

## CURRICULUM VITAE

IRMA KIRTADZE MD PHD

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### Assistant Professor in Addiction Studies, Ilia State University

#### SUMMARY OF EXPERTISE

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- Over 15 years of experience in the field of research of drug use related disorders and blood born infections such as HIV, hepatitis and STIs;
- Experience as a lead researcher (Principal Investigator) and with general evaluation using both quantitative and qualitative research methods (with practical skills in recruitment, interviewing, delivering HIV prevention interventions for key affected populations (KAP));
- Experience in development of health research design, including qualitative and quantitative methodology, clinical design, data collection and analysis, using different software for qualitative and quantitative data analyses;
- Experience in development of Informed Consent Form (ICF) templates, Case Report Forms (CRFs), CRF guidelines/instructions Data Management Plan, Adverse (serious) events forms (SAE), standard operational manuals (SOM) and etc.
- Good knowledge of evidence-based interventions and international guidelines for services for Key Affected Population;
- Design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of HIV prevention programs for KP (PWID, MSM, SW);
- Research capacity building, training/lecturing in Research Methods in Addictology (Ilia State University, Tbilisi);
- Experience in thematic reviews and evaluations of the scientific papers for peer reviewed journals;
- Experience in development of national guidelines and standards in Harm Reduction (including protocols of needle & syringe programs, peer education, voluntary counselling and testing, opioid overdose prevention, outreach work, addiction rehabilitation);
- Extensive expertise in HIV prevention, treatment and care program expenditure analyses, costing of harm reduction programs, funding gap analyses.
- Experience in international cooperation projects as team leader/PI/or member, long and short-term expert (working in international and local assignments on various donor projects – 5% Initiative, PEPFAR, NIH/NIDA, Global Fund, USAID, UNAIDS, EUROPAID, TEMPUS, EMCDDA, Palladium, Futures Group, URC, RTI).

#### EDUCATION & DEGREE:

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2018	Ph.D. in Public Healthcare; Business faculty, School of Public Health Policy and Management, Ilia State University. Diploma with Summa Cum Laude (ISU #000053) Tbilisi, Georgia;
2008	Qualitative Drug Research, Bongor Institute of Criminology, University van Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Netherlands
2005	Public Health Research; Erasmus University, Rotterdam, Netherlands
2005	Georgian State Medical Academy, Tbilisi, Georgia; MD Diploma of qualification in Psychiatry. State license series I a 01.1 # 031626 issued by Ministry of Health Care, Georgia
2002	Tbilisi Medical Institute, Tbilisi, Georgia; MD Diploma of General practitioner with honor. State license series I a 58 # 004875 issued by Ministry of Health Care, Georgia.

## COUNTRIES OF WORKING EXPERIENCE:

GEORGIA, KAZAKHSTAN, UZBEKISTAN, TAJIKISTAN, KYRGYZSTAN, MOLDOVA.

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## EMPLOYMENT RECORD

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**From:** 2014 **To:** present

**Employer:** Ilia State University, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, program of Addiction Studies (Georgia);

**Positions held:** Assistant Professor, leading

**MA courses:** Health program planning, implementation and evaluation; Harm reduction; Drug addiction treatment approaches; Research methods in addiction (core and advanced modules); Neurobiological mechanisms of drug addiction.

**MpH courses:** Program monitoring and evaluation; Health promotion, Health protection and disease prevention

**PhD courses:** Qualitative methods in healthcare research; Qualitative data analysis; Health program planning; Evaluation and implementation research

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**From:** 2014 **To:** 3 months

**Employer:** University of North Carolina, Horizons outpatient clinic for women who use drugs (USA);

**Positions held:** Distinguished International Scientist;

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**From:** 2011 **To:** present

**Employer:** Addiction Research Center Alternative Georgia (Georgia);

**Positions held:** Senior Researcher/Trainer/Project Director. Responsibilities include but are not limited to working on development of research protocol (SOP), clinical monitoring plan (CMP), data safety management plan (DSMP), data collection instruments, and survey questionnaires as well as monitoring filed work (quality assurance) and data collection process; communication with local and US-based IRBs and development of informed consent forms, translation from English to Georgia and back-translation of standardized survey instruments; in addition to evaluating the quality of collected data, data analysis and building study reports, producing scientific papers for the below mentioned projects in section **Research Support and/or Scholastic Performance**

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**From:** 2008 **To:** 2011

**Employer:** Georgian Harm Reduction Network (Georgia);

**Positions held:** Program Director. As a Sub-recipient of GFATM funded countrywide HIV prevention program among PWIDs was responsible for the overall performance of the program through management of 11 Sub-Sub-recipients. Responsibilities included but were not limited to the following: setting up the grant management system on the level of Sub-Recipient and Sub-Sub-Recipients; leading the design and implementation of the program monitoring and evaluation framework as well as an information system to track delivery against targets, outcomes, and impacts; analyzing data collected for the assessment of progress and identifying areas of improvement; implementing and monitoring M&E system to achieve programmatic goals; guiding reporting processes and consolidating program reports in addition to promoting learning and knowledge sharing of best practices and learned lessons; reporting; ensuring that appropriate M&E mechanisms are built into work plans; over-sighting quality assurance and data quality; leading structured capacity building on data utilization to improve programming;

