



Guest Lecture

Contending with the Soviet Past in Georgia: Analyzing Current Narratives on Joseph Stalin

by

Ana Kirvalidze

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A recent survey revealed high levels of admiration for Joseph Stalin throughout the post-Soviet space, especially in his birthplace, Georgia. After the 2013 democratic change in government in Georgia debates about how to contend with the Soviet past, Stalin's role in Georgian history, and Stalin's current place in Georgian society intensified.

This paper demonstrates and explains current perceptions, opinions, and attitudes towards the Soviet era in Georgia. In particular, I turn an attention to Joseph Stalin and the narratives and opinions people have about him. I explore how Stalin is remembered in Georgia and how people negotiate representations of Stalin as encountered in daily life. In order to provide an in-depth analysis of the issue an integrative methodological approach is utilized, combining both quantitative and qualitative methods.

Dr. Ana Kirvalidze is an Associate Professor of Sociology in the Department of Sociology and Demography at the School of Arts and Sciences, Ilia State University. She was a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Humboldt Universität zu Berlin and she studied social research methods at the Arizona State University program in Advanced Social Science Research. Her research interest is in post-Soviet transformations, national identity, and collective memory formation processes in Georgia. Currently Ana Kirvalidze is an erasmus+ fellow at the Central Asian Seminar.

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The lecture is designed for students and the interested public. Guests welcome.