

Dispositional and Attitudinal Predictors of National Identity

Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University

Project leader: Maia Mestvirishvili

Duration: September 2011- August 2013

Studying the forms and constructs of social identities remains crucial to understanding people's behavioural and cognitive responses on different social stimuli. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union people have faced social, political and economic challenges that tremendously affect their perceptions and attitudes. Collective identity has been redefined, raising the need for a better understanding of how people perceive themselves in this new reality, created after 1991.

The present research explores dispositional and situational factors that contribute to the construction of national identity, one form of collective identity. On the one hand, national identification is influenced by public discourse and political debate, and on the other hand, by personal attitudes and traits.

The goal of the proposed research is to determine the effects of (1) cultural constructs of self-identification, (2) patriotic / nationalistic attitudes, and (3) dimensions of religious belief systems on national identity representation in individuals. The study plans to address the following research questions:

- Do cultural orientation and personal attitudes predict the representation style of national identity? And if so, which one of these two is the more robust predictor?
- Whether personal attitudes, such as those due to religious beliefs or patriotism/nationalism contribute to national identity representation? And if so, how?
- How are individualism and collectivism related to the representation style of national identity?

The study will enable us to draw an empirical picture of cultural and citizenship representation in Georgia, and to understand the roots of citizenship representation by linking this to cultural dimensions.