Black Sea Women in Nuclear Network

Uniting women,
Leading change,
Making waves

Tamara Pataraia

(She/Her)

Georgia

Tamara Pataraia is an Associate Professor at the University of Georgia, where she teaches in the Department of Politics and International Relations within the School of Social Sciences. Her courses focus on global security and nuclear nonproliferation. She is also the founding member of several NGOs focused on promoting democratic oversight and good governance.

With over two decades of active collaboration with civil society organizations, Tamara has authored numerous academic articles, research surveys, and policy reports. Her research primarily explores democratic transitions, good governance, and the nuclear nonproliferation and nuclear security. Additionally, she has served as a consultant and evaluator for various international programs.

Tamara has been a visiting fellow at various institutions, including the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies at the Institute of International Studies in Monterey, the Scottish Centre for International Security at Aberdeen University, and the Tampere Peace Research Institute in Finland.

An active member of the professional community, Tamara is on the Editorial Board of the Quarterly Journal CONNECTIONS and has been involved with the Partnership for Peace Consortium of Defense Academies and Security Studies Institutes since 2012.

Tamara's academic carrier began with a Ph.D. in Physics and Mathematics from Tbilisi State University in 1992. From 1992 to 2006, she was a research fellow and lecturer at the university, teaching various subjects in theoretical physics.

She can provide mentorship in Georgian and English.

MENTORSHIP TOPICS

Topic 1: Global security and nuclear nonproliferation

This course aims to cover aspects of current nonproliferation regime, such as nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, arms control and disarmament, including peaceful use of nuclear energy, export control of strategic goods etc. Special attention will be paid to explore how emerging technologies, regional conflicts, and great-power competition create new challenges that demand innovative approaches to strengthening the nonproliferation regime. Mentorship on this topic helps aspiring professionals understand not only the technical and legal dimensions of nuclear nonproliferation and security, but also the strategic, political, and ethical considerations that shape global efforts to reduce nuclear risks.

Duration: 2-4 hours consisting of: presentations, discussions, personalized consultations.

Topic 2: Government-NGO partnerships in enhancing nuclear and radiological security

The course provides an introduction to objectives and engagement of Georgian professional community, academia and civil society actors in capacity-building in the area of nuclear security and WMD nonproliferation, raising awareness on international norms, national level strategic documents and the nuclear security-related legislation of Georgia; democratic oversight of Georgia's defense/security sector, security sector reform agenda.

Duration: 2-4 hours consisting of presentations, discussions, personalized consultations

Topic 3: Support in developing strong, structured research proposals and building essential research skills.

The course includes helping mentees identify relevant and original research questions, refine their topics, and align their ideas with existing academic debates. Students will be supported in exploring appropriate research methodologies—both qualitative and quantitative—and in understanding how to design a feasible, ethical, and methodologically sound study. The mentorship also covers practical research skills such as literature review techniques, data collection and analysis strategies, academic writing, and project planning. The overall aim is to help young researchers deepen their methodological knowledge, strengthen their analytical abilities, and gain confidence in conducting academic research independently.

Duration: 2-4 hours consisting of presentations, discussions, personalized consultations