

Sophiko Skhirtladze
16, Zandukeli Street
Tbilisi, Georgia
+995 (599) 19-06-18
sopho.skhirtladze@gmail.com

EXPERIENCE

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| Head of the Research Center | International School of Economics-TSU
Policy Institute
Private Sector Development Research Center
Tbilisi, Georgia | Since September, 2015 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coordinating the implementation of the entire range of Private Sector Development (PSD) Center's activities.• Writing policy papers, newspaper columns and comments on policies affecting private sector development in Georgia. Liaising with the Georgian government, international organizations and donors with an eye to initiating externally financed research and training projects as well as public discussions and debates addressing private sector development concerns;• Supervising a staff of three full time research associates (and additional consultants, on demand for specific activities). | |
| Invited Lecturer | University of Georgia
Tbilisi, Georgia | Since September, 2015 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Undergraduate course in Principles of Macroeconomics | |
| Public Sector Specialist (STC) | World Bank
Governance Global Practice
Washington DC, USA | July-August, 2015 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Undertake substantive quality assurance/review of the consultancy outputs for Strengthening Budget Preparation in Bangladesh Project with due reference to the global experience and lessons and consultation with Bank experts. Lead research on the budget preparation practice, progress and challenges to inform the Government of Bangladesh in preparation of the national PFM strategy. | |
| Public Sector Analyst (STC) | World Bank
Governance Global Practice
Washington DC, USA | 2013-2015 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coordinated and participated in content analysis of over one hundred Public Expenditure Reviews (PER), provided quality control of services delivered by senior experts, in collaboration with other Public Expenditure Review Stocktaking Project team members prepared inputs to PER guidance and developed interactive PER Toolkit.• As a team member of Public Financial Management (PFM) Reform Indicators Project participated in research on PFM development outcomes, liaised with senior experts in various PFM functional areas, and drafted sections of technical guidance on the design and a menu of relevant PFM indicators for Bank projects.• Provided analytical contributions to a background paper for World Development Report 2016 on the impact of ICT systems on the government's capacity to manage its financial and human resources, and improve public service delivery. | |
| Tutorial Teacher | Catholic University
Milan, Italy | 2012-2013 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developed tutorial program for graduate students in Political and Public Economics, and Advanced Microeconomics, delivered classes, prepared exam material and evaluated student performance. | |

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| Research Analyst | World Bank
ECA Chief Economist's Office
Washington DC, USA | July-September, 2011 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepared analytical material for regional flagship report "Making the most of Natural Resources in Eurasia (2014)". | |
| Research Assistant | Southern Methodist University
Dallas, TX | 2009-2010 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided analytical inputs to academic papers written by faculty members. Coordinated preparation of initial inputs to "The Oxford Handbook of the Russian Economy (2013)", edited by a member of faculty. | |
| Research Fellow | International School of Economics
Tbilisi, Georgia | 2008-2009 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a member of a core research team performed descriptive and econometric analysis of data and prepared written inputs to the project sponsored by Institute of Public Policy Research (UK) and Global Development Network "Development on the Move: Measuring and Optimizing Migration's Development Impacts". • In collaboration with principal researchers based in Western universities prepared research proposals and obtained research funds for joint projects. • Led independent research project financed by Global Development Network, supervised data collection team, performed econometric modelling and policy analysis. | |

EDUCATION

PhD, Public Economics and Finance, Catholic University, Milan, Italy (April, 2015). Thesis Title: "Essays in Political Economics".

MA, Applied Economics, Southern Methodist University, TX, USA (2010).

MA Cum Laude, Economics, International School of Economics, Tbilisi, Georgia (2008). Thesis Title: "Discrimination in the Georgian Labor Market".

BA with honors, International Black Sea University, Georgia (2006).

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Public Economics and Finance, Applied Political Economics.

RESEARCH GRANTS

Global Development Network (10.000 USD)

USAID Research Grant (1.000 USD)

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Scholarship from Cariplo Foundation to attend specialized courses (2012)

Graduate Study Fellowship from Catholic University of Milan (2010-2013)

Graduate Study Fellowship from Southern Methodist University (2009-2010)

Teaching Fellowship from Center of Economic Research and Graduate Education (2009)

Best Master Thesis Award from International School of Economics (2008)

"Future Leaders' Exchange Program" scholarship from US Department of State (2001)

MEMBERSHIPS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

Graduate course in Qualitative Research Methods, London School of Economics (2012).

Continued Education Program in Public Finance, American Economic Association (2012).

Member of American Economic Association (Since 2010).

SKILLS

Scientific Software: STATA, Matlab, Mathematica, EViews, LATEX, NVivo, ArcGIS.

Languages: Georgian (Native); English (Full Professional Proficiency); Russian, Turkish (Limited Professional Proficiency); Italian (Basic).

WORKING PAPERS

Does a Liberal Labor Law Increase Discrimination? The Evidence from Georgia, International School of Economics, mimeo, November 2008.

Taking the stock of Public Expenditure Reviews: emerging patterns and examples of good practice, with Lev Freinkman, World Bank, mimeo, June 2015

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Guide on Operational Level Public Financial Management Reform Indicators for World Bank projects, with Nataliya Biletska

Media and Electoral Competition

Internet and Political Polarization

Political Economy of Media: Implications for Development

Political Economy of Media Capture

Ethnic Discrimination in the Georgian Labor Market, Field Experiment, with Norberto Pignatti

Optimal Redistricting, with Elena Manzoni and Giovanna Iannantuoni