



სულხან-საბა ორბელიანის  
უნივერსიტეტი

Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani University

Commission for Culture and Church Unity at the Roman Catholic Church in Georgia

## **IX INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM CATHOLIC HERITAGE IN GEORGIA**

### **1700 YEARS OF CHRISTIANITY IN GEORGIA: FROM UNITY TO ONENESS**

June 3–4, 2026  
3 Kalistrate Kutateladze St.  
Tbilisi, Georgia

#### **Scientific Committee:**

Nugzar Bardavelidze (Georgian Technical University)  
Fr. Gabriele Bragantini (Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani University)  
Vaja Vardidze (Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani University)  
Emzar Jgerenaia (Ilia State University)  
Tinatin Margalitadze (Ilia State University)

#### **Organizing Committee:**

Manana Andriadze  
Shorena Parunashvili  
Fr. Akaki Chelidze



## **JUNE 3, WEDNESDAY**

10:00 – 10:20 Registration

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10:20 Opening of the Symposium  
Rector's Welcome Address  
Founder's Welcome Address

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10:30 – 11:50 First Session

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- Nugzar Bardavelidze, Doctor of History, Professor, Georgian Technical University  
The Historic Visits of Two Popes to Georgia
  - Fr. Gabriele Bragantini, Invited Lecturer, Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani University  
1700 Years since the Christianization of Georgia and 1600 Years since the Creation  
of St. Augustine's "De civitate Dei";
  - Vaja Vardidze, Doctor of Theology, Professor, Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani University  
From Unity to Communion: A Theological-Dogmatic Analysis in the Georgian  
Context
  - Nugzar Papuashvili, Doctor of Philology, Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani University
  - Mikheil Tarkhnishvili on the Date of Georgia's Christianization
- Moderator: Emzar Jgerenaia**

11:50 – 12:10 Coffee Break

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12:10 – 13:50 Second Session

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- Sergo Vardosanidze, Doctor of Historical Sciences, Doctor of Theological Sciences, Professor,  
Tbilisi Theological Academy and Seminary  
Understanding the Phenomenon of the Hero and the Anti-Hero in Georgian Historiographical Writing
  - Murman Papashvili, Doctor of Historical Sciences, Professor, Ivane Javakhishvili  
Tbilisi State University (Tbilisi, Georgia)
  - Daud Khan Undiladze and the Catholic Missionaries (Based on New Sources)
  - Davit Merkviladze, Doctor of History, TSU Institute of History and Ethnology,  
A Famous Writer, but Unknown Painter – Italian Missionary Arcangelo Lamberti
  - Tamar Chkheidze, Professor, Vano Sarajishvili Tbilisi State Conservatory
  - Marika Nadareishvili, Professor, Vano Sarajishvili Tbilisi State Conservatory  
Rhetoric in Catholic and Orthodox Worship: A Comparative Analysis of the Mass  
and the Divine Liturgy
  - Davit Tinikashvili, Doctor of History, Professor, Caucasus University  
"Pigs and Demons": The Russian Export of Anti-Latin Polemics to Georgia
- Moderator: Nugzar Bardavelidze**



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**13:50 – 14:50 Lunch Break**

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**14:50 – 15:30 Third Session**

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News on Catholic Heritage

- Presentation of the proceedings of last year's symposium
- Toward the History of the Myth of Religious Inculturation and Co-faith in Georgia (8th–19th Centuries): Book Presentation
- Presentation of the Gori University Project
- The Relevance of Varlamishvili's Work in Georgia

**JUNE 4, THURSDAY**

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**10:30 – 11:50 First Session**

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Merab Ghaghanidze, Doctor of Philosophy and Philology, Professor, University of Georgia

About the First Georgian Printed Edition

Maia Damenia, Invited Lecturer, Ilia State University

The Exchange of Knowledge in the First Half of the 17th Century and the First Georgian Printed Book

Elguja Sekhniashvili, Doctoral Candidate in History, Department of State Symbols and Heraldry (LEPL)

Unknown Details of the Expulsion of Father Shalva Vardidze from the Georgian Catholic Monastery in Istanbul

Mariam Marjanishvili, Doctor of Philology, Kutaisi State Historical Museum

Chronicles: From the History of the Georgian Monastery in Istanbul

Moderator: Tinatin Margalidze

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**11:50 – 12:10 Coffee Break**

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**12:10 – 13:30 Second Session**

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- Nato Kruashvili, Doctor of Pedagogy, Samtskhe–Javakheti State University  
Some Notes on the Activities of Alphonse Khitarishvili

- Eldar Bubulasvhili, Professor, Iv. Javakhishvili Institute of History and Ethnology  
The Autocephaly of the Georgian Church and Georgian Catholics

- Levan Abashidze, Master of Theology, Black Sea International University  
Georgia and the East–West Schism: One Church, Two Romes — A Cultural–Theological Perspective

- Giorgi Pareshishvili, Doctor of Political Science, Associate Professor, Caucasus International University

- Giorgi Mkheidze, Doctoral Candidate in Political Science, Specialist in Academic Process Management, Caucasus International University

Constantinople and Georgia: The Ecclesiastical Diplomacy of Ecumenical Patriarch



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**13:30 – 14:30 Lunch Break**

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**14:30 – 15:50 Third Session**

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Sopho Gozalishvili, Master of Theology, Faculty of Theology, University of Vienna  
Sixth Meeting of Georgian Theologians Abroad and a Symposium Dedicated to the  
1700th Anniversary of the Declaration of Christianity as the State Religion

Tamar Tsagareli, Doctor of Art History, Shota Rustaveli Georgian State University  
of Theatre and Film

Georgian Catholics and the Catholic Cathedral of Tbilisi

Avtandil Jokhadze, Doctor of Political Science, Associate Professor, Sulkhani-Saba  
Orbeliani University

Christianity and the National-Political Identity of Georgians

Inga Chkheidze, Caritas Georgia Charitable Foundation – Communication

Fundraising Manager

The Helping Hand Extended by the Church – Caritas Georgias