosaic and its significance, according to we will be able to answer the question why this material was characteristic of the mosaics of the mentioned period.

ANNA DANELIA (*X A class- American High School – European School, Georgia*)

Dzalisa- A crossroad of the cultures

Supervisor: Assist. Prof. Natia Phiphia

Dzalisa (Dzalisi) is a historic village located near Mtskheta in Georgia. What makes this particular village interesting to people around the world are the archaeological findings. In the result of archaeological digs in 1971–1976, an ancient settlement was discovered; archaeologists found the remains of a palace and a temple, a pool, a bath with mosaic floor, canalization system (as long as 4 kilometers), parts of streets, squares paved with bricks, and glassware.

All of the possessions that were mentioned above are definitely a sign of a wealthy civilization (they were able to build a temple, a palace, a pool, a rich bath, and have a very long canalization system for that time).

The village is dated between II BC – VIII AC, which is also why it is such a historical breakthrough. But what was even more interesting was the illustrations on the mosaic that was found there, because Dionysus and Ariadne were depicted on it. Therefore, it left historians wondering if it was a Greek village or it was influenced by the Greeks.

The main question of my presentation is: “Who was the owner of this wealthy settlement?”. I will state different theories on it and show my personal conclusion.

GVANTSA GVINJILIA (*Associate Professor, Vano Sarajishvili Tbilisi State Conservatoire, Department of Music History, Georgia*)

Eka Chabashvili’s nano eco-cantata *Silkworm Butterfly’s Wisdom* — Back to Europe

The presentation concerns the multimedia work of the Georgian composer Eka Chabashvili — the nano eco-cantata *Silkworm Butterfly’s Wisdom*, which was written for the official launch event of the European Silk Road app and was performed on December 15, 2022, in Berlin at the gallery Chaussee 36. The map of the application shows the Silk Road passing through European countries and aims to introduce the artworks created by artists of different countries to the world. This application contains and will continue to contain works of art dedicated to peace, independence, generosity, nature, and beauty. The application was created as an alternative space for artistic dialogue between countries.

The concept of Eka Chabashvili's multimedia work is related to the issue of European integration of Georgia and aims to explain to foreign users of the application the historical role of Georgia as a state in the context of world civilization, also historical, political, and cultural necessity of Georgia's aspiration towards European integration.

The purpose of the article is to study the following issues related to this composition:

1. The motivation for writing the work
2. The idea of the metamorphosis of the main character - the traveling silkworm;
3. The socio-political subtext of the work;
4. Genre characteristics of Nano eco-cantata in the context of stylistic characteristics of other multimedia hybrid genres of Eka Chabashvili
5. Revealing parameters of eco music in the work;

Empirical and comparative research methods are used in the article. The paper represents the first attempt to research Eka Chabashvili's Nano Eco-Cantata.

MARIAM NOZADZE (*MA student, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia*)

From the History of Georgian Rock Music (60s-80s of the 20 th c.)

Supervisor: Assist. Prof. Natia Phiphia

The events that took place after the World War II had a great impact on society, especially on the youth, who felt a sense of protest against various issues and problems, be it war or violence in other forms. Rock music became one of the means of protest among the youth of the 60s. It was music, that musicians used to express themselves through lyrics and heavy musical "noise". Rock became a new lifestyle, a new way of thinking for young people, and it was not only a musical genre, it was a form of political and social protest, and that is why it was not accepted in the Soviet world.

In the post-Stalinist era, the spheres of Georgian culture are gradually freed from fear and begin to think and live creatively although this process was still under the control of the government and did not allow anyone to openly express an anti-state position.

In the 60s, even music showed signs of liberalization. While in the West concert halls, stadiums and clubs were filled with rock listeners, Georgia was part of the Soviet Union and until now, instead of joyful noise during concerts, only the radio waves that were suppressed by the Soviet authorities were could reach Georgian listeners.

The aim of my report is to study and show the music of Georgian rock musicians and bands in the 60s-80s, their history, their role in society and the conditions in which they had to struggle to write music and to play. Also, the objections they faced during the Soviet Union from the government and society. The work focuses on the 60s in general, on the external factors that influenced the formation of rock as a socio-cultural phenomenon and the creation of protest music. Then the musical trends that influenced the whole world, including Georgia. The attitude of Georgians towards this music, the difficult path that Georgian musicians went through to create and develop rock music, and finally the groups and their compositions that wrote this history in Georgia will be discussed.

JENIFER MEY UTAMA (year 3 Student, Middle Division- ACS (International), Singapore)

Georgian Singing and the Space

Supervisor: ACS (International) teacher Nina Abashidze

Georgian polyphonic singing attracts the attention of scholars and folklore researchers from all over the world. In 1820 the German scholar Eduard Eichwald traveled to Georgia. In his notes he wrote: “the songs rise from the depths of their souls... they exert all their strength and seem to take the soul out of their bodies in order to have us hear deeply soulful sounds.”

