

Medea Badashvili, PhD

Associate Professor

Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Head of Master Program in Gender Studies
Iv. Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, 1 Ilia Chavchavadze Avenue, Tbilisi 0179, Georgia
Cell phone: +00995 599 540 450; +995 599 552092 (What's App),
E-mail: medea.badashvili@tsu.ge; medo.badashvili@gmail.com

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Friedrich-Schiller University, Jena, Institute of Geography, Visiting Professor, DAAD – November, 2025
Ludwig-Maximilian University, Munich – Visiting Professor (DAAD), December, 2024-January, 2025
Georg-August University Göttingen, Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, Centre for Global Migration Studies (CeMig), Visiting Professor (Rustaveli - DAAD) July, 2024- February, 2025
Friedrich-Schiller University, Jena, Institute of Geography, Visiting Professor (Rustaveli - DAAD). July, 2024-November, 2024
Tbilisi State University, Tbilisi, Georgia (2019-) Associate Professor
Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, The Head of Master Program in Gender Studies
Colorado College, Department of Political Sciences (2019) – Visiting Professor
Tbilisi State University, Tbilisi, Georgia (2003-2015)
Lecturer, Department of Human Geography, Center for Social Sciences (CSS)

EDUCATION

2023-2024 – Course on Innovation in Governance for Urban Nature-Based Solutions (NBS), Lund University, Sweden

Tbilisi State University, Tbilisi, Georgia (2009-2015)

PhD, Social and Political Sciences *and* Human Geography

Dissertation: “*The development Trends of Gender Relations in Family of Post-Soviet Georgia: Regional Peculiarities*”

University of Fribourg, Fribourg, Switzerland (2016)

Post-Doctoral Scholar at the Interfaculty Institute for Central and Eastern Europe

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA (2012)

CARTI Fellow, Department of Social Anthropology and Centre for Russian and Eurasian Studies (Davis Centre)

Rutgers – The State University of New Jersey, New Brunswick, NJ (2005-2007)

Faculty Development Program Fellow, Departments of Geography and Women's & Gender Studies

Tbilisi State University, Tbilisi, Georgia (1990-1995)

MA, Department of Geography and Geology, Economic, Social and Political Geography

RESEARCH

Publications

- Inside Georgia's Surrogacy Boom: War, Demand and “Mobile Surrogates” from Ukraine (The Conversation, March 2026)
- "Migration, Identity, Agency: Georgian migrants in the United States and Italy", The International Encyclopedia of Geography: People, the Earth, Environment, and Technology, September, 2025
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/book/10.1002/9781118786352>

- Understanding domestic violence in Georgia: Victim perspectives and legal frameworks. Vectors of Social Sciences, 8 (2024). Georgian National University (SEU). Pirtskhalava, E., Badashvili, M., & Kitoshvili, N. (2024). *[In press]* <https://vectors.ge/en/mainpage/>
- "Integration Process of Georgian Migrants Living in EU and USA". GESJ: Education Science and Psychology 2022. N4 (65) pp. 3-15, co-author E. Pirtskhalava
- "A Spatial-Based Explanation for Institutional Trust in Georgia: Evidence from the Maternal Healthcare System", Journal of Eurasian Studies, 2022

- **Badashvili, Medea.** 2013. "Transformation to Democracy: The Struggles of Georgian Women." In Jan Kubik and Amy T. Linch. *Post-Communism from Within: Social Justice, Mobilization, and Hegemony*. New York: SSRN/NYU Press (pp. 211-227). [English]
- **Badashvili, Medea** and Tamar Bagratia. 2012. "Developing intra-party democracy from a gender perspective." In *Intra-party democracy and local governance*. The Hague: Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy Georgia Representation (pp. 7-38). [English and Georgian].
- Dagargulia, Tamar and Medo (**Medea**) **Badashvili**. 2008. "Maternal Health in Post-Soviet Georgia." *Marriage and Family Review* 44(2/3): 301-317. [English]
- **Badashvili, Medea.** 2006. Gender Equality (Informative Brochure). Tbilisi. [Georgian]
- **Badashvili, Medea.** 2002. "The Development of Gender Issues in Post-Soviet Georgia." *Caucasus Geographical Review*, Volume 1. [Russian]

