



GEORGE KHUTSISHVILI

15.XI.1948 – 4.X.2013

BIOGRAPHY

Birth date: 15 November, 1948.

Death date: 4 October, 2013.

Place of birth: Tbilisi, Georgia.

Place of death: Tbilisi, Georgia; buried at St. Nino Pantheon, Saburtalo, Tbilisi.

George Khutsishvili, Doctor of Philosophy, Professor, was prominent Georgian conflictologist, one of the founders of conflictology in Georgia and the Caucasian region, scientist in the field of peace and conflict studies and public figure. In 1994 he founded independent non-for-profit and non-partisan organization “International Center on Conflict and Negotiation” (ICCN), 1995-2013 was publisher of “Peace Times”, “Conflicts and Negotiations”, “Alternative to Conflict”, etc. During years he was invited and

worked as a professor at different leading universities in Georgia and abroad. George Khutsishvili made significant input in studying of the essence of theoretical thinking and the problem of the infinite in the light of philosophy and mathematics (1970-80s). From 1990s to the end of his days George Khutsishvili dedicated his life to establishing and developing peace and conflict studies in Georgia.

CHILDHOOD

George Khutsishvili was born on 15th of November, 1948 in Tbilisi to the family of Shota and Sophio (Samiko) Khutsishvili. George was keen on drawing and learning foreign languages from his early childhood. Due to his great interest in foreign languages, he quickly developed a professional knowledge of Russian and English. Apart from that, he had a basic knowledge of German, Polish and the Italian languages. Having a perfect command of the English and Russian languages, he considered himself trilingual. His passion for fine arts in his childhood was so great that at the age of 9 (1957) his parents introduced him to the greatest Georgian artist of his time, Lado Gudiashvili, who was said to have been quite delighted with George's talent and hard work. Gudiashvili gave George a sketchbook with his signature in it, wishing him a great success. In the following years, George Khutsishvili did not follow an artist's career, due to his parents' strong requests to the contrary; however, George cherished his love for art until the end of his days. There are hundreds of graphic and pictorial art works and sketches kept in the family archive that had been produced by the hands of George.

EDUCATION AND ACADEMIC DEGREES

In 1966 George Khutsishvili graduated from Tbilisi I.N.Vekua phys-math secondary school N42 and in that same year was enrolled in Tbilisi Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, in the department of mechanics and mathematics, from which he successfully graduated in 1971. In 1976, he passed his Ph.D. defense of his thesis on "Infinity and the Problem of its Abstraction in Science" and was awarded the

degree of Doctor of Philosophy by Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University in 1977. The Supreme Attestation Commission (Moscow) awarded him the title of Professor of Philosophy in 1982. In 1987, he successfully completed an intensive course in “English Language Simultaneous Translations” and was awarded a diploma.

In 1991 George was invited to Kiev due to his prominent work which he had published in Russian (“Genesis of the Structure of Theoretical Thinking”, Tbilisi; “Metsniereba”, Academy of Sciences, Institute of Philosophy, 1989). At a “specialists only” Council Meeting of the Institute of Philosophy of the Academy of Sciences of the Ukraine, he defended his thesis and was awarded a degree of Doctor of Philosophy (1991) by the Ukraine Academy of Sciences, endorsed by the supreme attestation commission (PhD, Diploma ДТ # 011423, issued by the Supreme Attestation Commission of Moscow, on 13 December, 1991, protocol 46д/8).

In 1995, he was awarded the Harvard Law School Certificate of Negotiation Training of the Program of Instruction for Lawyers.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

In 1971-1972, he worked as an applied mathematician at the Institute of Management Systems at the Academy of Sciences of Georgia. In 1972-1979 he worked as a researcher and then as a senior researcher at the Institute of Philosophy of the Georgian Academy of Sciences.

In 1979, George Khutsishvili was elected the deputy chair of the Methodological Council of the Academy of Sciences, and later he held the position of the co-chair until 1988. He was frequently invited to deliver public lectures on democratic reforms, which the Methodological Council was conducting regularly in the period of Gorbachev’s “Perestroika”. In October 1988, on behalf of the Eastern-German organization Kulturbund, Olaph Krese invited him to several leading Universities in Germany to deliver a series of lectures (the Alexander Humboldt University, East Berlin; the Karl Marx University, and the Leipzig, Halle and Dresden Universities).

