


# 16th Annual International Research Conference on American Studies

## International Black Sea University in cooperation with the Embassy of The United States of America

IBSU

## CONFERENCE PROGRAM

International Black Sea University, 2nd Building, 3rd Floor, Conference Hall.
D. Aghmashenebeli alley, 13 km. № 2, Tbilisi, Georgia.

## Monday, 8 June 2026

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| **10:00 – 11:00** | **REGISTRATION**<br>International Black Sea University, 2nd Building, 3rd Floor, Conference Hall |
| **11:00 – 12:00** | Conference welcome and official opening<br>**Mr. Luka Kavtelishvili**, President of the International Black Sea University<br>**Goderdzi Buchashvili**, Professor, Vice President of the International Black Sea University<br>**Tamar Shioshvili,** Professor, Dean of the School of Education, Humanities and Social Sciences, Head of BA, MA and PhD American Studies Programs, International Black Sea University.<br>**Alan S. Purcell**, Chargé d'Affaires**,** United States Embassy in Georgia<br>**John Bushyhead**, Alumnus of the International Black Sea University American Studies PhD Program<br>**Saba Pruidze**, Senior Student of the American Studies Program, International Black Sea University.<br>**Dr. Nicole Morris**, Keynote speaker, Professor of Practice, Faculty Director of the Emory IP & Innovation Clinic, Emory University School of Law |
| **12:00 – 12:30** | **Buffet Lunch** |

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| **12:30 – 16:00** | ***PARALLEL WORKSHOPS: WORKSHOP 1: POLITICS, HISTORY***<br>***Chair: Nika Chitadze, Affiliated Prof. Dr., International Black Sea University.***<br>***Building B, Auditorium 206*** |
| **12:30 – 12:45** | **1. Bezhitashvili Tato,** Ph.D. candidate, American Studies Program, School of Education, Humanities, and Social Sciences, International Black Sea University, Tbilisi, Georgia.<br>*"From Philadelphia to NATO: The Internationalization of U.S. Security Commitments at 250"* |
| **12:45 – 13:00** | **2. Chitadze Nika**, Affiliated Prof. Dr., School of Education, Humanities and Social Sciences, International Black Sea University, Tbilisi, Georgia.<br>*"Prospects and challenges for the development of transatlantic ties between NATO's American and European partners under the Donald Trump administration"* |
| **13:00 – 13:15** | **3. Chumburidze Tea**, Affiliated Assoc. Prof. Dr. in American Studies, School of Education, Humanities and Social Sciences, International Black Sea University, Tbilisi, Georgia.<br>**Tielidze Davit**, PhD candidate, American Studies Program, School of Education, Humanities and Social Sciences, International Black Sea University, Tbilisi, Georgia.<br>*"Institutionalizing Cyber Defense: A Comparative Study of U.S. Practices and Georgia's National Cyber Reserve Development"* |
| **13:15 – 13:30** | **4. Gabunia Mariami,** Senior student, American Studies Program, School of Education, Humanities and Social Sciences, International Black Sea University, Tbilisi, Georgia.<br>*"The Evolution of American Soft Power in the Digital Age"* |
| **13:30 – 13:45** | **5. Gogoladze Meri,** Invited Lecturer, American Studies Program, School of Education, Humanities and Social Sciences, International Black Sea University, Tbilisi, Georgia.<br>*"From 1776 to 2026: The Enduring Power of "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness"* |
| **13:45 – 14:00** | **6. Karazanishvili Tamar**, Affiliated Assoc. Prof., International Black Sea University, Tbilisi, Georgia.<br>*"Reimagining 1776 in the Digital Age: Popular Sovereignty, Democratic Legitimacy, and the Transformation of Political Authority in a Globalized World"* |
| **14:00 – 14:15** | **7. Kokhreidze Nia**, Senior student, American Studies Program, School of Education, Humanities and Social Sciences, International Black Sea University, Tbilisi, Georgia.<br>*"Voice in action: How Americans participate in democracy today"* |
| **14:15 – 14:30** | **Break** |
| **14:30 – 14:45** | **8. Mamasakhlisi Ioseb**, PhD candidate, Political Science, Caucasus International University, Tbilisi, Georgia.<br>*"Crisis of Power Projection in the 21st Century: Technological Transformation, Hegemonic Pressure and Security in the South Caucasus"* |
| **14:45 – 15:00** | **9. Matcharashvili Giorgi**, MA student, US Foreign Affairs Program, School of Education, Humanities, and Social Sciences, International Black Sea University, Tbilisi, Georgia.<br>*"250 Years of Declaration of Independence"* |
| **15:00 – 15:15** | **10. Meladze Eka**, PhD in American Studies, School of Education, Humanities, and Social Sciences, International Black Sea University, Tbilisi, Georgia.<br>*"The Cultural Legacy of the Declaration of Independence and Its Influence on American Leadership Models"* |
| **15:15 – 15:30** | **11. Nyasha Foster**, PhD candidate, American Studies Program, School of Education, Humanities, and Social Sciences, International Black Sea University, Tbilisi, Georgia *"The Declaration of Independence at 250: Climate Resilience, Disaster Diplomacy, and the Enduring American Ethos of National Security (1776–2026)"* |
| **15:30 – 15:45** | **12. Pruidze Saba**, Senior student, American Studies Program, School of Education, Humanities and Social Sciences, International Black Sea University, Tbilisi, Georgia.<br>*"America and Its Oldest Ally: The Enduring Partnership with France"* |
| **15:45 – 16:00** | **13. Utiashvili Tamta**, PhD in American Studies, School of Education, Humanities and Social Sciences, International Black Sea University, Tbilisi, Georgia.<br>*"An Analytical Examination of President Donald Trump's 2026 State of the Union Address"* |

