



NEW EUROPE COLLEGE
Institut de Studii Avansate
Fondator: Prof. dr. Andrei Pleșu

We have the pleasure to invite you to the lecture

Tsarist Russia and the Caucasus: Religious Elements, Islam, and Ethnic Identities in the 19th Century



given by

Eka TCHKOIDZE

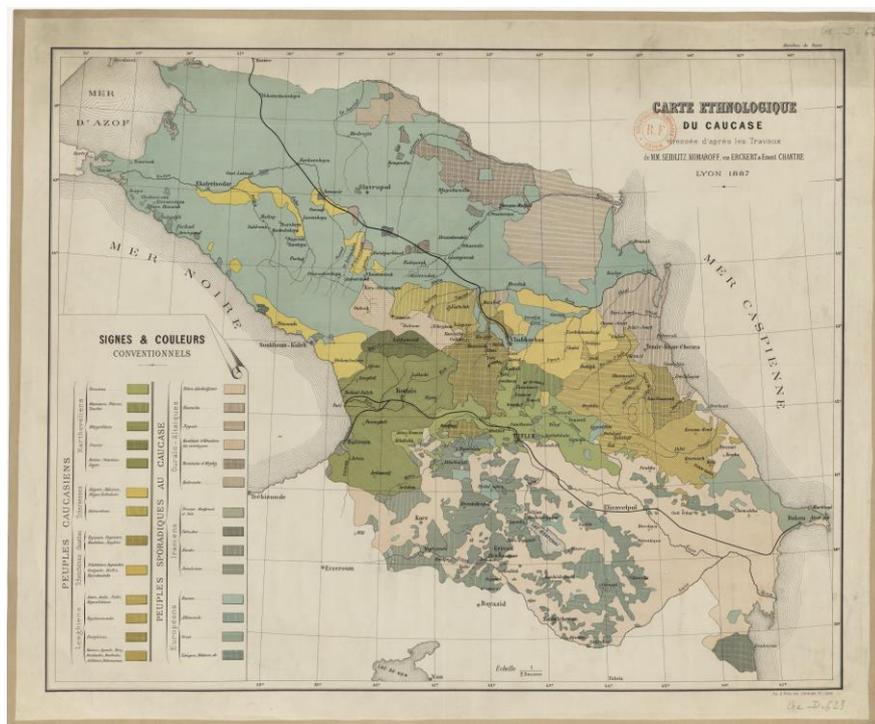
Associate Professor of History,
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Thursday, the 25th of May 2017, 17h00

at NEC 21, Plantelor Street

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The area of the Caucasus, placed at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, has always been of immense historical importance. Its location greatly contributed to shaping its diversity: ethnic, linguistic, religious. In this context, it is extremely important to study its religious history. Since the early Middle Ages, all three major monotheist religions were represented here: Christianity (with two varieties), Islam, and Judaism. It is worth mentioning that Russia's involvement in the area in the 19th century marked the end of Christianity in the North Caucasus. The 1830s are regarded as the peak of the Islamic expansion to the region. At the same time, in the south Russia faced a co-religionist country, but paradoxically its policy towards Georgia was as aggressive as in the north. Thus, this specific region enables us to examine how imperial Russia dealt with Islam and at the same time with the only Orthodox country which was annexed in the 1810s. The Adjara region, with the port-city of Batumi, should be analyzed in the same context. Adjara – a part of historical Georgia – was included within the Ottoman Empire at the beginning of the 16th century, and was liberated after the Russo-Ottoman war in 1877–1878. How the religious aspect influenced the shaping of ethnic identities and how Tsarist Russia reacted to those processes will also be analyzed by the speaker.



Biographical note

Eka Tchikoidze received her first degree in Philology at the “I. Javakhishvili” State University of Tbilisi (1998), and her M.A. (2001) and Ph.D. (2006) in Byzantine History at the University of Ioannina (Greece). She was awarded fellowships from the State Scholarships Foundation of Greece and the “Alexander S. Onassis” Public Benefit Foundation. In 2007–2008 she worked as a postdoctoral researcher at Princeton University (Program in Hellenic Studies). In 2008–2013 she held the position of assistant professor of history at the Faculty of Humanities and Cultural Studies at Ilia State University. In 2011 her monograph funded by the Onassis Public Benefit Foundation was published in Athens (*Georgian Pilgrim in the Byzantine World of the 9th Century (the Life of Hilarion the Georgian)*). Since 2013 she is Associate Professor of History at the Faculty of Arts and Sciences of Ilia State University, Tbilisi (Georgia). In 2012–2013, having the joint scholarship of the Onassis Foundation and the Plato Academy, she was a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Athens. In 2012–2015, she worked as an external collaborator in the interdisciplinary and inter-university project “The Black Sea and Its Port-Cities, 1774–1914. Development, Convergence and Linkages with the Global Economy” (see details www.blacksea.gr<<http://www.blacksea.gr/>>).