Forthcoming Publications:

- "Language and Voting Behavior among Asian Americans: The Case of the 2024 US Presidential Elections", Political Analysis, Cambridge University Press

Working Papers

Badashvili, Medea "Navigating New Frontiers: Agency and Adaptation of Georgian Migrants in the USA and Italy" under publication

Badashvili, Medea, Amy H. Liu, Lela Shengelia, Katherina Wierschke, Anastasiya Byelousova, Parth Gupta, Michael Sanchez, and Lyndsey Wang. "Effects of Regionalization in the Republic of Georgia: Evidence from Interviews with Mothers." *In preparation*.

Badashvili, Medea, Amy H. Liu, Lela Shengelia, Katherina Wierschke, Elise Pizzi, Parth Gupta, Anastasiya Byelousova, Michael Sanchez, and Lyndsey Wang. "Access to Health Care Facilities and Attitudes towards the State: Survey Evidence from the Republic of Georgia." *In preparation*.

Badashvili, Medea, Amy H. Liu, Lela Shengelia, and Katherina Wierschke. "The Effects of Language on Attitudes towards Universal Health Care: Survey Experiment from the Republic of Georgia." *In preparation*.

Conference Presentations

23 May, 2025 – "Russian Invasion of Ukraine: The Human Cost, refugee Crisis, and Migration Challenges", ASN Conference, Harriman Institute, Columbia University, New York City, USA

26 November, 2024 – "The Human Cost of Russia's Invasion to Ukraine: Migration Dimension, Refugees Crisis, Needs and Challenges", Friedrich Schiller University, Jena, Germany

25 November, 2024 – Public Talk on "Russia's Invasion of Ukraine: The Human Cost, Refugee Crisis and Migration Challenges (case study – Germany)

25 November, 2024 – 12th Migration Research Lab - "Gender and Migration: Current Research perspectives", Georg-August University, Göttingen, Germany

15 November, 2024 – "Navigating New Frontiers: Agency and Adaptation of Georgian Migrants in the USA and Italy", Goethe University, Frankfurt a.M., Germany; (Researching Multiplicity: Methods of geographical migration research, Annual Conference of the AK Geographische Migrationsforschung

14 November, 2023 – Study on the Needs and Support of the Victims of Domestic Violence and Violence Against Women – Third Mission Pilot Activity Conducted in the Framework of Erasmus+ Co-Funded Capacity Building in Higher Education Project- SQUARE, Seville, Spain

4 August, 2023 – "Migration and the integration /assimilation: case studies - Georgian Migrants in EU and USA" IACCP European regional Conference, 27th International Congress of the International Association for Cross-Cultural Psychology, University of Limerick, Ireland

21 July, 2023 – “Human Agency in Migration: the Impact of Migration on Identity (Case study: Georgian Migrants living in USA, France, Portugal, Germany and Italy)”, Oxford Brooks University, Oxford, UK

20 June, 2023 – The War in Ukraine: The Social, Political and Economic Changes and their impact on Georgian Society”, University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign, Illinois, USA

May, 26, 2023 – “The Advantages and Disadvantages of Labor Migration; The Case of Georgian Migrants in USA”, Bursa Technical University, Bursa, Turkiye

March 30, 2023- “Gender, Religion and Family in Eurasia: Perspectives on the Caucasus region”, University of Bologna, Italy, East European and Eurasian Studies;

October 17, 2022 - University of Bordeaux, France, Presenting the Curriculum of Master Program in Gender Program, presenting the researches on migration (Georgian migrants in USA, France and Portugal)

10-13 October, 2019, “Human Agency in Migration: the impact of migration on social and cultural identity” (case study – Georgian labour migrants in US), Annual Conference of the Central Eurasian Studies Society – CESS George Washington University, Washington, D.C.