At the end of the 80s, George started researching various methodologies of finding water, biolocation, and bioenergy. His interest in this field was stirred after meeting with the representatives of American dowsers at a Conference in 1989 in the USA. Later, from the beginning of the 1990s, he became a member of the American Society of Dowsers. In 1989, the Institute of Neotic Sciences invited George Khutsishvili to conduct research and awarded him a membership for one year (1990-1991).

In 1988-1990 he went on to work as the head of the Department of Social Sciences at the Ministry of Education of Georgia.

In 1992, the Tbilisi State Institute of Foreign languages and Pedagogical Sciences elected George Khutsishvili as a full professor. He had earlier since 1981 held the position of associate professor and chair of Philosophy.

The State Committee for Human Rights and Ethnic Relations, established in 1992, opened the Centre for Conflict Analysis, especially for Professor George Khutsishvili. The Centre was functioning during 1 year.

On 8 January 1993, George Khutsishvili won the competition of the US International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX) and was invited as a Research Fellow to the Centre for International Security and Arms Control, Stanford University. While working in the United States, he received funding from David Packard, a great philanthropist and benefactor, and a co-founder of Hewlett-Packard. The American press at that time spoke about George Khutsishvili as a "Fellowship Brings Unique Georgian Perspective to Stanford". Later, he was offered work as a consultant during the following year in the same Centre, in the field of ethnic conflicts in the post-Soviet space.

In the spring of 1993 George Khutsishvili was awarded a NATO Research Fellowship (Democratic Institutions Individual Fellowships Program) grant for carrying out study on "Caucasus Knot of Conflicts in Light of Growing Global Insecurity".

In 1994 George Khutsishvili became an Associate Professor of Conflict and Peace Studies at the Department of International Law and International Relations, at Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, where he worked until 2006.

In 1995 -1997, he was appointed as a professor of Sociology at the American University of Hawaii, Tbilisi Campus. In 1995, Khutsishvili, one of the founders of the Academy of Georgian Philosophic Sciences, was elected as the Vice-President of the Academy. He held this position until 1997, inclusive.

In 1998, Khutsishvili was invited to take a position as a professor of Conflict Studies, at the Humanitarian-Technical Department of the Georgian Technical University, where he delivered lectures until 2001.

In 2001-2010, George Khutsishvili had been invited to be a member of several state commissions at different ministries to work on Caucasus oil/gas pipeline projects, public opinion and media, the development of a National Security Concept for Georgia, cooperation with civil society, conflict resolution, elections, and other issues.

In 2006-2011, he held the position of a full professor at the Georgian University.

For many years, George Khutsishvili had worked as a member of the commission for selecting academic positions, and on the scientific board for granting degrees in the social sciences at Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University.

In 2008-2009 Khutsishvili worked as the Chief Investigator of the Multi-track Dialogue for the Georgian-Abkhazian Conflict, in an international programme supported by the European Commission. In 2001-2002, 2009, and 2011-2012, he had been invited by the USAID to become a member of conflict assessment mission groups in Georgia.

PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES IN GEORGIA, FOUNDATION OF INTERNATIONAL CENTRE ON CONFLICT AND NEGOTIATION (ICCN)

Professor Khutsishvili developed his interest in conflict resolution from the beginning of the 1990s. At that time, this field did not exist in Georgia, while in the west it was rather well developed. In that period, George worked in the Tbilisi Business School where he first introduced his course of studies in conflictology.

In 1993-1994, while working in the United States, George applied for a grant to well-known The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, on the recommendation of his colleagues where he obtained his first grant to establish an independent Center for Conflict and Negotiation. According to the grant terms, his partner in this initiation was to be Stanford University.

Upon his return from the United States in 1994, George Khutsishvili established the first independent high profile organization in Georgia, which gave birth to the Georgian educational and scientific programs on conflict and peace studies. George Khutsishvili and 63 other founding members launched their organization at a meeting held on 8 August, 1994, where they established “The International Center on Conflict and Negotiation Strategy”. Through a general decision of the meeting members, George Khutsishvili was granted status as the founder. This non-profit organization with international status was registered by the Department of Registration of the Ministry of Justice of Republic of Georgia on 3 October, 1994, under the above title, pursuant to resolution #20/3.

