



FEBRUARY 2014

A Report on FPRI's Project on Democratic Transitions

I am pleased to report that 2013 was a banner year for the Project on Democratic Transitions. Here are a few major highlights:

- *Staffing:* The PDT team grew from three core members and an intern to a team of eleven scholars and, at times, three interns. The team now includes three PhDs from top universities and seven other scholars with post-graduate degrees and relevant work and/or field experience.
- *Publications:* We had seven publications through FPRI/PDT channels: two *Orbis* journal articles, two E-Notes, and three Geopoliticus blog posts. In addition, PDT scholars published several dozen articles and briefs in high-quality publications such as *Foreign Policy*, *The American Interest*, and others. A full list of PDT's 2013 publications can be found below.
- *Events:* PDT conducted two scholarly seminars at FPRI, plus one larger public lecture in Philadelphia. I also made presentations at two major international conferences in Prague, and we have laid plans for a joint project with the Prague-based Institute of International Relations. The project envisions cooperation with think tanks in Moldova and Georgia to develop new approaches for more effective democracy support in these and potentially other countries.
- *Fundraising:* PDT secured two new grants that together provide remuneration for Maia Otarashvili from September 2013 through July 2014, thus permitting her to continue with the PDT as our program coordinator and prime research associate after her initial 15 months of nearly full-time volunteer work. We also submitted six major grant proposals. Two of these were for federally-funded RFPs that have since been defunded for FY-14. We are still waiting to hear on others, but have had encouraging feedback on one of them.

We owe great thanks to our scholars and supporters for their contributions to PDT's growth. As we begin 2014, we look forward to building on the strong foundations laid down over the past year.

Sincerely,

Adrian A. Basora (U.S. Ambassador, Ret.)
Director, Project on Democratic Transitions

Annual Report, 2013

Project on Democratic Transitions Foreign Policy Research Institute

Alan Luxenberg
President, FPRI

Amb. Adrian Basora
Director, PDT

Maia Otarashvili
PDT Coordinator

Dr. Sarah Bush
Senior Fellow

Dr. Nino Japaridze
Senior Fellow

Michael Cecire
Associate Scholar

Arzu Geybullayeva
Associate Scholar

Melinda Haring
Associate Scholar

Richard Kraemer
Associate Scholar

Dr. Agnieszka Marczyk
Associate Scholar

Alexandra Wiktorek
Associate Scholar

Hannah Lidicker
Research Assistant

Staffing



Ambassador Adrian Basora (center) pictured with Maia Otarashvili, Michael Cecire, Melinda Haring, Dr. Nino Japaridze, Hannah Lidicker and Alexandra Wiktorek Sarlo (left to right) at an FPRI event at the National Liberty Museum in Philadelphia

In 2013, seven new scholars joined the Project on Democratic Transitions, including:

- Senior Fellows [Dr. Nino Japaridze](#) and [Dr. Sarah Bush](#); and
- Associate Scholars [Arzu Geybullayeva](#), [Melinda Haring](#), [Richard Kraemer](#), [Dr. Agnieszka Marczyk](#), and [Alexandra Wiktorek-Sarlo](#).

These new scholars bring tremendous academic and professional experience to PDT. Their regional specialties include the South Caucasus, Iran, Central Asia, Eastern Europe, and the Middle East. Collectively they have over 35 years of experience managing democracy and governance programs at the National Endowment for Democracy, the National Democratic Institute, the Eurasia Foundation and other leading organizations. PDT scholars are sought out for their expertise: scholars spoke at a variety of think tank events in the US and abroad. Team members' analyses and commentaries have been featured in a variety of publications such as *Foreign Policy* and the *National Interest*. PDT scholars were invited to comment on television and other media as well this year.

In June 2013, PDT secured two private donations, which enabled the Project to retain [Maia Otarashvili](#) as its full-time Program Coordinator and Research Associate.



PDT Director Amb. Adrian Basora being interviewed on Russia Today.

In July 2013, after graduating with honors from the University of Pennsylvania, [Hannah Lidicker](#) completed her year-long internship with PDT and started a new job at the Philadelphia District Attorney's office. She remains active with PDT as a part-time Research Assistant.

In summer 2013, two University of Pennsylvania students helped to update the [Literature Survey project](#), led by Associate Scholar Alexandra Wiktorek-Sarlo, and now fully presented within the FPRI website.

In August, PDT welcomed Daniel Rodriguez, a University of Pennsylvania sophomore, as the new PDT intern.

Events

In winter and spring 2013, PDT held two well-attended FPRI public events, featuring [Columbia University's Lincoln Mitchell](#) and [Thomas de Waal of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace](#), respectively. These were followed by a smaller, [in-house seminar](#) on June 17 to review the PDT's goals and working hypotheses, with PDT alumnus Mitchell Orenstein as the external discussant and Alan Luxenberg, Michael Noonan, and Tally Helfont as in-house FPRI commentators.