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**From:** 2004 **To:** 2008

**Employer:** Addiction Research Center Alternative Georgia (Georgia);

- **Positions held:** Principal Investigator/Researcher. Principal Investigator for the research “**How Much Street Drug Testing Costs?**” Sponsor - OSI Public Health Program/NY. Collaborators - Curatio International Foundation & Georgian Institute of Public Affairs, 2009-2010.
  - Research Assistant for the study “**New trends in HIV-related risky patterns of injecting drug use and drug distribution in 4 Eurasian countries with substantial presence of Amphetamine Type Stimulants (ATS) – pilot study**”, Sponsor – CRDF/NIDA; Collaborators – Johns Hopkins University, University of Colorado Denver, University of Alabama, Charles University in Prague, 2009-2010.
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- Country Team Lead for the study “Evaluation of HIV Risky Behavior among IDUs in Needle Exchange Programs”, Sponsor GFATM/OSGF, 2007-2008.
- Co-Investigator for the study ‘Tbilisi Urban Health Study’ (Assessment of HIV Risk Factors among PWID and MSM Networks in the Republic of Georgia), Sponsor – CFAR, University of North Carolina. US collaborator – RTI International, 2006- 2007.
- Co-Investigator for the randomized clinical trial ‘Engaging non-treatment seeking drug abusing Georgian men’, Sponsor – NIH/NIDA (R21). Us collaborator - Johns Hopkins University, 2005-2007.

**From:** 2003 To: 2004

**Employer:** Psycho-Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Torture (EMPATHY)

**Positions held:** Psychiatrist in Juvenile Prison

**From:** 2002 To: 2003

**Employer:** Georgian Psychical Care Association of Children and Young Generation with Caritas Georgia

**Positions held:** Physician

## RESEARCH SUPPORT AND/OR SCHOLASTIC PERFORMANCE (LAST 10 YEARS ONLY)

### Ongoing research support

#### **5% Initiative funded implementation research**

**04/2018 - 08/2021**

#### **Georgia Syringe Vending Machine (SVM) Trial**

SVMs are effective approach to provide service to people who inject drugs in geographical areas that are not covered by traditional (fixed or mobile) needle and syringe services. Georgia SVM study is an operational trial to implement syringe vending machines in Georgia.

**Role:** Co-PI

#### **Without funding (voluntary initiative)**

**04/2019 to 12/2021**

#### **Global Cannabis Cultivation Research**

The World-Wide Weed research team (a.k.a. the Global Cannabis Cultivation Research Consortium, or GCCRC) a group of researchers from 16 countries interested in better understanding of domestic cannabis cultivation, especially by small-scale growers. The aim of the survey is to better understand who grows cannabis, reasons for growing, methods of growing, and experience with the criminal justice system – and how these factors differ across national borders.

**Role:** PI in Georgia

#### **Western-Eastern European Partnership**

**09/2020 to 08/2021**

#### **Initiative on HIV, Viral Hepatitis and TB**

#### **Piloting HIV self-testing strategies for partners of the key populations**

The aim of the study is to increase coverage of sexual partners of MSM, female and transgender sex workers through identifying and piloting HIV self-testing delivery strategies. The research uses sequential exploratory design and will use mixed methods – both qualitative and quantitative, and will include: Participatory Action Research, individual interviews and a pragmatic trial.

**Role:** PI

### Completed research support

#### **EMCDDA**

**04/2020-07/2020**

#### **COVID-19 Impact on Drug Markets and Users’ Behavior**

Mixed method study that aims to assess changes in illicit drug markets (availability, purity, price) and behavior of people who use drugs in COVID-19 period. Three parallel studies are implemented: online cross-sectional survey of the prospective cohort of 50 PWUD, individual qualitative interviews of key informants (prospective cohort) and monitoring online drug market in Georgia.

**Role:** Co-PI

**CTC with support from Bread for the World**

**07/2019 to 1/2020**

**Access to the Opioid Substitution Therapy in Georgian Prisons: The Focus on Current Challenges and Barriers**

This study focused on the challenges and barriers to adequate implementation of OST in prisons, analyzing experiences of former beneficiaries of OST programs in prisons and experience of experts in this field. It also analyzed international standards and recommendations and the regulatory framework of Georgia, and offered recommendations to ensure access to long-term OST for prisoners.

**Role: PI**

**OSI funded study**

**07/2018 to 05/2019**

**Knowledge and risk perception of psychoactive substance use among electronic dance festival and night club visitors**

This qualitative study aimed to explore the patterns and motives of psychoactive substance use and related high-risk behaviours in EDM event attendees.

**Role: PI**

**USAID funded study**

**07/2015 to 10/2016**

**Cost-benefit analyses of Needle-Syringe Programs and Medication Assisted Treatment**

NSP and MAT cost-benefit studies are important analytical tools to understand what HIV investments have bought, to determine whether the interventions averted new infections and AIDS deaths, and at what cost. They can support decision-making and the prioritization of intervention strategies with its overall goals of minimizing the burden of HIV/AIDS and maximizing health outcomes of PWIDs, to estimate the magnitude of the costs to society from substance use and the costs and benefits gained through effective prevention.

**Role: PI**

**USAID funded study**

**07/2014 to 10/2015**

**National Survey on Substance Use in the General Population in Georgia 2015**

This report presents the results from the Survey of Alcohol and Substance Use Among the General Population in Georgia. This is the first nationwide General Population Survey (GPS) on these topics in Georgia that is based upon a representative population-based sample.

