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## International Activity of Cherkas Global University (1992–2023)

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### Abstract

This paper explores the international activity of Cherkas Global University in the period from 1992 to 2023. Consideration is given to the principal vectors of that work – organizational (contests and participation on editorial councils) and research (publication activity).

Based on the study's findings, Cherkas Global University has been involved in multiple international projects, including attracting international specialists to the academic journals of the university's publishing house (Cherkas Global University Press), putting together the full-text database Open Academic Journals Index, undertaking scientific expeditions (Norway, USA, Georgia, and Armenia), holding membership in American and British scholarly societies, and engaging in collaboration in the area of academic publications. Among the institutions that Cherkas Global University has engaged in joint research projects with are some of the world's top 100 institutions of higher learning, namely the University of Geneva and Tel Aviv University.

**Keywords:** Cherkas Global University, international activity, period 1992–2023, publication activity.

### 1. Introduction

Today, international activity is an important part of the work of research universities, as it helps develop ties between universities and forge collaboration between researchers, which subsequently results in joint research projects and publications.

Activity of this kind is typically conducted in a number of focus areas, including holding international contests for the best research project, engaging in international cooperation in publication activity, and taking part in international expeditions. This is precisely the case for Cherkas Global University, which embarked on this kind of journey in the early 21st century.

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## 2. Materials and methods

The principal sources used for this study were the official documents of Cherkas Global University dealing with international activity. This includes sets of relevant regulations (e.g., those dealing with the holding of international contests), charters (that of ANO MSTsFiPI and that of OOO Nauchny Izdatelsky Dom Issledovatel), and other types of documents from the collection ‘Cherkas Global University (1992–2022): A Collection of Documents’ (Cherkas Global..., 2022).

Use was made of a traditional methodological set – the principles of historicism and systematicity and the chronological method. The use of this methodological set helped reconstruct an accurate picture of the international activity of Cherkas Global University and identify its key focus areas.

## 3. Discussion and results

Cherkas Global University was established in 1992 as a military historical society. Based in the city of Sochi (Russia), it was headed by Aleksandr Arvelodovich Cherkasov. The above society was long engaged in educational work. The organization’s first activities on an international level took place only in the late second decade of its existence. Specifically, one of its first international projects kicked off with the launch of the academic journal *European Researcher* on November 15, 2010. This involved inviting a large number of foreign specialists to join the publication’s editorial council. Over the subsequent years, this practice only expanded due to the launch of new journals.

July 4, 2013, saw the launch of the large international project Open Academic Journals Index (oaji.net), a full-text database of academic journals. As of January 2023, it numbered over 3,300 academic journals from 122 countries.



**Fig. 1.** Vice-President of the Georgian National Academy of Sciences Roin Metreveli and Director of the INCFAR Aleksandr Cherkasov. Tbilisi, Georgia, September 2014

On May 26, 2014, the Sochi-based military historical society was reorganized into ANO MSTsFiPI, i.e. the autonomous nonprofit organization International Network Center for Fundamental and Applied Research (Cherkas Global..., 2022: 37). The post of Chairman of the Military Historical Society was replaced with that of Director of the Center, with A.A. Cherkasov

becoming Director of ANO MSTsFiPI. At the same time, there was in operation the organization's publishing house – OOO Nauchny Izdatelsky Dom Issledovatel, i.e. the limited liability company Researcher Academic Publishing House. It, likewise, was headed by A.A. Cherkasov.

In September 2014, a series of working meetings were held in Georgia – in the Georgian National Academy of Sciences in the city of Tbilisi (Figure 1) and in Telavi State University in the city of Telavi (Figure 2).

