Dear Colleagues,

This past year was an especially full one for ARISC, one we are proud to share news of. After many years of effort – foremost on the part of Karen Rubinson, our founder and past president, and Talin Lindsay, our tireless Executive Director – we opened an office in Yerevan, the first of three intended for each of the South Caucasus capitals. We are very grateful to CAORC, the Council of American Overseas Research Centers, the U.S. Department of Education, and our local partner, the American University in Armenia, for helping to launch this first effort.

Work to open our doors in Tbilisi is underway, and there is much hope that Baku will soon follow. Our eventual goal is to provide research support for American and other international scholars who are undertaking new work in this important world region – from the modest aim of outfitting all new colleagues with the most up-to-date information on research permissions, archival access, and potential partners, to a more ambitious aim of building a local library and guest house to make in-country research as inviting as we can. It is our firm belief that the Caucasus – one of the world’s most ancient civilizational zones – has long deserved greater attention on the world stage. Its policy relevance has become more and more clear in recent years, but scholars themselves have not always found the necessary institutional support to make the best research possible.

Alongside our work to build a presence in the Caucasus region itself, we have been advancing efforts to build a community of Caucasus scholars from across the humanities and social sciences. This past spring we launched our first conference, “Caucasus Connections,” together with the generous cooperation of Indiana University’s Sinor Research Institute for Inner Asian Studies. The event attracted a wide range of junior and senior researchers, as well as new colleagues looking to move from adjacent regions into this world area. We are in the process of developing curricular materials to share with members of the broader public – a key foundation of ARISC’s mission. In the meantime, video streams of each presentation can be found online at: arisc.org.

While established scholars often need support to build new projects, we are especially concerned to see graduate students and recent PhD holders have the resources they need to thrive in Caucasus Studies. To this end, our Graduate Student and Junior Research Fellowship programs extends a handful of awards each year toward summer research. As the following pages of this newsletter demonstrate, this year’s quality, quantity, and range of applications was both gratifying and heartening.

As we see this new work moving ahead, we are reminded of the urgency of ARISC’s fundamental mission, which is to foster rigorous scientific work across all territories of the South Caucasus. While this region is perhaps best known for its long history, with its rich archaeological profile and remarkable social pluralisms, we have also likely never before encountered so many borders, barriers, and impediments to research that transcends the immediate stories of individual nation-states. While we are proud to see all research celebrated, we very much see the need to ensure that science is able to move ahead as free of political constraint as one can hope for.

(continued on page 14)
Susan Marukhyan

I am happy to have joined ARISC in January 2014, first as a representative and further as the ARISC Armenia Resident Director. This is a very new field for me, where I have the pleasure to meet many interesting professionals and scientists both from abroad and within Armenia.

The proliferation of contacts and exchanges of ideas are very important in our lives. I believe ARISC would provide a great opportunity to foreign and local scientists to realize interesting joint research projects and create dynamic knowledge and experience exchange to build on the future scientific trends.

Susan Marukhyan is a public relations and public education specialist based in Yerevan, Armenia. She graduated from Yerevan State Language University after V. Brusov in 1994. Later she studied in the Department of International Relations and European Studies at the Central European University (1996-1997). Since 1994 she has worked for different foreign and international organizations in the spheres of management and administration, public and media relations, and communication, research, translation, and publishing.

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Leyla Rustamli

I have worked for ARISC since its very inception in Azerbaijan and it has always been a great pleasure. My position in ARISC gives me personal responsibility and provides me with an opportunity to improve my administrative skills.

The most fascinating aspect of the position for me is the chance to get to know many scholars from various corners of the US, each representing a completely different yet common American identity. I have gotten to know the US scholars with Iranian, Pakistani, Jewish, and Norwegian roots among others, and all are quintessentially American.

Leyla Rustamli received a BA in Intl Relations and Intl Law from University of Languages and MA in Middle East countries from Baku State University. In 2008-09 she studied at Rothberg Intl School of Hebrew University of Jerusalem (Israel). She is an expected PhD in Intl Relations at Philosophy, Sociology and Law Inst of Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences. Leyla has been teaching various courses on foreign policies of Middle East countries, international security problems and peace and conflict studies at Azerbaijan University of Languages for 5 years.

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Diana Lezhava

Working for ARISC gives me a chance to get to know interesting people, listen to their presentations and research findings, be regularly and actively involved in academic life, and be in the center of ongoing scientific activities.

But what is most important is that working for ARISC helps me to be in touch with people from neighboring countries.

