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**Secretariat of the State Commission  
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and

**Enhancing Georgia's Migration Management –  
ENIGMMA project**

**“RECENT MIGRATORY PROCESSES AND  
EUROPE: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES”**

**International Conference Reader**

29 – 30 September 2016



State Commission  
on Migration Issues



**International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)**

Gonzagagasse 1

A-1010 Vienna

Austria

[www.icmpd.org](http://www.icmpd.org)

International Centre for Migration Policy Development

Vienna/ Tbilisi, September 2016

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The International Conference - "Recent Migratory Processes and Europe: Challenges and Opportunities" is organised by the Secretariat of the State Commission on Migration Issues of Georgia and the EU-funded "Enhancing Georgia's Migration Management" (ENIGMMA) project which is implemented in Georgia by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD). The project is carried out in close cooperation with the Delegation of the European Union to Georgia, national stakeholders involved in the migration management as well as EU member states.

ICMPD, Tbilisi/ Vienna – September 2016



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## CONFERENCE ORGANISERS

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State Commission on Migration Issues

State Commission on Migration Issues of Georgia (SCMI)



This project is funded by the European Union

Delegation of the European Union to Georgia



International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)



ICMPD ENIGMMA Project Team



Tbilisi State University

## CONFERENCE BACKGROUND

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The International Conference - **“Recent Migratory Processes and Europe: Challenges and Opportunities”**, taking place in Tbilisi, Georgia, from 29 to 30 September 2016, is a joint initiative of the Secretariat of the State Commission on Migration Issues of Georgia, ICMPD and Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University Center for Interdisciplinary Programmes and Research Development, organised by the EU-funded ENIGMMA (“Enhancing Georgia’s Migration Management”) project implemented in Georgia by ICMPD. The Conference is one of the ENIGMMA project’s activities related to strengthening cooperation between Government and Academia, with the aim to further develop capacities to define appropriate and evidence-based response strategies for migration management in Georgia, as well as to analyse the inter-linkages between migration and key development sectors. In this regard, the organisers of the Conference have selected several specific topics that reflect the above mentioned aims for strengthening the cooperation between Academia and Government. In addition, interested migration researchers have been invited to present and discuss their research papers on these relevant issues.

Recent years have witnessed intensification of both international and internal mobility in EU member states that call for rapid and innovative approaches to effectively tackle emergent challenges. With more and more individuals engaged in various types of migratory movements, the immediate impact of migration on socio-economic and cultural fabric of the EU member states becomes an important topic to investigate. Further inquiries are needed to understand migrants’ strategies in the changing environments of receiving countries, as well as to forecast what the implications of large-scale inflows of immigrants may be, especially regarding local and national economies and security.

No less important are incorporations of gendered approaches to studying emigration, immigration and return migration in Europe. This conference is designed to address these challenges and opportunities of recent migratory processes to and from the EU, and by doing so, foster academic exchange and evidence-based policy making in the field. Moreover, the Conference provides a unique opportunity for international and Georgian scholars to come together to share their research findings to further encourage representatives of state institutions and other interested actors to get more involved and understand migration from a broader inter-regional perspective.

Taking into account all of the above, the organisers of the Conference have selected the following topics to be discussed at the event:

- Integration;
- Migration, Values and Social Capital;
- Legislative and Policy Framework.

The opening of the Conference takes place at the National Library on 29 September, whereas the discussion panels take place at the Biltmore Hotel on 30 September. The Conference is conducted in English with simultaneous interpretation in Georgian.



## INFORMATION ON THE STATE COMMISSION ON MIGRATION ISSUES OF GEORGIA (SCMI)

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The State Commission on Migration Issues of Georgia (SCMI) was set up on 13 October 2010 on the basis of the Government's Decree No. 314. The Commission is the Government's consultative body to discuss and take decisions on various important issues related to migration management. The Commission comprising 13 government entities is chaired by the Minister of Justice and co-chaired by the Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs.

During its lifetime, the Commission has become a key platform for discussing migration-related issues and an effective instrument for coordinating competences falling under different bodies. To this end, the Commission is being provided with analytical and administrative support by its Secretariat (set up with EU funding) at the Public Services Development Agency - a Legal Entity of Public Law under the Ministry of Justice. The main aims of the Secretariat are to support activities of the Commission as well as execution of tasks defined in the Migration Strategy; to provide technical, organisational and intellectual support to the activities of the Commission and to coordinate activities aimed at meeting objectives set in the Migration Strategy.

The Commission's activities have been positively assessed by the European Community and leading international organisations working in the field.

To further activate the Commission's work in different directions, inside the Commission thematic working groups have been set up to work on Reintegration issues, Migration Risk Analysis, Migration Strategy, Reduction of Statelessness, Unified Migration Analytical System, Migration & Development and Aliens integration.

