

TAMAR KARAIA

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Political scientist and researcher specializing in memory studies, civic education, and qualitative research methods. Over ten years of experience in coordinating nationally and internationally funded research projects, leading multidisciplinary teams, and managing complex collaborations across academia, government, and civil society. Experienced in policy analysis, curriculum development, stakeholder engagement, and research-based consultancy for governmental institutions and international organizations.

Research interests: Memory politics, Social movements, forced displacement, conflict studies, post-socialist transformations, civic education, qualitative research methods.

EDUCATION

2016 - Ph.D. in Political Science. Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (TSU)

The topic of Dissertation: The Politics of Memory in Contemporary Georgia (Rethinking of Soviet Past after Rose Revolution)

2009 – M.A. in Political Science. Tbilisi State University

2007 – B.A. in Social Science. Tbilisi State University branch of Sokhumi.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2021 – Present – Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (TSU)
- 2025 – Present – Acting Head of the Research and Development Office, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (TSU)
- 2011 – 2021 – Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (TSU)
- 2009 – 2020 – Assistant Researcher, Department of Conflict Management and Reintegration, Institute of Political Science, Ilia State University
- 2010 – Visiting Lecturer, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (TSU)

PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP

- 2014 – Present – Executive Director, Civic Education Lecturers' Association
- 2025 - Present - Editorial Board Member, *Journal of Transformation Studies*

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Karaia, T., & Kvinchia, L. (2026). Quota-based approaches to ethnic minority integration in higher education: The case of Georgia. *Polis – Journal of Political Science*, 16(1(51)), 178–200.
- Karaia, T. (2024). *Unfinished memory project in contemporary Georgia* [Monograph, in Georgian].

- TSU <https://rustaveli.org.ge/res/docs/c16ae14a6c7b97694486fefa57c7a3d8ec4b0526.pdf>
- Karaia, T. (2023). The threatening shadow of Soviet archives in contemporary Georgia. *European Journal of Transformation Studies*, 11(2), 263–278.
 - Dundua, S., Karaia, T., & Tabatadze, S. (2023). The strategy peculiarities in the protest for saving urban fabric in Tbilisi. *Studia Politica: Romanian Political Science Review*, 23(1), 37–65.
 - Dundua, S., Karaia, T., & Tabatadze, S. (2022). Tbilisi urban social movements: On the verge of success/failure. *European Journal of Transformation Studies*, 10(2), 21–39.
 - Karaia, T., & Mukhikuli, K. (2021). *Civic education textbook for vocational education students*. Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia & International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES).
 - Karaia, T., & Mukhikuli, K. (2021). *Civic education guidebook for vocational education teachers*. Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia & International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES).
 - Dundua, S. & Karaia, T. (2019). No to Khudoni hydro power plant: Social movement in Georgia. *Studia Politica: Romanian Political Science Review*, 19(2), 215–235.
 - Karaia, T. (2017). Memory strategies in contemporary Georgia. *Central European Political Studies*, 4, 5–22. <https://doi.org/10.14746/ssp.2017.4.1>
 - Karaia, T., Abashidze, Z., Mukhiguli, K., & Dundua, S. (2017). *Democracy and citizenship: Textbook for students*. USAID & International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES). http://cela.ge/ge/system/files/1._demokratia_da_mokalakeoba_2017_meore_gamocema.compressed.pdf
 - Karaia, T., Abashidze, Z., Mukhiguli, K., & Dundua, S. (2017). *Democracy and citizenship: Teachers' manual*. USAID & International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES).
 - Dundua S. Karaia, T. Abashidze Z. (2017). National narration and politics of memory in post-socialist Georgia. *Slovak Journal of Political Sciences*, 17(2), 222–240. <https://www.degruyter.com/view/j/sjps.2017.17.issue-2/sjps-2017-0010/sjps-2017-0010.xml>
 - Karaia, T. (2016). The state of civic education in Georgia: From formal to informal practices. *Eastern Europe Regional Studies*, 2.
 - Karaia, T. (2015). Coming to terms with the Soviet past. *Young Scientists Journal*, (2), 67–81. Tbilisi State University. <http://jyr.tsu.ge/index.php/Hoome/ebaut/ge/4/2>
 - Karaia, T. (2014). Educating for democracy: Universities as shapers of civic identity. In *Civic Education in Georgia: Achievements and Prospects* (Conference Proceedings). Universal.

