

## David Sichinava PhD

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### CONTACT INFORMATION

*Address:* 3 Otar Kapanadze Street, Apartment 35, Tbilisi, Georgia  
*Email:* david@crrccenters.org; david.sichinava@tsu.ge  
*Cell:* (+995) 598-555-381

### EDUCATION

#### **University of Colorado Boulder**

Fulbright Visiting Scholar, Institute of Behavioral Sciences / Department of Geography, 2016-2017  
Supervisor: Dr. John O'Loughlin

#### **Tbilisi State University**

PhD in Human Geography, *summa cum laude*, 2015.

- Dissertation: "Spatial Aspects of Electoral Behavior in Georgia (Based on 2008-2014 Elections)"  
Advisor: Dr. Giorgi Gogsadze

MA in Human Geography, *with honors*, 2010

BA in Social Sciences (specialization: Human Geography), 2008

### RESEARCH INTERESTS

Socio-spatial and temporal aspects of inequality, politics of urban development, role of civil society in urban policy, conflict-induced displacement and cities, electoral geographies

### HONORS AND AWARDS

- Association of Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) Regional Scholar Travel Grant, 2018
- Georgian National Science Foundation Travel Grant, 2016
- Heinrich-Böll-Foundation Scholarship for Young Social Scientists, 2013
- Open World Leadership Program Participant, run by the United States Library of Congress, 2013

### RESEARCH GRANTS

- [Co-applicant in Georgia] 2019-2020: "Green Mobilisations in the cities of Central Asia and the South Caucasus," funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research of Germany (€39 000)
- [Principal Investigator] 2019-2021: "Examining the Social Impacts of Large, Private Sector Urban Development in Batumi and Tbilisi, Georgia," funded by the Georgian National Science Foundation (€32 000)
- [Principal Investigator] 2018: "Elites, Historical Legacies, and Electoral Behavior in Georgia," funded by the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Tbilisi State University (€4 000)
- [Senior Researcher] 2015: "Spatial Aspects of Urban Development of Tbilisi: The Influence of Mobility on Change of Social Environment," funded by the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Tbilisi State University (€5 000)
- [Project Lead] 2014-2016: "Social Contents of Changing Housing Landscapes of the Capital Metropolises of Armenia and Georgia: Institutions, Stakeholders, Policies" in collaboration with the Department of Human Geography at Tbilisi State University and Yerevan State University, funded by the Academic Swiss Caucasus Network (€88 000)
- [Senior Researcher] "Coping with Marginality and Exclusion: Can IDP (Internally Displaced Person) Communities Successfully Integrate into Mainstream Urban Societies in Georgia?" funded by the Academic Swiss Caucasus Network (€43 000)

PROFESSIONAL  
EXPERIENCE

**Caucasus Research Resource Center (CRRC), Tbilisi, Georgia**

- *Research Director*
- *Senior Policy Analyst*
- *Senior Researcher*
- *GIS and Database Analyst*
- *Database Consultant*

**January, 2019-present**  
**March, 2017 - December, 2018**  
**January, 2015 - August, 2016**  
**January, 2011 - December, 2014**  
**January, 2009 - December, 2010**

Participated in or supervised over 50 research projects, including those procured by the National Democratic Institute, National Opinion Research Center, OECD, the World Bank, USAID, and The Europe Foundation. As a research director, I am responsible for designing research methodology for qualitative and quantitative studies. I contribute to the policy analysis unit by supervising the production of written outputs such as policy documents, blog posts, and opinion pieces. My further tasks include designing standardized protocols for research activities and supervising their implementation.

