

**CONF 890/690 Applied Practice and Theory Program
South Caucasus Conflict Resolution Action Research: Implementing,
Evaluating, and Innovating in Reconciliation Programs**

Building on grants to Mason for Georgian-Abkhaz and Georgian-South Ossetian confidence building measures and people-to-people reconciliation, this APT team will engage directly in conflict resolution reflective practice and action research. While some parts of the project are already underway (see website: <http://pointofviewdialogue.com/en/>), APT team members will have opportunities to explore potential innovations in the practice, while learning through doing. Each team member is encouraged to bring his/her preferred theoretical lens to the course, and to examine the utility of that lens in supporting conflict resolution practice throughout the course.

Each team member will take on a unique role in the overall conflict resolution initiative, and will engage in reflective practice in a mentored context with the larger project team. For example, one team member may work with the project evaluator. Another team member may assist a distance education program with Georgians, Abkhaz, and South Ossetians. Another team member may support a joint Georgian and South Ossetian web forum. Another team member might be part of organizing Georgian-South Ossetian dialogues. And, another team member may identify a complementary activity to add to the overall project, and take on responsibility for planning and implementation of that new activity.

The team will engage in the conflict resolution practice together, with weekly reflective sessions, peer-to-peer mentoring, and ongoing consideration of the theory of conflict resolution practice as we see it in action. By the end of the two-semester course, participants will have learned the theory and practice of reconciliation programs in the South Caucasus, the range of abilities required to implement and evaluate long-term conflict resolution efforts, the skills of reflective practice, and, together, will have contributed to conflict resolution in the South Caucasus. By May, participants will write publishable quality articles based on their conflict resolution action research.

The course meets Mondays 10:30 am- 1:10 pm on the Arlington campus from late August 2014 through mid May 2015, throughout the fall and spring semesters, with project work required outside of class time. Some project work may be required over the winter break, outside of the regular semester schedule. Students register for 3 credits of 890/690 in Fall 2014 and 3 credits of 890/690 in Spring 2015. Some travel may be required for individual team members, depending on the roles and responsibilities they take on for the project.

To express your interest in joining the team, please contact team leader Susan Allen at sallen29@gmu.edu. Individuals with knowledge of Russian, Georgian, Abkhaz, and/or Ossetian languages are strongly encouraged to join the team.