**Role: PI**

**International collaborative study**

**Administrative Supplement to Jones' R01 DA029880**

**06/2010 to 06/2015**

**HIV and Drug Use in Georgian Women**

The **Randomized Clinical Trial** is assessing the development of an efficacious comprehensive women-centered drug treatment model. Explores drug use (e.g., types and patterns), HIV and HCV injection and sexual risk behaviors, comorbid conditions (e.g., interpersonal violence, comorbid psychiatric disorders), and treatment barriers and experiences (e.g., gender discrimination) among IDU Georgian women; Identifies from treatment providers their practices and perceptions regarding IDU women in the current Georgian drug treatment system; Adapts and pretests both a drug abuse treatment approach of Reinforcement-Based Treatment (RBT) that integrates the evidence-based Women's Co-Op HIV prevention, and a case management approach for IDU Georgian women. On a final stage in a small-scale (128) randomized trial, we determined the feasibility and initial efficacy of our Georgian RBT model relative to a case management model in terms of their respective impacts on the frequency of unprotected sexual acts and syringe sharing at post-treatment and 3-month post-treatment follow-up.

**Role: Co-PI (Geo)**

**R21-DA026754**

**Woody (PI)**

**12/2009 to 05/2012**

**1. Suboxone and Methadone for HIV Risk Reduction in Subutex Injectors**

This **Randomized Clinical Trial** will explore how to treat buprenorphine injectors in a randomized trial of daily, observed methadone vs. Suboxone. Participants were consented (N=80) opioid dependent patients (40/group) who have injected buprenorphine 10 or more days in the past 30 and were seeking treatment at the Uranti Drug Addiction Clinic in Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia.

US collaborator: University of Pennsylvania  
Role: Research Assistant

#### TRAININGS (LAST 5 YEARS ONLY)

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**Date:** 24-26 October 2017

**Topic:** LxAddictions17, TWIST

**Training Provider:** The TWIST project (Training with Stakeholders – applying EU drug and addiction research) supported by EMCCDA and Reitox, Lisbon, Portugal

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**Date:** 15-17 September, 2017

**Topic:** ToT of WINGS (Women Initiating New Goals of Safety) - A Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) Model for Addressing Intimate Partner Violence

**Training Provider:** International Harm Reduction Development Program

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**Date:** 20-24 June, 2016

**Topic:** Foundations of Economic Evaluation in Health care

**Training Provider:** York University, Summer Workshop in Health Economic Evaluation

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**Date:** July 18- August 5, 2016

**Topic:** on Policy Research Methods

**Training Provider:** George Mason University, Schar School of Policy and Government

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**Date:** 31 August – 11 September, 2015

**Topic:** ToT in Addictology

**Training Provider:** University of Hamburg

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#### LANGUAGES: GEORGIAN ENGLISH RUSSIAN

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**ORCID ID:** <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7498-2380>

#### PROFESSIONAL AND CONSULTANCY EXPERIENCE (LAST 10 YEARS ONLY)

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Period	Employing organization and title/position	Country	Summary of activities performed relevant to the Assignment
2021	<b>Organisation:</b> Fundación Internacional y para Iberoamérica de Administración y Políticas Públicas F.S.P. (FIIAPP) - Spain  <b>Positions held:</b> Consultant	Georgia	The purpose of the consultancy service within the frame of the project entitled “EU Action against Drugs and Organised Crime (EU-ACT) “ is to identify the needs and policy directions of the reforms for the improvement of medical and psychosocial care of people who use drugs within the penitentiary and probation system (including juvenile justice) in Georgia.
2020-2021	<b>Organisation:</b> European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA)  <b>Positions held:</b> Consultant	Georgia	Duties include but are not limited to the preparation and implementation of the European Web Survey on Drugs in Georgia:  <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. translation of the survey questionnaire, testing the comprehensibility, unambiguity, and logic of the questionnaire in the national language, by means of cognitive interviews with respondents representing different target sub-populations of people who use drugs</li><li>2. implementation of the national version of the questionnaire in LimeSurvey and testing the functionalities;</li><li>3. communication with the ethical committee for approval to carry out the survey at the national level;</li></ol>

			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. preparing the recruitment strategy plan and implementing it, advertising the survey at national level, monitoring progress and adapting the procedures accordingly.</li> <li>5. prepare a short recruitment plan using the guidance provided, initiate the recruitment, monitor progress and adapt the strategy if needed;</li> <li>6. preparing the final data for analysis and reporting</li> </ol>
2020	<p><b>Organisation:</b> Fundación Internacional y para Iberoamérica de Administración y Políticas Públicas F.S.P. (FIIAPP) - Spain</p> <p><b>Positions held:</b> Consultant</p>	Georgia	<p>The purpose of the consultancy service within the frame of the project entitled "EU Action against Drugs and Organised Crime (EU-ACT) "is to identify lines of improvement, challenges, existing gaps as well as successful areas of the pilot of drug addiction rehabilitation program in prisons. Tasks to be carried out includes but are not limited to identification of several indicators and drafting the evaluation guidelines/instruments/tools to measure progress and effectiveness of the program using the proposed by me (REAIM) methodology.</p>
2020	<p><b>Organisation:</b> Tanadgoma</p> <p><b>Positions held:</b> Consultant</p>	Georgia	<p>Development of National standards (guidelines and protocols) in drug addiction ambulatory rehabilitation for Georgia</p> <p>Activities performed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Generated</u> evidence of best practice in drug rehabilitation (desk review);</li> <li>- <u>Conducted</u> workshops with service providers and discussed development of guidelines and protocols;</li> <li>- <u>Performed</u> costing of drug rehabilitation (ambulatory and residential) standards;</li> <li>- <u>Developed</u> audit criteria for evaluation of drug rehabilitation services.</li> <li>- <u>Costing of residential (short- and long-term) and ambulatory rehabilitation programs</u></li> </ul>
2019	<p><b>Organisation:</b> Georgian Patients' Union – community organization of TB affected people</p> <p><b>Positions held:</b> External Evaluator</p>	Georgia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Developed</u> Organizational Capacity Assessment strategy;</li> <li>- <u>Conducted</u> OCA with use of standardized instruments relevant to community organization assessment; conduct series of interviews with key personnel, on different management level.</li> <li>- <u>Assessed the performance</u> (implementation of strategic plan, identification of weaknesses and strengths, opportunities and threats.</li> <li>- <u>Provided</u> recommendations in final report.</li> </ul>
2019	<p><b>Organisation:</b> Tanadgoma</p> <p><b>Positions held:</b> External Evaluator</p>	Georgia	<p>GF funded TB Project mid-term evaluation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Developed</u> data collection methods and tools, particularly those related to site-level and community level data collection;</li> <li>- <u>Conducted</u> a series of interviews with Sub-recipient and Sub-Sub-recipients of GFATM grants.</li> <li>- <u>Evaluated</u> project implementation and mid-term outcomes, protocol adherence, project records; Identified the range of services used by TB patients, mostly adherence related data;</li> <li>- <u>Performed quantitative and qualitative</u> data analysis of collected data and project indicators;</li> <li>- <u>Provided</u> recommendations on practice improvement and service delivery model.</li> </ul>
2019	<p><b>Organisation:</b> Georgian Association of Social Workers</p> <p><b>Positions held:</b> Trainer</p>	Georgia	<p>Prepared and conducted the training on Alcohol, Smoking, and Substance Involvement Screening Test and Brief Intervention (ASSIST) for the social workers and psychologists of the penitentiary system (prison and probation).</p>