Despite being a small region, we in fact lack communication between the three countries for many reasons, especially in the academic field. There are only a very small number of, if any, joint projects, conferences, workshops, and other academic activities.

What ARISC does is that it creates a platform and a space for communication between the three South Caucasian countries. I do believe that it is good opportunity for me, and for all of us to fill this gap.

Diana Lezhava holds a BA degree in Humanities (English Language and Literature) from Ivan Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, and a MA in International Affairs from the Georgian Institute of Public Affairs. Her research interests comprise: higher education, civic education, post-soviet transformations.

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Azeri intellectual history often starts with the turn-of-the-century Jadids (modernists) and ignores preceding intellectual traditions that led up to this movement. As a result, European and Russian influence becomes emphasized while the much longer history of cultural exchange and connectivity with the Persian Empire is ignored. This research project explores various aspects of Persian-Azeri cultural intersections and exchanges in 19th Century Azerbaijan. In particular it seeks to contextualize the work of turn-of-the-century Azeri Jadids by considering the earlier work of mid-nineteenth century intellectuals, many of whom wrote in both Azeri and Persian. This research will investigate which aspects of Persian culture were embraced and which were rejected over the course of the nineteenth century, tracing the evolution of cultural and intellectual values in Azerbaijan.

My research in summer 2013 was fairly straightforward archival work. I conducted research in the Azerbaijan State Archive of Art and Literature, the Akhundov National Library, the Azerbaijan State Museum of Musical Culture, and the Uzeyir Hajibeyov House Museum. I went to these collections with both specific documents in mind and for exploratory purposes, as it was impossible to know what exactly they contained before arriving.

Within the first week of my research it became clear to me that almost all documents from the 19th century that would pertain to my research are housed in the Institute of Manuscripts. Unfortunately the Institute of Manuscripts had just chemically treated their documents for preservation and sealed their archives until September. As a result my research this summer focused almost solely on the turn-of-the-century Jadidist aspect of my project. The most substantive conclusions of my project

Funding for the Graduate Student, Postdoctoral, and Junior Faculty Research Fellowships is made possible by a grant from the US Department of Education.
surrounded the documents on the literary and enlightenment societies and music assemblies that were founded in Azerbaijan at the turn of the century. These societies were founded with the express purpose of increasing literacy and supporting and promoting art and literature among the Muslim population of Azerbaijan. In their founding charters and other publications, these societies discussed the history of the region, including its Persian legacy, and the challenges facing “Muslims” (the term “Azeri” was rarely used at this time) in terms of progress and enlightenment. These societies published many of the plays, essays, and operas of Azeri Jadids, and financially supported the drama and music companies that performed these works. It has become clear to me that these societies were at the very heart of intellectual and cultural production at the turn-of-the-century, and the articles and dissertation work that will come as a result of this research will reflect this conclusion.

While working in the Akhundov National Library I repeatedly encountered translations of Persian and European literature, and original Azeri literature that was published by the Orucov Brothers. I learned that the Orucov Brothers, founded by three Azeri brothers, was a for-profit publishing company that published indiscriminately, which explained why they published both revolutionary material and pro-Russian material. Interestingly to my particular project were the many publications of works translated from Persian. I had not before considered the intersection of culture and economics when considering Iranian-Azeri cultural ties during this period (it is an obvious consideration for scholars working on the oil industry, but less so in terms of literary production), and intend to explore this aspect further.

Throughout my research I came across prices for music and theater performances, pamphlets, and membership in enlightenment societies. Contextualizing these prices is difficult, however, since no economic history on Azerbaijan exists. What do these prices indicate about the accessibility of the cultural production of the early 20th century? Were literary works and theater performances widely accessible or did these prices limit them to the upper classes?

My research assistant was Sarkhan Huseynov, an MA student at the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy. Through our work together I believe the goal of fostering long-term tie between academic communities between the US and the South Caucasus was met. Sarkhan is a political scientist interested in the development of Azerbaijani nationalism, and had recently had a paper proposal on this subject accepted to a conference in Russia when he started working with me. As a historian, I have always been of the opinion that the best political science is that which is firmly grounded in historical context. Much of the work Sarkhan did for me was looking through the preexisting Azerbaijani and Russian literature on the topics I was researching, and he repeatedly expressed the sentiment that this research would benefit his own work in the future. We continue to be in contact and, when I return to Azerbaijan in a year’s time from the start of this project, I will likely resume a working relationship.

ARISC affiliation was very helpful, particularly in helping me advertise for and hire a research assistant and providing information on housing. Kelsey Rice is a graduate student in the Department of History at the University of Pennsylvania. Ms. Rice’s most recent interests include the topics of jadidism and the Persian impact on Azerbaijani intellectual history.

