

The South Caucasus Regional Conference on Memory Politics

Date: 21-22 October, 2019

Location: Ilia State University, Auditorium B201

Language: Georgian, English and Russian (simultaneous translation will be provided)

The Heinrich Böll Foundation Tbilisi Office – South Caucasus region, together with Ilia State University and Soviet Past Research Laboratory (SOVLAB) organizes the South Caucasus Regional Conference on Memory Politics. The main aim of the conference is to discuss memory politics and rethink the current approach on rethinking the Soviet Past and memory studies in three countries of the region.

The South Caucasus Regional Conference on Memory politics will give opportunity to researchers, academics and students to share with each other knowledge and experience on working on different topics of memory politics. At the same time, during public discussions, speakers will discuss some of the important challenges that are connected to historical research and memory studies such as the openness/accessibility of archives, lack of funding for research institutes, etc.

Day 1: October 21

10:00 – 10:30 – Registration, Ilia State University, Auditorium B201

10:30 – 11:00 Opening Speech

- Dr. Stefan Meister, Head of Office, Heinrich Boell Foundation Tbilisi office;
- Prof. Giga Zedania, Rector, Ilia State University

11:00 – 12:00 Keynote speech

Why Memory Politics Matters - Wars on Memory in the Post-Communist and Post-Yugoslav Context

Speaker:

- Dr. Ljiljana Radonic, Institute of Culture Studies and Theatre History, Austrian Academy of Sciences

12:00 – 12:30 Coffee Break

12:30 – 14:00 Public Discussion #1: How do we talk about the Soviet Past in the South Caucasus and how does the Soviet past influences current developments in the region?

Speakers:

- Davit Jishkariani, Historian, Soviet Past Research Laboratory (SOVLAB);
- Dr. Sergey Rumyantsev, co-founder of Center for Independent Social Research CISR. e.V Berlin;
- Gohar Stepanyan, PhD in History, Department of Contemporary Anthropological Studies, Institute of Anthropology and Ethnography, National Academy of Sciences, Armenia;
- Tamar Karaia, Associate Professor, Tbilisi State University

Moderator: Dr. Stefan Meister, Head of Office, Heinrich Boell Foundation

14:00 – 15:00 Lunch

15:00 – 17:00 Public Discussion #2: Who is the victim, who is the perpetrator? Different perceptions towards victims and perpetrators of Soviet repressions

Speakers:

- Irakli Khvadagiani, Historian, Soviet Past Research Laboratory (SOVLAB);
- Lela Gaprindashvili, Philosopher, Professor at Tbilisi State University;
- Gayane Shagoyan, Anthropologist, Institute of Anthropology and Ethnography, National Academy of Sciences, Armenia;
- Elguja (Giorgi) Kakabadze, PhD Student, Interdisciplinary PhD program in Social and Humanitarian Sciences, Ilia State University

Moderator: Ketevan Gurchiani, Associate Professor in Cultural Studies and Religion, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Ilia State University

Day 2: October 22

10:00 – 10:30 Registration, Ilia State University, Auditorium B201

10:30 – 11:30 Keynote Lecture Post-Soviet Georgia – trying to find its place

Speaker:

- Prof. Giorgi Maisuradze, Philosopher, Ilia State University

11:30 – 12:00 Coffee Break

12:00 – 13:30 Public Discussion #3: Political instrumentalization of history: How can we rethink our current approach on history and archives?

Speakers:

- Elnura Jivazada PhD in East European History, Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz;
- Dr. Oliver Reisner, Jean Monnet Professor in European & Caucasian Studies, Ilia State University;
- Ana Lolua, PhD Student in East European History, Ilia State University and Georg-August-University of Göttingen (Lehmann-Haupt International Doctoral Programme);
- Eviya Hovhannisyan, Projects Coordinator in Armenia, Heinrich Boell Foundation

Moderator: Tamar Gurchiani, Associate Professor in Public Law, Ilia State University

13:30 – 14:30 Lunch

14:30 – 16:00 Concluding remarks and round table discussion on what is next and what new approaches should be developed while working on rethinking the Soviet history? Dr. Stefan Meister, Lilia Chikhladze, Eviya Hovhannisyan, hbs; Oliver Reisner, IliaUni; Irakli Khvadagiani, SOVLAB.