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I International Conference
Two Iberias - Two Gates of Europe
Tbilisi, June 12-14, 2024



Tbilisi State University - Complutense University of Madrid - Caucasus University

I International Conference *Two Iberias - Two Gates of Europe*



Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Faculty of Humanities: Institute of Classical, Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies, Institute of Georgian History, Institute of Archaeology, Bascology Center; **Complutense University of Madrid**, Faculty of Philology, Department of Classical Philology and University Institute of Sciences of Religion & School of Humanities and Social Sciences of **Caucasus University** start accepting applications for the **First International Conference "Two Iberias: Two Gates of Europe"**.

It is known that Greek and Roman historians called the region corresponding to modern Georgia *Eastern Iberia*, in contrast to *Western Iberia*, i.e. the Iberian Peninsula, currently Spain and Portugal. The Greek geographer Strabo attributed the name *Iberians* both to the Iberians of the Caucasus and to the "Western Iberians" (Geography, XI, II, 19). These far from each other regions were for centuries the extreme points of various empires (Roman, Byzantine, Arabian, Ottoman...) and served as gateways for the passage of many different civilizations and boundaries for the idea of Europe. In Antiquity, both Iberias were the limits of the civilized world. No wonder mythology considered they were otherworldly gates to the unknown, as the legends of the Hesperides, the Amazons and the travels of Heracles go to show.

This conference is dedicated to the study of the ancient cultures of Caucasian Iberia and Spanish Iberia and their reception, including parallels and presumed contacts. The idea of a link between both extremes of the *oikoumene*, which was established in Antiquity, has a long reception up to the 15th century, which marks a historical caesura for Eurasian culture, especially in these peripheral countries. The study of the Ancient notion of Iberia up to this moment of transformation, marked by the events of 1453 and 1492, can throw new light upon the reuse of some classical ideas –e.g., Heracles' Columns, the Amazons– in a changing political and ideological context.

This is a first joint endeavor of the Tbilisi State University and Complutense University of Madrid aiming at establishing a stable cooperation on these research areas. It is important that Georgia's leading private educational institution –Caucasus University– is participating in the organization of this event, along with the aforementioned public Universities of Tbilisi and Madrid.

Suggested sessions:

- 1- Eastern Iberia as the Gateway of Europe: myth and history in Antiquity and its Reception
- 2- Western Iberia as the Gateway of Europe: myth and history in Antiquity and its Reception
- 3- Two Iberias - a link through the ages? Problems of historical and linguistic relations of Mediterranean cultures

Special Presentations, Performances and Activities:

1. Translation of Classical Literature between Spain and Georgia
2. Bilateral Cultural Activities (literature, dance, music, gastronomy, Basque culture...) between Spain and Georgia
3. Visit to the National Museum of Georgia
4. Archaeological Excursion

Key-note speakers (in alphabetical order):

Prof. Dr. Eugenio Luján Martínez (Department of Classics, Complutense University of Madrid, Spain)

Prof. Dr. Juan Signes Codoñer (Department of Classics, Complutense University of Madrid, Spain)

Prof. Dr. Timo Stickler (Chair of the Department of Ancient History, Friedrich Schiller University of Jena, Germany)

Organizing Committee (in alphabetical order):

Chairs:

Prof. Dr. David Hernández de la Fuente (Department of Classics, Complutense University of Madrid, Spain)

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ekaterine Kobakhidze (Institute of Classical, Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia)

Members:

Prof. Dr. Guranda Chelidze (School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Caucasus University, Georgia)

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Irine Darchia (Deputy Director of the Institute of Classical, Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia)

Dr. Giorgi Shalamberidze (Head of Bascology Center, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia)

Dr. Tea Vardosanidze (President of the Spanish Society of Iranian Studies, Spain)

Assistants:

Giorgi Kakhishvili (PhD student, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia)

Nana Mukeria (PhD student, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia)

Irina Nozadze (Senior specialist of the Center for Bascology, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia)

Scientific Committee (in alphabetical order):

Chairs:

Prof. Dr. Juan Antonio Álvarez-Pedrosa (Director of the Institute of Religious Studies, Complutense University of Madrid, Spain)

Acad. Prof. Dr. Jaba Samushia (Rector of Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia)

Prof. Dr. Kakha Shengelia (President of Caucasus University, Georgia)

Prof. Dr. Isabel Velázquez Soriano (Head of the Department of Classics, Complutense University of Madrid, Spain)

Members:

Emeritus. Prof. Dr. Pedro Barceló (Institute of Ancient History, University of Potsdam, Germany)

Prof. Dr. Zurab Bragvadze (School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Caucasus University, Georgia)

Prof. Dr. Filippo Carlà-Uhink (Institute of Ancient History, University of Potsdam, Germany)

Prof. Dr. Tedo Dundua (Head of the Institute of Georgian History, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia)

Prof. Dr. Levan Gigineishvili (Director of the Institute of Classical, Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia)

Prof. Dr. Pilar González Casado (Dean of the Faculty of Christian and Classical Literature, Director of the Interfaculty Department of Languages, San Dámaso Ecclesiastical University, Madrid, Spain)

Acad. Emeritus. Prof. Dr. Rismag Gordeziani (Institute of Classical, Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia)

Prof. Dr. Levan Gordeziani (Head of the Department of History of the Ancient World, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia)

Prof. Dr. Vakhtang Licheli (Head of the Institute of Archeology, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia)

Prof. Dr. Johannes Niehoff-Panagiotidis (Institute of Greek and Latin Philology, Faculty of Philosophy and Humanities, Free University of Berlin, Germany)

Prof. Dr. Annegret Plontke-Lüning (Department of Ancient History, Friedrich Schiller University of Jena, Germany)

Prof. Dr. Tassilo Schmitt (Institute for European Studies, direction of Ancient History, Germany)

Institutions supporting the conference:

Among others, the following institutions, organizations and research groups will collaborate with the conference:

Embassy of Georgia in the Kingdom of Spain (Madrid)

Oficina diplomática de España en Georgia (Tbilisi)

Tbilisi City Hall

Bósforo. Grupo de Investigación sobre la Antigüedad tardía y Bizancio
(Universidad Complutense de Madrid)

Instituto Cervantes de Estambul

Sociedad Española de Estudios Clásicos

Sociedad Española de Iranología

Sociedad Española de Bizantinística

TSU Center of Bascology



A complete list of the collaborating institutions will be announced at a later stage

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

We encourage both experienced researchers, young scholars and PhD students to participate in the conference.

Dates of the conference: June 12-14, 2024

Conference format: hybrid

Working languages of the conference: English and Georgian

Conference Fee: Regular registration 150 EUR (for students: 75 EUR, for online participants: 50 EUR)

The Conference fee includes: Conference material, certificate of participation, coffee-breaks, lunch-breaks, visit to the museum, one-day excursion to the surroundings of Tbilisi, reception at the Tbilisi City Hall, cultural activities.

Half an hour will be allocated to each speaker (paper - 20 min., discussion - 10 min.). Paper abstracts should be presented in one of the working languages of the conference. The abstracts in Georgian must be accompanied by a translation in English.

Please send your abstracts (300-600 words) and a brief CV (100-150 words) **by January 15, 2024** to the following e-mail address: greekstudies@tsu.ge. Subject: Two Iberias. Along with the abstract and CV the following information about the author should be provided:

- ❖ Name and Surname;
- ❖ Affiliation and position;
- ❖ Contact information (phone and email);
- ❖ Language of the paper;
- ❖ Participation format (physical/online)

The authors will be notified of the Scientific Committee's decision at the end of February, 2024.

The conference program will be prepared in March-April 2024

The selected English-language papers will be published after blind peer-review in the in a prestigious academic publisher to be announced at the end of the conference.

The Georgian-language papers of the conference will be published after blind peer-review in the following journals: *Logos. Yearbook in Greek and Latin Studies* and *Proceedings of the Institute of Georgian History*.

For questions you can feel free to contact the organizing committee by e-mail: greekstudies@tsu.ge



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