Michael Cecire speaking at a Jamestown Foundation event.

In March, PDT's Nino Japaridze spoke on a panel about Georgia-Russia relations at a conference at George Mason University's School for Conflict Analysis & Resolution. In April, [Michael Cecire](#) took part in an FPRI discussion panel on the Boston Marathon bombings where he commented on the history and politics of the North Caucasus region. Also in April, Cecire joined a discussion panel event on Turkey-Azerbaijan-Georgia trilateral relations sponsored by the Jamestown Foundation and hosted by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington, D.C.

In February, Ambassador Basora made a presentation at a major Czech and Slovak bilateral conference in Prague assessing 20 years of post-communist experience since Czechoslovakia's 1993 "Velvet Divorce." In November 2013, he made a presentation on the state of post-communist transitions at the Prague IIR's annual foreign policy conference in. He intends to publish a revised version of his comments as an E-note in early 2014. And in October 2013, Ambassador Basora made a presentation at [FPRI's History Institute](#) in Philadelphia regarding patterns of democratization in a globalizing world.

FPRI Publications in 2013

E-Notes

- [Can the EU Rescue Democracy in Hungary?](#)
by Alexandra Wiktorek Sarlo, Maia Otarashvili,
July 2013
- [Reforming the Democracy Bureaucracy](#)
by Melinda Haring, June 2013

Orbis

- Georgia's 2012 Elections and Lessons for
Democracy Promotion
by Michael Cecire, April 2013
- Can the Post-Communist Democracies Survive a
Continuation of the Euro-Crisis?



Melinda Haring being interviewed by Voice of America.

by Adrian A. Basora, April 2013

Geopoliticus Blog

- [Resisting the Impossible: The Popular Resentment Behind the Gezi Park Protests](#)
by Arzu Geybullayeva
- [Amid Tragedy, Georgia's Euro-Atlantic Aspirations Should be Acknowledged](#)
by Michael Cecire
- [Upcoming Presidential Elections in Georgia: More Uncertainty and Economic Slowdown to Come?](#) by Maia Otarashvili

External Publications in 2013

- [No Need to Panic Over Georgia-Iran Ties](#)
by Michael Cecire, *World Politics Review*, January 16, 2013
- [Armenia-Azerbaijan: Crossing to the "Other Side" in Times of Ceasefire](#)
by Arzu Geybullayeva, *Osservatorio Balcani e Caucaso*, January 31, 2013
- [Riots and Protests in Azerbaijan](#)
by Arzu Geybullayeva, *Osservatorio Balcani e Caucaso*, February 7, 2013
- [Freedom on the Net 2013: Azerbaijan](#)
by Arzu Geybullayeva, Freedom House, February 13, 2013
- [With Re-Election Likely, Armenia's Sargsyan Has Little Reason to Change Course](#)
by Michael Cecire, *World Politics Review*, February 15, 2013
- [China's Quiet Splash in the Post-Soviet Space](#)
by Michael Cecire, *Open Democracy*, February 25, 2013
- [The Black Sea: Energy Security Fault Line?](#)
by Michael Cecire, *Natural Gas Europe*, February 26, 2013
- [Georgia-Turkey Relations in a Georgian Dream Era](#)
by Michael Cecire, *Caucasus Analytical Digest*, March 3, 2013
- [Confront or Conform? Rethinking U.S. Democracy Assistance](#)
by Sarah Bush, Project on Middle East Democracy, March 13, 2013
- [Why the Color Revolutions Failed](#)
by Melinda Haring and Michael Cecire, *Foreign Policy*, March 18, 2013
- [Georgia's Lessons for Democratic Development](#)
by Michael Cecire, *The American Interest*, March 22, 2013
- [More Complications for NGOs in Azerbaijan](#)
by Arzu Geybullayeva, *Osservatorio Balcani e Caucaso*, April 8, 2013
- [Georgia Embraces 'Smart Defense' in Euro-Atlantic Bid](#)
by Michael Cecire, *World Politics Review*, April 10, 2013
- [Beware Blank Checks](#)
by Michael Cecire, *The American Interest*, April 23, 2013
- [Azerbaijan's Flower People](#)
by Arzu Geybullayeva, *Osservatorio Balcani e Caucaso*, May 20, 2013



Nino Japaridze, second from left, speaking on a panel.