In addition, in 2013, international and non-governmental organisations working in the field were granted a consultative status within the Commission to provide additional expertise and develop a format of cooperation. Thanks to their active cooperation with the Commission's Secretariat, significant progress has been achieved in eradicating thematic overlap and ensuring a targeted use of existing resources. Through the coordination mechanisms introduced by the Commission, today the themes of ongoing projects in the field of migration are agreed with all the bodies and fully conform to the country's needs.

More information on the SCMI: <http://www.migration.commission.ge>.

## INFORMATION ON THE ENIGMMA PROJECT

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Project “Enhancing Georgia’s Migration Management” (ENIGMMA) is one of the outcomes of Georgia’s continued progress in the implementation of the EU-Georgia Partnership and Cooperation Agreement, the EU-Georgia European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) Action Plan, the mobility partnership and the visa facilitation and readmission agreements.

The project is funded by the European Union under the Eastern Partnership Integration and Cooperation Programme. The project started in December 2013 and will continue until June 2017.

The main objective of the project, which is jointly managed by the Delegation of the European Union to Georgia and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) in close cooperation with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), is to strengthen the migration governance framework in Georgia in line with the Visa Liberalisation Action Plan.

ENIGMMA is based on the priorities laid down by the Georgian government in its migration strategy and the migration-related areas covered by the EU-Georgia Visa Dialogue and Visa Liberalisation Action Plan (VLAP).

Taking into account the priorities set by the Georgian government in its Migration Strategy, the areas covered by the VLAP and the objectives, expected results and activities specified in the ENIGMMA project, ICMPD, with the strong involvement of experts from EU member states, supports Georgia in capacity building and institutional reform in the following migration management areas:

- Legal migration, including support in labour migration strategy development, circular migration, diaspora involvement, and visa policy;
- Fundamental human rights, including areas such as general awareness raising on human rights, data protection, international protection, addressing human rights issues in all procedures related to irregular migration, trafficking in human beings (THB) and border management, with special focus on vulnerable groups;
- Strengthening of the analytical capacities and knowledge base on migration in Georgia, in particular, in areas covered by the VLAP, including cooperation with the academia and development of the Migration Handbook for Georgia;

Support in the development of an evidence based migration policy framework, including a comprehensive analysis of the impact of migration on the socio-economic development in Georgia and support for the development of the Migration Strategy and Action Plan for 2016 - 2020.

You can find more information on the ENIGMMA project here: [www.enigma.ge](http://www.enigma.ge) and here [www.facebook.com/ICMPDinGeorgia](https://www.facebook.com/ICMPDinGeorgia).

## INFORMATION ON ICMPD

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The International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) was founded in 1993, upon the initiative of Austria and Switzerland. The organisation was created to serve as a support mechanism for informal consultations, and to provide expertise and efficient services in the newly emerging landscape of multilateral cooperation on migration and asylum issues.

ICMPD is an international organisation with **15 Member States** (Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden and Switzerland), more than 150 staff members, a mission in Brussels and regional offices and representatives throughout Europe including Georgia, Northern Africa, the Middle East and Latin America. ICMPD holds UN observer status.

The purpose of ICMPD is to promote innovative, comprehensive and sustainable migration policies and to function as a service exchange mechanism for governments and organisations. ICMPD strives for comprehensive, sustainable and future-oriented migration governance. ICMPD does so based on solid evidence and in partnership with all relevant stakeholders at national, regional and international levels.

ICMPD is a European organisation that deals with the global phenomenon of migration. Europe is more than a geographic location – it embraces principles and values that guide ICMPD’s work. European migration governance is built upon strong rule of law principles and the effective protection of human and fundamental rights with a long-standing humanitarian tradition. It stands for multilateralism and a partnership approach.

In September 2013, the government of Georgia and ICMPD signed an agreement on cooperation, which was ratified by the Georgian Parliament in November 2013. This agreement will further strengthen and develop cooperation between Georgia and ICMPD.

Find more information on ICMPD here: [www.icmpd.org](http://www.icmpd.org) and on ICMPD activities in Georgia here: [www.enigma.ge](http://www.enigma.ge) and <https://www.facebook.com/ICMPDinGeorgia>.