NASA team was not an exception either back in the 70's, when they were making selections for the Voyager Golden Record. Selection committee members were enchanted by the song, Chakrulo. The song, Chakrulo, is about a man who is fearless and striving for his own freedom. With his friends, who to him are like brothers, he is fighting for freedom. NASA team mentioned that it was extraordinary and that the music was penetrating to the soul. After listening to this song, they knew that ‘Chakrulo’ is the song they’ve been looking for and waiting for. Chakrulo took off into space even after the proposal of the famous Russian song, *Moscow Nights* was mentioned by Soviet Moscow. Chakrulo was sent into space on 20 august 1977. What makes this song so special? What is the message that Georgian song brings to alien civilizations? This is the question that I kept asking myself once I heard about the story. In my research I will try to find answers.



III PARALLEL SESSION

Historical perspectives

NITSA SKHVITARIDZE (IX B class, American High School -European School, Georgia)
ANDRIA LAITADZE (X A, American High School -European School, Georgia)

Unveiling Phasis – Greek Colony in Ancient Colchis

Supervisors: Assist. Prof. Natia Phiphia; Assoc. Prof. Ekaterine Kobakhidze

Phasis, located on the eastern coast of the Black Sea, was once a bustling center of trade and commerce, renowned for its education center and strategic significance. The city played a crucial role in the ancient world. Phasis, located on the eastern coast of the Black Sea, was once a bustling center of trade and commerce, renowned for its education center and strategic significance. The city played a crucial role in the ancient world. For years, scholars and adventurers have sought to uncover the location of Phasis, but it remained a mystery. The discovery of such a place would benefit us and the study of the ancient world in many ways. Archaeologists from abroad would likely come over to help explore the site and uncover additional evidence, broadening our possibilities in terms of bringing Georgia into the spotlight of classical civilization. The discovery of Phasis would serve as irrefutable proof of the long-lasting relationship between Georgia and Greece, which was the center of the classical world. Most likely, Phasis enjoyed the status of a Polis (or status beyond that of an emporium), which is showcased by the existence of a temple of Apollo and a local coin mint there. Uncovering the city would only strengthen what we already know about Greco-Georgian relationships. The discovery of Phasis could promote cultural exchange between Georgia and other countries. It could provide a platform for Georgia to showcase its rich cultural heritage and attract visitors from around the world.

NATALI ASPANIDZE (X B class, American High School - European School, Georgia)

Georgia's part of the silk road

Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Mikheil Barnovi

A large network of trade routes known as the Silk Road connected Europe, Asia, and Africa and made it easier for people from many parts of the world to exchange products, ideas, innovations, and cultural traditions. Georgia played a significant role in this network, and Tbilisi was one of the hubs for trade and market culture. Georgia played a significant role in this network, and Tbilisi was one of the hubs for trade and market culture. Caravans were an essential part of this tradition , which brought discoveries to Europe including the manufacturing of paper and gunpowder.

The exchange of knowledge and ideas along the Silk Road helped form new traditions in Georgia, while also exposing the country to invasions and conflicts. Although the Silk Road had both advantages and disadvantages for Georgia, its legacy continues to inspire us today. The Silk Road's cultural richness and attractiveness make it a fascinating topic to explore and appreciate, which is why it is important to learn about its impact on Georgia and the rest of the world.

MARIAM KHATIASHVILI (Invited Lecturer, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University; American High School - European School, Teacher, Georgia)

Historical Perspectives of the Cultural Exchanges Between the United States and Georgia

Cultural exchanges strengthened U.S.-Georgia relations. This conference presentation will examine historical perspectives of the cultural exchanges to examine the development of the U.S.-Georgia relations. Based on primary and secondary sources, it highlights the importance of key historical events that contributed to the understanding of the U.S. society and culture in Georgia. Research topic is interdisciplinary as it combines various fields from humanities, social and political sciences. Main research results are that cultural exchanges promoted the positive image of the United States in Georgia.

MARIAM KHURODZE (IX B class, American High School - European School, Georgia)

Georgia -Cradle of Winery

Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Ekaterine Kobakhidze

This presentation focuses on the impact of Georgian wine-making on the rest of the world. The oldest earthenware vessel has been found in our homeland, dating back to the people of the South Caucasus in 6,000 BC, with residues of the world's most aged wine. These residues are calcium salt of tartaric acid. This discovery allows historians to make a premise about the world's ancient wine found in Georgia. Also, 500 local grape varieties are present in Georgia. A sign that people have been growing wine for a long time. The discovery might give Georgia a great deal of responsibility in the development of the world. Some areas of development include biology, agriculture, medicine, culture, and civilizations in general.

