

Dr Rustam Shukurov awarded the academic degrees of Dr., Dr. habil. in Medieval History, and Professor from Moscow State University (Russia). He served in Moscow State University in the capacities of researcher and teacher in Byzantine studies from 1990 to 2023. Currently, he holds the position of Visiting Scholar at the School of History, St. Andrews University (UK). He has published several monographs, translations and articles on Byzantium, Iranian and Turkic History, including *The Grand Komnenoi and the Orient, 1204–1461* (Moscow, 2001) and *The Byzantine Turks, 1204–1461* (Leiden; Boston, 2016). Over the past thirty years as a researcher, he has been engaged in numerous major projects. His research interests span the history and culture of Byzantium, Christian-Muslim relations, the history of Muslim Anatolia, Iran, Central Asia, and the history of the Black Sea region from the twelfth to the fifteenth centuries. In particular, in his monographs, he has compiled the most comprehensive history to date of the interrelations between the Empire of Trebizond and the Muslim Orient; he has introduced and delved into the socio-cultural concept of “Byzantine Turks” in the late Byzantine world; and for the first time in scholarship, he has problematized and expounded the topic of Persian presence in middle and late Byzantine religiosity, culture, and society, positioning it as part of Byzantine cultural memory.