POET NIZAMI’S MAUSOLEUM
GANJA, AZERBAIJAN

Nizami was a twelfth century poet who wrote almost exclusively in Persian yet spent his entire life in Ganja and is claimed as a national poet of Azerbaijan.

Photo courtesy of Kelsey Rice
Emily Hammer  
“Mapping Urbanism in the South Caucasus: the Naxçıvan Archaeological Project”

In the Late Bronze Age (LBA 1500–1150 BC) and Iron Age (IA 1150 BC–300 AD), stone fortresses dotted hilltops and rock outcrops in the highlands of eastern Turkey, northwestern Iran, and the south Caucasus (modern Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia). Fortresses are frequently the most highly visible ruins of any ancient period in this region and have been interpreted as evidence for the emergence of the region’s first territorial polities with complex bureaucracies. Large populations living in the agricultural plains below fortresses would have been needed to provide the labor necessary to construct and maintain them. However, almost all archaeological work in the region has focused on excavation of elite and administrative areas within the fortresses themselves. Little is known about the domestic settlements that must have been associated with these fortresses or the settlements’ inhabitants.

Who were the people that lived in the shadows of fortresses? In particular, were they sedentary agriculturalists or were they seasonally mobile pastoralists? What was the political relationship between these people and elites residing within the fortress walls? These are the questions that drive my current research in Naxçıvan.

As a first step towards answering these questions, my 2012 fieldwork (partially funded by an ARISC Graduate Fellowship) identified a settlement complex associated with two different fortresses on the Şərur Plain. This settlement complex includes a ca. 490ha stone-walled enclosure that surrounded an IA fortress (Oğlanqala), a second fortress with Middle Bronze Age (MBA) and IA pottery (Qızqala I), a settlement area between the two fortresses with MBA and IA pottery, and the adjacent river and highlands. In preparation for future seasons of excavation, fieldwork in 2013 (partially funded by the ARISC Postdoctoral and Junior faculty Fellowship) aimed to investigate the spatial extent, chronology, and development of the Oğlanqala-Qızqala settlement complex.

The team focused on three elements of the archaeological landscape around Oğlanqala and Qızqala: long stone walls in the steppe, lower towns and domestic spaces, and kurgan burials. Survey and test excavations documented techniques used in the construction of the surrounding wall, clarified chronological-spatial patterns within the settlement complex, and mapped the distribution of burials in the area to the northwest of the settlement complex. A ceramic specialist, Dr. Hilary Gopnik, analyzed pottery collected in both 2012 and 2013. Samples for radiocarbon dating were collected from test excavations and exposed stratigraphic sections. The results of these analyses will be available in a few months, and the preliminary chronological designations in this report have been made on the basis of ceramics and masonry style.

**Long Stone (Enclosure) Wall**

Our 2012 fieldwork mapped three wall segments in the steppe surrounding Qızqala I and Oğlanqala (collective preserved length of ca. 1750m). The alignment of these wall segments and their shared masonry style suggest that these features were part of a fortification line, or perhaps an enclosure wall. On the basis of ceramic scatter, the wall segments’ position, and stylistic criteria, I argued that the long wall was an enclosure wall surrounding the IA settlement between Oğlanqala and Qızqala I as well as the fortresses themselves.

These functional and chronological hypotheses have been strengthened by new discoveries in 2013. The position of two new wall segments and a linear anomaly in 1960s satellite imagery significantly strengthens the argument that the long wall was not merely a fortification line—that the segments preserved in the steppe originally extended into the agricultural plain in order to surround a settlement and both fortresses. Survey at the western edge of the hypothesized enclosure in the agricultural fields between Oğlanqala and Qızqala I revealed an extension of one of the wall segments mapped last year and an additional potential wall segment at the northwest corner of Oğlanqala. Future excavation and geophysical survey will be necessary to prove that these new segments were part of the same feature. The width (ca. 2m) and construction style (two faces of large stone blocks with a rubble interior) of the two new segments resembles that of the previously mapped wall segments. On the opposite (east) side of the hypothesized enclosure, satellite imagery from the 1960s shows a clear linear anomaly, the northern end of which is associated with a wall segment at the upland edges of the plain. Survey of the areas surrounding the southern end of the anomaly, which extends through modern agricultural fields, did not reveal any clear surface features. It is possible that the wall’s foundation has been removed by decades of farming. This area will also be investigated by future geophysical surveys.

