

MODERN DIASPORAS · TBILISI, 22–23 OCTOBER 2026

INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE



**SHOTA RUSTAVELI
NATIONAL SCIENCE
FOUNDATION OF GEORGIA**



**IVANE JAVAKHISHVILI
TBILISI STATE
UNIVERSITY**



**IVANE JAVAKHISHVILI
INSTITUTE
OF HISTORY AND
ETHNOLOGY**



**INSTITUTE OF
ARCHAEOLOGY
AND ETHNOGRAPHY,
SNCO**

MODERN DIASPORAS

Current State and Research Perspectives

22–23 October 2026

Tbilisi · Georgia

PROGRAMME

ORGANISERS

**Ivane Javakhishvili Institute of History and Ethnology, TSU
Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography SNCO**

Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University · Building I
1 Ilia Chavchavadze Avenue · 0179 Tbilisi · Georgia

Room 107

GENERAL INFORMATION

DATES	22–23 October 2026
VENUE	Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (Building I) 1 Ilia Chavchavadze Avenue, 0179 Tbilisi, Georgia
FORMAT	Hybrid (in-person and online participation)
WORKING LANGUAGES	Georgian, English and Armenian
PRESENTATION FORMAT	15 minutes for each presentation, followed by 5 minutes for discussion / Q&A

PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

DAY 1 · Thursday, 22 October 2026	
09:30–10:00	Registration of participants
10:00–10:45	Opening ceremony and welcome addresses
10:45–12:00	Session 1 · Theory, Methodology and Conceptual Frameworks in Diaspora Studies
12:00–12:30	Coffee break
12:30–14:30	Session 2 · Diaspora: Heritage, Memory and Ethnocultural Reproduction
14:30–15:15	General discussion: New Diasporas, Migration Trajectories and Perspectives
DAY 2 · Friday, 23 October 2026	
10:00–12:00	Session 3 · Migration, Mobility and the Formation of New Diasporas
12:00–12:30	Coffee break
12:30–14:30	Session 4 · Diaspora Communities, Self-Organisation and Transnational Connections
Time to be confirmed	Concluding discussion and closing of the conference

DAY ONE

Thursday, 22 October 2026

09:30–10:00 Registration of participants

10:00–10:45 OPENING CEREMONY

Erekle Astakhishvili	Vice-Rector, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University
Ashot Smbatyan	Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia to Georgia
Teimuraz Dochviri	Director General, Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation of Georgia
Arsen Bobokhyan	Director, Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography SNCO (online)
Ruben S. Karapetyan	Head, Department of Diaspora Studies, Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, SNCO

10:45–12:00 · SESSION 1 — THEORY, METHODOLOGY AND CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORKS IN DIASPORA STUDIES

Chair: *Giorgi Tcheishvili*

TIME	PRESENTATION
10:45–11:05	Ruben S. Karapetyan Inheritance and the Creation of Ethnically Marked Space as a Methodological Basis for Comparative Diaspora Research <i>Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography SNCO</i>
11:05–11:25	Giorgi Vakhtangashvili Georgian Surnames and Internal Migration: Research Perspectives from Vera Bardavelidze's Archival Collection <i>Ivane Javakhishvili Institute of History and Ethnology, TSU</i>
11:25–11:45	Inga Ghutidze On the Family Names of Georgians Living in Turkey (İnegöl District, Bursa Province) <i>Samtskhe-Javakheti State University</i>

TIME	PRESENTATION
11:45–12:00	Discussion

12:00–12:30 COFFEE BREAK

12:30–14:30 · SESSION 2 — DIASPORA: HERITAGE, MEMORY AND ETHNOCULTURAL REPRODUCTION

Chair: *Ruben S. Karapetyan*

TIME	PRESENTATION
12:30–12:50	Lavrenti Janiashvili Ethnocultural Processes in Diasporas: The Dilemma Between Tradition and Innovation <i>Ivane Javakhishvili Institute of History and Ethnology, TSU</i>
12:50–13:10	Ia Iashvili Modern Georgian Diaspora Spaces in the USA: Social Activity and Existing Challenges <i>Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University</i>
13:10–13:30	Natia Jalabadze Georgians in Turkey: Diaspora Boundaries and the Dynamics of Ethnic Identity <i>Ivane Javakhishvili Institute of History and Ethnology, TSU</i>
13:30–13:50	Nelli R. Khachaturian Religious Conversion and Reconversion in Ethno-Confessional Communities in the Context of Migration <i>Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography SNCO</i>
13:50–14:10	Giorgi Mamardashvili Migrant Remittances in Georgia <i>Ivane Javakhishvili Institute of History and Ethnology, TSU</i>
14:10–14:30	Discussion

14:30–15:15 GENERAL DISCUSSION

New Diasporas, Migration Trajectories and Perspectives

DAY TWO

Friday, 23 October 2026

10:00–12:00 · SESSION 3 — MIGRATION, MOBILITY AND THE FORMATION OF NEW DIASPORAS

Chair: *Natia Jalabadze*

PRESENTATION

- 10:00–10:20** **Nika Loladze**
Beyond “Return”: Labor Migration and the Transnational Trajectories of Georgia’s Greek Community
International Scientific Research Institute of the Peoples of the Caucasus
- 10:20–10:40** **Sona Nersisyan [ONLINE]**
New Diasporas in Post-Socialist Countries (The Polish-Armenian Case)
Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography SNCO
- 10:40–11:00** **Lusine Tanajyan**
New Migration Groups in the Post-Soviet Cultural Space: Russian Immigrants in Armenia
Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography SNCO
- 11:00–11:20** **Salvine H. Markosyan [ONLINE]**
Western Armenian in a Bilingual Media Environment: The Experience of “Agos”
Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography SNCO
- 11:20–11:40** **Ekaterine Pirtskhalava**
From Deportation to Diaspora: Constructing the Trans-Territorial Traumatic Identity of Muslim Meskhetians
Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University
- 11:40–12:00** **Discussion**

12:00–12:30 COFFEE BREAK

12:30–14:30 · SESSION 4 — DIASPORA COMMUNITIES, SELF-ORGANISATION AND TRANSNATIONAL CONNECTIONS

Chair: *Lavrenti Janiashvili*

TIME	PRESENTATION
12:30–12:50	Syuzanna Barseghyan [ONLINE] Diaspora Conceptions of Nation-State Development Engagement: The Case of Armenian Communities in France <i>Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography SNCO</i>
12:50–13:10	Gevorg Galtakyan Ethno-Confessional Mapping of the Diaspora of Türkiye in Germany <i>Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography SNCO</i>
13:10–13:30	Medea Badashvili From Migration to Diaspora: Thirty Years of Georgian Presence in the United States <i>Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University</i>
13:30–13:50	Mariam Harutyunyan · Arman Andrikyan Social Space in the Armenian Diaspora: Conceptual Approaches and Research Perspectives <i>Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography SNCO</i>
13:50–14:10	Discussion

CONCLUDING DISCUSSION AND CLOSING OF THE CONFERENCE

Final timing to be confirmed by the Organising Committee

ORGANISING INSTITUTIONS

**Ivane Javakhishvili Institute of History and Ethnology, TSU
Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography SNCO**