# CONFERENCE AGENDA

## Thursday, 29 September

**Address:**

**National Parliamentary Library, 7 Lado Gudiashvili Street, Exhibition Hall**

<b>16:00 – 16:30</b>	Thea Tsulukiani, Minister of Justice of Georgia, Chair of the State Commission on Migration Issues Ketevan Khutsishvili, Delegation of the European Union to Georgia Martijn Pluim, ICMPD, Director Violeta Wagner, ICMPD, Project Coordinator
<b>16:30 – 17:30</b>	<b>Keynote Lecture by Ronald Skeldon, UNU-MERIT/Maastricht Graduate School of Governance, Professor</b>  <i>“Recent migration trends in Europe and worldwide”</i>
<b>17:30 – 18:00</b>	<b>Q&amp;A</b>
<b>18:00 – 20:00</b>	<b>Reception</b>

## Friday, 30 September

**Address:**

**Biltmore Hotel Tbilisi, 9 Shota Rustaveli Avenue, Grand Royal Ballroom, Ground Floor**

	<b>Opening and Welcome</b>
<b>10:00 – 10:30</b>	George Jashi, SCMI Secretariat, Executive Secretary Martijn Pluim, ICMPD, Director Violeta Wagner, ICMPD, Project Coordinator
<b>10:30 – 12:00</b>	<b>Panel One: Integration</b>  <b>Chair: Maia Mestvirishvili, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences at Tbilisi State University, Associate Professor</b>  <b>Discussant: Martin Hofmann, ICMPD Senior Policy Advisor</b>  Saltanat Liebert, Mona Siddiqui and Carolin Goerzig <i>“Government Policies and Integration of Muslim Immigrants: the Transatlantic Comparison”</i>  Alexia Lochmann, Hillel Rapoport and Biagio Speciale <i>“The effect of language training on immigrants’ economic and social integration: empirical evidence from France”</i>



	Tamta Gelashvili <i>"Integration, Stereotyping and Security: the Case of Molenbeek"</i>
<b>12:00 – 12:30</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>  <b>Panel Two: Migration, Values and Social Capital</b>  <b>Chair: Tinatin Zurabishvili, CRRC Research Director</b>  <b>Discussant: Ronald Skeldon, UNU-MERIT/ Maastricht Graduate School of Governance, Professor</b>
<b>12:30 – 14:00</b>	Cintia Rivera Macías <i>"Clashing Identities? Mexican immigrants and Dutch integration policy"</i>  Paolo Ruspini <i>"Social Capital and Networking for Sub-Saharan Migrant Women"</i>  Maia Mestvirishvili, Tamar Zurabishvili <i>"EU exposure and value shift in Georgian migrant women"</i>
<b>14:00 – 15:00</b>	<b>Lunch</b>  <b>Panel Three: Legislative and Policy Framework</b>  <b>Chair: Martijn Pluim, ICMPD Director</b>  <b>Discussant: Nana Macharashvili, Tbilisi State University Interdisciplinary Center, Director</b>
<b>15:00 – 16:30</b>	Tatia Tavkhelidze <i>"Migration and integration at the example of the European Union"</i>  Daphne Heijdelberg <i>"What are the ideological developments which have shaped the current political climate around low-skilled labour migration to the United Kingdom?"</i>  Florian Biermann, Zurab Abramishvili, Maka Chitanava, Nino Doghonadze, and Mariam Zaldastanishvili <i>"What drives Internal Migration in Georgia?"</i>
<b>16:30 – 17:00</b>	<b>Closing Remarks</b>  Ron Skeldon, UNU-MERIT/ Maastricht Graduate School of Governance, Professor Violeta Wagner, ICMPD Project Coordinator George Jashi, Executive Secretary SCMI Secretariat Ketevan Khutsishvili, Delegation of the European Union to Georgia
<b>17:00 – 18:00</b>	<b>Reception and Networking</b>

## CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS

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### KEYNOTE SPEAKER

#### Ronald Skeldon

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##### Speaker's Bio



Ronald Skeldon is a Professorial Fellow in the Department of Geography at the School of Global Studies at the University of Sussex. Ronald holds a Professorship in Human Geography at UNU-MERIT/Maastricht Graduate School of Governance. In addition to this, Ronald works as a consultant to international organisations, including ICMPD, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations Population

Division (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Social Science Research Council (SSRC) in New York.

Ronald completed his BSc (Hons) in Geography at the University of Glasgow. After taking his MA in Geography at the University of Toronto he completed his Ph.D. in 1974 with a dissertation on Migration in a Peasant Society: the Example of Cuzco, Peru.

##### Keynote topic

Recent migration trends in Europe and worldwide

## PANEL 1: INTEGRATION

### Panelists

#### **Saltanat Liebert**

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##### **Speaker's Bio**



Saltanat Liebert is an Associate Professor at the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs at Virginia Commonwealth University (USA). She earned a Ph.D. in Public Administration from American University (USA). Her dissertation focused on irregular labour migration from the Former Soviet Union to the United States. Prior to joining academia, she worked for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Development Programme, and the International Organization for Migration in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. She has also served as a consultant on governance, migration and human trafficking issues, working with such institutions as the World Bank, the Johns Hopkins University and the International Research and Exchanges Board.