This year we also expanded our understanding of the wall’s function and construction by excavating 9 ca. 2X1 m soundings along the preserved wall segments’ inner faces. None of the soundings yielded pottery associated with the wall’s foundation, but one sounding provided charcoal for radiocarbon dating the wall’s construction. While the wall segments showed a degree of variation, all were broadly similar in that they consisted of mortar-less construction using two faces of roughly shaped stone blocks 0.5-1.5m in diameter surrounding a rubble core of smaller stones < 25cm in diameter. Foundation techniques adapted to the local topography. The wall is preserved between one and five courses (ca. 1.5m high) and is continuously being destroyed by local villagers, who have excavated the large facing stones for use in modern construction.

The enclosure wall may have served primarily to delineate and control space or to contain animals, as the wall’s scale is not consistent with a defensive function. With a foundation only 1.5-2m wide throughout the preserved segments, the wall could not have stood very high or have been extremely effective against attack.

An Iron Age date for the surrounding wall is suggested by parallels with other
walls at Qızqala 1 and the location of ceramic scatter. Other large stone walls visible in the exposed stratigraphic sections of the settlement below Qızqala 1 also were founded on massive gravel layers and were associated with IA pottery. Further, the surrounding wall neatly bounds the distribution of IA pottery in ceramic scatters, while MBA and Medieval ceramic scatter is present both within and beyond the area enclosed by the wall.

Lower Town and Domestic Spaces

In 2012, a lower town area was identified between Oğlanqala and Qızqala 1. Ceramic scatters documented along the banks of a large irrigation canal south of Qızqala 1 (750m northeast of the base of Oğlanqala) show that there was an extensive ancient settlement in an area that has been destroyed by modern activity. A trench dug for the construction of the canal and an adjacent area terraced for a dirt road show archaeological stratigraphy, including large stone wall foundations, smaller mudbrick walls, ceramic ovens, and multiple living floors. Ceramics dating to the MBA, IA, and the Medieval Period were eroding out of the canal profile. Survey in the nearby, uncultivated edges of the valley also yielded dense scatters of ceramics of the same periods.

To further investigate the chronology and characteristics of the lower town settlement, the field team documented major archaeological features exposed in the canal and bulldozer cuts. Our mapping and test trench demonstrated that the size’s stratigraphy is considerably deeper and stretches back further in time than we previously estimated. A small sounding excavated at the base of the deepest canal cut yielded ceramics dating to the Early Bronze Age (EBA) as well as a single Chalcolithic sherd. The deepest sections of the canal and bulldozer cuts showed at least 11m of continuous archaeological stratigraphy, and before modern destruction in this area the depth of the exposed stratigraphy could have been as much as 15m. These are minimal estimates, as the cultural deposits continued below the base of the canal and bulldozer cuts.

Massive stone walls are exposed in the canal cut, founded on top of a gravel layer that is visible continuously through the canal profile. Below this rubble layer were other mudbrick and stone features frequently associated with ashy layers. We await radiocarbon dating of some of these features. However, on the basis of ceramics eroding out of the cuts, it seems likely that the large walls are IA in date and later in date and that the ashy features below the rubble layer are MBA in date.

To investigate the size and chronological-spatial patterns within other portions of settlement, the field team documented additional pottery scatters in modern agricultural fields between Oğlanqala and Qızqala 1 and collectively assessed the field scatters mapped in both 2012 and 2013. On the basis of the distribution of ceramics in the canal/bulldozer cuts and the fields, we estimate that the area of MBA settlement could have been 13.6ha or more and that the area of IA settlement could have been around 80ha.

One of the newly documented fields, which had recently been excavated and re-filled in order to lay an irrigation drainage pipe, yielded an important assemblage of MBA and Early Iron Age (EIA) pottery. The EIA pottery very closely parallels the assemblage excavated by Lauren Ristvet and Hilary Gopnik in 2011 from a nearby kurgan. To date, the kurgan and field scatter assemblages together represent the most extensive collection of EIA pottery in the vicinity of Oğlanqala and Qızqala 1. The presence of MBA pottery suggests that the MBA settlement may have extended to this area and could be far larger than the 13.6ha estimate.

Kurgan Burials

In 2012, a handful of kurgan burials were identified on ridges at the edges of the agricultural plain, both within and outside of the Oğlanqala-Qızqala enclosure wall. In 2013, the field team systematically surveyed the area outside of the plain to the west of Qızqala 1/north of Oğlanqala in order to map the full distribution of kurgans. North-south oriented ridges separated by deeply incised wadis characterize this area. The majority of kurgans were found on the

The core of Dr. Hammer’s field team standing atop a stone wall that surrounds the fortresses of Oğlanqala and Qızqala 1, in Şərur Rayon, Naxçıvan.