CURRENT  
ACADEMIC  
APPOINTMENTS

**Department of Human Geography, Tbilisi State University**

- *Assistant Professor*
- *Adjunct Professor*

**March, 2017 - present**  
**March, 2013 - July, 2016**

Courses Taught:

- Introduction to the Social Science Research Methods (undergraduate)
- Cultural Geography (undergraduate)
- Quantitative Research Methods: Introduction to Applied Statistics (graduate)
- Data Analysis Using R (graduate)
- Designing Human Geography Masters Thesis (graduate)

**International School of Economics at Tbilisi State University (ISET)**

- Adjunct Professor

**March, 2018 - present**

Courses Taught:

- World Regional Geography (undergraduate)

**International Black Sea University**

- Adjunct Professor

**March, 2018 - June 2019**

Courses Taught:

- Cities as Sites of Memory: Post-Socialist Place Meanings and Contested History (undergraduate)
- Introduction to Research Methods (undergraduate)
- Quantitative Research Methods (graduate)

PAST ACADEMIC  
APPOINTMENTS

**School of Media and Mass Communications at Georgian Institute of Public Affairs (GIPA)**

- Instructor of Graduate Research
- Teacher of graduate level research methods class

**March, 2013- July 2017**  
**March, 2013 - July, 2015**

CONSULTANCY

- Center for Social Sciences (Tbilisi, Georgia). Conducted staff training in R programming and data analysis.

- South Caucasus Bureau of the Heinrich-Böll-Foundation (Tbilisi, Georgia). Reviewed policy papers produced by the foundation.
- National Democratic Institute - Ukraine (Kyiv, Ukraine). Between 2016 and 2019. Led training on mapping and data collection tools

#### ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

[Forthcoming book chapter:] Harris-Brandts, S., & **Sichinava, D.** (2020). The Politics of Urban Recovery in a Stalinist-era Resort Town: Heritage Tourism and Displaced Communities in Tskaltubo, Georgia. In Al-Harithy, H. (Ed.), *Urban Recovery at the Intersection of Displacement and Reconstruction*. Routledge.

[Forthcoming book chapter:] Rekhviashvili, L., **Sichinava, D.**, & Berikishvili, E. (2020). Urban protest movements in Tbilisi: movements are strong, but big capital is stronger. In Dariyeva, T., & Neugebauer, C.S. (Eds.), *Urban Activism in Eastern Europe and Eurasia*. DOM Publishers.

[Forthcoming book chapter:] **Sichinava, D.** (2020). Elections, Political Parties and Social Change in Georgia (2003-2016). In Jones, S.F., & MacFarlane, N. (Eds.), *Georgia: From Autocracy to Democracy*. University of Toronto Press.

**Sichinava, D.** (2020). Cleavages, Electoral Geography and the Territorialization of Political Parties in the Republic of Georgia. In O'Loughlin, J. & Clem, R. S. (Eds.), *Political Geographies of the Post-Soviet Union*. Routledge.

Salukvadze, J. & **Sichinava, D.**, (2019). Changing Times, Persistent Inequalities? Patterns of Housing Infrastructure Development in the South Caucasus. In Tuvikene, T., Neugebauer, C. S. & Sgibnev, W. (Eds.), *Post-Socialist Urban Infrastructures*. Routledge.

**Sichinava, D.** (2017). Cleavages, Electoral Geography and the Territorialization of Political Parties in the Republic of Georgia. *Eurasian Geography and Economics*, 58 (6). 670-690. doi: 10.1080/15387216.2018.1442734

**Sichinava, D.** (2015). Cleavage Theory and the Electoral Geographies of Georgia. In Nodia, G. & C. Stefes (Eds.), *Security, Democracy and Development in the Southern Caucasus and the Black Sea Region, Interdisciplinary Studies on Central and Eastern Europe, Vol. 14*, 27-44. Bern: Peter Lang.

Salukvadze, J., **Sichinava, D.**, & Gogishvili, D. (2015). Socio-economic and Spatial Factors of Alienation and Segregation of Internally Displaced Persons in the Cities of Georgia. *Spatial Inequality and Cohesion: Studia Regionalia*, 38, 45–60.

Chkhaidze, V., Gogsadze, G., Salukvadze, J., & **Sichinava, D.** (2008). General Characteristics and Regional Patterns of Electoral Behavior: 2008 Presidential Elections in Georgia. *Region and Regionalism*, 9(2), 65–78.

