



## **GEORGIA IN EUROPE AND THE WIDER WORLD**

### ***THE INAUGURAL GEORGIA-OXFORD FORUM***

**10 June 2022 – St Antony's College, University of Oxford**

*Embassy of Georgia to the UK in partnership with the Oxford School of Global and Area Studies (OSGA) and Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation of Georgia*

**Pre-forum                      Coffee/tea from 10.00 am**

**10.00 – 10.30                      OFFICIAL SIGNING OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN OSGA AND SHOTA RUSTAVELI NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION OF GEORGIA**

**10.30 - 11.00                      Welcome and Introduction**

Sophie Katsarava MBE, Ambassador of Georgia to the UK

Professor Christopher Gerry, Head of Oxford School of Global and Area Studies (OSGA)

**11.00 – 12:15                      Panel I: Georgia as the UK's Strategic Partner**

2022 marks the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Georgia-UK Diplomatic Relations, the 9<sup>th</sup> year of Wardrop Strategic Dialogue, and the continuing journey for Georgia towards EU and NATO membership. The UK's continued support towards the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia, at a time of global uncertainty – marked by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, issues around Black Sea Security, and protracted regional conflicts linked with other security and economic challenges – holds growing importance. Against this background, the opening panel will discuss strategic and regional security concerns and the key role that the UK and wider international community can play in contributing to the stability and security of the region.

**Chair:** Professor Paul Chaisty (OSGA)

Jonathan Djanogly, MP, Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Georgia

Sophie Katsarava MBE, Ambassador of Georgia to the UK

Mark Clayton, HM Ambassador to Georgia – welcome remarks (remote)

George Khelashvili, MP, Parliament of Georgia

Victor Kipiani, Chairman of Geocase (remote)

**12.15 – 13.15 LUNCH BREAK**

**13.15 – 13.30                      The Oxford Georgian Student Society presents...**

**13.30 – 14.45 Panel II: Education, Information and the Georgia-Oxford Partnership**

Investing in education is fundamental for building free and inclusive societies. In the modern world education bridges gaps, opens opportunities, serves as a weapon against disinformation, facilitates evidence-based decision-making and promotes global citizenship. The Oxford School of Global and Area Studies, with its multidisciplinary, cross-regional approach serves as the meeting point at Oxford, bringing together Georgian expertise from across the University while facilitating and promoting work in the social sciences and humanities. This panel takes stock of these diverse contributions and asks how we can further leverage academic activity and research to contribute to the promotion of Georgian Studies and Georgia in the UK and beyond.

**Chair:** Professor Christopher Gerry, OSGA

Professor Dan Healey, OSGA

Megi Kartsivadze, DPhil, OSGA

Erekle Astakhishvili, Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation of Georgia

Tamar Tsuleiskiri, Director of the Information Centre on NATO and EU in Georgia (remote)

Salla Nazarenko, Reuters Institute, University of Oxford (remote)

**14.45 – 15.15 COFFEE/TEA BREAK**

**15.15 - 16.15 Panel III: Keynote lecture by Professor Neil McFarlane, DPIR**

*“The role of the EU and NATO in promoting Georgia’s integration with Europe”*

**Chair:** Professor Roy Allison, OSGA

**16.15 – 16.30 COMFORT BREAK**

**16:30 - 17:30 Panel IV: The Power of Soft Diplomacy**

This panel highlights the opportunities of soft diplomacy by bringing to life Georgia’s rich and ancient culture, unique language and alphabet, music and customs. Oxford plays a particular role here with its rich collection of historical documents and manuscripts at the Bodleian Library illustrating diplomatic ties and strong and enduring friendship between Georgia and the UK.

**Chair:** Professor Edmund Herzig, Oxford University Nizami Ganjavi Centre

Lia Chokoshvili, Georgian Programme, Language and Translation, OSGA

Rachel King, Curator: European Renaissance and Waddesdon Bequest Department of Britain, Europe and Prehistory at the British Museum

Peter Nasmyth, British-Georgian Society (remote)

Tony Anderson, Author of ‘Bread and Ashes: A Walk Through the Mountains of Georgia’

Gillian Evison, Head of Oriental Section at the Bodleian Libraries (video)

**17.30 - 19.00 Reception with Georgian wine (Hilda Besse building)**

*And a talk from **Carla Capalbo**, an award-winning food and wine writer/commentator and author of the book – ‘Tasting Georgia’.*