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| **12:30 – 16:00** | ***PARALLEL WORKSHOPS: WORKSHOP 2: POLITICS, HISTORY***<br>***Chair: Givi Amaglobeli, Affiliated Assoc. Prof. Dr., International Black Sea University.***<br>***Building B, Auditorium 209*** |
| **12:30 – 12:45** | **1. Amaglobeli Givi**, Affiliated Assoc. Prof. Dr., School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Education, International Black Sea University, Tbilisi, Georgia.<br>*"Ideational differences between Democrats and Republicans on the Declaration of Independence"* |
| **12:45 – 13:00** | **2. Antidze Maia,** PhD in American Studies, School of Education, Humanities and Social Sciences, International Black Sea University, Tbilisi, Georgia.<br>*"Declaration's 250th Anniversary – The signer's legacy meets today's world"* |
| **13:00 – 13:15** | **3. Arakelian Artiom,** American Studies BA Graduate, School of Education, Humanities and Social Sciences, International Black Sea University, Tbilisi, Georgia.<br>*"The Psychology of the American Dream: Ambition, Failure, and the Science of Human Potential Beyond Borders*" |
| **13:15 – 13:30** | **4. Kenkadze Kakhi**, Invited Lecturer, American Studies Program, School of Education, Humanities and Social Sciences, International Black Sea University, Tbilisi, Georgia.<br>*"The US and Anglosphere"* |
| **13:30 – 13:45** | **5. Klateishvili Temur**, Ph.D. candidate, American Studies Program, School of Education, Humanities, and Social Sciences, International Black Sea University, Tbilisi, Georgia.<br>*"The Role of the USA in External Support in Building Strategic Resistance of Small States"* |
| **13:45 – 14:00** | **6. Kutateladze Anton**, PhD candidate, Political Science Program, Caucasus International University, Tbilisi, Georgia.<br>*"The Role of the United States and International Cooperation in Ensuring Georgia's Security"* |
| **14:00 – 14:15** | **7. Magradze Ellen**, PhD candidate, Conflict Studies Program, Tbilisi State University, Tbilisi, Georgia.<br>*"The USA Migration Policy and Its Implications to Combating Illegal Migrants – the Georgia Case"* |
| **14:15 – 14:30** | **Break** |
| **14:30 – 14:45** | **8. Mchedlishvili George**, Affiliated Assoc. Prof. Dr., European University, International Black Sea University Tbilisi, Georgia.<br>*"The Reluctant Great Power: American Foreign Policy and Geopolitical Restraint, 1865-1900"* |
| **14:45 – 15:00** | **9. Mikadze Miranda**, Associate Prof., PhD in Political Science, Caucasus International University, Tbilisi, Georgia.<br>**Magradze Ellen**, PhD candidate, Conflict Studies Program, Tbilisi State University, Tbilisi, Georgia.<br>*"Migration Responses to the Russia–Ukraine War: The Case of Georgia"* |
| **15:00 – 15:15** | **10. Mshvidobadze Natia,** PhD in American Studies, School of Education, Humanities and Social Sciences, International Black Sea University, Tbilisi, Georgia.<br>*"The Invisible Ethnics: Rethinking German Assimilation in the Shadow of Anglo-American Historiography"* |
| **15:15 – 15:30** | **11. Scott Jonathan**, Affiliated Assoc. Prof. Dr., American Studies Program, School of Education, Humanities and Social Sciences, International Black Sea University, Tbilisi, Georgia.<br>*"Politics and Language of National Security Strategies: What of the 2025 NSS?"* |
| **15:30 – 15:45** | **12. Shioshvili Tamar,** Affiliated Prof. Dr., Dean of the School of Education, Humanities and Social Sciences, Head of BA, MA and PhD American Studies Programs, International Black Sea University, Tbilisi, Georgia.<br>*"American Freedom – Premise for the Innovative Trends"* |
| **15:45 – 16:00** | **13. Ustiashvili Samin**, PhD in American Studies, School of Education, Humanities and Social Sciences, International Black Sea University, Tbilisi, Georgia.<br>*"Between Deterrence and War: The Strategic Triangle of Iran, Israel, and the United States"* |