Due to corresponding changes in the legislation of Georgia, the Center for Conflictology (as it is still publicly referred to), had to register a new several times. On 30 December 1998, the name of the Centre was changed and reregistered as the International Center on Conflict and Negotiation (ICCN) (www.ICCN.ge). Professor George Khutsishvili headed the Center until the end of his life. The Centre continues its successful activities today and is a powerful, field-oriented NGO in Georgia, as well as in the Caucasian region.

PEACE ACTIVITIES

Starting in 1995, he edited and issued trilingual magazines and bulletins which provided relevant expert and educational materials on conflict and peace issues for conflict affected populations. With this, Khutsishvili made a valuable contribution to strengthening civil society (“Conflicts and Negotiations” (1995-2001); “Alternative” (1996-1998); “Monada” (1997-1998); “Alternative to Conflict” (1998-2003); “Peace Times” (2001-2013)).

Since 1995, the foundation has been laid for Georgian-Abkhaz and Georgian-Ossetian dialogues, on the initiative of George Khutsishvili, in the format of public diplomacy. After the conflicts, some contacts existed between post-conflict divided societies, however, the International Centre on Conflict and Negotiation headed by George Khutsishvili was a pioneer to start dialogue process. He addressed the Abkhaz people at the Conference (1995) in Moscow, proposing to start the first dialogue, where he met Manana Gurgulia and Roman Dbar. Kumar Rupesinkhe, who was then a representative of International Alert, (IA) London, took an interest in Khutsishvili’s idea, and later the first Georgian-Abkhazian dialogue project was implemented with Rupesinkhe’s support. This project lasted for many years. The first Georgian-Abkhazian dialogue took place in July 1996.

The process of a Georgian-Ossetian dialogue started in 1995. The famous scientist Roger Fisher contacted professor Khutsishvili and offered his cooperation in the Georgian-Ossetian and Georgian-Abkhazian format (Conflict Management Group (CMG), USA). This is how the Georgian-Ossetian dialogue started with the support and financial aid of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC). From the very start, this organization ensured their support to Khutsishvili’s Centre in educational programs for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). The first Georgian-Ossetian meeting took place in January 1996, in Oslo, upon the request of the NRC.

In 1996, George Khutsishvili held a joint seminar on “Developing a Regional Security Concept for the Caucasus” with NATO. This seminar

attracted the attention of the West with the following message of his organization: “We need to develop the concept of regional security first, rather than the concepts of national security”. The working topic of this seminar was based on George Khutsishvili’s idea, which he had proposed to NATO. In that period, NATO was developing the concept of national security in almost all post–Soviet countries, in order to help the nations. Khutsishvili’s idea, which insisted that national security concepts could not be developed without regional security concepts, was considered, discussed and summarized at the seminar. The results were published in the following book in the Georgian and English languages: “Developing a Regional Security Concept for the Caucasus”, International Conference materials, 4-6 October, 1996, Tbilisi, Georgia. Editor, George Khutsishvili, 1997. Later, NATO introduced the above approach to many other countries.

In 2003, together with other prominent figures, he convened a special meeting and founded the “Public Movement against Religious Extremism” to counteract the violent actions of religious extremism that had been gaining momentum in that period. For years, he had been supporting the establishment of the rule of law, non-violence, and tolerance in society.

In 2003-2013, George Khutsishvili was a member of the International Steering Group of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC). Within the format of this network, he participated in the work of groups studying different conflicts all over the world. As well as that, he was a member of special missions for international conflict studies, prevention and resolution. The organization founded by George Khutsishvili continues its membership in the GPPAC network, and is its representative in the Caucasus.

In 2006, civil society united against structural violence with Khutsishvili’s active support and through the invitation of the regular congress of non-governmental organizations the development of a Unified NGO Platform has started. The first NGO Congress was held in 2006 in Georgia, followed by the Second and Third NGO

Congresses, in 2007 and 2008 respectively, in which Georgian NGOs participated extensively.