2018-19	<p><b>Organisation:</b> The Joint Action (JA) on HIV and co-infection prevention and harm reduction (HA-REACT) EU funded multi-country project</p> <p><b>Positions held:</b> External Evaluator (Team member)</p>	<p>EU – multi-country project - Twenty-two partners representing 18 EU Member States.</p>	<p>The Joint Action on HIV and Co-infection Prevention and Harm Reduction (HA-REACT) addresses existing gaps in the prevention of HIV and other co-infections, especially tuberculosis (TB) and viral hepatitis, among people who inject drugs (PWID). The three-year project was launched in late 2015 with core funding by the Health Programme 2014-2020 from European Union (EU). The goal of external evaluation is to assess: a) Testing and linkage to care; b) Scaling up harm reduction; c) Harm reduction and continuity of care in prisons; d) Integrated care; e) Sustainability and long-term funding.</p>
2018	<p><b>Organisation:</b> U.S. State Department, Colombo Plan</p> <p><b>Positions held:</b> Short term consultant/expert</p>	USA	<p>Expert working group meeting on treating women with substance use disorders held in Washington DC aimed to identify the topics and skills that practitioners need to effectively provide treatment for women who have substance use disorders (for the Guiding the Recovery of Women - GROW). I was invited as an expert to bring the perspective of Post-Soviet countries and their needs/lack/gaps in knowledge and practice of the treatment of women with substance use disorder.</p>
2018	<p><b>Organisation:</b> Georgian Harm Reduction Network (Georgia)</p> <p><b>Positions held:</b> Consultant, Public Health specialist</p>	Georgia	<p><b>Evaluation of efficiency of Needle/Syringe and VCT/outreach programs funded by GFATM in Georgia (cost optimization)</b>  <b>Activities performed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Developed</u> data collection methods and tools, particularly those related to site-level data collection;</li> <li>- <u>Conducted</u> a series of interviews with Sub-recipient and Sub-Sub-recipients of GFATM grants.</li> <li>- <u>Calculated unit costs</u> per point of service;</li> <li>- <u>Assessed the performance</u> (coverage, scope, referral, integration) of the service delivery models;</li> <li>- <u>Data Envelopment Analysis</u> performed;</li> <li>- <u>Assessed</u> and documented the possible cost optimization opportunities;</li> <li>- <u>Examined</u> relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of the implemented models of NSP and VCT;</li> <li>- <u>Evaluated</u> and documented barriers and facilitators of cost optimization opportunities of NSP/VCT;</li> </ul>
2017	<p><b>Organisation:</b> Georgian Harm Reduction Network (Georgia)</p> <p><b>Positions held:</b> Consultant, Health Expert</p>	Georgia	<p><b>Development of National standards in harm reduction for Georgia</b>  <b>Activities performed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Generated</u> evidence of best practice in harm reduction;</li> <li>- <u>Conducted</u> workshops with service providers and discussed development of guidelines and protocols;</li> <li>- <u>Elaborated</u> Harm Reduction National Guideline and protocols of: needle/syringe program, voluntary counselling and testing, educational interventions for PWID and opioid overdose prevention.</li> <li>- <u>Performed</u> costing of NSP &amp; VCT protocols;</li> <li>- <u>Developed</u> standards in harm reduction;</li> <li>- <u>Developed</u> audit criteria for evaluation of harm reduction services against protocol and guidelines.</li> </ul>
2017	<p><b>Organisation:</b> Mental Health and Drug Abuse Prevention National Center (Georgia)</p> <p><b>Position held:</b> Team Leader</p>	Georgia	<p><b>Evaluation of GFATM funded OST program in Georgia</b>  <b>Activities performed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Developed</u> survey design and methodology;</li> <li>- <u>Developed</u> survey protocol with qualitative and quantitative instruments;</li> <li>- <u>Conducted in-depth interviews</u> and focus groups with medical staff, administration, patients.</li> <li>- <u>Evaluated</u> OST protocol adherence, medical records; Identified the range of services used by clients, methadone dosage regimes;</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Compared clinical practice</u> against the best practice recommended by the international guidelines;</li> <li>- <u>Performed quantitative and qualitative data analysis</u>;</li> <li>- <u>Provided</u> recommendations on clinical practice improvement and service delivery model.</li> </ul>
2017 & 2015	<p><b>Organisation:</b> Georgian Harm Reduction Network (Georgia)</p> <p><b>Positions held:</b> Short term Consultant, Public Health Analyst</p>	Georgia	<p><b>Analysis of NSP/VCT and PDI data of GFATM funded program in Georgia</b></p> <p><b>Activities performed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Assessed</u> two different databases on quality;</li> <li>- <u>Performed</u> quantitative statistical analysis of cross-sectional studies;</li> <li>- <u>Elaborated</u> reports with results and discussion of the findings and relevant recommendations.</li> <li>- <u>Presented</u> findings to country stakeholders.</li> </ul>
2016	<p><b>Organisation:</b> European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA)</p> <p><b>Positions held:</b> Invited Speaker</p>	EU	<p>Invited speaker for EMCDDA expert meeting on new methodological approaches in General Population Survey (Lisbon, Portugal) to present application of Randomized Response Technique (RRT) in General Population Survey (GPS).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Presented</u> application of the innovative approach of Randomized Response Technique (RRT) to the GPS</li> <li>- <u>Presented</u> feasibility and applicability of the RRT to standard GPS</li> </ul>
2015	<p><b>Organisation:</b> Eurasian Harm Reduction Network (Lithuania)</p> <p><b>Position held:</b> Investment Monitoring Group Expert (regional)</p>	Georgia	<p><b>Economic Analysis of GFATM funded Harm Reduction programs (NSP &amp; OST)</b></p> <p><b>Activities performed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Developed costing</u>, expenditure tracking and financial gap analysis instruments (tools with guidelines) for regional project (5 countries) with the expert team;</li> <li>- <u>Performed unit cost analysis</u> of NSP and OST programs in Georgia.</li> <li>- <u>Performed expenditure tracking of</u> NSP and OST programs in Georgia.</li> <li>- <u>Performed funding gap analysis</u> of NSP and OST programs in Georgia.</li> <li>- <u>Developed full economic evaluation report</u> for Georgia.</li> </ul>
2014, 2015, 2016, 2017	<p><b>Organisation:</b> Avenir Health (USA) former Futures Institute</p> <p><b>Positions held:</b> Expenditure Analysis Technical Assistant</p>	Kazakhstan Kyrgyzstan Tajikistan Uzbekistan	<p><b>Expenditure Analysis of PEPFAR/USAID funded HIV prevention, treatment and advocacy projects in Central Asia.</b></p> <p><b>Activities performed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Conducting trainings and workshops</u> for PEPFAR funding recipients;</li> <li>- <u>Assisting</u> in project expenditure tracking;</li> <li>- <u>Providing</u> recommendations on expenditure tracking spreadsheets;</li> <li>- <u>Performing</u> data quality check of expenditure tracking;</li> <li>- <u>Estimating</u> the unit expenditure against indicators;</li> <li>- <u>Providing</u> suggestions and recommendations for improvement of reporting.</li> </ul>
2011	<p><b>Organisation:</b> UNAIDS (Georgia office)</p> <p><b>Positions held:</b> Consultant/data collector</p>	Georgia	<p><b>Evaluating the effectiveness of needle and syringe programs in Georgia</b></p> <p><b>Activities performed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Collected data</u> from different institutions: harm reduction centers, AIDS and clinical immunology center, and OST center;</li> <li>- <u>Review of report.</u></li> </ul>
2011	<p><b>Organisation:</b> University Research Corporation (USA)</p>	Georgia	<p><b>Evaluating the effectiveness of needle and syringe programs in Georgia</b></p> <p><b>Activities performed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Collected data</u> from different harm reduction centers (needle &amp; syringe program, OST sites) on performance indicators;</li> </ul>



