



Association of European
Studies for the Caucasus



University of St. Gallen

Center for Governance
and Culture in Europe

Call for Papers

Conference Title: Shifting Allegiances, Story-Telling, and the Narrative of Values in the Black Sea Region
Date and Location: 1-3 May 2026, Batumi, Georgia
Organized by: Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University

Conference Description:

This conference aims to explore the pivotal role of narratives in international relations, with a focus on the Black Sea region. Drawing on the recent special issue with *Global Discourse*, the event seeks to examine how values, embedded within political and public narratives, influence decision-making processes and policy outcomes at various levels of governance.

The conference will delve into the dynamics of competing political narratives, their mutual interactions, and their role in shaping foreign policy, public perception, and regional integration. By centering the concept of value in discussions, this event provides a unique platform to analyze how values interact with interests to shape policy choices in complex geopolitical landscapes.

This interdisciplinary conference welcomes scholars from International Relations, social sciences, and humanities to contribute innovative perspectives, case studies, and methodologies.

Themes and Topics:

Submissions are invited on (but not limited to) the following themes, provided they focus on the Black Sea region:

- Strategic and everyday narratives in shaping public attitudes and foreign policy.
- Value narratives and their role in regional integration and international relations.
- The interplay of values and interests in policymaking.
- Narrative practices in analyzing international conflicts and diplomatic engagements.
- Case studies highlighting the transformative role of shared values in policy formulation.
- Interdisciplinary methodologies for examining political narratives.

Eligibility:

This call is open to scholars at all career stages, including Ph.D. students. Scholars affiliated with Swiss research institutions are particularly encouraged to apply.

Submission Guidelines:

We welcome abstracts of up to **300 words**, detailing the research question, methodology, and key contributions. Please include a short biography (max. 200 words) and institutional affiliation.



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Deadline for Abstract Submission: 15 January 2026

Notification of Acceptance: 1 February 2026

Submit your proposals via email to: adam.makharadze@bsu.edu.ge, ensuring that agozkaman@gmail.com and kruessmann.thomas@gmail.com are included in the Cc field.

Conference Format:

This will be an in-person event held in Batumi, Georgia. Selected papers presented at the conference will be considered for publication in a Web of Science-indexed journal. In addition, an edited book volume featuring a curated selection of contributions will be published by a reputable academic publisher.

Travel and Accommodation:

There is limited funding for travel and accommodation available. Please send us an estimate of your travel cost along with your presentation abstract.

Contact Information:

For inquiries, please contact: armagangozkaman@beykent.edu.tr, ensuring to cc: kruessmann.thomas@gmail.com and agozkaman@gmail.com.

We look forward to your submissions and to welcoming you to Batumi for a stimulating exchange of ideas and perspectives!

Armağan Gözkaman

Thomas Kruessmann