MARIAM BASARAN (X B class, American High School - European School, Georgia)

Georgia's Legacy of Bravery - conflicts, strengths, and velour

Supervisor: American High School - European School Academic Dean Natia Tevzadze

Georgia's one of the strongest countries, known for its withstanding culture, endurance, and fortitude, despite threats and wars with other countries that lasted centuries. These encounters have made Georgia a significant country known throughout the world. The various conflicts with surrounding countries have caused Georgian citizens to coin the phrase "The Roman Empire is extinct, but Georgia still exists.". As someone that's grown-up learning about the history of my ethnicity, I wanted to further explore these historical events. Using primary and secondary sources, such as documents, archaeological evidence, and news articles, I've collected information correlating to our relations with other countries and their effects on both our territories. Georgia's impact on the world in this area has been vast, which will be explored in this report.



IV PARALLEL SESSION

Social, Political and Religious aspects

NINO RUKHADZE (Assistant Professor, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia)

International Platforms of Local Authorities and Engagement of Georgia

Local self-governance is gaining an ever-increasing role and importance. There are increasing demands on local governments and, importantly, local governments have the ambition to do more, to cover areas that previously were not considered to pertain to local governance competencies at all.

Moreover, there is an opinion that local self-government will be the new center of power. So, for example, the former mayor of Chicago, Ram Emanuel, in the title of his book – *The Nation City: Why Mayors are Running the World*, uses the concept of "Nation City", evoking associations with the Treaty of Westphalia and the concept of the "Nation State", and thus, suggesting that a new formation of governance is being established, the lynchpin of which are local self-governments.

We are witnessing such trends, as a result of which the role of local self-governments will definitely be strengthened, and local self-governments will establish themselves as strong players not only at the national level, but even at the international level.

Against this backdrop international platforms of local authorities gain particular significance, since there is a risk that states, which violate the basic principles of international law and which, due to these serious violations, are either enrolled or suspended from membership of international intergovernmental organizations, try to strengthen their positions in local on international platforms of self-governments.

Taking into account the risk identified above, the conference presentation will review the engagement of local self-governments on international platforms and what can be a unique role, which can be performed by local self-governments of European countries, including Georgia, on the international arena.

NATIA PHIPHIA (Assistant Professor, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, European School, Teacher, Georgia)

International Recognition: from Restoration of Independence of Georgia to Membership in the UN

Georgia declared independence from the Soviet Union on April 9, 1991. Soon after that, Georgia started to gain international recognition. First different foreign delegations visited Georgia and expressed their support to Georgia. On May, May 7, 1991 US Senate congratulated with the restoration of independence, on July 4, 1991 – Georgian delegation was invited in US embassy in Moscow, later in August and September, 1991, two American Congress delegations visited Georgia. Georgia's elected president, Zviad Gamsakhurdia also tried to gain UN's attention and declared his wish to make Georgia a member of UN, however left his office without accomplishing the task. Military council did not event try to officially address the UN about membership of Georgia, while Eduard Shevardnadze, who was invited as a "Head of the State" soon after he returned to Georgia, sent an official address to United Nations and Georgia became 169th member of UN on July 31, 1992. Our report will focus on events related to Georgia's international recognition from April 9, 1991 till July 31, 1992.

NIA NOZADZE (XB class, American High School - European School, Georgia)

From Sulkhan Saba Orbeliani's trip to France to Macron's support for Georgia (Relationship between Georgia and France)

Supervisor: American High School - European School Teacher Tekla Beradze

The research aims to discuss the overall relations between Georgia and France but more specifically Sulkhan Saba Orbeliani's trip to France, who was a Georgian writer and a diplomat and is noted in part due to his important role as an emissary of Georgia to France. Furthermore, The escape of the Georgian government to France during the first republic, its causes and its consequences will be discussed. I will also be researching the first translation of "The knight in the panther's skin" in French by Victor Nozadze (who was my great grandfather) – a Georgian writer, immigrant and a political figure who took part in the establishment of the Leuville Cemetery. In my opinion, the impact he had on Georgian culture is undervalued and needs to be investigated into more details. The final research point will be Emmanuel Macron's (current president of France) post in Georgian, discussing the present-day situation in Georgia and supporting Georgian people.

