



Meritorious figure of Georgian Turkology

Giorgi Akhalkatsishvili

Tbilisi Iv. Javakishvili State University
Orientalist-historian. Tbilisi, 0179,
Ilia Chavchavadze Avenue No. 1. Georgia
+995599872431. Georgeakhalkatsishvili@yahoo.com
Orcid.org/ 0000-0003-4011-0450

Abstract

Many researchers and scholars contribute significantly to the advancement of Georgian Oriental studies, particularly in Turkology. Today, I have the privilege to highlight the impactful scientific endeavors of Professor Emzar Makaradze, a distinguished researcher in the fields of recent history, politics, and civilization of Turkey, serving as the head of the Department of Oriental Studies at Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University.

Professor Emzar Makaradze has dedicated several decades to teaching and research activities at Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University, earning profound respect, trust, and admiration from both students and colleagues. Through his tireless dedication and exemplary professionalism, he has achieved numerous significant successes in the realm of academia. His contributions are evident through the publication of numerous scientific papers, articles, and monographs, which serve as indispensable textbooks for students in the department. While Professor Makaradze's primary professional focus lies within Batumi University, his research interests span a broad spectrum. He actively participates in international scientific forums, symposiums, and cong-

resses, where he generously shares his expertise with colleagues from both Georgia and abroad. Additionally, he has spearheaded several noteworthy grant projects and remains deeply engaged in the internship and training programs within the university.

The aim of this article is to underscore the significance and contributions of Professor Emzar Makaradze to the field of Georgian Turkology, both in public and academic spheres. Additionally, it seeks to highlight the recent achievements of Professor Makaradze and provide insights into his extensive body of work, including monographs, scholarly papers, and articles on Turkology. This piece serves as an informative overview, summarizing the wealth of knowledge accumulated by Professor Makaradze in this field up to the present day.

Keywords: Georgian Turkologist; Emzar Makaradze; Modern Turkey; history; Batumi; University.

Discussion

It is a source of great honor and pride to acknowledge the remarkable journey of Professor Emzar Makaradze, whose career trajectory began as a watchman at the 18th Kindergarten in Batumi from 1987 to 1992, eventually culminating in his esteemed position as a university professor.

Presently, Professor Emzar Makaradze dedicates himself wholeheartedly to pedagogical and scholarly pursuits at Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University. His tenure at the university commenced as a laboratory assistant at the Department of World History from 1992 to 1994, followed by roles as an assistant (1994-1998), docent (1999-2000), and Deputy Dean of the Faculty of History. From 2000 to 2005, he served as the head of the Department of Humanities and Educational Work, transitioning to an associate professorship at the Faculty of Social Sciences from 2006 to 2009. Subsequently, he held the position of associate professor at the Department of History, Archeology, and Ethnology from 2009 to 2013, during which he also served as the

department head from 2013 to 2015. In September 2015, he was appointed as the inaugural head of the Department of Oriental Studies, a role he currently occupies while also serving as a professor.

Professor Makaradze's primary area of scholarly interest lies in the history of modern Turkey, although he also delves into contemporary issues within world history, Middle Eastern history, and the recent histories of Asian and African nations. His extensive body of work comprises numerous articles and monographs that delve into these areas of study. Over the past decade alone, Professor Makaradze has authored 8 monographs, contributed to 45 scholarly papers, participated in 32 international academic conferences, secured funding for 8 grant projects, and conducted 34 training sessions.

It is noteworthy to highlight the significant contributions made by the professors of history and oriental studies at Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University, particularly in the creation of textbooks that have been incorporated into the curricula of bachelor's, master's, and doctoral programs across various Georgian universities. Among these valuable resources are the monographs and scholarly works authored by Professor Emzar Makaradze, spanning the realms of recent Turkish history, available in Georgian, Turkish, Russian, and English languages.

Professor Makaradze's monographs predominantly focus on contemporary issues within modern Turkey, particularly addressing the period from 1918 to the present day. These publications serve as invaluable additions to Georgian historiography and are poised to be utilized extensively across academic institutions in Georgia. Notable among Professor Makaradze's works are:

1. "History of Turkey in 1918-2018: Lecture Notes" (Makaradze, E. 2019).

