

## WORKSHOP

*Eka Avaliani*  
*Zurab Kiknadze*

A series of seminars on *Nationalism in the Ancient World*, organized by Professor Zurab Kiknadze, were held at Ilia State University, Tbilisi on May 6 and 24. The seminars were designed for students and professors to question the assumption that nationalism is a concept unrelated to ancient societies and that nationhood and nationalism began to evolve from the Renaissance onwards. To corroborate this idea, the participants explored the evidence of early forms of nationhood and nationalism in ancient societies. The seminar encouraged a dialogue on national identity in the ancient and modern worlds. The participants explored new approaches and theoretical frameworks to understand the issues of nationalism. According to the “modernist” participants’ opinion in the field of nationalism, the concepts of nationhood and nationalism, being the products of post-antiquity Europe, should be restricted to the modern world (keynote speaker: Butashvili Levan). Other participants argued that nationhood and nationalism can be traced back to ancient societies such as Rome and Carthage, and may indeed be discussed outside the limits of the modern world (keynote speakers: Kiknadze Zurab, Avaliani Eka).

The participants hope that the seminars will contribute to the integration of the “ancient” and “modern” into nationalism studies and promote cooperation in order to expand our understanding of the historical development of “national” collective identity and communal organization.

The scholarly debates are reflected in two articles published in this issue of *Kadmos: Imagined Primordialism* by Professor Zurab Kiknadze and *Primordialist or Ethno-Symbolist’s Perception regarding Carthaginian Statehood* by Dr Eka Avaliani. Kiknadze and Avaliani’s central hypothesis is that various forms of nationalism can be traced throughout the history of various literate civilizations such as Jewish, Sumerian, and Carthaginian, and that pre-modern versions of nationalism considerably informed their modern equivalents, as Ancient articulations of nationalism provide the fount and blueprint for the idea’s modern manifestations.