**ALI MANSOUR, YOUSSEF BARDAI, YOUSEFF LOTFY, YARA MAHFOUZ, HAMSA ATTA,
HAMSA ABBAS, AHMED SHALABY, ZEINA EL GHAWAS**
(Classes XII-X, Global Paradigm International School, Egypt)

Georgia Then and Now

Supervisor: History and Humanities Teacher Menna Darwish

Egypt and Georgia have been working well together in the past and the present. In 2010, four documents were signed during the second round of the Egyptian-Georgian Joint Economic, Scientific, and Technical Committee. The Egyptian and Georgian governments joined forces which resulted in establishing an industrial free zone in Kutaisi City. Egypt is currently the largest foreign investor in Georgia, which has made the relationship stronger than ever. The historical Georgian Mamluks in Egypt cannot be forgotten. Their influence was felt politically and religiously. It is not surprising that Egypt was the first Arab country to give Georgia permission to open its Embassy in Cairo after Georgia's independence". Egypt and Georgia are touristic destinations for people from around the world. The touristic industry in both countries is very well developed and there is bilateral communication in this field to exchange experience. Egypt has put in special efforts to accommodate the tourists from Georgia to Sharm Al-Sheikh and Hurghada. Civil Society Organizations are widespread and operate in a wide range of areas, such as education, health, environment, housing, and civic education. They play an important role in policy monitoring. Egypt and Georgia will continue to exchange experiences in a variety of fields to create opportunities for enhancement on both sides.

GIORGI KAKHISHVILI (Master Student, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, American High School - European School teacher, Georgia,)

The influence of European voyage on Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani's religious views

Supervisor: Prof. Nana Tonia

In the late 17th and early 18th centuries, a Georgian Orthodox Christian named Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani served as an envoy to Europe. He became a Catholic and incorporated element of Catholic theology into his preaching and writing as a result of the great influence that his time in Europe had on his religious convictions.

However, based on historical and material evidence I argue that he converted to Catholicism before he went to Europe but after this very voyage, he became missionary of Catholicism in Georgia.

Sulkhan-Saba demonstrates his growing understanding of Catholic dogma in his book, "The gates of heaven" and in his preaching, which include references to the significance of the graces and the primacy of the pope. A strong respect for the

Catholic Church and a desire for closer relations with the Catholic tradition are also seen in his letters to the Pope of Rome.

His emphasis on the dogma of Filioque, a notion that is not normally unacceptable for Orthodox theology, is one significant example of Sulkhan-Saba's embrace of Catholicism. In his preaching, he also emphasizes that saint Peter is the head of apostles and most important apostle of all twelve, without mentioning apostle Paul with him as it is usual in Orthodox tradition.

Sulkhan-Saba devoted himself wholeheartedly to his Georgian roots and culture despite his conversion to Catholicism. He published a great deal of work on Georgian lexicography and worked to promote Georgian as a language in both formal and informal settings.

Overall, Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani's conversion to Catholicism highlights the intricate interaction between politics, culture, and religion during a time of significant changes in Europe and the Caucasus. His writings and preaching are still researched and discussed by researchers today.

IRAKLI MANVELISHVILI (XI class, American High School - European School, Georgia)

Prince Alexander Chavchavadze: investment in world culture, political influence, military life

Supervisor: PhD Mariam Khatiashvili

Alexander Chavchavadze was a prominent figure in Georgian history, known for his accomplishments as a poet, military commander, and political leader. His life was marked by the struggle for Georgian independence and his contributions to the cultural, literary, and political development of his country.

This presentation will delve into the life and achievements of Alexander Chavchavadze, exploring his military career, and his contributions to Georgian literature and World Culture. I will identify his role in Georgian society and his efforts to establish a national identity and promote Georgian language and culture in the World.

Overall, this presentation will provide a comprehensive overview of the life and legacy of Alexander Chavchavadze, shedding light on his important contributions to Georgian history and culture.

NIKA TARIELASHVILI (X B class, American High School -European School, Georgia)

The Georgian Footprint: Tracing the Influence of Georgian Jewry on Judaism

Supervisor: American High School - European School, Academic Dean Natia Tevzadze

Georgian - Jewish history stems all the way back into the 6th Century (BCE). Georgian Jews (Kartveli Ebraelebi- ქართველი ებრაელები) entered into Georgia after the fall of Solomon's temple, the first temple built to God. This exile left them to the sands without a home. Most countries (due to Anti-Semitism) wouldn't accept the Jewish people into their borders. Saqartvelo allowed Jews to take shelter inside their country more than once, forming this brotherly relationship between the two which has and currently is lasting for 26 centuries. The presentation will cover the exile of the Jews and its connections to the entering into Georgia, how Georgian kings have Jewish decent. Current relations of the two Countries (Israel and Georgia), and primary sources referring to the relationship of Jews and Georgians. To gather better understanding of this relationship and to get more accurate information some materials from Georgian-Jewish Friendship Museum are used.