- [Georgia Looking Better for NATO](#)
by Michael Cecire, *The National Interest*, May 24, 2013
- [Reforming the Democracy Bureaucracy](#)
by Melinda Haring, *Foreign Policy*, June 3, 2013
- [Turkey-Azerbaijan: From #OccupyGezi to #OccupyFountainSquare?](#)
by Arzu Geybullayeva, *Osservatorio Balcani e Caucaso*, June 11, 2013
- [Russia-Georgia Normalization Hits a Plateau](#)
by Michael Cecire, *World Politics Review*, June 21, 2013
- [Seeing Georgia Plain](#)
by Michael Cecire, *The American Interest*, July 10, 2013
- [Living Together Doesn't Mean You're in Love](#)
by Michael Cecire (with Laura Linderman), *Foreign Policy*, July 16, 2013
- [Azerbaijan and Islam, Willfully Blind or Skillfully Strategic?](#)
by Arzu Geybullayeva, *Osservatorio Balcani e Caucaso*, July 24, 2013
- [Russia-Georgia War the High-Water Mark for Moscow's Black Sea Resurgence](#)
by Michael Cecire, *World Politics Review*, August 8, 2013
- [Yes, NATO Should Let Georgia In](#)
by Michael Cecire, *The National Interest*, August 18, 2013
- [Azerbaijan's Futuristic Past](#)
by Arzu Geybullayeva, *Osservatorio Balcani e Caucaso*, September 16, 2013
- [How Georgian NATO Membership Actually Serves Russian Interests](#)
by Michael Cecire, Center on Global Interests, September 18, 2013
- [Azerbaijan: Let the Election Season Begin](#)
by Arzu Geybullayeva, *Osservatorio Balcani e Caucaso*, September 25, 2013
- [So What About the Other 364 Days a Year?](#)
by Arzu Geybullayeva and Melinda Haring, *Foreign Policy*, October 8, 2013
- [A First for Georgia](#)
by Melinda Haring (with Laura Linderman), Atlantic Council, October 13, 2013
- [Turkey-Georgia-Azerbaijan: Trilateralism and the Future of Black Sea Regional Geopolitics](#)
by Michael Cecire, *The Central Asia-Caucasus Analyst*, October 16, 2013
- [Love Aliyev, Love Aliyev Not](#)
by Arzu Geybullayeva, *Osservatorio Balcani e Caucaso*, October 17, 2013
- [Georgia's Surprising New Normal](#)
by Michael Cecire, *Foreign Policy*, October 18, 2013
- [Israel Rapprochement Reflects Georgia's Continued Relevance to West](#)
by Michael Cecire, *World Politics Review*, November 21, 2013
- [Moving Forward for Neutral Zone](#)
by Arzu Geybullayeva, *ImagineNeutralZone.com*, December 1, 2013
- [Ukraine Roars Back to Life](#)
by Melinda Haring (with Laura Linderman), Atlantic Council, December 3, 2013
- [Georgia: Rolling up Its Sleeves on Local Government Reform](#)
by Michael Cecire, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, December 6, 2013
- [Deceiving Internet Freedom in Azerbaijan](#)
by Arzu Geybullayeva, *Osservatorio Balcani e Caucaso*, December 20, 2013
- [Foreign Policy to the Limelight: President Obama May Shift Focus from Domestic Affairs](#)
by Michael Cecire, *U.S. News and World Report*, December 27, 2013
- [A Different Kind of Free Speech for Global Voices Advocacy](#)
by Arzu Geybullayeva, *Global Voices Online*, December 30, 2013

- [Political Cohabitation in Georgia](#), Voice of America (Georgian service, radio), Michael Cecire, March 22, 2013
- Black Sea Energy Security and Geopolitics, From Washington al Mundo (Sirius XM), Michael Cecire, March 13, 2013
- [Georgian Politics and Religious Extremism](#), Voice of America (Georgian service, television), Michael Cecire, May 23, 2013
- [Georgian Losses in Afghanistan](#), *Global Post*, Michael Cecire, June 14, 2013
- [Georgian Euro-Atlantic Aspirations](#), Imedi Television, Michael Cecire, June 25, 2014
- [Georgia-Israel Relations](#), *Eurasianet*, Michael Cecire, June 28, 2013
- [August War Anniversary](#), Voice of America (Georgian service, television), Michael Cecire, August 20, 2013
- Justification for NATO Expansion, From Washington al Mundo (Sirius XM), Michael Cecire, August 26, 2013
- [Georgia's Syria Policy](#), *Eurasianet*, Michael Cecire, September 4, 2013
- [Elections and Democratic Development in Georgia](#), Voice of America (Georgian service, radio), Michael Cecire, October 28, 2013
- [US Democracy Groups Mark 30 Years of Progress, Controversy](#), Voice of America (multiple languages, television), Melinda Haring, November 15, 2013
- [Russian Occupation of Georgian Separatist Regions](#), *Georgian Journal*, December 12, 2013
- [Ukraine Protests](#), Russia Today (television), Adrian Basora, December 13, 2013
- [Russia's Regional Game](#), *Georgian Journal*, December 19, 2013
- [Georgian Regional Geopolitics](#), *Global Post*, Michael Cecire, December 19, 2013
- Foreign Policy and the Christian Science Monitor (on background), Melinda Haring

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