##### **Abstract**

**Title:** Government Policies and Integration of Muslim Immigrants: the Transatlantic Comparison

**Authors:** Dr. Saltanat Liebert, Ms. Mona Siddiqui and Dr. Carolin Goerzig

Integration of Muslim immigrants has become an increasingly important policy issue in Europe and North America over the last

twenty years due to the marked growth in the migration patterns of Muslim immigrants from non-Western Islamic countries settling into North America and Europe. Can Europe and North America successfully integrate the new generations of Muslim immigrants, especially in light of the current state of geopolitical turbulence between Western nations, political Islamist groups, and the current refugee crisis? Is poor integration of Muslim immigrants in destination European countries and North America contributing to their alienation and, in some cases, increase in radicalised behavior in the form of extreme political violence? Which integration policies appear to be more effective? Our research attempts to solve this puzzle through a transatlantic comparison of integration of Muslim immigrants in four major immigrant destination countries: United States, Canada, the Netherlands and France.

Data for this exploratory study are drawn from two main sources: 1) expert interviews with immigration integration scholars and practitioners; 2) analysis of four countries' immigrant integration policies.

Preliminary findings suggest that equal employment opportunity and lack of employment discrimination are more important to successful integration of Muslim immigrants than the scope of integration policies in the countries of destination. In conclusion, we make recommendations to policymakers on designing and implementing effective immigrant integration policies.

## Biagio Speciale

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### Speaker's Bio



Biagio Speciale is an Associate Professor of Economics at Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne. He holds a PhD in Economics from Université libre de Bruxelles. His main research interests include the economics of migration and labor economics in contexts of political instability and democratic changes. Biagio's scientific articles have been published in journals

such as the Journal of the European Economic Association, Journal of Public Economics and Oxford Economic Papers.

### Abstract

**Title:** The effect of language training on immigrants' economic and social integration: empirical evidence from France

**Authors:** Alexia Lochmann, Hillel Rapoport and Biagio Speciale

In many destination countries, immigrants still represent the most vulnerable part of the population. Amongst others, Algan et al. (2010), show that France does not represent an exception. Following a social and economic degradation of immigrants, and a high presence of discriminatory practices regarding work and housing, the French Government has introduced policies aimed at improving the economic and social integration of immigrants. Since 1 January 2007, every new legal immigrant to France who is older than 16 and is coming from a country outside the EU, has to sign a "Contrat d'accueil et d'intégration" (CAI). This contract imposes a civil training (e.g. on French institutions and values of the Republic), a language training, an information session on life in France and a statement of professional competence.

Our study evaluates the component of the CAI related to the language training. After the signature of the CAI contract, the immigrant has to pass a test on the knowledge of the French language, written and spoken. If the result is insufficient, the person has to receive a linguistic training. We examine the impact of language training on the economic integration of immigrants in France.

We find that the access to the language training significantly increases the probability of being employed and having a permanent contract, three years after taking the test. We also analyse the effect of the language training on a set of outcomes related to social integration, such as the formation of networks, housing and living conditions.

## Tamta Gelashvili

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### Speaker's Bio



Tamta Gelashvili obtained her MSc in Political Sciences and International Relations from the Graduate School of Social Sciences, University of Amsterdam, in 2014. She also holds a Bachelor's degree in Political Sciences and International Relations and Business Administration from the American University in Bulgaria. Currently, she is an Invited Lecturer at the University of Georgia, teaching courses on Contemporary Middle East, Political and Legal Systems of the Middle East, English Language, and Academic Writing in English. She also works as an Organisational Development Manager at the Human Rights Education and Monitoring Center (EMC).

## **Abstract**

**Title:** Integration, Stereotyping and Security: the Case of Molenbeek

**Author:** Tamta Gelashvili

Recent inflows of asylum seekers and refugees to Europe have posed new challenges to Europe. One of the most acute issues relates to the integration of immigrants. With the recent terrorist attacks and the corresponding rise in intolerant attitudes, the need to coordinate social integration policies with security policy has become more apparent. In this regard, studying specific contexts and diverse approaches towards integration becomes especially important.

The paper will use Belgium as a case study. More specifically, the paper will investigate how Belgium tackles increasing immigration and what policies the country implements to facilitate the integration of immigrants. To this end, the paper will briefly describe immigrant integration policies in Belgium and will assess the benefits and challenges associated with these policies, considering the decentralised system of governance. The paper will focus on the challenges related to integration and security in light of the recent terrorist attacks to several EU countries, also highlighting the corresponding rise of prejudice and far-right tendencies in Belgium. The paper will discuss the impact of the recent inflow of immigrants from Syria and the related policy challenges to Belgium, namely, the need to facilitate integration and challenge stereotypical and prejudiced attitudes, while simultaneously ensuring national security.