The visits to the Georgian National Academy of Sciences helped forge working ties and establish the vectors for future cooperation. Specifically, subsequently A.A. Cherkasov took part in the International Kartvelological Congress, held in Tbilisi in 2015 and 2018.<sup>1</sup> This cooperation bore fruit in terms of publication activity as well. For instance, in 2014 *Bulletin of the Georgian National Academy of Sciences* published the article 'The Nobility and Commoners in Ubykh Society: The Reasons Behind the Social Conflict' (Cherkasov et al., 2014: 64-72), and in 2016 the journal *Annales: Anali za Istrske in Mediteranske Studije. Series Historia et Sociologia* (Slovenia) carried a joint article by A.A. Cherkasov and Roin Metreveli on the causes behind the destruction of monuments of historical and cultural significance on the coast of the Black Sea in the late 18th and first half of the 19th centuries (Cherkasov et al., 2016: 1-12). That same year, 2016, the journal *Terra Sebus* published another joint article by the two scholars – it was focused on the work of the Red Cross on the Caucasus front during World War I (Cherkasov et al., 2016: 319-333).



**Fig. 2.** Rector of Telavi State University Avtandil Gelagutashvili and Aleksandr Cherkasov. Telavi, Georgia, September 2014.

In September 2014, as part of a working visit to Telavi State University there took place a working meeting with Rector of Telavi State University Avtandil Gelagutashvili. As a result, the two organizations entered into a cooperation agreement and mapped out key areas for cooperation, including in the area of publication activity. Subsequently, similar cooperation agreements were entered into with the Faculty of Philosophy at Matej Bel University (Slovakia), University of Novi Sad (Serbia), Lithuanian Sports University (Lithuania), Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (Georgia), Southern Scientific Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences (Russia), KAD International (Ghana), and a few other academic organizations.

The year 2013 marked the start of productive cooperation with Matej Bel University (Banská Bystrica, Slovakia). On October 3, 2016, A.A. Cherkasov received the title of Visiting Professor at

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<sup>1</sup> First International Kartvelological Congress, organized by the Georgian National Academy of Sciences (Tbilisi, Georgia, November 11–13, 2015); Second International Kartvelological Congress, dedicated to the 100th anniversary of Tbilisi University (Tbilisi, Georgia, September 26–29, 2018)



the above institution (Figure 3). Of note is the fact that as of 2016 OOO Nauchny Izdatelsky Dom Issledovatel, based in Sochi, Russia, produced 54 academic journals and was in the top five publishing houses for the number of academic journals produced in Russia.



**Fig. 3.** A.A. Cherkasov holding the Decree conferring on him the title of Visiting Professor at Matej Bel University. Banská Bystrica, Slovakia, 2016. Left to right: Prof. Michal Šmigel', Prof. Aleksandr Cherkasov, Vice-Rector for Research Alexandra Bitušíková, and Rector Vladimír Hiadlovský



**Fig. 4.** Plenary session of the Second International Kartvelological Congress. Tbilisi, Georgia, September 28, 2018

As a result of his regular trips to Slovakia, on January 4, 2018, A.A. Cherkasov established a publishing house in its capital (Bratislava) – Academic Publishing House Researcher sro. Fifty-one journals were moved from Russia to the Slovakia-based publishing house, and just one stayed with the Russian office of OOO Nauchny Izdatelsky Dom Issledovatel (Cherkas Global..., 2022: 54).

On February 4, 2018, ANO MSTsFiPI (Sochi, Russia) was reorganized into International Network Center for Fundamental and Applied Research LLC (INCFAR), based in Washington, DC, USA ([Cherkas Global..., 2022: 55](#)).

In late September 2018, A.A. Cherkasov attended the Second International Kartvelological Congress in Tbilisi, dedicated to the 100th anniversary of Tbilisi University. On the first day of the Congress, September 28, A.A. Cherkasov co-chaired its plenary session ([Figure 4](#)).

On September 29, 2018, as part of the Congress's activities program, a visit was made to the residence of Catholicos-Patriarch of All Georgia Ilia II ([Figure 5](#)).



