



**Identity, Memory, and Historical Landmarks
of the 20th and 21st Centuries**
Tbilisi, 5-6 March 2026

The Institute of Cultural Studies at Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University is pleased to host the international conference *Identity, Memory, and Historical Landmarks of the 20th and 21st Centuries*. The conference is organized as part of an ongoing research project conducted by the Institute, *Ilia Chavchavadze: Uncontested National Hero in Contested Identity Discourses* (FR-24-10670), with the support of the Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation of Georgia.

The 20th and 21st centuries have been marked by transformative historical events. Two World Wars, revolutions, the end of the Cold War, and Russia's war in Ukraine have led to multiple revisions of the global order. This process is still ongoing today and is driving the intense and contradictory dynamics of constructing and reconstructing identity and collective memory. Central and Southeastern Europe, as well as the Caucasus, are among the regions where these developments have taken on particularly intense forms. The conference aims to facilitate the exchange of accumulated experience and knowledge in the fields of political transformations, identity, collective memory, and cultural trauma, with the goal of highlighting the possibilities for contextualizing these issues within regional and transregional frameworks, while also encouraging comparative and interdisciplinary research.



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Program

5 March, TSU Main Building, Room 202

First Session: 11.00 - 13.00

Chair: Irakli Chkhaidze

Maria Todorova (University of Illinois, United States of America)

Thinking About a Region: The Balkans

Nino Chikovani (Tbilisi State University, Georgia)

The Contested Image of the Hero in the Collective Memory: Zviad Gamsakhurdia

Frank Jakob (Nord University, Norway)

Revolutions and the Origin of Formative National Identity

Dalila Gogia (Ilia State University, Georgia)

"Builder of Communism" as Identity: Censorship in Georgia in the 1920s-1930s

Coffee Break: 13.00 - 13.45

Second Session: 13.45 - 15.45

Chair: Nino Chikovani

Zeev Levin (Ben-Zvi Institute for the Study of Jewish Communities in the East, Israel)

Transformations of Identity, Memory and Historic Awareness among Georgian Jews in the 20th Century

Ketevan Kakitelashvili (Tbilisi State University, Georgia)

Nathan Eliashvili's Translations: Mediating Ideas During Times of Change

Ketevan Epadze (Tbilisi State University, Georgia)

Cultural Memory and Biography: Museum Construction of Ilia Chavchavadze

Irakli Chkhaidze (Tbilisi State University, Georgia)

From Socialism to Nationalism: Reconstructing the Figure of Ilia Chavchavadze in the 1980s

Lunch: 15.45



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6 March, TSU Main Building, Room 202, 15.00 - 16.30

Public Lecture by Maria Todorova

Edward William & Jane Marr Gutsell Endowed Professor Emerita, University of Illinois

Scales of Intensity and Operational Modes of Nationalism