May, 8, 2019. “Maternal Health Care and Maternal Mortality.” University of Texas, Austin, TX.

2019. “Different Types of Interactions Between Host Society and Georgian Migrants Living in the US and EU.” University of Lisbon, Portugal (International Conference of Modern Research in Social Science) – coauthored with Ekaterine Pirtskhalava.

2019 “Human Agency in Migration: the impact of migration on social and cultural identity” (case study – Georgian labour migrants in US), AAG 2019, 3-7 April, Washington, D.C., USA

2018. “Similarities and Differences in Intercultural Intervention amongst the Georgians living in EU and USA.” Columbia University, Harriman Institute, New York, NY (Association for the Studies of Nationalities Conference).

2016 “Human Agency in migration: the impact of migration on social and economical development of Georgia.” University of Lausanne, Switzerland (European Social Science Conference).

2014 “The impact of recent political events in Middle East on socio-economic, political and demographic situation of Georgia.” Tampa, FL (Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting).

2013. “The Changing Gender Stereotypes of Muslim Meskhetians in Georgia and USA.” Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic (International Conference on Interdisciplinary Social Sciences).

2013. “Understanding Muslim Identities in Christian Georgia: Non-Muslim Perceptions of Muslim.” Los Angeles, CA (Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting).

2012. “The main challenges of integration of ethnical minorities in Georgian society.” Columbia University, Harriman Institute, New York, NY (Association for the Studies of Nationalities Conference).

2012. “Women’s economical and political empowerment in post-soviet Georgia.” Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.

2011. “Gender, State Reforms, and Transitions: The Case of Muslim Women in Post-Soviet Georgia.” Ottawa, Canada (Women’s World Forum).

2010. “Feminisms in a transnational perspective: Challenges for old/new economic inequalities.” Inter-University Centre, Dubrovnik, Croatia.

2009. “The Transformation of the Family in the Post-Soviet Georgia.” Tbilisi State University, Center for Social Sciences, Tbilisi, Georgia.

2008. “Women’s participation in the political life of Georgia.” Tbilisi, Georgia.

2008. “Integration of Muslim women in Christian Georgia.” University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.

2008. “The problem of minorities and their integration into the society: A case study of Georgia.” Boston, MA (Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting).

2007. “Recent changes in Family Structure in Multi-ethnic Georgia.” New York University, Center for European and Mediterranean Studies, New York, NY.

2007. “Gender relations in family of multi-ethnic society: A case study of Georgia.” San Francisco, CA (Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting).

2006. “Internally displaced people (IDPs) and the problem of integration: A case study of Georgia.” Brown University, Providence, RI.

2006. “Muslim Population in Georgia.” New York State University, Buffalo, NY.

2006. “Labour migration from post-socialist Georgia after the collapse of USSR.” Chicago, IL (Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting).

2006. “Minority women in search of their identity in the Republic of Georgia.” Rutgers – The State University of New Jersey, Center for Comparative European Studies, New Brunswick, NJ.

2005. “Problems of Gender inequality in contemporary Georgia.” Union College, Women’s Studies Center, Schenectady, NY.

2004. “Remapping the Southern Tier of Post-Socialist States.” Portorose, Slovenia (The University of Wisconsin, Department of Geography).

2003. “Single mothers in Georgia.” Rome, Italy (International Geographic Union Commission on Gender and Geography).

