

# A Decade of Georgian Reforms: Miracle or Mirage?

---

International conference

---

*Uppsala Centre for Russian and Eurasian  
Studies*

11-12 December 2015



UPPSALA  
UNIVERSITET

This conference brings together a multidisciplinary group of scholars and practitioners to take stock of the Georgian economic and administrative reform experience since 2004. Once widely regarded as a “failed state,” the radicalism of Georgian institutional reforms saw it skyrocket to the top of international good governance indices. At the same time, deficiencies in the original reform model – increasing authoritarianism, a lopsided justice system and what has been described as a single-minded attention to economic liberalization rather than social equity or economic development– became dramatically visible as well.

Georgia is thus an excellent most-extreme case setup for the academic study of post-communist transition, helping to identify constraints and opportunities of significance beyond the country itself. On the policy level, the Georgian experience is increasingly applied as a practical model to be imitated both within and beyond the region. This makes a critical analysis of the successes, failures and above all preconditions of the Georgian reforms all the more vital.

The conference will cover the Georgian reform experience across different sectors as well as across time, pinpointing goal conflicts and preconditions for success and failure.

## **PROGRAMME**

**Friday, December 11**

**Gamla Torget 3, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, UCRS Library**

**14.00-14.30** Opening of the conference

**14.30-15.00** Barbara Lehmbruch, UCRS: Introduction

### **Political and Legal Institutions**

**15:00-16.00** Jason E. Strakes, OSCE Academy Bishkek: Pathologies of Georgian Polity: Extremism, Factionalism and Illiberal Westernization in the Post-Saakashvili Era

**16.00-16.30** Coffee Break

**16.30-17.30** Lincoln Mitchell, New York: Preference Aggregation or External Validation: Elections and Electoral Reform in Post-Rose Revolution Georgia

**17.30-18.30** Huseyn Aliyev, Bremen University : Institutional Reforms and Informal Practices in Georgia

**Saturday, December 12**

**Gamla Torget 3, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, UCRS Library**

**Social and Economic Policies**

**09.00-10.00** Eveline Baumann, CESSMA, Université Paris Diderot: Labour Policy in Georgia: from ultra-liberalism to a social-democratic approach

**10.00-11.00** Giorgi Khishtovani, Rustaveli Foundation Tbilisi  
Healthcare reform as a mirror image of state economic policy developments in Georgia between 2003 and 2012

**11.00-11.30** Coffee Break

**11.30-12.30** Lela Rekhviashvili, Central European University: Small Enterprise and the Developmental Outcomes of Georgia's Post-Revolutionary Reforms: Questioning the New-institutionalist Policy Prescriptions

**12.30-13.30** Lunch Break

**13.30-14.30** Don van Atta, Indendent Development Consultant, Raleigh, North Carolina: Stagnation and Change in Georgian Agriculture

**14.30-15.30** Matthew Light, University of Toronto : Small arms regulation in Georgia in comparative perspective

**15.30-16.00** Coffee Break

**The Role of External Actors**

**16.00-17.00** Laure Delcour, CASCADE, Fondation Maison des Sciences de l'Homme Paris: Mind the Gap(s): EU-demanded reforms in Georgia beyond the façade

**17.00-18.00** Bidzina Lebanidze, Free University Berlin EU and Russia in the South Caucasus: External impact on the domestic policy change in Armenia and Georgia

**18.00-19.00** **Final Discussion** : Comments by Roy Southworth, former World Bank Resident Representative to Georgia ; discussion of future work plans.