After the Russian-Georgian War in August 2008, the post-war rounds of Georgian-Russian meetings and negotiations started on the initiative of professor George Khutsishvili, which later was called the Istanbul Process, being named so due to it being the first post-war meeting ever, which was held in Istanbul in November 2008. This very first meeting laid the foundation for expert dialogue, which is still going on within the same format. By means of this dialogue, experts have studied the fundamental reasons of the conflict and the ways towards its resolution, jointly. The materials of this Georgian-Russian dialogue, and the ways discussed of overcoming the crises, have already been published in a book.

G. Khutsishvili was one of the initiators and a founder of the Public Constitutional Commission (PCC, www.konstitucia.ge), which was created in response to the existing political crisis in the country. This PCC united well-known constitutionalists and public figures of the country in 2009-2011. The PCC developed a completely renewed, more acceptable edition of the Constitution for the country, which was free from political and party interests. This version of the new edition of the Constitution of Georgia, which was developed by the authorship of 17 Commission Members, was published on 9 April, 2010 in a book form (an Expanded Concept of the New Edition of the Constitution of Georgia, Tbilisi, 9 April, 2010).

FAMILY

Father, Shota Khutsishvili (1924-2012) was a renowned engineer and inventor in the field of aviation. George's grandfather – Nikoloz Khutsishvili was an adept of the first Georgian aeronaut Besarion Keburia, serving first as his engine driver and engineer, and later already as an independent pilot. Shota Khutsishvili had about 200 patented inventions in the field of aviation and energy resources. George's mother – Sophia (Samiko) Khutsishvili (nee Taralashvili) (1924-2012) sang (mezzo-soprano) in the Georgian State Choir

(Capella). After George's birth, she left her job and devoted all her life to the upbringing of her only son.

George Khutsishvili married Nina Tsikhistavi on 8th of April 1995. On 27th of May 1996 their daughter – Victoria-Sophia Khutsishvili was born.

PASSING AWAY

On 4 October 2013, at 10 o'clock in the morning, Professor George Khutsishvili arrived at the Ivane Javakishvili Tbilisi State University (Building #4) to attend the session of the Commission for the selection of academic positions. A few minutes after the beginning of the meeting, he felt unwell and unexpectedly passed away at the age of 64. Information was immediately spread in the media. His family and organization received condolences during months from all the conflict zones of Georgia and Caucasus, as well as many countries of the World.

ABOUT GEORGE KHUTSISHVILI:

1996-1997 – Who's Who in Georgia, first edition; publishing house Diogenes, 1997.

1996 – On 9th of November 1996, the President of Georgia, Eduard Shevardnadze nominated Professor George Khutsishvili as his first candidate for the position of Public Defender in the newly established Institute of Public Defender, which was preceded by many years of lobbying and recommendations on the part of the diplomatic corps, to the President of Georgia, to support an eligible candidate. During a preliminary meeting of the candidate with a fraction of the then parliamentary majority – "Citizens' Union", professor George Khutsishvili refused to fulfil the party tasks, in case he would be elected as the Public Defender, all the while maintaining that the Public Defender's Institute would be independent. This statement turned out to be decisive and George Khutsishvili did not receive enough votes in these elections.

1998-1999 – Who’s Who in Georgia, the second edition, Georgian Biographical Dictionary; Georgian Biographical Centre, 1999;

2001-2002 – Who’s Who in Georgia, the third edition, Georgian Biographical Dictionary; Bakur Sulakauri publishing house – Georgian Biographical Centre, 2002.

2007 – Civil Society of Georgia nominated George Khutsishvili as a candidate for the membership of the Steering Board of the Georgian Public Broadcasting. The Public Defender, Sozar Subari also recommended his candidature. The Parliament of Georgia elected him a member of the supervisory board.

2008 – Diaries of the “Radio Tavisupleba”, Radio “Liberty”, 2009.

