



*Tbilisi Knowledge Hub of Academia Europaea
In collaboration with Eliava Institute of Bacteriophages and
Georgian Association of General and Applied Microbiology*

DISTINGUISHED SEMINAR SERIES - THE CROSSROADS

Microbial Culture As Part of Human Culture

Sunday, September 22, 2019 at 14:00 (1 h)

Eliava Institute of Bacteriophages, Microbiology and Virology
Tbilisi, Gotua street 3, Conference Hall

Working language: English

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Abstract: *In the Neolithic Revolution humans domesticated crop plants and farm animals which changed human diet fundamentally leading from hunting and gathering to food production. The archeology and genetics of animal and plant domestication has been intensively studied. In contrast, the scientific study of food microbe domestication started only recently.*

Anthropologists associate the local diversity of fermented food products with the ethnical identity of human groups since food mediates social cohesion and plays important roles in religious rituals and traditional medicine. Food microbes thus became an extended phenotype of the human races, necessitating fresh scientific approaches. The South Caucasus area with its complex ethnic composition and its long traditions of local fermented food products is an attractive research area for investigating the local differentiation of food microbes with ethnicity. Combined with selective omics technologies of artisanal starter systems and the establishment of a national strain collection by cultivation approaches, such a project would have both attractive applied (industrial development of new starter strains for food industry) and academic (ethnobiology) aspects.