

## Teaching the South Caucasus Workshop Presenters

**Dr. Julie George** is Associate Professor of Political Science at Queens College and The Graduate Center at the City University of New York (CUNY). She also is a Visiting Associate Professor at SIPA and the Harriman Institute at Columbia University. Dr. George publishes works on politics and identity in the Caucasus, as well as other post-communist countries. She teaches courses on Politics of the Caucasus, Politics of Russia and the Successor States, Genocide and Ethnic Cleansing, Politics of Identity, Research Methodology, and Comparative Politics.

**Dr. Maureen E. Marshall** is the Associate Director of the Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center and a Research Associate Affiliate in Anthropology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She is currently serving as President of ARISC. Dr. Marshall is a bioarchaeologist whose work focuses on early complex polities and empires in the South Caucasus and Eurasia. She is an Associate Director of Project ArAGATS, and has been excavating in Armenia since 2005. Her research interests include political subjectivity, violence in ancient societies, disease and health in ancient populations, the archaeology of Eurasia and the Near East, and the history of physical anthropology.

**Dr. Alyssa Mathias** is a Postdoctoral Scholar at the UCLA Promise Armenian Institute. She holds a PhD in Ethnomusicology from UCLA and has conducted ethnographic research with musicians in Armenia, Georgia, Turkey, Russia, and the United States. Her work focuses on the possibilities and challenges of arts-based development in the South Caucasus, with case studies in conflict transformation, information technology, and sustainability. An alum of UCLA's Collegium of University Teaching Fellows, she has taught courses on world music and the music of refugees, and she gives frequent guest lectures on topics from Armenian music to the Eurovision Song Contest. A violinist and singer, Alyssa performs a wide variety of music from Europe and the Middle East. In Fall 2022, she will join Knox College as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Music through the 2023-24 academic year.

**Dr. Jeanene Mitchell** is an international development and area studies expert in the South Caucasus and Turkey. Her areas of professional focus include water, energy, gender, and sustainable development. Dr. Mitchell is the co-founder and Executive Director of Restart Initiative, a non-profit organization with the mission of building connections for development in the South Caucasus. Prior to Restart Initiative, she directed stakeholder engagement for a UNDP-Global Environment Facility water project in the Kura River Basin of Azerbaijan and Georgia. She has also worked in research at the Columbia University Center for Energy, Marine Transportation and Public Policy, as well as the Istanbul Bilgi University Marine Law Research Center. Dr. Mitchell is a published author on energy governance topics in the South Caucasus as well as marine environmental law. She has also written on renewable energy and climate change at the urban scale. Dr. Mitchell holds a PhD in Near and Middle Eastern Studies and a Certificate in International Development from the University of Washington, an MA in International Affairs from the Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs, and a BSFS in International Politics from the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service.

**Dr. Rebecca Mitchell** is Associate Professor of History at Middlebury College, where she has taught since 2016. She is the author of *Sergei Rachmaninoff* (Reaktion Press, 2022) and *Nietzsche's Orphans: Music, Metaphysics and the Twilight of the Russian Empire* (Yale University Press, 2015). *Nietzsche's Orphans* was awarded the 2016 W. Bruce Lincoln Book Prize by the Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) for a first monograph "that is of exceptional merit and lasting significance for the understanding of Russia's past". Her new book project, "Discordant Empire: Music, Belief and Identity in Imperial Russia" uses religious music as a lens through which to explore the complex connections between religious, ethnic, national and imperial identities in Petersburg, Moscow, Kyiv, Kazan and Tbilisi. She has received research funding from numerous sources, including the American Research Institute of the South Caucasus (ARISC), the Paul Sacher Stiftung, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), the Havighurst Center for Russian and Post-Soviet Studies, and the University of Illinois Department of History.

**Tamta Tatarashvili** holds an MsSoc in gender studies and a Specialist Diploma in film studies. Tamta is an alumna of the Heinrich Boell Foundation's Tbilisi office scholarship program. During the scholarship year she researched female and male representation in Georgian movies. Thereafter and in collaboration with the Boell Foundation, Tamta conducted lectures in Georgia and Armenia on Georgian film history and gendered representations. She had worked for the Taso Foundation, the Women's Fund, and the Memory Research Center on various projects aimed at rural women's and girl's social empowerment. While working there she filmed and edited short documentaries about the life of women in Georgian villages, taught filming to women and girls, and used various films for educational purposes in different projects.

**Dr. Eteri (Etuna) Tsintsadze-Maass** is Assistant Director of the Graduate Program in International Studies (GPIS) at Old Dominion University, where she also teaches in the Department of Political Science and Geography. She earned her Ph.D. in political science from the University of Kentucky in 2020. Dr. Tsintsadze-Maass' primary research focuses on the effects of national identities and mobilization on states' foreign policy choices, and the politics of the post-Soviet region. Currently, she is working on a book manuscript based on her dissertation: *Why Weak States Balance: National Mobilization and the Security Strategies of Post-Soviet States*. Prior to Old Dominion University, she taught courses at the University of Kentucky, the University of Evansville, the Georgian Institute of Public Affairs, and Tbilisi State University.