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NEWS RELEASE

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Conference

“Tracking Russian Influence in Post-Communist Countries”

On June 17, 2019 the School of Social Science of the University of Georgia and New Economics School - Georgia will host a conference on “Tracking Russian Influence in Post-Communist Countries.”

Within the framework of the conference, various issues will be discussed:

- Political and economic influence of Russia;
- Military and Hybrid influences of Russia;
- Culture, norms and values;
- Ways to address challenge

The list of speakers includes heavyweights in the field. Please, see the list of Speakers below.

The International Relations Department of the University of Georgia has been working on the scientific research “Russia’s Economic Footprint in Georgia – a Tool for Political Influence” for a year, a study that strives to expose the economic influence of Russia in Georgia, its effect on political decisions and communication strategies. The first phase of the research will be presented at the conference.

The conference will be held at Sheraton Grand Metechi Palace, 20 Telavi St, Tbilisi, Georgia from 09:30 a.m. till 17:30 p.m.

More information about the conference you may find at the following webpage: www.conference2019.ug.edu.ge

Dr. Michael Carpenter is Senior Director at the Penn Biden Center for Diplomacy and Global Engagement and a nonresident Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council. He also serves on the board of directors of the Jamestown Foundation and on the advisory board of Lithuania's National Defense Foundation. Dr. Carpenter served in the Pentagon as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense with responsibility for Russia, Eastern Europe, and Conventional Arms Control. He also served in the White House as a foreign policy advisor to Vice President Joe Biden as well as on the National Security Council as Director for Russia.

Brian Whitmore is a Senior Fellow and Director of the Russia Program at the Center for European Policy Analysis (CEPA), in Washington D.C.

Jeffrey Mankoff is deputy director and senior fellow with the CSIS Russia and Eurasia Program. He is the author of *Russian Foreign Policy: The Return of Great Power Politics* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2009) and a frequent commentator on international security, Russian foreign policy, regional security in the Caucasus and Central Asia, ethnic conflict, and energy security. Before coming to CSIS, he served as an adviser on U.S.-Russia relations at the U.S. Department of State as a Council on Foreign Relations International Affairs Fellow.

Dr. Krassen Stanchev teaches Public Choice and Macroeconomic Analysis of Politics at Sofia University, plus history of economic ideas to humanitarian post-graduates; he is also CEO of KC 2 Ltd and Board Chairman, founder and former Executive Director of IME (www.ime.bg) - the first Bulgaria's independent and free market think tank (1993), former member and committee chairman of the Constitutional Assembly (1990-1991), one of the most quoted Bulgarian observers. He was a principle drafter and leader of reforms from central planning to market economy and is one of the leaders of those reforms in Bulgaria and new Europe.

Žygimantas Pavilionis - MP of the Republic of Lithuania, Chair of Transatlantic and Democracy Subcommittee.

Luke Coffey is the Director of the Allison Center for Foreign Policy Studies at The Heritage Foundation and he is the author of the report *"NATO Membership for Georgia: In U.S. and European Interest"*.

Veronika Víchová is an Analyst and a Coordinator of the Kremlin Watch Program at the European Values Think-Tank.

Nina Jankowicz is a Global Fellow at the Kennan Institute currently working on a book about the evolution of modern Russian influence campaigns in Eastern Europe. In 2016-2017, she advised the Ukrainian government on strategic communications under the auspices of a Fulbright-Clinton Public Policy Fellowship. Her writing has been published by The New York Times, The Washington Post, Foreign Policy, BuzzFeed News, The Wilson Quarterly, and others. She is a frequent commentator on disinformation and Russian and Eastern European affairs, and she has been interviewed by CNN's Christiane Amanpour and PBS's Judy Woodruff.

Tamar Kintsurashvili is executive director of Media Development Foundation - MDF since 2017. Priorly she served as a chairperson of the MDF's board. Tamar is an author and co-author of numerous researches and publications on hate speech, anti-western propaganda, Kremlin influence index, media literacy, freedom of expression, media transparency and accountability and media self-regulation.

Ambassador Temuri Yakobashvili has distinguished himself as a senior leader in government, international diplomacy, crisis management and negotiations, institution building, and leadership development. Currently founder and President of the TY Strategies LLC, boutique consultancy company and Executive Vice

President of PASS LLC, a global social-impact consultancy, Yakobashvili also founded and remains president of the New International Leadership Institute, an NGO dedicated to fighting corruption and promoting good governance.

Susanne Spahn (PhD) is a political scientist, historian and journalist. Dr. Spahn conducts research on Russia's foreign policy in the post-Soviet area and Russian information policy. She published book "The Image of Ukraine in Germany: The Role of the Russian Mass Media. How Russia Influences the German Public Opinion" followed by the study „Russian media in Germany – independent journalism or political weapon?“