#### OTHER PUBLICATIONS AND MEDIA APPEARANCES

**Sichinava, D.** (2020, June 9). Lost in the census: Mingrelian and Svan languages face extinction in Georgia *OC Media*.

**Sichinava, D.**, & Atchaidze, M. (2020). Minimum Wage in Georgia: Gauging Public Opinion. *Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Caucasus*.

**Sichinava, D.**, & Gilbreath, D. (2020). Artificial intelligence and Russian propaganda: it's not what it looks like *OnThinkTanks Annual Review of Technology*.

**Sichinava, D.** (2020, March 9). What kind of electoral system do Georgians actually want? *OC*

*Media.*

**Sichinava, D.** (2019, July 9). Who is afraid of the Lugar Centre? *OC Media*.

**Sichinava, D.** (2019, April 2). Georgia's far right are anti-Russian but share Russian narratives. *OC Media*.

**Sichinava, D., & Mzhavanadze, N.** (2019, March 1). Georgians support vehicle technical inspections despite the financial burden. *OC Media*.

**Sichinava, D.** (2018). Georgia elections: Salome Zurbashvili becomes country's first female president. Interview by Belle Donati. *Euronews*

[In Estonian:] **Sichinava, D.** (2018). Gruusia sotsioloog: Venemaa õõnestab Gruusiat parempopulistide kaudu. [Georgian social scientist: Russia is undermining Georgia with populists]. Interview by Krister Paris. *Eesti Päevaleht*

Berikishvili, E., & **Sichinava, D.** (2018). Transformation of Urban Protests in Tbilisi: From Spontaneous Activism to Social Movements. In Neuburg, K., Pranz, S., Tseretelli, W., et al. (Eds.), *Archive of Transition*. Niggli Verlag Publishers. Salenstein, Switzerland.

**Sichinava, D.** (2018, March 5). Polarisation in Georgia's Media Landscape. *OC Media*.

**Sichinava, D.** (2018). Attitudes Towards Georgia's Foreign Policy Choices in Times of Uncertainty *Caucasus Analytical Digest*, 102.

**Sichinava, D.** (2017, October 18). Will an Independent Mayoral Candidate Bring Political Change to Georgia? *New Eastern Europe*.

Gilbreath, D., & **Sichinava, D.** (2017, April 10). Georgia: Proposed Reform Could Tilt Electoral Field Toward Incumbents *Eurasianet*.

Gilbreath, D., & **Sichinava, D.** (2016, October 6). Georgia is Voting This Saturday. Here Are 7 Things You Should Know *Washington Post's Monkey Cage blog*.

[As a special editor:] **Sichinava, D.** (2016). Cities in the South Caucasus. *Caucasus Analytical Digest*, 87.

[in Georgian:] Berikishvili, E., Chigholashili, D., **Sichinava, D.**, & Zazanashvili, N. (2016). Anthology of Urban Protests in Tbilisi. *South Caucasus Bureau of the Heinrich-Böll-Foundation*

**Sichinava, D.** (2015). Understanding Voter Decision-making in the Urban Context of Tbilisi. In H. Gutbrod (Ed.), *From Private to Public: Transformation of Social Spaces in the South Caucasus*. Tbilisi: South Caucasus Regional Office of the Heinrich Böll Foundation.

Gilbreath, D., & **Sichinava, D.** (2015). NGOs and the Georgian Public: Why Communication Matters. *Caucasus Analytical Digest*, 73.

**Sichinava, D.** (2013). The 2012 Parliamentary Elections in Georgia and Changing Attitudes toward Russia. *Caucasus Analytical Digest*, 48.

**Sichinava, D.** (2012). Shades of Red and Blue - Regional Characteristics of Georgia's 2012 Parliamentary Elections. *Caucasus Analytical Digest*, 43.

SELECTED  
CONFERENCE  
PRESENTATIONS

**Sichinava, D.,** & Harris-Brandts, S. (2018). *Reviving the Legacy of a Stalinist-era Resort Town: The Redevelopment of Tskaltubo, Georgia*. Presented at the 50th Annual Convention of Slavic, East European, Eurasian Studies at the University of Pittsburgh (ASEEES), Boston, MA.