TEACHING

August, 2025- December, 2025 – SRAS (Study, Research, and Custom Programs Abroad) in Georgia, teaching the course on Human Geography

January, 2024 - University of Helsinki; Aleksanteri Institute (Finnish Centre for Russian, Eurasian and Eastern European Studies), Intensive Course on Ethnic and Gender Identities of the Caucasus Region and Ukraine

<https://studies.helsinki.fi/courses/course-implementation/hy-opt-cur-2324-4c63b2e5-2fff-4b67-ad1a-03fea2d93839>

Colorado College, Colorado Springs, Colorado (2019)

Department of Political Sciences

The Course – “Politics of Global Health”

Tbilisi State University, Georgia (2006- up to present)

Faculty of Social and Political Sciences

“Gender, Family and Religion in post-socialist environment”

“ Human Geography of Caucasus”

Social Research Methods

“Gender equality in Scandinavian countries”

“Agency, Subjectivity, and Social Changes”

“Feminization of Migration”

“Maternal and reproductive health”

“Project Management”

“The Politics of Global Health”

“Feminist Methodology”

GRANTS

2026 - University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign; Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center (REEEC), Summer Research Lab,(June 8-July 31, 2026)

2026 – University of A Coruna, Spain, Erasmus + Mobility Program

2025- Friedrich-Schiller University, Jena, Faculty of Social Geography, DAAD

2025 – University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign; Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center (REEEC), Summer Research Lab,(June 9-August1, 2025)

2025 – Erasmus + Mobility, Ruse University, Bulgaria (May, 2025)

2025- Erasmus + Mobility, Ostfold University, Norway (April- May, 2025)

DAAD - December, 2024- January, 2025 –Ludwig-Maximilian University, Munich, Germany
Rustaveli-DAAD Scholarship, July, 2024-January, 2025 - Georg-August University, Göttingen, Germany
Friedrich-Schiller University Jena, Institute of Social Geography
Project Research on “The Human Cost of Russia’s Invasion to Ukraine: Migration Dimension, Refugee Crisis, Needs and Challenges” (Case Studies in Germany & Georgia)
2023- 2024 – Course on Innovation in Governance for Nature-Based Solutions (NBS), Lund University, Sweden
2024- Erasmus+ Mobility, Vilnius University, Lithuania (March, 2024)
2024 – Erasmus + Mobility, University of Helsinki, Finland (January, 2024)
2023-2024 – Eastern Partnership Program, Friedrich-Schiller University Jena University, Germany
2023 - Erasmus+ co-funded CBHE (Capacity Building in Higher Education) project “Strengthening the Quality and Relevance of the 3rd mission in Georgian Universities – SQUARE”, coordinated by Tbilisi State University
Study on the Needs and Support of the Victims of Domestic Violence and Violence Against Women
June, 2023 - University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign, REEEC
May, 2023 - Erasmus+ Mobility, Bursa Technical University, Bursa, Turkey
March, 2023 - Erasmus+ Mobility, University of Bologna, Italy
2016 - Academic Swiss Caucasus Net Post-Doctoral Scholarship, Fribourg University, Switzerland
2012 - Harvard University – Central Asia and Caucasus Research and Training Initiative Fellowship, Cambridge, MA
2010 - University of California Berkeley – Carnegie Fellowship
2005-2007 - Rutgers - The State University of New Jersey – Faculty Development Program Fellowship

Professional Experience/ Expert Consulting:

Azri -Consulting (February 2026 – up to present)

Expert, evaluation of CARE Project Her Power, Her Knowledge

Calibrate Solutions Inc. – Canada; Georgia (December 2025- up to present)

National Consultant for the Final Joint Evaluation of the EU 4 Gender Equality Phase 2

UN Women- Georgia, Consultant, Country Portfolio Review (May, 2025 – December, 2025)

Caritas Czech Republic in Georgia (CCRG) & Psychiatric Institution (October – December 2025)

Consultant on Development and Delivery of Training on Sexual and Reproductive Health for Personnel of Psychiatric Institutions;

Project: Improving the Quality of Health Services for the Georgian Population with a Focus on Mental Health, Taking into Account a Gender-Sensitive Approach