**Fig. 5.** Catholicos-Patriarch of All Georgia Ilia II, left, in the company of Congress participants. Tbilisi, Georgia, September 29, 2018 (Photo by A.A. Cherkasov)

In October 2018, A.A. Cherkasov took part in a field expedition to Georgia with the aim of visiting a fortress situated high up in the mountains in the historic village of Shatili. The findings from that expedition, organized to gain a deeper insight into the siege of the fortress undertaken by Russian troops in 1813, formed the basis of the article 'Expedition in Khevsureti in 1813. The Assault of Shatili' ([Cherkasov et al., 2019](#)).

In the period 2016–2019, A.A. Cherkasov took part in four Arctic expeditions organized as part of the 'Arctic Floating University' program (2016 – Novaya Zemlya's western coast; 2017 – Franz Josef Land; 2018 – Novaya Zemlya's eastern and western coasts; 2019 – Spitsbergen).

In 2018, A.A. Cherkasov became a member of the American Historical Association (Washington, DC, USA). In 2020, A.Yu. Peretyatko (PhD in History), Deputy Head of the Laboratory for World Civilizations, became a member of this organization, too. In 2019, T.A. Magsumov (PhD in History), Deputy Head of the Laboratory for Professional and Pedagogical Training, became a member of the History of Education Society (UK).

In January 2020, A.A. Cherkasov attended the 134th Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association, held January 3 through 6 in New York.

On January 8, 2021, the INCFAR was reorganized into Cherkas Global University ([Cherkas Global..., 2022: 61](#)). On July 4, 2021, the Slovakia-based publishing house Academic Publishing House Researcher s.r.o. was reorganized into Cherkas Global University Press ([Cherkas Global..., 2022: 73](#)).



**Fig. 6.** Aleksandr Cherkasov attending the 134th Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association. New York, USA, January 3, 2020

An important component of the organization's international collaboration is publication activity. The first international contacts in this area were made back in 2010, when A.A. Cherkasov began to publish jointly with scholars from Finland and Belarus, namely J. Bäckman and V.I. Menkovsky (Cherkasov, Bekman, 2010; Cherkasov, Menjkovsky, 2010). Beginning in 2013, M. Šmigel' was long a permanent co-author. He took part in a number of publication projects on the history of Eastern Europe and the Caucasus in the 19th and first half of the 20th centuries (Cherkasov, Šmigel', 2013; Cherkasov, Smigel, 2016; Cherkasov et al., 2018). Around the same time, the international team of Cherkas Global University was joined by S.I. Degtyarev (Sumy, Ukraine), a prominent Ukrainian historian focused on the history of the public education system (Degtyarev, Polyakova, 2020; Zavhorodnia et al., 2019).

In 2016, the university's team was joined by a specialist from Africa – J. Owusu Sarfo (PhD in Health Promotion), who currently holds the post of Head of the Laboratory for Professional and Pedagogical Training. Focused on research on contemporary education, this scholar has engaged in projects involving multiple researchers (e.g., 'Gender Differences in Mathematics Anxiety Across Cultures: A Univariate Analysis of Variance Among Samples from Twelve Countries' (Sarfo et al., 2020)).

