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CURRENT POSITION

Virginia Tech Institute for Policy and Governance, Blacksburg, Virginia, United States
Non-Resident Senior Project Associate, 2014-present.

EDUCATION

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia, United States
Ph.D. in Social, Political, Ethical, and Cultural Thought, 2013
Dissertation Title: Democratic Justice for Brazilians with Impairments.

Hult International Business School (formerly Arthur D. Little School of Management), Boston, Massachusetts, United States
Master of Science in Management, 2001.

Yerevan State University, Yerevan, Armenia
Diplom in Economics (equivalent to Bachelor's degree), with a concentration in International Relations, 1997.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Inclusive entrepreneurship, Disability rights, Critical disability theory, Social in/exclusion, UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Democratic citizenship, Paralympics and their legacy.

SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles

Kirakosyan, L. 2022. Legacy challenges and opportunities: Comparing the Rio 2016 and Tokyo 2020 Paralympics. *Journal of the Paralympic Research Group* (Japan) 18, 19-44. <http://para.tokyo/18-LyusyenaKirakosyan.pdf> [OA]

Kirakosyan, L. 2021. Negotiating multiple identities of Brazilian Paralympians. *Social Sciences* 10. <https://doi.org/10.3390/socsci10080305> [OA]

Kirakosyan, L. 2021. Challenging gender and disability stereotypes: Narrative identities of Brazilian female Paralympians. *Disabilities* 1, 420–437. <https://doi.org/10.3390/disabilities1040029> [OA]

Kirakosyan, L. 2021. Journalistic narratives about the Rio 2016 Paralympics: (Re)producing cultural values and social identities. *The Journal of Communication and Media Studies* 6(3). <https://doi.org/10.18848/2470-9247/CGP/v06i03/29-43>

Kirakosyan, L. 2021. Media portrayal of the Rio 2016 Paralympics: Narrative patterns in the Brazilian online news outlets. *The International Journal of Sport and Society* 12(1). <https://doi.org/10.18848/2152-7857/CGP/v12i01/71-90>

- Kirakosyan, L. 2020. Educational legacy of the Rio 2016 Games: Lessons for youth engagement. *Societies* 10(2), 39; doi:10.3390/soc10020039. Featured in the *Olympic World Library* in 2020. <https://library.olympic.org/Default/doc/SYRACUSE/354291/educational-legacy-of-the-rio-2016-games-lessons-for-youth-engagement-lyusyena-kirakosyan> [OA]
- Kirakosyan, L. 2019. Sport for All and social inclusion of individuals with impairments: A case study from Brazil. *Societies* 9(2), 44. (Special Issue Socio-cultural and Critical Approaches to Health and the Body). <https://doi.org/10.3390/soc9020044> [OA]
- Kirakosyan, L. and Stephenson, M.O. 2019. Arts as dialogic practice: Deriving lessons for change from community-based art-making for international development. *Psych* 1(1), 375-390. <https://doi.org/10.3390/psych1010027> [OA]
- My contribution: study conception; development of methodology, search and analysis of the relevant case studies; drafting and revision of the manuscript; corresponding author.
- Kirakosyan, L. and Seabra Jr., M.O. 2018. Exploring the social legacy of Paralympic Games for disabled people. *Brazilian Journal of Education, Technology and Society* (Special Issue on Disability and Sport) 11(1): 136-147. doi: 10.14571/brajets.v11.n1.136-147. Featured in the *Olympic World Library* in 2018. <https://library.olympic.org/Default/doc/SYRACUSE/173896> [OA]
- My contribution: study conception; development of methodology, qualitative data analysis (partial) and interpretation; drafting and revision of the manuscript; corresponding author.
- Kirakosyan, L. 2017. Social imaginaries, shared citizen action, and the meanings of ‘community’. *Community Change* 1(1): 1-14. eISSN: 2576-6775. <http://communitychange.ipg.vt.edu/index.php/commchange/article/view/4> [OA]
- Kirakosyan, L. 2016. Promoting disability rights for stronger democracy in Brazil: The role of NGOs. *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly* 45(1S): 114S–130S. doi: 10.1177/0899764015602129. <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/0899764015602129> [OA]
- Costa, C. R., Kirakosyan, L., and Seabra Jr., M. O. 2016. Trabalho colaborativo entre o professor do ensino comum na interface educação física e atendimento educacional especializado. [Collaborative work between mainstream physical education and special education teachers]. *Educação Online* 21: 151-185. ISSN: 1809-3760. <http://educacaoonline.edu.puc-rio.br/index.php/eduonline/article/download/210/pdf/> [OA]
- My contribution: reviewed relevant scholarly literature in English; prepared qualitative synthesis of the findings; edited the manuscript drafts.
- Kirakosyan, L. 2015. Moral imagination of the special education teachers in Brazil: Reflecting on the role of continuing teacher education. *Paideia* (Chile) 57: 65-79. ISSN: 0716-4815. <http://revistas.udec.cl/index.php/paideia/article/view/1497> [OA]
- Kirakosyan, L. 2014. Affirmative action quotas in Brazilian higher education: Analyzing claims and implications. *Journal for Multicultural Education* 8 (2): 137-144. <https://doi.org/10.1108/JME-01-2014-0005> [OA]
- Kirakosyan, L. 2014. Exploring strategies for citizen-driven civic creativity in small communities: The challenge and potential of civic creativity. *The International Journal of Civic, Political, and Community Studies* (collection New Directions in the Humanities) 12 (1): 1-9. <https://doi.org/10.18848/23270047/CGP/v12i01/43551>