Shubladze, R., & **Sichinava, D.** (2018). *Nostalgia, Societal Cleavages, and Modernization: Georgian Attitudes Toward the European Union*. Presented at the 3rd Annual Tartu Conference on Russian and East European Studies, Tartu, Estonia.

**Sichinava, D.,** & Salukvadze, J. (2017). *Spatial Patterns of Emerging Inequalities in Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia*. Presented at the 7th International Urban Geographies of Post-Communist States Conference (CAT), Kyiv-Dnipro, Ukraine.

**Sichinava, D.,** & Salukvadze, J. (2017). *Spatial Patterns of Emerging Inequalities in Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia*. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers (AAG) Boston, MA.

**Sichinava, D.,** & Salukvadze, J. (2016). *Housing Inequalities and Migrant Remittances in the Capital Cities of the Post-Soviet Eurasia*. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers (AAG) San-Francisco, CA.

**Sichinava, D.** (2015). *Housing Inequalities in the South Caucasus - Cases of Yerevan and Tbilisi*. Presented at the 6th International Urban Geographies of Post-Communist States Conference (CAT), Prague, Czechia.

**Sichinava, D.** (2015). *Housing Inequalities in the Soviet South – Cases of Yerevan and Tbilisi*. Presented at the 47th Annual Convention of Slavic, East European, Eurasian Studies at the University of Pittsburgh (ASEEES), Philadelphia, PA.

**Sichinava, D.,** & Salukvadze, J. (2013). *Coping with Marginality and Exclusion: Can IDP Communities Successfully Integrate into Mainstream Urban Societies in Georgia*. Presented at 2nd ASCN annual conference "Political Transformation and Social Change in the South Caucasus." Yerevan, Armenia.

**Sichinava, D.** (2012). *Cleavage Theory and the Electoral Geographies of Georgia*. Presented at the international conference "Security, Democracy and Development in the South Caucasus and the Black Sea Region"; Istanbul, Turkey.

TRAINING COURSES *University of Colorado Boulder*

**September-December 2016**

ATTENDED

Courses: GIS modeling, advanced topics in spatiotemporal modeling, web mapping

*Annual IPSA-NUS Summer School for Social Science Research Methods at National University of Singapore*

**July 2016**

Courses: experimental methods; advanced quantitative public policy analysis

*Workshop on academic communications*

**July 2014**

Organized by Academic Swiss Caucasus Network (ASCN), Yerevan

*Summer school in research methods organized by ECPR (European Consortium on Political Research) at the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia;*

**August 2013**

Courses: qualitative comparative analysis (QCA) with fuzzy sets; introduction to R

*AREMSIS summer school in advanced regression analysis at Koç University, Istanbul* **July 2012**

Courses: introduction to statistics, limited dependent variable models, applied regression analysis.

COMPUTER SKILLS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Statistical packages: R, STATA, SPSS, and CSPro (professional proficiency);</li><li>• Geographic Information Systems (GIS): ArcGIS and QGIS (professional proficiency);</li><li>• Platform for mobile data collection: Open Data Kit (ODK) (professional proficiency)</li><li>• CAQDAS: QSR NVIVO (professional proficiency);</li><li>• Web applications: HTML and Javascript libraries - Google Maps API, OpenLayers, HighCharts (basic skills);</li><li>• Programming languages: Visual Basic for Applications, Python (basic skills);</li><li>• Applications: common Windows word processing, spreadsheet, presentation and database software, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Zotero (reference management)</li></ul>
LANGUAGES	Georgian (Native), English (full professional proficiency), Russian (full professional proficiency)
PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Association of American Geographers (AAG)</li><li>• American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR)</li><li>• Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES)</li></ul>
SERVICE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Led classes in data visualization for the Tbilisi chapter of R-Ladies Global.</li><li>• Served as a peer-reviewer for <i>Political Geography The Professional Geographer</i>, <i>Demokratizatsiya</i>, and <i>U3 UrbanisticaTre</i></li></ul>