

Dr. Lela Jamagidze/ Research Profile

Lela Jamagidze, Phd in Economics, is an Assistant professor of Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia. Her areas of research involve international and regional economic cooperation, economic development and globalization issues.

Her current research project “B/Orders within the Economic Integration Preferences of the Major Economic Interest Groups in Georgia” aims to analyze the role, motivations and channels of influence of those internal economic interest groups which deal with the formation and development of Georgia’s economic relations with Russia on the one hand and the EU on the other. The goal is to explain the inter-relationships between the economic interests and outcomes of the economic policy, which is actually implemented in Georgia in order to ensure more open economic borders and intensified economic relations. Based on the policy preferences and the evidence of the current degree of development of cross-border ties, winner and loser groups will be identified and conclusions drawn about future challenges and opportunities.

Borders reflect differences in institutions, policies and regulations, which affect economic relations among countries. They can be an instrument used for the realization of economic interests depending on their consequences for welfare and economic development. Georgia-Russia and Georgia-EU economic relations have been the subject of much debate, interpretations and discussions among various political and economic agents. The present research aims to contribute to these debates by analyzing the significance of borders for Georgia’s economic integration path.

During the research visit at the Viadrina Center B/ORDERS IN MOTION of the European University Dr. Lela Jamagidze intends to undertake work on theoretical foundations and methodologies within the above research project. The proposed research will enable to expand the topic of Georgia’s economic cooperation with Russia and EU integration issues beyond the traditional analysis of costs and benefits of economic integration, where borders are seen as given according to the degree of economic openness. Rather she puts forward an international political economy approach towards borders, analyzes economic interest groups involved, economic integration policy actions taken and the consequent dynamics in the economic borders.