HONORARY TITLES, AWARDS, PRIZES, REWARDS:

In 1990 he was awarded an Honorary Citizen of Atlanta (the State of Georgia, in the USA);

1993 – he won the competition in an IREX program;

1993 – he became the first scholarship holder of NATO in Georgia;

1994 – continues his activities in Stanford University (USA); an additional year for his tuition was funded by the great benefactor David Packard;

1995 – was awarded the Certificate of Appreciation for developing Georgian CultureGram by the D. Kennedy Centre for International Studies and the Centre for CultureGram (Iowa, USA);

2006 – was awarded the title of honorary citizen of Los Angeles (California, USA);

2008 – was awarded a certificate of appreciation for the aid he rendered to the families below the poverty line by “The Future Way”;

2008 – for his contributions to supporting interethnic tolerance in Georgia the organization “Multinational Georgia” presented him with a painting by a child winner of the competition;

2009 – Georgian Public Defender’s Office awarded George Khutsishvili and his organization – International Center on Conflict and Negotiation, the Tolerance Advocate Certificate;

2010 – was granted the title of a peace Envoy from the World Peace Federation;

15 November 2013, George Khutsishvili was posthumously granted the Public Defender’s award along with the title of the Most Tolerant Person of the Year.

ACADEMIC /EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES:

1974-1986 – Classical philosophy, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (TSU);

1983-1986 – Symbolic Logic, Tbilisi Institute of Foreign Languages (TIFL); 1980–1993 – classical philosophy in English and Russian languages, Tbilisi Institute of Foreign Languages (TIFL);

1987-1991 – Foundations of conflict resolution, Tbilisi Business School (currently called the Free University);

1988-1991 – Business English; Tbilisi Business School/ ESM (currently called the Free University);

1994-1996 – Foundations of Modern Sciences (in the English language); Courses of Simultaneous Translation, Tbilisi Institute of Foreign Languages (TIFL);

1996-1997 – Introduction to Sociology (in the English language) American University of Hawaii, Tbilisi Campus;

1999-2001 – Peacebuilding and Conflict Management – Georgian Technical University (GTU);

1994-2006 – Conflict Theories (for bachelor and masters students) at Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (TSU));

2007-2011 – International Conflict Analysis for the students of master’s program, University of Georgia (UG).

**PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT, WORKING IN CONFLICT ZONES,
MEDIATION:**

Abkhazia, Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia; Cyprus (Northern and Southern parts); Kosovo and Serbia; Mindanao (the Philippines); Basque province (Spain); Moldova and Pridnestrovie; Sri Lanka; Bosnia and Herzegovina; North Ireland; North Caucasian regions; Jerusalem, West Coast; Lebanon (Middle East) and others.

PUBLICATIONS:

The author of 20 monographs and co-author and/or compiling editor of many others; the author or co-author of more than 200 scientific articles published in Georgian, English and Russian languages, one fiction, and many social and political articles in newspapers.

POSTHUMOUS PUBLICATIONS OF THE SELECTION OF ORIGINAL ENGLISH, RUSSIAN, AND GEORGIAN LANGUAGE ANALYTICAL ARTICLES AND INTERVIEWS BY GEORGIAN SCIENTIST OF PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES, DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY, PROFESSOR GEORGE KHUTSISHVILI (1948-2013)

გიორგი ხუციშვილი



How to Resolve Conflicts (1991-2005)

Book I, In Georgian Language

გიორგი ხუციშვილი



How to Resolve Conflicts (2006-2013)

Book II, In Georgian Language

ГЕОРГИЙ ХУЦИШВИЛИ



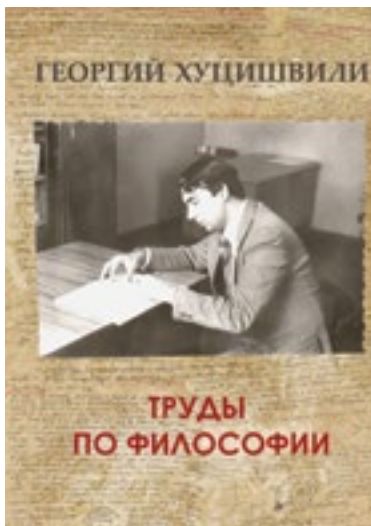
How to Resolve Conflicts (1990-2013)

Book III, In Russian Language

GEORGE KHUTSISHVILI



How to Resolve Conflicts (1994-2013)



Works on Philosophy