Kirakosyan, L. 2014. An examination of violence practiced against disabled Brazilians in relation to sustainable development. *Disability Studies Quarterly* 34 (4). eISSN: 2159-8371. <http://dsq-sds.org/article/view/3989/3805> [OA]

Kirakosyan, L. 2013. Linking disability rights and democracy: Insights from Brazil. *Societies without Borders: Human Rights and the Social Sciences* 8 (1): 29-52. <https://scholarlycommons.law.case.edu/swb/vol8/iss1/2/> [OA]

Kirakosyan, L. 2012. Disability policies and politics: A new perspective for Brazilian disability citizenship? *Critical Disability Discourse* (Canada), 4, ISSN: 1918-6215. <https://cdd.journals.yorku.ca/index.php/cdd/article/view/34878> [OA]

Books and Book Chapters in Edited Volumes

Stephenson, Jr., M.O. and Kirakosyan, L. (Editors). *Re: Reflections and Explorations*, Volume 3. E-book and paperback. Blacksburg, VA: Virginia Tech Institute for Policy and Governance and VT Publishing.

My contribution: selected and organized the contributions into thematic sections; drafted section introductions; ensured consistency in referencing and citations style throughout the volume; designed the book layout; prepared book index.

Stephenson, Jr., M.O. and Kirakosyan, L. (Editors). 2017. *Re: Reflections and Explorations: A Forum for Deliberative Dialogue*. E-book and paperback. Blacksburg, VA: Virginia Tech Institute for Policy and Governance and VT Publishing. <http://hdl.handle.net/10919/81094> (Over 1,700 downloads as of May 2023) [OA]

My contribution: communicated and coordinated with contributing authors; organized the contributions into thematic sections; wrote section introductions; ensured consistency in referencing and citation style throughout the volume; designed the book; prepared book index.

Stephenson Jr., M.O. and Kirakosyan, L. 2016. "Honoring memory and articulating truth: The case of Serbia's DAH Teatar." In D. Barnett (Ed.), *DAH Theatre: A Sourcebook*. Lanham Lexington Books, 17-36. <https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781498527149/DAH-Theatre-A-Sourcebook>

My contribution: co-conducted semi-structured interviews; transcribed and analyzed the data; wrote the first draft; revised the chapter with the co-author.

Kirakosyan, L. and Stephenson Jr., M.O. 2015. "Theatre as a tool for building peace and justice: DAH Teatar and Bond Street Theatre" In *The Arts and Community Change: Exploring Cultural Development Policies, Practices, and Dilemmas*, edited by M.O. Stephenson, Jr. and A. S. Tate. New York and London: Routledge.

My contribution: scheduled and conducted semi-structured interviews (with co-author); transcribed and analyzed the interview data; wrote the first draft; revised the chapter with the editors.