UN Women – Georgia, Consultant/Evaluator for Mid-term review of the UNJP4GE (March., 2025 – September, 2025)

ISSA -The Institute of Social Studies and Analysis, Gender Expert - To conduct a research and prepare a report on “Access -to-finance Obstacles for Women Entrepreneurs in Georgia” (March, 2025 – November, 2025)

Expert - 2023- Third mission pilot activity within the Erasmus+ co-funded CBHE (Capacity Building in Higher Education) project “Strengthening the Quality and Relevance of the 3rd mission in Georgian Universities – SQUARE”, coordinated by Iv. Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Study on the Needs and Support of the Victims of Domestic Violence and Violence Against Women and to explore the ways of social inclusion of victims of DV into private sector

UN Women – Georgia, 2023, Gender Expert, M&E

Evaluator for the Final Evaluation of the UN Women Project “Ending Violence Against Women and Girls in Georgia (EVAWGG)

Calibrate Solutions Inc. – Canada; Georgia, 2022-2023,

Consultant to Final Joint Evaluate of the EU4 Gender Equality in Georgia

UN Women – Georgia (2020-2021)

Consultant to conduct Systematization of Final Results of the UN Joint Programme for Gender Equality

University of Texas, Austin, TX

Program: President's Award for Global Learning (2019)

Project: "Lowering Maternal Mortality Rates: What Texas Can Learn from the Republic of Georgia"

Department of Education, Greenwich, CT, USA (January, 2017 – December, 2022)

- Collaborating with the public schools of Greenwich

Expert/Consultant, ACT, WB Project (Georgia) (May, 2016 – December, 2016) "Strengthening Capacity for Prevention and Response to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Georgia"

- Collaborating with governmental and non-governmental institutions;
- Providing trainings to stakeholders
- Revision of national laws/policies and providing consultancy work with governmental representatives

Leader Social, Gender and Resettlement Specialist; Eptiza, Millennium

Challenge Corporation Georgia (March, 2015 – September, 2015)

Project – "Developing Rehabilitation Design Packages and Construction Supervision in Public Schools of Georgia"

- Work in close consultation with MCA-Georgia Chief Infrastructure Engineer
- Discuss project proposals with the beneficiary communities
- Finalize and implement resettlement action plans
- Check to ensure that the project(s) provisions conform to other relevant institutional guidelines, rules, regulations, and standards to ensure compliance of development and building standards, specifications and etc.
- Check to ensure compliance with MCC Environmental Guidelines, Gender Policy and Standards
- Completing reports, studies, designs, specifications and etc.

Coordinating the Project – "Developing intra-party democracy and women's political empowerment through multimedia", funded by Central Election Commission of Georgia and implemented by NGO "Center for Development Research and Assessment" (2014-2015) – www.qaliskhma.ge

Self-Assessment Specialist & Gender Expert, PMCG, USAID - Good Governance in Georgia (G3 Program)– 2014

- Developing Local Self-Government Assessment Indicators
- Developing the methodology, quantitative and qualitative measures to assess the strengths and weaknesses of current governance practices at the local level using international best practices

Gender Expert, UN Joint Project on Enhancing Gender Equality in Georgia, Tbilisi, Georgia (January, 2013 – January, 2014)

- Revision of national laws, policies/programs and practices related to maternity protection, including quantitative and qualitative information on maternity and paternity leave and benefits;
- Preparation of general policy recommendations for improving the balancing of work and family responsibilities with particular reference to maternity protection, in the context of achieving gender equality
- Providing the consultancy work on inclusive economic development
- Delivering the trainings

Gender Expert, Project on Increasing Level of Azeri Women's Participation for Increasing Their Credibility and Accountability, funded by USAID, IFES, November, 2011 – June, 2012

- Delivering the trainings and raising the awareness of local population on gender issues
- Empowering religious and ethnical minority women, delivering the trainings and workshops on social and economic inclusion

