

Zurab Bragvadze

(1961 – 2023)



Immeasurable are the merits and contribution of a famous historian and archaeologist, Professor Zurab Bragvadze to Caucasus University. Since 2011, he was engaged in intense educational and research activities and led a number of archaeological expeditions.

Zurab Bragvadze graduated from Tbilisi Iv. Javakhsishvili State University in 1992, Faculty of History. After defending his candidate's thesis was awarded the degree of Candidate of Historical Sciences. He started working at Sh. Amiranashvili State Museum of Art, where until 2004, was employed as a researcher, as the leading scientist, learned secretary, and the head of the Department of Pre-Christian Art and Archeology and served as a member of the Scientific Council.

From 2004 to 2007, Zurab Bragvadze worked as a leading specialist in the Education, Science, Culture and Sports Committee of the Parliament of Georgia, and from 2007 as a scientist in the National Museum of Georgia - Otar Lortkifanidze Archaeological Research Center. In 2012-2013, he was the deputy director of the National Center for Education Quality Enhancement. From 2013 to 2015, he was the chief scientific consultant at the Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation. In 2017 he was a member of the Archaeological Commission of Georgia. Simultaneously, from 2011 until the end of 2023, was a professor at Caucasus University.

Zurab Bragvadze was also called to teach at the State Institute of Economic Relations, first as a docent, then as a professor. He was the dean of the Faculty of International Business and was a member of the scientific council of the same Institute. As a guest lecturer, he collaborated with Ap. Kutateladze Tbilisi State

Art Academy and St. Andrew the First-Called Georgian University of the Patriarchate of Georgia.

As for the archaeological pursuits of Mr. Zurab Bragvadze, he was engaged in intense archaeological work for more than 40 years and led more than a dozen archaeological expeditions: Zhinvali, Sairkhe, Rgani, Chkhari, Skande Castle, Ghvankiti, Dzevri, Sveri Castle, Itkhvisi, Dilikauri, Armaziskhevi, Chiaturi, East Kolkheti, Kvirili Gorge, Borjom-Akhaltzikhe, Terjola, Zestafoni, Mtskheta, Telavi, Shida Kartli and Lechkhumi (Khwamli).

Under his leadership, the last archaeological excavations were carried out in 2021 at Todadze Castle in Sachkhere. Archaeological excavations of 2017 of Tabakhmela trench #4 conducted under his supervision deserve a special mention as it was the first archaeological study of the battlefield in Georgia. Artifacts discovered reflect the history of the fight of Georgian soldiers against the Bolshevik occupation in February 1921.

Within the framework of archaeological expeditions, Zurab Bragvadze actively cooperated with the National Agency for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of Georgia. He was also a member of the International Council of Museums (ICOM).

The main interest of Zurab Bragvadze's research was the problems of the archeology of Colchis and Iberia - the problem of the genesis of the Kingdom of Colchis, relations with Achaemenid Iran, the Roman Empire, and the system of governance in Colchis and Iberia. He published more than 100 scientific works in the archeology, history and culture of Georgia and the Caucasus in Georgian, Russian, English, French, and Polish languages. His works include 5 monographs and 2 textbooks. Zurab Bragvadze is the author of the first Georgian-language archeology textbook. From 1986 to 2023, he participated in various international symposia in England, Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Poland, Hungary, Ukraine, Russia, Kazakhstan, Armenia, Iran and Turkey.

Zurab Bragvadze was also a member and chairman of the organizing and scientific council of a number of international scientific conferences, as well as the editor-in-chief of scientific journals "Archaeological Journal"; Member of the editorial board of "Essays" of the Museum of Art; Member of the editorial board of the scientific journal "Iberia-Kolkheti".

Zurab Bragvadze was involved in international projects, including the Erasmus+ Jean Monnet project at Caucasus University, as well as the "Confidence-Building and Early Response Mechanism" (COBERM) projects supported by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the European Union (EU), thereby playing an active role in the third mission of the university and, in supporting civil society initiatives for conflict prevention and peace building. Since 2022, as a professor at Caucasus University, he was involved in the project "Georgia at the Crossroads of Empires: Politics, Society, Time, Narratives of Georgian Integration" funded by the Black Sea International University Rustaveli National Science Foundation.

Professor Zurab Bragvadze was distinguished by his diligence, intelligence, professionalism and generosity. He enjoyed well-deserved authority and love among colleagues and students.