Stephenson, Jr., M.O. and Kirakosyan, L. (Editors.). 2015. *Re: Reflections and Explorations: Essays on Politics, Public Policy, and Governance*. E-book and paperback. Blacksburg, VA: Virginia Tech Institute for Policy and Governance. <http://vtechworks.lib.vt.edu/handle/10919/56499> (Over 5,000 downloads as of May 2023) [OA]

My contribution: communicated and coordinated with contributing authors; organized the contributions into thematic sections; drafted section introductions; developed book layout; prepared the book for print and digital distribution.

SELECTED AWARDS AND HONORS

- Developing Nations Scholarship, Midwest Political Science Association, 2018-2019, 2021-2022
- Outstanding Dissertation Award, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, Virginia Tech, 2013
- Citizen Scholar Award for Community Engagement, Graduate School, Virginia Tech, 2013
- Nominated for the Emerging Scholar Dissertation Award, International Society for Third-Sector Research (ISTR), 2013
- Young Leaders Fellow, Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA), 2011
- Young Leaders Fellowship, Global Dialogue for Responsibility, University of San Diego and Virginia Tech, 2009-2010
- Edmund S. Muskie Graduate Fellowship, 2000-2001.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2021 “Power with purpose: Exploring motivations and experiences of the Rio 2016 Paralympic volunteers”. Accepted paper presentation at the 78th Annual Conference of the Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Conference (virtual). April 14-18.
- 2021 “The impact of the Rio 2016 Paralympics on the lives of disabled Brazilians”. Paper presented at the IV ISA Forum of Sociology (virtual). February 23-27.
- 2019 “Media narratives about Rio 2016 Paralympics.” Paper presented at the 4th International Conference on Communication & Media Studies, University of Bonn, Germany. September 26-28.
- 2018 “Feminist perspectives on the identities of Brazilian female Paralympians.” Paper presented at the 15th Annual Conference of the Canadian Disability Studies Association, University of Regina, Canada (virtual). May 27-29.
- 2018 “Disabled femininities” in the Paralympic sport: Narrative identities of Brazilian female Paralympians.” Paper presented at the 76th Annual Conference of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL. April 5-8.
- 2017 “Sport For All in Brazil: the evolution of discourse and its impact on social inclusion.” Paper presented at the 25th Annual Conference of the European Association for Sport Management, University of Bern, Switzerland. September 5-8.
- 2016 “Educational Legacy of the Rio 2016 Games: Exploring the Games’ impact on youth engagement”. Paper presented at the 42nd Annual Conference of the Association for Moral Education, Cambridge, MA. December 8-11.
- 2015 “The role of continuing teacher education in cultivating moral imagination in the special education teachers in Brazil.” Paper presented at the 41st Annual Conference of the Association for Moral Education, Santos, Brazil. November 5-7.
- 2014 “Arts-based approaches and their implications for researchers in other fields.” Paper presented at the 10th International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. May 21-24. Co-authored with Max Stephenson Jr.
- 2014 “Exploring theatre as a tool for building social peace and justice.” Research presentation. Research Symposium, College of Architecture and Urban Studies, Virginia Tech. April 2. Co-authored with Max Stephenson Jr.