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| **12:30 – 16:00** | ***PARALLEL WORKSHOPS: WORKSHOP 3: CULTURE, SOCIAL ISSUES***<br>***Chair: Irina Bakhtadze, Affiliated Prof. Dr., International Black Sea University***<br>***Building B, 4th Floor, Library Conference Hall*** |
| **12:30 – 12:45** | **1. Abdushelishvili Lela**, Prof. Dr. in American Studies, School of Education, Humanities and Social Sciences, International Black Sea University, Tbilisi, Georgia.<br>*"Mastery of Language and Style of Universal Declaration of Human Rights to Appeal to Both Domestic and International Audiences"* |
| **12:45 – 13:00** | **2. Bairamovi Aleko,** Ph.D. candidate, American Studies Program, School of Education, Humanities, and Social Sciences, International Black Sea University, Tbilisi, Georgia.<br>*"When Stress Reaches the Heart: Occupational and Psychosocial Stress, Gender Roles, and Women's Cardiovascular Health in the United States"* |
| **13:00 – 13:15** | **3. Bakhtadze Irina**, Affiliated Prof. Dr. in American Studies, School of Education, Humanities and Social Sciences, International Black Sea University, Tbilisi, Georgia.<br>**Arabuli George**, Ph.D. candidate, American Studies Program, School of Education, Humanities, and Social Sciences, International Black Sea University, Tbilisi, Georgia.<br>*"International Partnership and National Resistance Effectiveness: The Case of U.S.–Georgia Strategic Cooperation"* |
| **13:15 – 13:30** | **4. Bakhtadze Irina**, Affiliated Prof. Dr. in American Studies, School of Education, Humanities and Social Sciences, International Black Sea University, Tbilisi, Georgia.<br>**Revazishvili Sopo**, Ph.D. candidate, American Studies Program, School of Education, Humanities, and Social Sciences, International Black Sea University, Tbilisi, Georgia.<br>*"Importance of Development of Vocational Education in the US: Analysis of the Historical Role of Trade Colleges in the State of Georgia"* |
| **13:30 – 13:45** | **5. Beraia Eka**, Associate Prof. Dr. in American Studies, Caucasus International University, Tbilisi, Georgia.<br>*"The role of women in the memory of Georgian and American independence - Comparative analysis"* |
| **13:45 – 14:00** | **6. Ghudushauri Ekaterine**, Ph.D. candidate, American Studies Program, School of Education, Humanities and Social Sciences, International Black Sea University, Tbilisi, Georgia.<br>*"The Influence of Social Media on Women's Psychology and the Increased Demand for Aesthetic Centers"* |
| **14:00 – 14:15** | **7. Gogia Anano and Natsvlishvili Eva,** Senior students, American Studies Program, School of Education, Humanities, and Social Sciences, International Black Sea University, Tbilisi, Georgia.<br>*"Painting Freedom: 250 Years of Independence in Art"* |
| **14:15 – 14:30** | **Break** |
| **14:30 – 14:45** | **8. Lochoshvili Nino**, MD, M.P.H, PhD, Alte University, Tbilisi, Georgia.<br>*"Health Status and Risk Factors Among Asbestos-Exposed Populations: A Comparative Study of Georgia and the United States"* |
| **14:45 – 15:00** | **9. Mgeladze Tamar**, Ph.D. in American Studies, School of Education, Humanities and Social Sciences, International Black Sea University, Tbilisi, Georgia.<br>*"Psychological Implications of Divorce on Women and Emotional, Behavioral, and Academic Outcomes of Children: A Comparative Analysis of the United States and Georgia"* |
| **15:00 – 15:15** | **10. Mtchedlishvili Ketevan,** Ph.D. candidate, American Studies Program, School of Education, Humanities and Social Sciences, International Black Sea University, Tbilisi, Georgia.<br>*"The Structural–Interactionist Synergy Model in Breast Cancer Care: Reframing Psychosocial Outcomes through Social Support and Psychotherapy"* |
| **15:15 – 15:30** | **11. Shaduri George,** Affiliated Assoc. Prof. Dr. in American Studies, School of Education, Humanities and Social Sciences, International Black Sea University, Tbilisi, Georgia.<br>*"The Voice of America: A Perspective of a Listener behind the Iron Curtain"* |
| **15:30 – 15:45** | **12. Tcharbadze Salome**, Ph.D. candidate, American Studies Program, School of Education, Humanities and Social Sciences, International Black Sea University, Tbilisi, Georgia.<br>*"The Second Shift and Gender Inequality: A Comparative Analysis of American and Georgian Women (XX-XXI)"* |
| **15:45 – 16:00** | **13. Vashakidze Lasha**, Ph.D. in American Studies, School of Education, Humanities, and Social Sciences, International Black Sea University, Tbilisi, Georgia.<br>*"From Independence to Migration: Georgian Mobility to the United States in the Context of American Founding Ideals"* |