



Programme

'Justice' and 'Legality' in Imperial and Post-Imperial Spaces

Conference 1 - 3 May 2025

Ilia State University
Building G, Lecture Hall G-106

Giorgi Tsereteli St. 3
Tbilisi



Max Weber Stiftung
Georgia Branch
Office

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Thursday, 1 May 2025

13:00 - 14:00 Arrival and lunch

14:00 - 14:45 **Introduction and Welcome**

Nino Mataradze, Dean of the Faculty
(Ilia State University)

Moritz Florin (Max Weber Stiftung)

Stefan B. Kirmse (ZMO)

14:45 - 16:15 **Panel I
Institutional and Legal Struggle in the Russian Empire**

Giorgi Tchkadua – Justice, Legality, and Imperial Rule:
Russian Coloniality in the Caucasus and Institutional
Transformations in early to mid-19th-century Georgia

Stefan Kirmse – Blood Libel in a Changing Judiciary: The
Surami and Kutaisi Trials (1850–54, 1878–80)

Masha Cerovic – From Legal to Ethnic Conflict: Land
Disputes in a Russian-Ottoman Borderland (1878–1914)

Chair: Lucien Turczan-Lipets

16:15 - 16:30 Coffee Break

16:30 - 18:00 **Panel II
Understanding Legality and Justice**

Oliver Reisner – Justice and Legality among Georgian
Intellectuals. A conceptual history of print media around
1900

Anton Ikhsanov – The (Mis)use of Translation by the
Colonial Administration in the Transcaspiian Region

Leo Hedrich – Legality in the 'parliamentary work' of
Muslim Deputies in the State Duma (Russian Empire)

Chair: Gevorg Avetikyan

19:30 **Dinner**

Friday, 2 May 2025

9:30

Coffee

10:00 - 11:30

Panel III

Customary Law and Legal Pluralism from Empire to the Present

Luka Nakhutsrishvili – Justice, Peace, and Democracy in the Minor Mode: Reflections on the Uses of Svan Customary Law from Tsarist to Post-Soviet Georgia

Natalia Alenkina – Aksakal Courts of Kyrgyzstan: The Evolution of Justice and Legality on the Periphery of the State

Rasul Abdulkhalikov – The 2018 Conflict between Ingushetia, Chechnya, and Moscow in the Context of Legal Pluralism

Chair: Ketevan Sartania

11:30 - 11:45

Coffee Break

11:45 - 13:15

Panel IV

Legal Debates and Diversity among Muslims

Evgeniya Prusskaya – Navigating Adat, Shariat and Imperial Legal Pluralism in the Muslim Caucasus of the 19th Century

Magomed Gizbulaev – The Transformation of Shari'a in Dagestan (Dagestanskaya oblast under Imperial Russian Rule

Zilola Khalilova – Muslim Communities, Madrasa Reform, and the Politics of Law in Late Imperial and Soviet Turkestan

Chair: Oliver Reisner

13:15 - 14:00

Lunch

14:00 - 15:30

Panel V
Invoking Justice in the Anti-Colonial and National Struggle

Nurzhan Tustikbay – Invoking Justice from Below: Kazakh Intellectual Responses to Colonial Material Oppression in the Early 20th Century

Archil Longurashvili – In the Name of Social Justice? The Baku Congress of the Peoples of the East (1920)

David Darchiashvili – Hybridity of National Struggle in Russian Empire and in Soviet Times: Georgian and Polish Cases in Comparison

Chair: Leo Hedrich

15:30 - 15:45

Coffee Break

15:45 - 17:15

Panel VI
The Legal Struggle of Double and Non-Titular Minorities

Aikaterini Lykoudi – Legal Narratives and National Identity: The role of Crimean, Bessarabian and Istanbul Karaites in the Haskalah and the Karaite National Movement in the 19th Century

Maria Starun – Negotiating Justice: Sexual Crimes, Ethnic Minorities, and the Soviet Legal System in Leningrad Province, 1920s–1930s

Mirkamran Huseynli – The Post-Soviet Epoch of Ethnic Minority Identities and Strategies in the Case of Azerbaijan

Chair: Aikaterini Lykoudi

19:30

Dinner

Saturday, 3 May 2025

9:30	Coffee
10:00 – 11:30	Panel VII Enduring and Defying Stalinism Tamta Tkhelidze – Bottom-Up: Local Initiative and Personal Vendetta, Red Terror in Georgia Anna Tchintcharauli – Soviet Forceful Resettlement Practices in the Eyes of the Chechens, the Ingush, and the Khevsurs Said Gaziev – No Shoes, No School: Soviet Bureaucracy and Barefoot Children Chair: Said Gaziev
11:30 – 11:45	Coffee Break
11:45 – 13:15	Panel VIII Justice Campaigns and Dissidence, 1960s-1980s Ketevan Sartania – The Georgian Dissident Movement in the post-Stalin Era: Exploring Justice and National Self-Determination through Legal Frameworks Gevorg Avetikyan – Soviet Policies of Repression and the Accommodation of Armenian Nationalism (1960s–1980s) Nazrin Gadimova-Akbulut – State-Led Protection and National Rights: Extending Azerbaijani Cultural Expression within the Soviet System in the 1950s–1960s Lucien Turczan-Lipets – Forums of Dissidence in 1960s Kyiv: Thinking History, Thinking Law, Thinking Justice Chair: Moritz Florin
13:15 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:00	Closing Session