- 2014 “Strategies for citizen-driven civic creativity in small communities.” Presented at the 12th International Conference on New Directions in the Humanities. Universidad CEU San Pablo, Madrid, Spain. June 11-13.
- 2013 “Exploring theater as a tool for building peace and justice: The case of Serbia’s DAH Teatar”. Paper presented at the Conference on Justice, Monterey Institute of International Studies, Monterey, CA, November 14-16. Co-authored with Max Stephenson Jr.
- 2013 “Violence practiced against disabled Brazilians as an issue of sustainable development”. Paper presented at the Virtual Post-Conference of the 20th Canadian Conference on Global Health: Politics meaning and scope of sustainability and the Post-2015 Development Agenda. October 30-November 13.
- 2013 “Who is responsible for justice? Views articulated by Brazilians with impairments”. Paper presented at the 26th Annual Conference, Society for Disability Studies, Orlando, FL. June 26-29.
- 2013 “Conceptions of justice and citizen responsibility: Insights from São Paulo, Brazil” Paper presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Los Angeles, CA. April 10.
- 2013 “Considering theatre’s role in promoting peace and human rights: Exploring the case of Bond Street Theatre” presentation at the 2nd Human rights Research Forum, Virginia Tech. March 1.
- 2013 “Impairment or disability? Implications of these concepts for social policy” research presentation at the Forum on Health, Race, and Rhetoric, Virginia Tech. February 11.
- 2012 “Exploring theater as a tool for peace and justice” paper presented at the 2nd Peace Symposium, Virginia Tech. November 16-17.
- 2012 “Is promoting disability rights conducive to a stronger democracy in Brazil?” paper presented at the 2nd Forum of Sociology: Social Justice & Democratization, International Sociological Association, Buenos Aires, Argentina. August 1-4.
- 2012 “Deepening democracy: discourses of citizenship for disabled Brazilians” graduate research presentation at the Graduate Interdisciplinary Symposium, Virginia Tech. March 2012.
- 2011 “Entrepreneurship and disability in Brazil” poster presented at the 1st Interdisciplinary Research Symposium, Virginia Tech. November 2011.

ADDITIONAL PUBLICATIONS

- Kirakosyan, L. and Geijer, S. 2017. “Disabled Femininities” in Brazilian Paralympic Sport: Exploring the Narratives of Female Paralympians. *Reflections & Explorations*.
<https://blogs.lt.vt.edu/reflectionsandexplorations/2017/10/26/disabled-femininities-in-paralympic-sport-exploring-the-narratives-of-brazilian-female-paralympians1/> [OA]
 My contribution: developed study idea and methodology; conducted semi-structured interviews, transcribed, analyzed and translated the relevant passages from Portuguese to English; wrote the initial draft; revised the manuscript with co-author; served as the corresponding author.
- Kirakosyan, L. 2016. “What is Special about Paralympic Volunteering?” *Reflections and Explorations*. With a short video produced from the highlights of volunteer interviews:
<https://blogs.lt.vt.edu/reflectionsandexplorations/2016/10/20/what-is-special-about-paralympic-volunteering/> [OA]

- Kirakosyan, L. 2016. Documentary review, “Semicolon; The Adventures of Ostomy Girl” (USA, 2015). *H-Net: Humanities and Social Sciences Online*. <https://networks.hnet.org/node/4189/reviews/127073/kirakosyan-greenspun-semicolon-adventures-ostomy-girl> [OA]
- Kirakosyan, L. 2015. Documentary review, “De Corpo e Alma” [Body and Soul] (Mozambique, 2010). *H-Net: Humanities and Social Sciences Online*. <https://www.h-net.org/reviews/showpdf.php?id=44157> [OA]
- Kirakosyan, L. 2013. “Harnessing the power of narrative for social change.” *Reflections and Explorations*. <https://blogs.lt.vt.edu/reflectionsandexplorations/2013/01/23/harnessing-the-power-of-narrative-for-social-change/> [OA]
- Kirakosyan, L. 2013. “Arts and the civil rights movement: Life force of a fight for justice.” A guest commentary, *Soundings*. <https://ipg.vt.edu/DirectorsCorner/Soundings/Soundings09292013.html> [OA]
- Kirakosyan, L. 2013. “Creating conditions for peace and justice: A decade of Bond Street Theatre’s efforts in Afghanistan.” *Reflections and Explorations*. <https://blogs.lt.vt.edu/reflectionsandexplorations/2013/10/03/creating-conditions-for-peace-and-justice-a-decade-of-bond-street-theatres-efforts-in-afghanistan/> [OA]

TEACHING AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2013-2014 **Visiting Adjunct Faculty**, Virginia Tech Department of Political Science
- 2013-2014 **Post-Doctoral Research Fellow**, Virginia Tech Institute for Policy and Governance
- 2012-2013 **Graduate Assistant**, Institute for Creativity, Arts and Technology, Virginia Tech
- 2010-2013 **Graduate Instructor**, Department of Political Science and Department of Urban Affairs and Planning, Virginia Tech
- 2009 **Graduate Teaching Assistant**, Department of History; Department of Political Science, Virginia Tech

