

David Sichinava PhD

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Email: david@crrccenters.org; david@sichinava.ge
Website: <https://sichinava.ge>
Nationality: Georgian, Canadian permanent resident

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
Canadian equivalency outcome: Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree from a recognized university (assessed by the University of Toronto's School of Continuing Studies, application No. X398927)

MA in Human Geography, *with honors*, 2010

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

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Substantive: elections, social movements, housing and urban policy in the former Soviet Union, politics of urban development, geographies of conflict and displacement.
Methodological: opinion polling, causal inference, automated text analysis, geographic information systems (GIS).

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Tbilisi Architecture Biennial. Workshop and exhibition "Build it and They Will Come", 2020
- 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

PERSONAL 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 (CAD 60,000) including event organization in Bishkek and Tbilisi.
- [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 (CAD 50,000)
- [Principal Investigator] 2018: "Elites, Historical Legacies, and Electoral Behavior in Georgia," funded by the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Tbilisi State University (CAD 6,000)
- [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 (CAD 7,700)
- [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 (CAD 136,000)

- [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 (CAD 66,500)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Caucasus Research Resource Center (CRRC), Tbilisi, Georgia

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • <i>Research Director</i> | January, 2019-present |
| • <i>Senior Policy Analyst</i> | March, 2017 - December, 2018 |
| • <i>Senior Researcher</i> | January, 2015 - August, 2016 |
| • <i>GIS and Database Analyst</i> | January, 2011 - December, 2014 |
| • <i>Database Consultant</i> | January, 2009 - December, 2010 |

Participated in or supervised over fifty 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 design methodology for qualitative and quantitative studies, and supervise their implementation. I contribute to the policy analysis unit by supervising the production of written outputs, such as policy documents, blog posts, and opinion pieces.

List of selected projects led during the last four years:

- **Geopolitical Attitudes of the Residents of the Post-Soviet Countries** (University of Colorado Boulder, 2019 to date). Led data collection in seven countries and areas with limited recognition (Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Nagorno-Karabakh, Transnistria), supervised data preparation, and conducted quality control.
- **Study on Voting and Political Attitudes in Georgia** (National Democratic Institute, 2017 to date). Led instrument development for survey experiments, contributed to data analysis and public dissemination of results.
- **Rapid Gender Assessment of Covid-19 in Georgia** (UN Women, 2020). Led instrument development for a population survey and in-depth interviews, data collection, and report writing.
- **The 2019 Caucasus Barometer Survey** (Carnegie Foundation, 2019). Led instrument development for a public opinion poll, data collection and dissemination in Georgia and Armenia. Organized the Sixth CRRC Methods Conference.
- **Needs Assessment of the Population Residing along the Administrative Boundary Lines in Georgia** (UN Women, 2019). Led research design development, contributed to report writing and dissemination.
- **Baseline Survey on Knowledge, Awareness, and Practice of Potential Beneficiaries on Local Climate Risk Management Options** (UNDP, 2019). Led research design development, contributed to report writing.
- **Anti-Western Propaganda Barometer** (USAID and East-West Management Institute, 2018-2019). Developed automated text analysis algorithm for Georgian-language Facebook posts, led report writing and public dissemination.
- **Study of Beneficiaries of Produce in Georgia Startups** (International School of Economics at TSU, 2018). Led instrument development, supervised data collection.
- **Business Mapping for the Empowered Civil Society for Good Governance** (World Vision Georgia and the European Union, 2018). Led instrument development, designed factorial survey experiment, supervised data collection and report writing.
- **Needs Assessment of Adjara Eco-migrant Communities and the Pankisi Gorge** (Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, 2017). Co-led research design and instrument development, contributed to report writing and public dissemination of results.
- **The Study of Comparative Advantages of Georgia's Black Sea Region** (Center for Training and Consultation and Tbilisi State University, 2017). Led research design and instrument development, contributed to report writing.
- **Baseline Study of the Attitudes of the Georgian Public, Businesses, and Civil Society Organizations towards Volunteerism and Corporate Social Responsibility** (Konrad

Adenauer Foundation and the European Commission, 2017). Led instrument development for population, enterprise, and CSO surveys, data collection, and report writing.

PAST ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Department of Human Geography, Tbilisi State University

- Invited Lecturer **September, 2020 - present**
- Assistant Professor **March, 2017 - July 2020**
- Adjunct Professor **March, 2013 - July, 2016**

Courses Taught:

- Research Methods in Urban Studies (doctoral)
- Introduction to the Social Science Research Methods (undergraduate)
- Cultural Geography (with an emphasis on post-Soviet Eurasia, undergraduate)
- Quantitative Research Methods: Introduction to Applied Statistics (graduate)
- Data Analysis Using R (graduate)
- Master's Thesis Design in Human Geography (graduate)

International School of Economics at Tbilisi State University (ISET)

- Adjunct Professor **March, 2018 - July 2020**

Courses Taught:

- World Regional Geography (undergraduate, with an emphasis on the South Caucasus and post-Soviet Eurasia)