	<b>Positions held:</b> Short term Consultant, Public Health expert		- <u>Evaluated</u> proposed performance indicators of HIV prevention, treatment and care services in Georgia (evaluation of data collection, monitoring of performance of service centers, testing of feasibility of performance indicators);
2010	<b>Organisation:</b> Futures Group (USA)  <b>Positions held:</b> Team Leader	Georgia	<b>Economic Analysis of GFATM funded &amp; State OST programs in Georgia</b> <b>Activities performed:</b> - <u>Developed design and study methodology</u> ; - <u>Developed costing</u> , instrument (tool with guideline); - <u>Performed unit cost</u> analysis of state and GFATM funded OST programs in Georgia. - <u>Developed</u> full economic evaluation report for Georgia with relevant recommendations.

## PEER REVIEW EXPERIENCE AND PROFESIONAL MEMEBERSHIP:

2021	Country Coordinating Mechanism Ethics focal point for the Global Fund for HIV, TB and Malaria funded projects
2021	Executive board member, Georgian Association for Public Opinion and Market Research
2021	BMC Public Health – editorial board member
2019	Universal Treatment Curriculum Reviewer; Drug Advisory Programme (DAP) of The Colombo Plan.
2017	Drug Advisory Programme (DAP) of The Colombo Plan support expert group member for the development of content and peer-review the Women’s Intervention for Substance Exposure: Comprehensive Care for Substance Use Disorder (WISE) - The Women’s Specialized Treatment Curriculum (Trauma Responsive and Family-Centered Care for Women and their Children; Clinical Care for Women with Substance Use Disorders; Caring for Women with Substance Use Disorders Across the Lifespan and in Specialized Circumstances; Creating and Implementing a Women-Responsive Substance Use Disorder Treatment Model of Care)
2015-present	Member, Abstract Review Committee, International Women’s Annual Conference (USA)
2015 – 2019	Representative for Georgia, International Society on Addiction Medicine (EU)
2014	External peer reviewer for the WHO publication <i>Guidelines for the identification and management of substance use and substance use disorders in pregnancy</i> .
Verified reviewer <a href="https://publons.com/author/431849/irma-kirtadze-md#profile">https://publons.com/author/431849/irma-kirtadze-md#profile</a> of scientific papers for peer reviewed journals from 2014:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Harm Reduction Journal</li> <li>- BMC Public Health</li> <li>- Journal of the International AIDS Society</li> <li>- Journal of Psychoactive Drugs</li> <li>- PLOS ONE</li> </ul>
2014	Member, Abstract Review Committee, IV Eastern Europe and Central Asia HIV/AIDS Conference (EECA)
2014	Member, Bio-ethics committee of addictology and mental health research
2013-present	Member, Georgian Association of Addictologists (Georgia)
2013-present	Associate Member, College on Problems of Drug Dependence (USA)
2008-present	Member, European Society for Social Drug Research

## HONORS:

2015	The best international poster of the CPDD scientific meeting (Arizona, USA).
2014	NIDA Distinguished International Scientist Collaboration Award (Chapel Hill, USA).
2013	The best poster (2 <sup>nd</sup> place) of the Global Addiction conference (Pisa, Italy).

2012	International AIDS Economics Network award to attend and present study findings on 7 <sup>th</sup> AIDS & Economics Pre-Conference (Washington, D.C., USA).
2010	NIDA/CPDD/WHO Travel Award for early career investigators (Baltimore, USA).
2005, 2009	NIDA Travel Awards to attend NIDA International Forums and CPDD Scientific Conference (USA).
2008	Travel & study grant from Netherlands Fellowship Programme (NFP). Summer Institute on Alcohol, Drugs, and Addiction, University van Amsterdam. Amsterdam (NL).