## Chair

### Maia Mestvirishvili

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#### Speaker's Bio



Maia Mestvirishvili is an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences at Tbilisi State University. Her major research interests are social identity, stigma and coping, moral judgment and religious attitudes. She has received international scholarships at Columbia University, UC Berkeley, University of Leuven, University of Fribourg and City University of NY (CUNY). Maia Mestvirishvili is the Principle Investigator of research projects funded by the Academic Swiss Caucasus Network (ASCN) “Dispositional and Attitudinal Predictors of Citizenship Style in Georgia” and the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) “Homophobia in Georgia: Can it be predicted?”. She is an author of three interdisciplinary courses: ‘Stigma and Health’, ‘Self and Identity’ and ‘Visual Methods in Social Sciences’.



## Discussant

### Martin Hofmann

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#### Speaker's Bio



Martin Hofmann is a specialist on migration research and policy development with more than 13 years of professional experience. He is policy advisor to the Director General of ICMPD. As programme manager, he is coordinating the Centre's programme on legal migration and integration. He has coordinated and worked in a broad number of EU and national funded projects in the area of migration, migration management and integration. His work has focused on comparative studies and publications in the areas of immigration, irregular migration, human smuggling, integration, and asylum and migration policy development in the national and European context. Moreover, he worked as researcher for the ICMPD secretariats of the Budapest and Prague Process, consultative fora of more than 50 Governments, aiming at developing comprehensive and sustainable migration management systems in the wider European context.

Martin Hofmann holds a university degree in Political Sciences with a focus on European Integration, the Political System of the European Union and the Austrian Political System at the University of Vienna. He is a member of the Network of Excellence International Migration, Integration and Social Cohesion (IMISCOE); has been lecturer at the Danube University Krems; and at Vienna University.

## PANEL 2: MIGRATION, VALUES AND SOCIAL CAPITAL

### Panelists

#### Cintia Rivera Macias

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##### Speaker's Bio



Cintia has a background in International Relations with a Bachelor's degree from the Tecnológico de Monterrey (ITESM) in Mexico, and a certificate of specialty in the same area by the University of British Columbia (UBC) in Canada. She holds an M.A. in Development Studies with a focus on Governance, Policy and Political Economy by the International Institute of Social Studies.

She is currently pursuing an Advance Master's in International Development at Radboud University Nijmegen while undergoing a traineeship at UTZ in Amsterdam, working on strengthening the capacity of farmers (especially smallholders and female farmers) and civil society organisations. Her research interests are related to integration policies, interracial dynamics, and ethnic minority issues.

##### Abstract

**Title:** Clashing Identities? Mexican immigrants and Dutch integration policy

**Author:** Cintia Rivera Macias

Amidst rising migration trends, integration policy is a relevant element in migrants' welfare and host countries' socioeconomic stability. This research explores how Dutch citizenship attainment ensures

residence, though not integration. Current immigration flows have resulted in stricter attitudes and policies towards newcomers. In this context, citizenship has become the leading principle in Dutch integration policy. To become citizens, immigrants must prove their level of integration by being self-sufficient and engaged in Dutch society. Through the application of this integration policy, the Dutch state seems to homogenise, control and manage its civil society up to the point of perpetuating social exclusion and inequality.

This paper focuses on Mexican immigrants' integration experience, and examines the foundations of 'real integration'. Mexican immigrants move simultaneously amongst different political communities, being subject to specific circles of privilege and/or oppression. Their social locations, identifications, and emotional attachments greatly determine the fluidity of their integration process. Accordingly, individual's identity and citizenship are embodied, experiencing uneven integrations. The research uses multi-layered citizenship theory and biopower, in which citizenship is put in a wider context as a tool of the state to include or exclude members of the polity. Mexican immigrants' biggest obstacle for integration was not attaining Dutch citizenship, but rather meeting the normative and moral requirements of Dutch society in everyday life. Therefore, Mexicans would appropriate their integration to fit their realities by negotiating the terms and conditions via acts of resistance or compliance that could either be performed inside or outside Dutch integration policy.

## Paolo Ruspini

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### Speaker's Bio



Paolo Ruspini is Senior Researcher at the Faculty of Communication Sciences of the University of Lugano (USI) since February 2008 and Honorary Research Fellow at the Department of Social Sciences, University of Roehampton. A political scientist, he has been studying international and European migration and integration since 1997 with a comparative approach. His current research deals with transnational migration in Europe from a theoretical and empirical perspective. His recent publications include *Migration and Transnationalism between Switzerland and Bulgaria* (2017, Springer, co-editor) and *A Decade of EU Enlargement: A Changing Framework and Patterns of Migration*, (2014, *Central and Eastern European Migration Review*, Vol. 3, No. 2, co-editor).