Project Coordinator, Project on Activation of Female Ethnical Minorities in the Process of Elections, funded by Central Election Commission of Georgia, (August, 2011 – October, 2012)

- Coordinating the project aimed at activation of female ethnical minorities in the elections
- Providing the trainings and seminars

Local Gender Expert, UNDP, (September, 2008 – December, 2010)

- Preparing the report on: "Women and Governance, political participation of women in Georgian Politics" for the "Enhancing Women's Political Participation: A Policy Note for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States", which has been published

- Organizing the Roundtable

Gender Expert, UNDP (September, 2007 – December, 2007)

- Gender revision of UNDAF
- Preparation of report with findings and recommendations

Project Associate & Gender Expert, UNDP's Project on Gender & Politics in the Southern Caucasus, (November, 2005 – January, 2008)

- Closely collaborating with the Gender Equality Advisory Council under the chairperson of the Parliament of Georgia
- Working on the improvement of the legislative system related to gender equality
- Participating in the design and implementation of gender-responsive policies
- Ensuring effective use of all project resources
- Providing the administrative and financial assistance
- Preparing narrative reports in accordance with reporting procedures and timelines

Program Officer, Save the Children, (September, 2007 – January, 2008)

- Ensuring programme/financial accountability for implementation of the project
- Planning, implementing, monitoring and reporting on all activities of the project
- Including of gender equality concerns into project planning, evaluation and other processes
- Preparing narrative reports in accordance with reporting procedures and timelines
- Establishing good working relationships with related Government officials, NGOs, gender and advisory groups, regional and local authorities, civil society organizations and international partners in order to advocate for the achievement of project goals and objectives
- Ensuring that project activities are carried out in accordance with national policies and with a cultural-sensitive approach

Gender Expert, International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD), (November, 2004 – November, 2006)

- Supporting the gender mainstreaming in rural areas of Georgia
- Supervising and monitoring the projects in rural areas
- Rural women's economical empowerment and raising their knowledge in market facilitation tools
- Supervising the implementation of the projects aimed at achievement of gender equality and women's empowerment
- Preparing the reports

Project Manager, World Bank Project – Technical Advisory Services for the East-West Oil and Gas Corridor (January, 2002 – November, 2004)

- Accomplishing human resource objectives by recruiting, selecting, orienting, training, assigning, scheduling, coaching, counselling, and disciplining employees; communicating job expectations; planning, monitoring, appraising, and reviewing job contributions; planning and reviewing compensation actions; enforcing policies.

Office Manager, Georgian International Oil Corporation (GIOC) (January, 2000 – January, 2001)

• Maintaining office services by organizing office operations and procedures; preparing payroll; controlling correspondence; designing filing systems; reviewing and approving supply requisitions; assigning and monitoring clerical functions.

• Maintaining office efficiency by planning and implementing office systems, layouts, and equipment procurement.

• Designing and implementing office policies by establishing standards and procedures; measuring results against standards; making necessary adjustments.

Human Resources Specialist, TACIS Project No 9603 “Support for Oil Transit and Transport Infrastructure and Institutions Building for the Georgian International Oil Corporation (GIOC)” (January, 1998 – January, 2000)

- Maintaining human resource staff by recruiting, selecting, orienting, and training employees

Assistant to the Organizational Manager, Georgian International Oil Corporation (GIOC) (November, 1996 – January, 1998)

- Managing calendars, making travel, meeting and event arrangements, preparing reports and financial data
- Maintaining the work structure by updating job requirements and job descriptions for all positions
- Maintaining management guidelines by preparing, updating, and recommending human resource policies and procedures
- Ensuring planning, monitoring, and appraisal of employee work results by training managers to coach and discipline employees; scheduling management conferences with employee grievances; counselling employees and supervisors

MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Association of Geographers (AAG)

Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASN)

LANGUAGES

Georgian (native) Russian (fluent) English (fluent) German(basic) Arabic (basic)