Photo by Lauren Ristvet
crests of ridges, forming linear patterns. At a distance of ca. 1 km west of the Qızqala I citadel, the density of kurgans abruptly declined.

Kurgans identified were either flat or slightly moulded (typically less than 0.5m high; an exceptional example is ca. 2m high). The majority of kurgans appeared from the surface to be simple stone and earthen mounds of 1-7.5m in diameter. A particularly interesting cluster of kurgans 870m northwest of the Qızqala I citadel had several larger kurgans (9-11m diameter). These larger kurgans appeared to have other stone structures attached to them, which might be subsidiary cromlech burials such as those known from MBA and LBA cemeteries at Plovdağ near Ordubad.

The highest concentrations of kurgans were located further away from the plain’s edge, although this could be a preservation issue. A few kurgans close to the plain had been disturbed and/or completely dug out. The chronology of these burials so far is unknown, although similar burials dating to the MBA, LBA, and IA are known in Naxçıvan. Where the kurgans had been disturbed, MBA pottery was found.

**Discussion**

The data we have gathered on the distribution of graves, settlement, and walls surrounding Öğlanqala and Qızqala I brings us to a number of interpretations and conclusions about the importance of this area for the history of the South Caucasus. The first important conclusion concerns the substantial size of the settlements and features. The ca. 490ha Öğlanqala-Qızqala I settlement complex is thus far unparalleled in the region in the size of the enclosed area. The minimal size of MBA (13.6ha) and IA (80ha) towns equals the largest known settlements in the South Caucasus of both of these periods. The size of the MBA occupation is particularly important because few large MBA settlements are known in the South Caucasus. Many of the large settlements known are in Naxçivan—including Kültəpə I, Kültəpə II, Saxtaxtı, Şortapə—and we can now add Qızqala I to this list.

Although we have very little information right now about the size and nature of earlier settlement near Qızqala I, the discovery of Chalcolithic and EBA pottery in the canal cut is significant, as it shows that people chose to live in the same area over a long period of time, creating a mound of settlement. Such mounds are rare in Naxçivan. The reason people chose to live in this area for a long period of time is very clear: the geography put them in an excellent situation for controlling traffic through the Arpa River Gorge. This traffic would have included both trade and seasonal transhumance.

The results of our 2012 and 2013 field seasons show the importance of survey archaeology for finding the location of settlements in the shadows of fortresses as well as for investigating the size, formation, and organization of such settlements.

**Future Research**

The research conducted both last summer and this summer will form the basis of a 3-4 year research program. The two major goals of future work will be to 1) better understand the appearance of politically complex, urban societies in the Southern Caucasus in the Bronze and Iron Ages, and 2) to investigate the relationship between elites living in fortresses and the communities living in their shadows. The fieldwork in 2013 raised a number of more specific subsidiary questions for future evaluation, including: What was the function of the Öğlanqala-Qızqala I surrounding wall? Is this enclosure wall related in terms of chronology and function to similar long walls discovered in Armenia? Who lived in the settlement between Öğlanqala and Qızqala I in various periods, and who was buried in the kurgans? The data collected in 2012 and 2013 have already provided some important conclusions as well as the material necessary to both write preliminary articles and frame longer-term grant applications.

**Mentorship**

Since its inception, the Naxçıvan Archaeological Project has benefitted intellectually and logistically from close collaborative relationships with local professionals from the Azerbaijani National Academy of Sciences and students from local universities. Archaeologists in Azerbaijan have rarely employed several of the landscape archaeology techniques that our team employed, and a major goal of the fieldwork was to train our Azerbaijani collaborator, Dr. Vəli Baxşalıyev, and our local research assistant, Nilüfer Ağşeyeva, in the use of a total station, handheld GPS receivers, and Geographical Information Systems software. This training was enthusiastically received, and will be built upon in future years, as the same individuals will continue to be involved in the project. I believe exposure to these techniques and skills will contribute different methodological and theoretical perspectives to ongoing archaeological work in Azerbaijan.

I thank ARISC for its generous financial support as well as for advertising the lecture on my field research in Naxçivan City and helping to publicize my research program by posting photos on the ARISC Facebook page. The in-country lectures (and the great job that ARISC does advertising these for fellowship recipients) are definitely one of the best aspects of ARISC’s fellowships.”

— Emily Hammer

"The in-country lectures (and the great job that ARISC does advertising these for fellowship recipients) are definitely one of the best aspects of ARISC’s fellowships.”