2. "Current Issues of Modern Turkey (90s of XX Century)" (Makaradze, E. 2000).

3. "Kemalism and Democracy in Turkey" (Makaradze, E. Manch-kashvili, M. 2014).

4. "The Issue of Cyprus in Eastern Politics in the 60s-80s of the 20th Century" (Makaradze, E. Gogitidze, M. 2000).

5. "Turkey's Domestic Policy in 1980-2011" (Makaradze, E. 2012).

6. "Domestic Policy of Turkey in 2000-2015" (Makaradze, E. 2016).

7. "Role of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk in Republican Turkey" (Makaradze, E. 2009).

These meticulously crafted monographs stand as the result of extensive research and scholarly endeavor, holding immense significance for both educational and scientific pursuits within the field.

The Middle East, with its ancient history, has perpetually been a region of turbulence. Undertaking research on the history of the Republic of Turkey, as a small state within this complex region, and producing works in the Georgian language, is undeniably a monumental task. In addition to his monographs, Professor Emzar Makaradze has authored numerous articles on modern Turkey, addressing pivotal events that have direct implications for Georgia. Several noteworthy articles in Georgian, English, and Russian languages, pertaining to Turkey's domestic and foreign policy, as well as Turkish-American relations - crucial on a global scale - are as follows:

1. "Political Crisis in Modern Turkey (2015 Events)" (Makaradze, E. Makaradze, B. 2016), also published in English as "The Political Crisis in Modern Turkey (The Events of 2015): A Review" (Makaradze, E. 2017).

2. "Political Crisis in Modern Turkey" (Makaradze, E. Kh. 2017).

3. "The Role of Women in the Educational System of Turkey after WWII" (Makaradze, E. 2021).

4. "Relations between the Turkish Republic and the United States of America" (Makaradze, E. 2019).

5. "Turkey-US Relations in 2002-2017" (Makaradze, E. Makaradze, B. 2017).

6. "The Problems of Intercultural Dialogue in Political Space of Modern Turkey" (Makaradze, E. 2017).

7. "Issues of Intercultural Dialogue and National Identity in Modern Turkey" (Makaradze, E. 2019).

8. "Issues of Democratization and Intercultural Dialogue in 21st Century Turkey" (Makaradze, E. 2020).

9. "Issues of Political Persecution in Modern Turkey" (Makaradze, E. 2020).

10. "Turkey-US Relations at the Modern Stage and Georgia" (Makaradze, E. Makaradze, B. 2021).

11. "The New Political Theory of 'Kemalism' and 'Erdoganism'" (Makaradze, E. 2023).

12. "Foreign Policy Issues of the Republic of Turkey and the United States in the Period after the End of the Cold War until 2020" (Makaradze, E. Makaradze, B. 2023).

13. "Current Relations between Turkey and America and Georgia" (Makaradze, E. Makaradze, B. 2021).

14. "The Relations between the Republic of Turkey and the United States of America at the Present Stage" (Makaradze, E. Makaradze, B. 2018).

15. "Relations between the Republic of Turkey and the United States at the Present Stage and Their Impact on Georgia" (Makaradze, E. Makaradze, B. 2021).

This list, although incomplete, showcases the breadth of Professor Emzar Makaradze's contributions to the study of modern Turkey's domestic and foreign policy. Each article engages with contentious issues, offering valuable insights into Turkey-Georgia, Turkey-America relations, and the broader politics of the Republic of Turkey. These works are intended not only for specialists interested in historical issues but also for a broader readership. Georgian political scientists would benefit from engaging with and incorporating these works into their research endeavors.

In addition to the aforementioned accomplishments, I would like to highlight another significant publication from the Department of Oriental Studies at Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University - the international scientific journal "Messenger of Oriental Studies." This

journal, published by the Faculty of Humanities since 2018, provides a platform for scholars, professors, doctoral students, and masters to publish their own works related to Middle and Far East politics, history, archaeology, geography, ethnology, source studies, linguistics, literary studies, and translations. The aim of the journal is to deepen the understanding of these issues among interested readers while fostering the formation of a scholarly community. I am privileged to be among the authors contributing articles to this esteemed journal.

