



250<sup>TH</sup>  
 ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
 DECLARATION OF  
 INDEPENDENCE  
 1776 – 2026

# 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> Building, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Conference Hall.  
 D. Aghmashenebeli alley, 13 km. № 2, Tbilisi, Georgia.



**Monday, 8 June 2026**

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

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

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

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