— Emily Hammer

Emily Hammer is a Visiting Assistant Professor at New York University's Institute for the Study of the Ancient World. Her research interests include the development of complex societies in the ancient Near East and the impacts these societies had on their environments.
Diana Ter-Ghazaryan

“Spaces of Diaspora Investment: Urban Transformations and Transnational Linkages in the Landscape of Yerevan”

In the years since the collapse of the Soviet Union and the declaration of Armenia’s independence the landscape of Yerevan has changed tremendously. One of the most significant streams of funding for this reorganization has come from the Armenian diaspora.

During this research I examined two cultural landmarks that have been drastically transformed by philanthropic donations from the Armenian diaspora—the Cafesjian Center for the Arts (CCA) and the Yerevan Park of Lovers (YPL).

Using ethnographic research methods, I investigated how these urban spaces, which have been revitalized with the help of diaspora investment, construct new material and symbolic spaces within the contemporary landscape of Yerevan, and how they fit into the collective imagination of Yerevan’s residents. By taking a closer look at these spaces this research explored how notions of diasporic longing, belonging and homeland translate into material constructions in Yerevan’s landscape.

For this research I utilized ethnographic and qualitative methods, including semi-structured interviews with key informants, participant observation, and discursive analysis of print media.

Before leaving for the main research visit in July-August of 2013, I reviewed the general literature on diaspora investment, gathered data on Armenian diasporic investment in Yerevan, and made arrangements for the ethnographic portion, including establishing contacts for interviews and planning participant observation opportunities.

During the main research visit I interviewed key informants (10 persons), gathered print media on the two spaces and on diaspora investment in general (30 print media articles), and conducted several sessions of participant observation, during which short questions were asked of people spending time in the two spaces under consideration (more than 80 persons). To supplement the qualitative portion of this research I collected geospatial data, with which I will visualize diaspora investment in the landscape of Yerevan, using geographic information systems (GIS) software.

While the data gathered during my research are still being analyzed, in general, Yerevan’s residents view the two spaces favorably, especially in light of the fact that both CCA and YPL continue to maintain free and open access for the public (with the exception of a portion of CCA’s galleries).

This is in sharp contrast to many other urban parks and public spaces in the center of Yerevan, which are being overtaken by cafes and entertainment complexes, restricting the use of those spaces to paying customers only. However, several interviewees expressed the opinion that CCA and YPL are fundamentally different from “true” public spaces, and that they are more akin to public-private partnerships, in which the private investors make the rules of conduct, which are often quite restrictive (e.g., the YPL is gated, and both CCA and YPL are closely monitored by security guards).

I look forward to further analysis of collected data, which will help me get at the underlying narrative of Yerevan’s residents’ opinions about these spaces.

As a result of my ARISC fellowship, I made many new professional contacts with Armenian scholars and professionals, as well as with US-based Armenian studies scholars. I look forward to developing working partnerships with several of them in the years to come.

My interest in the role of historic preservation in processes of urban in Yerevan has been invigorated as a result of this project. Some general research questions for future exploration are:

a. What are the connections of the post-Soviet Armenian diaspora to the Armenian homeland, and what role do these connections play in the urban development of Yerevan? Does the post-Soviet diaspora have a fundamentally different vision for the landscape of Yerevan as Armenia’s capital? If so, how does this vision differ?

b. What are the characteristics of the Armenian diaspora community in the Los Angeles area, and what relationships have formed among the various Armenian communities?

c. What role does historic preservation of architectural monuments play in the urban development of Yerevan? How do notions of historical belonging play into the urban planning of Yerevan’s space, if at all? How is the historical narrative used, and perhaps at times abused, by the powers that be?

During the research process I worked with 3 research assistants, who are undergraduate and graduate students at various stages in their academic career. They were extremely excited to be involved in the archival and ethnographic portions of the research, as well as in the collection of geospatial data. Hence this project was in line with ARISC’s goal of fostering long-term ties between academic communities in the US and the South Caucasus.

Dr. Diana Ter-Ghazaryan is a Lecturer at the University of Miami’s Department of Geography. She is a human geographer with research interests in the Former Soviet Union, urban geography, and qualitative and critical applications of geospatial technology and GIS.
Collaborative Heritage Management Grant

Miriam Belmaker and Ruzan Mkrtchyan

“Storage and Preservation of the Bioarchaeological Collections at Yerevan State University”

Human remains are extremely sensitive to post excavation decay. Not only are they extremely fragile, but also susceptible to fluctuations in humidity, temperature and light, effecting the preservation of biomolecules such as proteins and DNA, which allow us to derive valuable information about paleodemography, migration, ethnicity, paleopathology, and paleoecology.