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, with Suzanne Harris-Brandts)
- Introduction to Research Methods (undergraduate)
- Quantitative Research Methods (graduate)

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

- Master's Thesis Supervisor **March, 2013- July 2017**
- Research Methods (graduate) **March, 2013 - July, 2015**

CONSULTANCY

International Republican Institute (IRI)

- Preparation of statements for online vote advising platform. **July-September, 2020**

Center for Social Sciences (Tbilisi, Georgia)

- Staff training in R programming and data analysis. **March, 2020**

Business and Finance Consultancy, GmbH (Chisinau, Moldova)

- Training on survey interviewing. **January-February, 2020**

South Caucasus Bureau of the Heinrich-Böll-Foundation (Tbilisi, Georgia)

- Reviewed policy papers produced by the Foundation. **2018-2020**

National Democratic Institute - Ukraine (Kyiv, Ukraine)

- Bi-annual training courses on mapping and data collection tools for NDI staff **2016-2019**

Caucasus Research Resource Centers - Armenia (Yerevan, Armenia)

- Staff training in mobile data collection tools **2015**

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.), *Recovery Intersecting Displacement with Post War Reconstruction*. Routledge.

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.

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.

RESEARCH REPORTS
AND POLICY
DOCUMENTS

Gagunashvili, E., Khundadze, T. & **D. Sichinava.** (2020). Study on Migration and Visa-free Regime During COVID-19. *Tbilisi: ICMPD*.

Sichinava, D. (2020). Second Wave of Rapid Gender Assessment of the COVID-19 Situation in Georgia. *Tbilisi: UNDP*.

Atchaidze, M., Ergeshidze, E., Saldadze, O. and **D. Sichinava.** (2020). The Impact of COVID-19 on Female Entrepreneurs in Georgia. *Tbilisi: Europe Foundation*.

Gilbreath, D. and **D. Sichinava**. (2020). A Needs Assessment of the Communities along Administrative Boundary Lines with Abkhazia and South Ossetia. *Tbilisi: UN Women*.

Gilbreath, D. and **D. Sichinava**. (2020). Youth Inactivity in Rustavi, Georgia: Results of Time Use Survey. *Tbilisi: UNDP*.

Sichinava, D., Khundadze, T., & I. Goodrich. (2020). Rapid Gender Assessment of the COVID-19 Situation in Georgia. *Tbilisi: UN Women*.

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

Sichinava, D. (2018). Countering Anti-Western Discourse in Social Media. *Tbilisi: CRRC-Georgia*

Sichinava, D. (2018). Mapping of Existing Businesses – the Private Sector’s Perspective towards Corporate Social Responsibility in Georgia. *Tbilisi: World Vision Georgia*

Sichinava, D. (2018). Baseline Study of Georgian Civil Society Initiative. *Tbilisi: Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Georgia*

Shubladze, R. & **D. Sichinava**. (2018). Needs Assessment of the State Audit Office’s Budget Monitor Website. *Tbilisi: Tetra-Tech*

Darjania, E., Salukvadze, J. & **D. Sichinava**. (2018). Georgia’s Black Sea Coastal Functional Region, Its Centers of Attraction, and Competitive Advantages. *Tbilisi: European Union and Center for Trainings and Consultation*

Sichinava, D., and R. Shubladze. (2018). Businesses in Georgia: Attitudes towards Corporate Social Responsibility and Civil Society Organizations. *Tbilisi: Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Georgia*

Gilbreath, D. & **D. Sichinava**. (2016). Making Votes Count: Pre-analysis Report on Electoral Statistics. *Tbilisi: CRRC-Georgia*

OTHER
PUBLICATIONS AND
MEDIA

[Forthcoming:] **Sichinava, D.** (2021). A View of the Pandemic from the City of Balconies. *Activating Urban Periphery in Eastern Europe*.

APPEARANCES

Sichinava, D. (2020, October 31). Commentary on the 2020 Parliamentary Elections of Georgia. *Public Broadcaster of Georgia*.

Sichinava, D. (2020, August 24). Georgians Increasingly Open to Compromise with Abkhazia and South Ossetia. *OC Media*.

Sichinava, D. (2020). How Far is Too Far? Public Opinion on Conflict Resolution in Georgia. *Caucasus Analytical Digest*, 116.

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

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 Ahare Russian Narratives. *OC Media*.

Sichinava, D., & Mzhavanadze, N. (2019, March 1). Georgians Support Technical Inspections for Vehicles Despite the Financial Burden. *OC Media*.

Sichinava, D. (2018). Georgia Elections: Salome Zourabichvili Becomes the 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.

Sichinava, D. (2020). *Parliamentary Elections in Georgia – New Challenges for Stability and*

Democracy. Presented at the RUCARR (Russia and the South Caucasus Regional Research) web conference at the Malmö University, Sweden.

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 the 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.

Training in NVIVO, qualitative data analysis software **June 2012**
 Organized by Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU).

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