

Soviet and Post-Soviet Religiosity and the Nostalgia toward the Past in the Soviet and post-Soviet
Georgia and Russia

Abstract

The PhD research focuses on the patterns of religious life in the Soviet and post-Soviet Georgia and Russia and seeks to explore the changes and continuities in the religious domain in mentioned post-Soviet states. Patterns of religious life are observed on three levels: individual level, power/authority level and the state level.

In analyzing Soviet and post-Soviet religiosity in post-Soviet Georgia and Russia, study examines the concept of nostalgia and seeks to build a theory about interrelationship between religion, memory and nostalgia in the above mentioned states. Namely, in regard to the concept of nostalgia, the study asks the following questions: 1) how nostalgia is integrated as one of the aspects of religiosity in post-Soviet Georgia and Russia, 2) what role does nostalgia play in the construction of collective memory and 3) how nostalgia fuels the religious revival and, on the other hand, how religious institutions use nostalgia to affect collective memory, and strengthen social function of religion in the post-Soviet Georgia and Russia and affect the collective memory of these societies.

Key words: Memory; History; Nostalgia; Religious change; Oral history; Vernacular memory; Soviet Union, Religious socialization; Post-Soviet religiosity; Memory sites; Museums; Georgia; Russia.