2008	Travel & study grant for Intensive training course on Qualitative Drug Research for Young drug Researchers. Organized by The European Society for Social Drug research (ESSD) in collaboration with the Pompidou Group (PG) of the Council of Europe (Amsterdam, NL).
2007	Travel & study fellowship for the 7th Maudsley Forum, King's College London, University of London, Institute of Psychiatry at the Maudsley (London, UK).
2007	Fellowship for "HIV/AIDS Research Ethics Seminar" sponsored by the Center for AIDS Intervention Research (CAIR) of the Medical College of Wisconsin (Warsaw, Poland).
2006	World Psychiatrist Association (WPA) Young Psychiatrist Fellowship, WPA International Congress (Istanbul, Turkey).
2005	Nihes/INTAS fellowship - Erasmus Summer program in Public Health Research (Rotterdam, NL).
2004	ISAM/WHO Fellowship for young scientists for participation in 6th International Society of Addiction Medicine (Helsinki, Finland).

## PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS:

### A) SELECTED PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

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1. Tamar Mgebrishvili, Irma Kirtadze, Ada Beselia, Irina Vardanashvili & David Otiashvili (2020) The effects of decriminalization of cannabis in Georgia (country) on user behaviors, *Journal of Substance Use*, DOI: [10.1080/14659891.2020.1798523](https://doi.org/10.1080/14659891.2020.1798523)
2. David Subeliani, David Otiashvili, Lika Kutelia, Ada Beselia, Tamar Mgebrishvili, Irina Vardanashvili & Irma Kirtadze (2020) Patterns of use of new psychoactive substances and perceived benefits and negative effects: results of online survey in Georgia (country), *Journal of Substance Use*, 25:3, 324-329, DOI: [10.1080/14659891.2019.1692927](https://doi.org/10.1080/14659891.2019.1692927)
3. Kirtadze, I. (2019) *Publishing Addiction Science: A Guide for the Perplexed*, 3rd edition. Thomas F. Babor, Kerstin Stenius, Richard Pates, Michal Miovský, Jean O'Reilly & Paul Candon, editors. London: Ubiquity Press; 2017. ISBN: 9781911529088. *Addiction*, 114: 1893– 1894. <https://doi.org/10.1111/add.14707>.
4. Josephine G Walker, Tinatin Kuchuloria, David Sergeenko, Hannah Fraser, Aaron G Lim, Shaun Shadaker, Liesl Hagan, Amiran Gamkrelidze, Valeri Kvaratskhelia, Lia Gvinjilia, Malvina Aladashvili, Alexander Asatiani, Davit Baliashvili, Maia Butashvili, Ivdivy Chikovani, Irma Khonelidze, Irma Kirtadze, Mark H Kuniholm, David Otiashvili, Lali Sharvadze, Ketevan Stvilia, Tengiz Tsertsvadze, Mamuka Zakalashvili, Matthew Hickman, Natasha K Martin, Juliette Morgan, Muazzam Nasrullah, Francisco Averhoff, Peter Vickerman. 2019. Interim effect evaluation of the hepatitis C elimination programme in Georgia: a modelling study. *The Lancet Global Health* [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X\(19\)30483-8](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X(19)30483-8)
5. Otiashvili, D., Kirtadze, I., Vardanashvili, I. *et al.* Perceived acceptability of and willingness to use syringe vending machines: results of a cross-sectional survey of out-of-service people who inject drugs in Tbilisi, Georgia. *Harm Reduct J* 16, 21 (2019) doi:10.1186/s12954-019-0292-8
6. Ada Beselia, Irma Kirtadze & David Otiashvili (2019) Nightlife and Drug Use in Tbilisi, Georgia: Results of an Exploratory Qualitative Study, *Journal of Psychoactive Drugs*, 51:3, 247-253, DOI: [10.1080/02791072.2019.1574997](https://doi.org/10.1080/02791072.2019.1574997)
7. Walker, J. G., L. Hagan, H. Fraser, N. K. Martin, J. Morgan, M. Nasrullah, F. Averhoff, D. Otiashvili, I. Chikovani, M. Aladashvili, M. H. Kuniholm, I. Kirtadze, L. Gvinjilia, A. Asatiani, D. Baliashvili, I. Khonelidze, K. Stvilia, M. Butashvili, T. Tsertsvadze, A. Gamkrelidze, V. Kvaratskhelia, and P. Vickerman. 2017. "Projected impact and pathways to success of the hepatitis C virus elimination program in Georgia, 2015-2020." *Journal of Hepatology* 66 (1):S70. doi: 10.1016/S0168-8278(17)30401-4.