### Abstract

**Title:** Social capital and networking for Sub-Saharan migrant women

**Author:** Paolo Ruspini

This paper draws from the findings of the European project “Learning for Female African Migrants’ Solidarity: Help Desks for Female African Migrants in the Eastern Mediterranean Region” (LeFamSol) carried out in 2014-2015 by a research consortium from Greece, Turkey, Italy, Switzerland and Cyprus. Qualitative research was carried out in Greece, Turkey and Italy, which are three receiving countries of Sub-Saharan African migrants among the project’s partners. After describing the respective national migration contexts in comparative perspective, the research focuses on how to best capture the potential of female African migrants’ transnational networks and empowering the targeted women.

Bridging social capital and intercultural competence in a transnational migrant network's frame aimed at a group of peer learners and trainers, lies at the core of the proposed approach. The final aim is to set up ethnic self-support structures in a lifelong learning context. The self-help structures for the female African migrants may be developed moving from the described peer learning and networking experience, which is embedded in transformative processes of international migration, migrant transnationalism and changing integration practices and learning needs.

## **Maia Mestvirishvili**

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### **Speaker's Bio**



Maia Mestvirishvili is an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences at Tbilisi State University. Her major research interests are social identity, stigma and coping, moral judgment and religious attitudes. She has received international scholarships at Columbia University, UC Berkeley, University of Leuven, University of Fribourg and City University of NY (CUNY). Maia Mestvirishvili is the Principle Investigator of research projects funded by the Academic Swiss Caucasus Network (ASCN) “Dispositional and Attitudinal Predictors of Citizenship Style in Georgia” and the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) “Homophobia in Georgia: Can it be predicted?” She is an author of three interdisciplinary courses: ‘Stigma and Health’, ‘Self and Identity’ and ‘Visual Methods in Social Sciences’.

## Tamar Zurabishvili

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### Speaker's Bio



Tamar Zurabishvili currently works as a researcher at ICMPD's Analytical Unit for the ENIGMMA project. Tamar has M.A. degrees in Media Studies from the New School University, in Sociology from the Moscow School of Social and Economic Sciences and Manchester University, and a Ph.D. in Sociology from Ilia University in Tbilisi. Along with teaching at various Georgian higher educational institutions, Tamar has been involved in several studies of emigration from Georgia and returnee reintegration. She served as a consultant/expert for IOM, the Caucasian Institute for Peace, Democracy and Development (CIPDD), the European University Institute (Florence, Italy), the Europe Foundation (former Eurasia Partnership Foundation), the Heinrich-Böll-Foundation South Caucasus office and the Innovations and Reforms Center.

### Abstract

**Title:** From Conservation to Self-transcendence: EU exposure and value shift in Georgian migrant women

**Authors:** Maia Mestvirishvili and Tamar Zurabishvili

The present paper aims to analyse the multiplicities of migration experiences and their impact on values of Georgian female returned migrants. The paper is based on a qualitative study results, conducted in Tbilisi, Georgia in summer 2015 using in-depth and photo-elicitation interviews: 17 female returnees were interviewed. Snowball sampling method was used to identify informants - returnees from EU member states. Special emphasis was made on value and identity shifts as a result of migration experience.

The paper argues that emigration to the EU contributed to fundamental changes in the value systems of informants. Namely, the results demonstrate that exposure of living in EU countries reshapes women's perceptions, attitudes and values. As a result of living and working abroad women become more independent, socially active, and self-motivated to achieve their personal goals. The paper builds on Schwarz's value continuum to demonstrate that these changes reflect the shift from conservational to self-transcendence dimension. Even as the primary emigration goals of informants were economic ones and many left to contribute to the financial well-being of their families, they assert that a "search for happiness" was the most important value they gained that is not necessarily tied to achieving financial success. The values that were most often mentioned by informants corresponded to the non-material values rather than material ones.

Thus, the paper will demonstrate that regardless whether informants evaluate their emigration experience as positive or negative, emigration is a life-changing experience that may have deeper impact on identities of migrants, shape their values and promote individual freedom, self-fulfilment, respect for the other culture, self-expansion and personal growth.

## Chair

### Tinatin Zurabishvili

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#### Speaker's Bio



Tinatin Zurabishvili (PhD) is currently a Research Director at CRRC-Georgia. She has extensive experience as a researcher in many organisations as well as numerous publications and independent research projects.