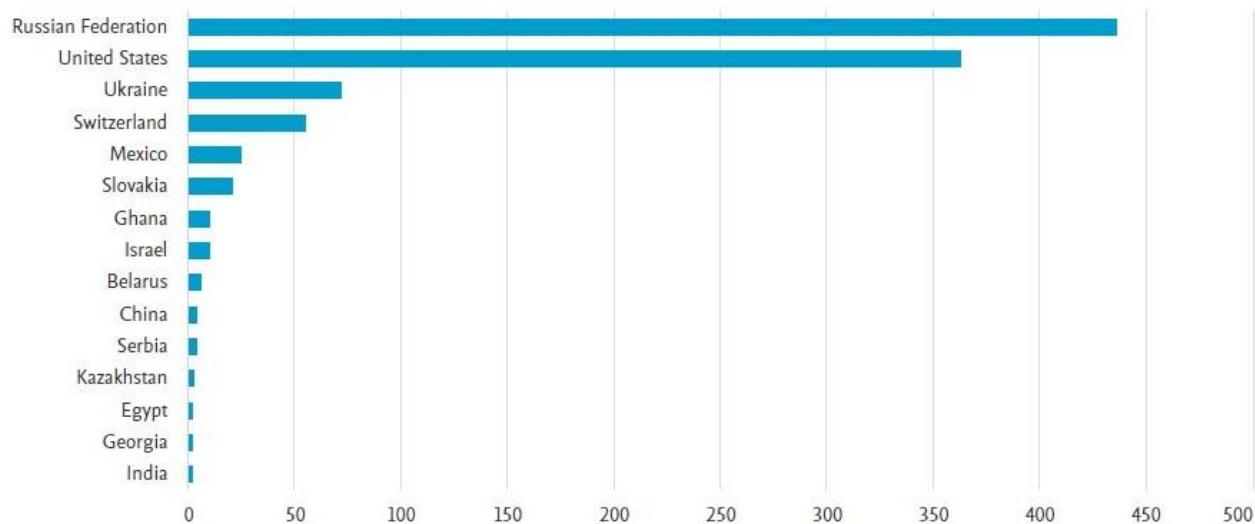
One of the outcomes of collaboration between Sumy State University (Ukraine) and Cherkas Global University was S.I. Degtyarev getting appointed International Expert to the National Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance (NAQA) via competitive selection in October 2022. Based in Ukraine, the above agency specializes in implementing the state's policy in the area of assuring the quality of higher education. It is an associated member of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) and a full member of the following four international organizations focused on quality assurance and academic integrity: International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE), Central and Eastern European Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (CEENQA), International Center for Academic Integrity (ICAI), and Global Academic Integrity Network (GAIN).

A significant effect on the organization's publication activity came from the international expeditions undertaken each year between 2016 and 2019 as part of the Arctic Floating University program. As a result of these expeditions, academic ties were successfully established with researchers from Switzerland, Canada, and China. The closest was the organization's cooperation with the University of Geneva (Switzerland) – as of 2019, 25 publications, all of which would be indexed by the scientometric system Scopus, were produced jointly with the University of Geneva (Tarakanov, Ponomareva, 2019: 986). In addition, as of that same year, 2019, based on Scopus



data, Cherkas Global University now had to its name 80 publications affiliated with the United States, 20 publications produced jointly with Slovakia, and a number of publications produced jointly with specialists from Belarus, Ukraine, Mexico, Israel, Serbia, and a few other countries (Tarakanov, Ponomareva, 2019: 986).

As of January 2023, these figures were up even more (Figure 7).



**Fig. 7.** International publication activity of researchers from Cherkas Global University. Based on data from Scopus (as of January 2023)

Over a period of just 3 years the number of the organization's publications affiliated with the United States increased from 80 in 2019 to 363, Ukraine – 72, Switzerland – 55, Mexico – 25, and Slovakia – 21 publications (Figure 7).

A significant amount of attention was paid to organizational activity as well. Specifically, in 2020 the organization launched 'Slavery in the Past and Present', an annual international contest for research works on slavery with a prize of \$2,250. So far, three such contests have been held. In addition, that same year, 2020, the organization staged an international contest for the best research work, which was dedicated to the fifth anniversary of the East European Historical Society. Cherkas Global University also co-organized a number of academic activities (e.g., Second International Scientific and Methodological Conference 'The Values-Based Approach in Education and the Challenges of the European Integration Process' (May 28–29, 2021, Sumy, Ukraine) (Cherkas Global..., 2022: 170)).

#### 4. Conclusion

Cherkas Global University has been involved in multiple international projects, including attracting international specialists to the academic journals of the university's publishing house (Cherkas Global University Press), putting together the full-text database Open Academic Journals Index, undertaking scientific expeditions (Norway, USA, Georgia, and Armenia), holding membership in American and British scholarly societies, and engaging in collaboration in the area of academic publications. Among the institutions that Cherkas Global University has engaged in joint research projects with are some of the world's top 100 institutions of higher learning, namely the University of Geneva and Tel Aviv University.

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