Even if human remains were poorly stored in the past, any steps taken to halt the current deterioration and degradation of the bones, preserve what has not decayed and prevent further damage from occurring.

The importance of the Human Remains Lab at Yerevan State University cannot be underestimated: human skeletal remains unearthed in Armenia are analyzed and stored here, and it also functions as a teaching lab for graduates in archaeology and paleoanthropology.

Nevertheless, several recently excavated collections of skeletal remains had been set aside with little attempt to curate. Without immediate action, these bones will disintegrate, break and lose their provenience data and thus become useless for future analysis.

These unique human skeletal collections provide the basis for bioarchaeological research on Armenian prehistoric heritage, demography, paleopathology, and paleoecology.

However, due to less than optimal curation, they are currently not accessible to the wide range of researchers that may be interested in utilizing the collection and contributing to research in Armenian heritage.

The focus of this project was aimed at teaching graduates and undergraduates the international standards of curation and preservation. Archaeological conservation standards state the need to minimize post excavation decay, decomposition and deterioration once the material is excavated.

Such long-term curation enables future research and is most important to ensure reevaluation of previous studies in light of new interpretation, availability of new methodology and new data. To this end Dr. Belmaker conducted several seminars with graduate students from YSU teaching them how to clean, restore, label, and curate bones.

While change cannot be achieved in one generation, education, such as the seminars conducted through the generous funding of ARISC and hands-on teaching will allow for the next generation of Armenian archaeologists to be more in tune to the need to preserve all human remains, catalogue them and store them for the long term.

Dr. Miriam Belmaker is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Anthropology, University of Tulsa. Dr. Ruzan Mkrtchyan was a Faculty of Archaeology and Ethnography, Yerevan State University. The CHM Grant has been made possible by funding from Project Discovery!
ARISC Graduate Fellowships

Hannah Chazin
“The Politics of Pasture: The Political Economy of Herding in the Late Bronze Age”

In the summer of 2013 I began the excavation of a Late Bronze Age kurgan (burial mound) in the Tsaghkahovit Plain, Armenia, in order to investigate what role animals played in mortuary rituals. This is part of a greater project which explores the relationship between everyday and ritual uses of domesticated animals in order to better understand how animal herding was organized in the Late Bronze Age, and how that is related to the development of new forms of political organization.

Our excavations revealed the inclusion of animals in the burial mound in different ways. In the mound covering the tombs, we found the remains of wild animals (red deer and wild birds). Within the tombs themselves, there were articulated portions of the skeletons of domesticated animals – possibly pieces of carcasses deposited as funeral offerings. These results indicate the importance of animals, in different ways, to mortuary rituals of the Late Bronze Age.

Additionally, the excavations this summer revealed a very interesting pattern of re-use of mortuary monuments over time. We found deposits from different time periods sharing a single burial mound, which suggests the possible maintenance of social memory through burial practices over time. Further work is needed to explore the relationship between the different activities that created these deposits.

The excavation of a Late Bronze Age kurgan (burial mound) was the first stage in a research project that is exploring how pastoralist production was organized in the Late Bronze Age in the South Caucasus. These excavations provided additional faunal data from Late Bronze Age mortuary contexts linked with the fortress of Gegharot, which were previously underrepresented in the faunal data from Late Bronze Age contexts in the Tsaghkahovit Plain.

The second stage of the project will use stable isotope analysis to analyze the circulation of animals and the organization of pastoral production in the Tsaghkahovit Plain, using data from both mortuary and settlement contexts.

Our excavations revealed a very interesting situation. The central chamber of the kurgan appears to have been constructed in the Late Bronze Age, but then later robbed/destroyed and an Early Iron Age burial chamber constructed in the same place.

In contrast, the western chamber of the kurgan was not disturbed and contained materials dating to the Middle to Late Bronze Age transition. This matches another kurgan excavated nearby, where the excavators argued that their inclusion was a result of being curated (that is to say, the chamber was constructed during the Late Bronze Age but then filled with ceramics from an earlier period). In addition, there was an intrusive child’s burial located between the two chambers.

The excavations also revealed a tentative, but intriguing pattern. The remains of wild animals (red deer and a large bird species) were found in the burial mound and the pile of rocks covering the central chamber.

In contrast, the animal remains from inside the tombs were all from domesticated animals. In the western chamber, there were multiple deposits of articulated bones from cattle and caprines. These appear to have been butchery portions (as opposed to whole animals or food waste), possibly deposited in the chambers as funerary offerings.