Her publications include “Remittances in Provincial Georgia: The Case of Daba Tianeti (2013)”, “Return to Georgia: Return Motives, Reintegration Patterns, Sustainability (2013)” and more.

Tinatin is from Georgia and speaks English, Russian and Italian in addition to her native language, Georgian.



## Discussant

### Ronald Skeldon

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#### Speaker's Bio



Ronald Skeldon is a Professorial Fellow in the Department of Geography at the School of Global Studies at the University of Sussex. Ronald holds a Professorship in Human Geography at UNU-MERIT/Maastricht Graduate School of Governance. In addition to this, Ronald works as a consultant to international organisations, including ICMPD, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations Population Division (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Social Science Research Council (SSRC) in New York.

Ronald completed his BSc (Hons) in Geography at the University of Glasgow. After taking his MA in Geography at the University of Toronto he completed his Ph.D. in 1974 with a dissertation on Migration in a Peasant Society: the Example of Cuzco, Peru.

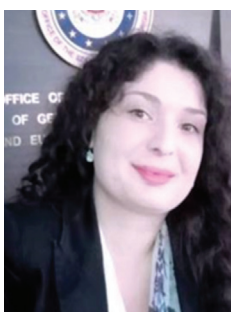
## PANEL 3: LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

### Panelists

#### Tatia Tavkhelidze

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#### Speaker's Bio



Tatia Tavkhelidze is an M.A. student at the Institute for European Studies at Tbilisi State University. Tatia studied law at the University of Passau in Germany as an exchange student. Prior to her M.A. programme, she studied German and American Studies for a short term at the University of Würzburg, Germany. She received a Bachelor's degree in International Relations at the Tbilisi State University. Tatia was a trainer in the informative training course on NATO and the EU for ethnic minorities in Georgia. Her experience includes a short-term study visit to the European Parliament in Brussels. Tatia has also worked for the Office of the State Minister of Georgia on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration.

#### Abstract

**Title:** Migration and integration at the example of the European Union

**Author:** Tatia Tavkhelidze

Migration flows and ethnic minorities formed from this process lead to the problem of integration that is a great challenge for current Europe. The European Union is experiencing a migration crisis. It lacks strategy on how to integrate immigrants in the European community. Existing shared competence between the Union and

member states in the area of freedom, security and justice, which also covers migration related issues, makes it difficult for the EU to act as a unity in this field. For this reason, it becomes problematic to have an effective common legal system that protects the rights of immigrants in the receiving community and ensures their fair integration in the European social, economic and cultural life. Therefore, the paper proposes the following main research question: "Is the law of the European Union efficient to protect the immigrants' rights and ensure their fair integration in the European community?". To answer this question, the paper analyses the main directives and treaty articles, which create rights for immigrants in the European Union, in four dimensions. More specifically, how is the equal treatment formulated in the European migration law regarding legal immigrants? Secondly, does the EU's legal approach to defend immigrants' rights comply with the principles of international law? Thirdly, does it ensure fair integration of immigrants in the entire community? And, finally, how can the legislative framework of the EU be improved to provide better protection of immigrants' rights inside the Union?

## **Daphne Heijdelberg**

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### **Speaker's Bio**



Daphne Heijdelberg holds an M.A. (Hons.) in Anthropology & International Relations from the University of Aberdeen and a joint M.A. in Global Studies (Erasmus Mundus) from the University of Vienna and Leipzig University. She is currently following the Advanced Master's in International Development (AMID) programme at the Radboud University Nijmegen and undertaking a traineeship with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, working on its policies around youth (un)employment and irregular migration. Her research interests

lie in the field of labour migration, migrant rights legislation and the securitisation of migration.

### **Abstract**

**Title:** What are the ideological developments which have shaped the current political climate around low-skilled labour migration to the United Kingdom?

**Author:** Daphne Heijdelberg

Following a stark increase in the number of migrant workers to the United Kingdom in recent years, the current political narrative around labour immigration in the UK is characterised by strong opposition against the in-flow of migrant workers to the so-called 'low-skilled' employment sectors. This political climate has been shaped by a set of historical and socio-economic developments which have affected the perception and status of migrant workers and that of 'low-skilled' labour migrants in particular. This paper discusses the influence of the UK's (post)colonial policies, neo-liberal reform, the 'securitisation of migration' and the role of the UK in international migrant workers' rights legislation to help explain the current backlash against 'low-skilled' labour immigration. In order to understand the particular focus on migrant workers in the 'low-skilled' employment sectors, the concept of 'skill' as a tool to categorise workers is deconstructed taking into account the role that gender and race play in this process. Furthermore, it is discussed how a rejection of foreign-born workers in the 'low-skilled' employment sectors fits into the wider context of British neo-liberal policy and welfare reform, as well as in the state security debate. Finally, the UK's refusal to ratify several multilateral treaties on the rights of migrant workers is analysed in light of internal British political developments from the 1970s to the present day.