Courses Taught

Jan-May 2014	Latin American Politics	Undergraduate
Jan-May 2014	Comparative Politics and Government	Undergraduate
Aug-Dec 2013	Nonprofit Leadership and Governance (co-taught with Dr. Stephenson Jr.)	Graduate
Jan-May 2012	Comparative Politics and Government	Undergraduate
Aug-Dec 2011	World Politics and Global Economy	Undergraduate
Jan-May 2011	Special Topics: Philanthropy and Society	Undergraduate
Aug-Dec 2010	Comparative Politics and Government	Undergraduate
Jan-May 2010	Comparative Politics and Government	Undergraduate

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE

Peer Reviewer

- Disabilities (ISSN 2673-7272), 2021, 2023

- Societies (ISSN: 2075-4698), member of the Reviewer Board, 2020
- Journal of Interpersonal Violence (ISSN: 0886-2605), 2015-2016, 2018-2020
- Sustainability (ISSN: 2071-1050), 2020
- Religions (ISSN: 2077-1444), 2020
- Laws (ISSN: 2075-471X), 2016-2019
- Social Sciences (ISSN: 2076-0760), 2019
- Challenges (ISSN: 2078-1547), 2019
- The International Journal of Civic, Political, and Community Studies (eISSN: 2327-2155), 2014
- Societies Without Borders (ISSN:1872-1915), 2013

Professional Affiliations

- Brazilian Paralympic Academy, 2016-present
- International Society for Third-Sector Research, 2015-present
- Latin American Studies Association, 2016-2022
- Society for Disability Studies, 2012-2022
- Midwest Political Science Association, 2018-2022
- Communication & Media Studies Research Network, 2019-2021

Volunteering and Community engagement

- National School Paralympics, São Paulo, 2017
- Rio 2016 Paralympic Games, Language Services, 2016
- International fundraising, Mais Diferenças (local disability rights NGO) - São Paulo, 2015-2016
- Member and Contributor, Community Voices initiative, Virginia Tech Institute for Policy and Governance, 2010-2014

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Virginia Tech Office of International Research, Education and Development, Blacksburg, USA

Project Consultant, 2017-2018

- Conducted desk research on the South Caucasus Development Strategy, with a particular focus on the current and future trends in the agricultural labor market, to help determine the demand for the graduates of the Master in Agribusiness program.

Project Consultant, 2015

- Conducted desk research on Armenia's nonprofit legal framework, an overview of the higher education institutions and legislation, and opportunities for international donor support.

Mais Diferenças (disability rights NGO), São Paulo

Consultant in nonprofit management and governance, 2015-2016

- Assessed overall governance effectiveness, legal responsibilities, compliance, risk management, organizational development, and executive compensation;
- Based on the assessment, elaborated an action plan for organizational development.

Abbvie Foundation, Chicago, USA

Outreach Consultant, 2014-2015

- Established a cooperation network of Hepatitis C patient advocacy NGOs in Brazil and assisted with the relationship building;
- Provided support with exploring funding opportunities and grant writing for these NGOs.

Instituto Akatu (sustainability-focused NGO), São Paulo

Administrative and Financial Consultant, 2008

- Structured operational and managerial processes of the organization;

- Conducted internal audit and organized legal and statutory files for 2005-2008.

Instituto Paradigma (disability rights NGO), São Paulo
Strategic Planning and Project Management Advisor, 2007-2008

- Lead the construction, implementation, and monitoring of key management indicators of public and private projects;
- Lead the implementation of Project Management Office for social organization, implementing methodologies of the PMI and Logical Framework (USAID);
- Built institutional data repository to bring together national statistics on disability in Brazil, project information, outcomes and learning.

Administrative and Financial Director, 2004-2007

- Elaborated annual strategic planning of the NGO together with the Board;
- Monitored external yearly audit and supervised the implementation of the recommendations to improve organizational compliance with existing accounting and legal standards;
- Collaborated in the knowledge production and dissemination with the Operational Director.

LANGUAGES

Fluent in English and Portuguese. Native speaker of Russian and Armenian.