SELECTED RESEARCH PROJECTS

- 2026–2029 – Project Manager, Representation of the Memory of Displacement Among the Internally Displaced Persons from Abkhazia. Fundamental Research Grant, Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation (Georgia).
- 2023–2024 – Researcher, *The Conceptualization of Dialogue in the View of the Peace Agreement and Azerbaijan's Restructuring Policy in Nagorno-Karabakh*. Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange (NAWA), Project No. BPN/GIN/2023/1/00067/U/00001.
- 2021–2023 – Project Manager, *"Unfinished" Memory Projects in Georgia*. Young Researchers Grant, Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation (Georgia).
- 2020–2022 – Researcher, *Contemporary Social Movements in Georgia*. Fundamental Research Grant in Social Sciences, Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation (Georgia).
- 2017 – Researcher, *Issues of Ethnic and Civic Nationalism in Georgian Politics: A Discourse Analysis*. Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University.
- 2016–2017 – Researcher, *Using History During the State-Building Process in Georgia*. Research Grant for Scholars, Institute of Political Science, Ilia State University; Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia.
- 2015 – Researcher, *Social Movements in Georgia*. Research Grant for Scholars, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University.

SELECTED PROJECT MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE

- 2023–2025 – Project Participant, *Curriculum Development: Joint Master's Programme in Political Science*. Erasmus+ Capacity Building in Higher Education (ERASMUS-EDU-2023-CBHE).
- 2023 – Project Manager, *Strengthening ICT Skills for Empowering Democracy*. Eastern European Network for Citizenship Education (EENCE), Federal Agency for Civic Education (Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung, bpb).
- 2019–2024 – Project Manager, *Civic Engagement School*. Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES).
- 2020–2021 – Project Manager, *Joint Initiative Against Radicalization and Violent Extremism*. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway; Georgian Centre for Strategy and Development (GCSD); Civic Education Lecturers' Association (CELA).
- 2014– 2015 and 2016– 2017 – Project Director, *Promoting Civic Education and Strengthening the Sustainability of the Civic Education Lecturers' Association (CELA)* (Grants #S-14-116 and #S-15-040). Funded by USAID and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES).
- 2015–2016 – Civic Education Consultant, *Grant TF014363*. National Assessment and Examinations Center (NAEC), World Bank.

RECENT SCHOLARSHIPS AND ACADEMIC MOBILITIES

2026

- Visiting scholar at the University of Trieste, Erasmus + mobility program
- Visiting scholar at the University of Lille, France, Erasmus + mobility program
- Visiting scholar at the University A Coruna, Spain, Erasmus + mobility program

2025

- Visiting scholar at the University of Bologna, Italy , Erasmus + mobility program
- Visiting scholar at the Østfold University College , Norway , Erasmus + mobility program
- Visiting scholar at the Matej Bell University , Slovakia , Erasmus + mobility program

2024

- Visiting researcher at the The Friedrich Schiller University Jena, German Academic Exchange Service DAAD

2023

- Visiting scholar at the University of Rzeszow, Poland , Erasmus + mobility program
- Visiting scholar at the Academy of social and media culture in Toruń, Poland, Erasmus + mobility program

SELECTED CONSULTANCY AND RELATED EXPERIENCE

- 2015–2020 – Civic Education Consultant, Teacher Professional Development Center (TPDC)
Responsibilities: Developed assessment tools for civic education teachers' professional certification and participated in the teacher assessment process.
- 2015–2019 – Civic Education Consultant, National Assessment and Examinations Center (NAEC)
Responsibilities: Contributed to the development and administration of national civic education examinations and the certification assessment of civic education teachers.
- 2014–2022 – Civic Education Expert (periodic consultancy), International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), Georgia Office
Responsibilities: Contributed to higher education civic education curriculum development, voter education initiatives, textbook and teachers' manual development, and the design and delivery of capacity-building programmes for teachers and civic educators.