## Florian Biermann

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### Speaker's Bio



Florian Biermann got his Ph.D. degree in game theory from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel. Since 2011, he is an Assistant Professor at the International School of Economics at Tbilisi State University (ISET) in Tbilisi, Georgia. Despite being a theoretical economist by training, Florian is frequently involved in applied economics projects for clients like the World Bank, UNDP, USAID, the Government of Georgia, and business associations. Florian has two published academic papers and one working paper. In addition, he authored more than 60 popular media articles, as well as policy briefs on economic and political issues in Georgia and the post-Soviet space.

### Abstract

**Title:** What drives Internal Migration in Georgia?

**Authors:** Florian Biermann, Zurab Abramishvili, Maka Chitanava, Mariam Zaldastanishvili

In this paper, we conduct an econometric probit analysis to elicit what determines the probability of a citizen to be an internal migrant. Most of the data we use come from the Integrated Household Survey Database provided by the National Statistics Office of Georgia (GeoStat). As in other countries, we find that in Georgia people primarily move into urban districts from rural regions, and women are more likely to be internal migrants while members of minorities are less likely to move. Conflicting with previous literature, we provide evidence that inequality in a region deters people from moving there. However, we argue that this can be explained if inequality is seen as a proxy variable for income uncertainty. Another interesting result

is that migration decisions are driven particularly by the availability of jobs in manufacturing in the recipient region, which suggests that Georgia is undergoing similar processes as European countries during the early industrialisation phase. Based on descriptive statistics, we claim that rural depopulation and crowding in the cities are becoming severe problems in Georgia, so that policy interventions should aim at slowing down internal migration processes. Consequently, we propose policy interventions related to reducing income uncertainties and subsidising manufacturing jobs in rural areas.

## Chair

### Martijn Pluim

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#### Speaker's Bio



Martijn Pluim started his career with ICMPD in 1999. Having worked on a broad variety of migration-related matters within the organisation, he left in 2005 to work at the European Commission. There, he worked on migration, asylum and border management issues in the Operations Quality Support Directorate. He returned to ICMPD in 2007. Presently, as Director for the Eastern Dimension, he is in charge of ICMPD's support activities for the migration dialogues along the Eastern Migratory Route. He oversees all projects taking place in Eastern Europe and Asia and guides the teams in charge of the Illegal Migration & Return, Trafficking in Human Beings and Border Management & Visa programmes. In addition to his work in ICMPD, he was a member of the EU Group of Experts on Trafficking in Human Beings (2008-2011) and has a seat in the management board of PAG-ASA, a Belgian NGO supporting victims of trafficking in human beings.

## Discussant

### Nana Macharashvili

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#### Speaker's Bio



Nana is the Director of the Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University's Center for Interdisciplinary Studies and Research Development and holds a Ph.D. in Political Sciences. Her research interests lie in deliberate democracy, citizen engagement and participative democracy in local governance. Nana has authored academic papers on topics such as: Public Participation; Comparative Public Policy; Reasons of Public Program Failure; Public Participation in Public policymaking; Public Administration Reforming Process in Georgia; The Process of Reconciliation after Violent Conflict; Transitional Justice - hard choice between prosecution and restoration on past human rights abuses.



# NOTES

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## Notes

## Notes



This project is funded by  
the European Union

## **“RECENT MIGRATORY PROCESSES AND EUROPE: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES”**: International Conference Reader

The International Conference **“Recent Migratory Processes and Europe: Challenges and Opportunities”** is a joint initiative of the Secretariat of the State Commission on Migration Issues of Georgia, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University Center for Interdisciplinary Programmes and Research Development and the EU-funded ENIGMMA (“Enhancing Georgia’s Migration Management”) project implemented in Georgia by ICMPD. The Conference is part of the Migration Strategy of Georgia for 2016-2020, implemented on the basis of Memorandum of Understanding concluded in 2014 between SCMI and TSU and implemented through the ENIGMMA project’s activities related to the strengthening cooperation between Government and Academia with the aim to further develop capacities to define appropriate and evidence-based response strategies for migration management in Georgia, as well as to analyse the inter-linkages between migration and key development sectors. In this regard, the organisers of the Conference have selected several specific topics that reflect the above mentioned aims for strengthening the cooperation between Academia and Government. In addition, interested migration researchers have been invited to present and discuss their research papers on these relevant issues.

This reader provides short information on the Conference organisers and participants of the panels, as well as abstracts of all presented and discussed papers.



State Commission  
on Migration Issues