8. Kirtadze I, Otiashvili D, Tabatadze M, Vardanashvili, I, Sturua, L, Zabransky, T, Anthony, J.C.. Republic of Georgia estimates for prevalence of drug use: Randomized response techniques suggest under-estimation. *Drug and alcohol dependence*. 2018; 187: 300-304. doi:[10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2018.03.019](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2018.03.019)
9. Kirtadze, I., Otiashvili, D., O'Grady, K.E. et al. Comprehensive Women-Centered Treatment for Psychoactive Substance Use in the Republic of Georgia: Outcomes of a Randomized Clinical Trial. *Int J Ment Health Addiction* (2018) 16: 1249. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11469-017-9852-x>
10. Bergen-Cico, D., Otiashvili, D., Kirtadze, I., Zábanský, T., & Tsertsvadze, V. (2017). Cost Analysis of the Country of Georgia's Street Level Drug Testing Policy. *Journal of Drug Policy Analysis*, 10.
11. Otiashvili, D., I. Kirtadze, and D. Bergen-Cico, Exploring the New Phenomena of Home-Made Extraction and Injection of Ephedra Plant Product in Georgia. *Substance Use & Misuse*, 2017: p. 1-4.
12. Otiashvili, D., Tabatadze, M., Balanchivadze, N. et al. Policing, massive street drug testing and poly-substance use chaos in Georgia – a policy case study. *Subst Abuse Treat Prev Policy* 11, 4 (2016) doi:10.1186/s13011-016-0049-2
13. Otiashvili, D., Latypov, A., Kirtadze, I., Ibragimov, U., & Zule, W. (2016). Drug preparation, injection, and sharing practices in Tajikistan: a qualitative study in Kulob and Khorog. *Substance Abuse Treatment, Prevention, and Policy*, 11(1), 1-8. doi:10.1186/s13011-016-0065-2
14. Jones, H.E., Kirtadze, I., Otiashvili, D. et al. Feasibility and initial efficacy of a culturally sensitive women-centered substance use intervention in Georgia: Sex risk outcomes. *Subst Abuse Treat Prev Policy* 10, 47 (2015) doi:10.1186/s13011-015-0043-0
15. Zule, W.A., Latypov, A., Otiashvili, D. et al. Factors that influence the characteristics of needles and syringes used by people who inject drugs in Tajikistan. *Harm Reduct J* 12, 37 (2015) doi:10.1186/s12954-015-0069-7
16. Wechsberg, W. M., Deren, S., Myers, B., Kirtadze, I., Zule, W. A., Howard, B., & El-Bassel, N. (2015). Gender-Specific HIV prevention interventions for women who use alcohol and other drugs: The evolution of the science and future directions. *Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes*, 69, S128-S139. <https://doi.org/10.1097/QAI.0000000000000627>
17. Kirtadze, I., Otiashvili, D., O'Grady, K. E., Zule, W. A., Krupitskii, E. M., Wechsberg, W. M., & Jones, H. E., (2015). Women Who Inject Drugs in the Republic of Georgia: In their Own Words. *Journal of Psychoactive Drugs*, 47(1), 71-79.
18. Jones, H. E., Kirtadze, I., Otiashvili, D., O'Grady, K. E., Murphy K., Zule, W. A., Krupitskii, E. M., & Wechsberg, W. M., (2014). Process and Product in Cross-Cultural Treatment Research: Development of a Culturally Sensitive Women-Centered Substance Use Intervention in Georgia. *Journal of Addiction*, 2014, 12.
19. Otiashvili, D., Kirtadze, I., O'Grady, K. E., Zule, W., Krupitsky, E., Wechsberg, W. M., Jones, H.E., (2014). Comprehensive women-centered treatment for substance use disorders in Georgia: current status and future directions. *Journal of Substance Use*, 20:5, 367-374.
20. Julie Bouscaillou, Julie Champagnat, Niklas Luhmann, Ina Inaridze, Véronique Miollany, Koka Labartkava, Irma Kirtadze, Maia Butshashvili, George Kamkamidze, Dominique Pataut (2014). Hepatitis C among people who inject drugs in Tbilisi, Georgia: An urgent need for prevention and treatment. *International Journal of Drug Policy*. 25 (5):871-8.
21. Otiashvili, D., Kirtadze, I., O'Grady, K. E., Zule, W. A., Krupitskii, E. M., Wechsberg, W. M., Jones H.E., (2013). Access to treatment for substance-using women in the Republic of Georgia: Socio-cultural and structural barriers. *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 24(6):566-572
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24. Lund, I., Kirtadze, I., Otiashvili, D., OGrady, K., & Jones, H. (2012). Female partners of opioid-injecting men in the Republic of Georgia: an initial characterization. *Substance Abuse Treatment, Prevention, and Policy*, 7:46
25. Otiashvili, D., Kirtadze, I., O'Grady, K. E., & Jones, H. E., (2012). Drug use and HIV risk outcomes in opioid-injecting men in the Republic of Georgia: Behavioral treatment + naltrexone compared to usual care. *Drug and alcohol dependence*, 120, 14-21.
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28. Javakhishvili, D. J., Sturua, L., Otiashvili, D., Kirtadze, I., & Zabransky, T. (2011). Overview of the Drug Situation in Georgia. *Adictologie*, 11(1), 42-51.
29. Meyer, William , Costenbader, Elizabeth C. , Zule, William A. , Otiashvili, David and Kirtadze, Irma (2010) "We are ordinary men!: MSM identity categories in Tbilisi, Georgia', *Culture, Health & Sexuality*, 12: 8, 955 — 971.
30. Otiashvili D., Zabransky T., Kirtadze I., Piralishvili G., Chavchanidze M., Miovsky M., Why do the clients of Georgian needle exchange programs inject buprenorphine? *European Addiction Research*, 2010; 16:1-8
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32. Kirtadze I, Zurabashvili D, Talashvili T, Mchedlishvili M (January-February 2006). Inhalants, Thrombocytes and Their Connection in Youngsters. *Bulletin of the Georgian National Academy of Sciences*, ISSN 0132-1447, 2006, N1 (173) January-February, pp.177-178.
33. Kirtadze I, Zurabashvili D (2006). Study of Chemical Composition of Glue "RAZI" Used by Solvent Abusers in Tbilisi, *Georgian Medical News*, ISSN 1512-0112, N4 (133) April, pp.65-67, PMID: 16705232.
34. Kirtadze I. (2004). Risky Behavior and Early Inhalant Use. *Georgian Medical News*, ISSN 1512-0112, N6 (111) June, pp. 49-52.