SELECTED INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2026 – *Reawakening Silenced Trauma: Comparative Mnemonic Framing of War Crimes Memories among Abkhazian IDPs in the Context of the War in Ukraine*. 13th Annual Conference on International Studies, CESRAN International, co-organized by Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE) and Autónoma University of Lisbon, Budapest, Hungary.
- 2025 – *The Threatening Shadow of Soviet Archives in Contemporary Georgia*. Ninth Annual Conference of the Memory Studies Association (MSA), Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic.
- 2024 – *How Power, Protest, and Participation Work in Developing Democracy: The Case of the Urban Movement in Batumi, Georgia*. 11th Annual Conference on International Studies, Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Venice, Italy.
- 2023 – *"Before Bucha in Ukraine, There Was Abkhazia in Georgia": The Impact of the Russia–Ukraine War on the Assessment of War Crimes in Abkhazia*. Society for the History of War Conference: *Histories of Violence in War*, Lisbon, Portugal.
- 2023 – *The Threatening Shadow of Soviet Archives in Contemporary Georgia*. Seventh Annual Tartu Conference on East European and Eurasian Studies, University of Tartu, Estonia.
- 2022 – *How Power, Protest, and Participation Work in Developing Democracy: The Case of the Urban Social Movement in Batumi*. *Critical Margins: Politicizing the Crisis*, ESA Research Network 25 on Social Movements, ECPR Standing Group on Participation and Mobilization, University of Trento, Italy.
- 2022 – *Foreign Policy Priorities as a Factor in the Formation of Memory Policy in the Post–Rose Revolution Period*. *History and Memory in International Relations*, Genealogies of Memory Conference, European Network Remembrance and Solidarity (ENRS), Poland.
- 2019 – *The Formation of the Master Narrative in Post–Rose Revolution Georgia*. ASN 2019 World Convention, Columbia University, New York, USA.
- 2018 – *From Mass Protest to the Activity of Social Groups: The Transformation of Protest in Georgia*. International Conference *Engagement for Social Change: Moving Beyond Resistance*, Belgrade, Serbia.
- 2017 – *Trajectories of Memory Policy in Contemporary Georgia*. Second Annual Conference of the Memory Studies Association, Copenhagen, Denmark.
- 2016 – *Environmental Social Movements in Georgia*. Conference *Social Movements and Protest: Future Challenges in Research and Practice*, University of Brighton, Brighton, United Kingdom.
- 2016 – *"No to Khudoni HPP": Social Movement in Georgia*. Third INSPR Conference: *Multidisciplinary Approaches to Social Change, Protest, and Political Mobilization*, Cambridge, United Kingdom.
- 2016 – *The Place of Civic Education in the Curriculum of Universities in Georgia*. Second Scholarly Conference: *Citizen and Civic Education in Post-Soviet Societies*, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Tbilisi, Georgia.
- 2014 – *Politics of Memory in Contemporary Georgia*. Conference *Living after the Fall (?) Past and Present in South-Eastern Europe*, Sofia, Bulgaria.

COURSES TAUGHT

Bachelor's Courses	Master's Courses
• Research Methods in Political Science • Democracy and Citizenship • Social Science Research Methods • Politics of Memory: Theory and Practice	• Qualitative Research Methods • Policy Advocacy Processes • Comparative Analysis of Social Movements

LANGUAGES

- Georgian: Native

- English: Full Professional Proficiency
- Russian: Professional Working Proficiency

RESEARCH SOFTWARE

- Statistical Data Analysis: IBM SPSS Statistics
- Qualitative Data Analysis: MAXQDA, NVivo (QSR International)

AWARDS AND HONOURS

2023 – Tbilisi State University Medal for Excellence in Research as a Young Female Scholar, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University.