"Messenger of Oriental Studies" owes its inception and ongoing success to the initiative and leadership of Professor Emzar Makaradze. Professor Makaradze continues to serve as the chief editor of the journal, overseeing its development alongside an esteemed international editorial board. This board comprises both Georgian and foreign professors and scholars from various prestigious universities, including Academician Roin Metreveli, Academician Elizbar Javelidze, Academician Revaz Gachechiladze, Academician Shahin Mustafae, Professor Giorgi Sanikidze, Professor Nani Gelovani, Professor Farda Asadov, Professor Nurye Muratova, and others.

Thanks to the dedicated efforts of Professor Makaradze and his team, "Messenger of Oriental Studies" has achieved significant recognition on the international stage. On January 9, 2023, the journal was awarded the European Reference Index in Humanities and Social Sciences (ERIHPLUS). Subsequently, on July 17, 2023, the Ministry of Education and Science of Poland included the journal in its list of top-ranked journals, a prestigious accolade indeed.

Professor Emzar Makaradze delivered a comprehensive report on the achievements of the "Messenger of Oriental Studies" during a conference held at the National Science Library on December 18, 2023. At this event, the journal was recognized as one of the outstanding achievements of the year. Subsequently, in 2024, the journal received further acclaim by being included in the prestigious COLLEGE DE FRANCE – 1530 scientific database. Furthermore, "Messenger of Oriental Studies" (E-ISSN 2720-8168; ISSN 2587-490X) attained an impressive impact factor of 1.668 (2023-2024) in the International

Scientific Indexing (ISI) database. Beginning in 2024, the journal has been accessible in the electronic libraries of esteemed institutions such as the University of Adelaide, the Technical University of Karlsruhe (Germany), and the University of California.

In recognition of his significant contributions to the establishment and advancement of the "Messenger of Oriental Studies," Professor Emzar Makaradze was awarded by the Professor Merab Khalvashi, the Rector of Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University, with a certificate of gratitude.

Initially published solely in electronic format, the journal expanded its reach by releasing two printed editions each in 2022 (Volumes V-1 and V-2) and 2023 (Volumes VI-1 and VI-2). Since the "Messenger of Oriental Studies" has gained widespread international recognition, articles have been printed in both Georgian and English languages since 2023, ensuring accessibility to a broader audience.

I must highlight Professor Emzar Makaradze's exemplary approach to his work and his dedication to his students, which is evident from the information provided above. At Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University, he adeptly leads several courses within bachelor's, master's, and doctoral programs. Professor Emzar is renowned for his willingness to support young scientists, offering them invaluable advice and guidance to navigate their future endeavors in the field of academia. I am fortunate to have had the opportunity to benefit from his mentorship and support, and I am grateful to have stood by his side as one of his students.

Conclusions

The information provided above serves as a condensed overview, yet there is much more to be explored, thanks to the extensive biography crafted through the selfless efforts of Professor Emzar Makaradze.

I extend my heartfelt wishes for continued success to Mr. Emzar, my esteemed senior colleague, friend, and role model in the scientific community. His fruitful endeavors, along with the scholarly

works he has produced, will undoubtedly retain their deserved prominence within the Georgian historical and scientific sphere.

Delving into the intricate details of recent history, as well as the complexities of Turkey's domestic and foreign policies, which are fraught with numerous controversial issues, presents a distinct challenge. Therefore, I believe that by publishing this paper, we are contributing valuable work by expanding the reach of Professor Emzar Makaradze's noteworthy scientific contributions to a wider audience. Through this endeavor, not only will our Georgian colleagues gain deeper insights into his scholarly pursuits, but our international peers will also become acquainted with the works of this tireless Turkology advocate, dedicated to advancing the field that emerged as an independent discipline in the 20th century.

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