#### B) STAND-ALONE PUBLICATIONS /RESEARCH REPORTS

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- Kirtadze, I., Otiashvili, D., Tabatadze, M. National Survey on Substance Use in the General Population in Georgia, 2015. *USAID and CzDA funded Addiction Research Development in Georgia Project*. Tbilisi, 2016
- Kirtadze, I., Otiashvili, D., Tabatadze, M. *Cost Benefit Analysis of Medication Assisted Treatment & Needle - Syringe Programs in Georgia*, Final Report. *USAID and CzDA funded Addiction Research Development in Georgia Project*. Tbilisi, 2016
- Alavidze Sopho, Duchidze Nino, Kirtadze Irma, Otiashvili David, Razmadze Mariam, Sturua Lela, Tabatadze Mzia, Javakhishvili Jana (Darejan), (2016). *Drug Situation in Georgia, Annual Report, 2014*. Tbilisi: Alternative Georgia.
- Alavidze Sopho, Balanchivadze Nino, Batselashvili Lile, Duchidze Nino, Javakhishvili Jana (Darejan), Kikvidze Tamar, Kirtadze Irma, Otiashvili Davit, Razmadze Mariam, Sturua Lela, Tabatadze Mzia, Tsertsvadze Vano (2015). *Drug Situation in Georgia, 2013*. Annual Report. Tbilisi: Alternative Georgia.
- Javakhishvili, D. J., Balanchivadze, N., Kirtadze, I., Sturua, L., Otiashvili, D., & Zabransky, T. (2013). *Drug Situation in Georgia, 2012*. Annual Report. Tbilisi: Global Initiative on Psychiatry/Alternative Georgia.
- Otiashvili, D., Kirtadze, I., Tsertsvadze, V., Chavchanidze, M., Zabransky, T. How Effective Is Street Drug Testing. *Alternative Georgia*, 2012
- Kirtadze, Irma, Veena Menon, Kip Beardsley, Steven Forsythe, and Ramona Godbole. 2012. *Assessing the Costs of Medication-Assisted Treatment for HIV Prevention in Georgia*. Washington, DC: Futures Group, USAID | Health Policy Initiative Costing Task Order.
- Kirtadze Irma. 2012. Naloxone – “Naloxone is a great medicine that all drug users should carry in their pockets”. *Alternative Georgia & New Vector*
- Javakhishvili, D. J., Balanchivadze, N., Kirtadze, I., Sturua, L., Otiashvili, D., & Zabransky, T. (2010). *Overview of the Drug Situation in Georgia, 2011*. Tbilisi: Global Initiative on Psychiatry/Alternative Georgia.

#### C) CHAPTER IN THE BOOK

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- Bergen-Cico, D., Otiashvili, D., Kirtadze, I., & Park, J.H. (2021) Social and geo-political factors influencing trends in substance use. (Chapter 32) In S.C. Scrimshaw, S. D. Lane, R. A. Rubinstein & J. Fischer (Eds.) *The Sage Handbook of Social Studies in Health and Medicine*. Sage Publishing.
- Kirtadze, I., Otiashvili, D., (2015) Changing Patterns of Drug Use in Georgia: A Case Vignette in N. el-Guebaly, G., Carrà, M., Galanter, (eds.), *Textbook of Addiction Treatment: International Perspectives*, 79-86, *Springer*, ISBN 978-88-470-5321-2; DOI 10.1007/978-88-470-5322-9\_9