In the central chamber, there was a large cow skull and the lower legs of a caprine deposited near the main interment. Thus, animals clearly played an important role in mortuary practices. Stable isotope analysis of animal remains from mortuary and settlement contexts will shed further light on the patterns identified by these excavations.

In addition, my future research will address the question of how wild versus domesticated animals are used in mortuary and other forms of ritual in the Late Bronze Age.

These results suggest a greater Late Iron Age presence in the Tsaghkahovit Plain than previously thought. Excavations at a number of fortresses have failed to discover any Early Iron Age occupation layers. However, previous excavations of other kurgans disturbed by construction in the village of Gegharot in the 1960s also turned up Early Iron Age burials. This raises the question of why there are Early Iron Age graves but not settlements in the Tsaghkahovit Plain.

One possible explanation is that there was a transition back to pastoralist nomadism in the Early Iron Age. More excavation and further analysis of excavated materials is required to better answer these questions and understand the Early Iron Age presence in the Tsaghkahovit Plain.

Hannah Chazin is a graduate student at the University of Chicago, an ARISC Fellow, and a member of Project ArAGATS – a joint Armenian-American archaeological expedition. Her technical specialization is the study of animal bones and her research focuses on the role of animals in social life.

“The seminar I gave at ARISC’s behest was an excellent networking opportunity, and I was able to make important connections with Armenian researchers that I might not have made otherwise. This experience has convinced me that when I return to Armenia for research, affiliation with ARISC will be able to provide me with very useful resources and assistance.” — Hannah Chazin
Hannah Lau
“Feasting and Emergent Political Complexity in the Late Neolithic Ancient Near East: Evidence from Kamiltepe”

The processes that contribute to the creation and maintenance of community identity and social integration or stratification are key to understanding how social structures change and/or are maintained. Archaeological data from communal events — cultic rituals, administrative practices, community feasts — offer an opportunity to consider these mechanisms. Such studies are especially insightful when it is possible to compare and contrast these episodic events against the background signature of daily domestic life.

Feasting has been a recurrent topic of interest in anthropological literature, and in recent years scholars have increasingly focused attention on the role feasting plays in group politics, ethnographically, historically and archaeologically.

Feasts provide a locus for dynamic sociopolitical interaction to occur, at once promoting social cohesion among participants and allowing ambitious actors to alter existing social relations by offering an opportunity to create and consolidate power among organizers.

My project seeks to reconstruct some of these processes during the Late Neolithic in Azerbaijan. I am specifically focusing on zooarchaeological data derived from communal events 6th millennium site of Kamiltepe, located in the Mil Plain in Southern Azerbaijan. The site is excavated as part of the Mil Plain Project run by Dr. Barbara Helwing (Deutsches Archäologisches Institut) in cooperation with Dr. Tevekkül Aliyev (National Academy of Sciences Azerbaijan).

This project, which studies early sedentism in the Mil Plain in Southern Azerbaijan, is one of three international projects that form the Ancient Kura Project/Kura in Motion.

Kamiltepe is a unique site in the region, which is characterized during this period by smaller, more ephemeral occupations. The neolithic inhabitants built a massive mudbrick platform at the site, elevating it above the surrounding landscape and, perhaps offering a landmark for the populations, both more settled and more mobile, where rituals, including feasting, may have occurred.

Zooarchaeological data derived from communal events at the site, when compared and contrasted with general subsistence strategies employed in the Mil Plain during this time, offer a means of exploring community labor and resource organization and thus political complexity.

My research project is designed as an inter- and intrasite comparison of faunal assemblages from general domestic consumption deposits and a number of special deposits that present evidence suggest may be the result of large-scale consumptive activities, specifically feasts.

To this end I participated in two different parts of the research activities associated with the site of Kamiltepe and the other sites excavated as part of the Mil Plain Project: I assisted Dr. Norbert Benecke and Mr. Michael Hochmuth, the project zooarchaeologists from the Deutsches Archäologisches Institut, with the primary data acquisition part of the analysis of the faunal assemblages and I supervised the excavation of a trench at the site of Kamiltepe.

Dr. Benecke and Mr. Hochmuth spent several weeks on site analyzing fauna recovered from both Kamiltepe and other nearby late Neolithic sites excavated as part of the Mil Plain Project’s 2011, 2012 and part of the 2013 seasons. Their study follows the rigorous methodology considered best practice within the discipline of zooarchaeology.

All faunal specimens recovered from excavated contexts that can be identified to taxon and element are recorded, as is metrical data where possible. I assisted Dr. Benecke and Mr. Hochmuth in sorting and making preliminary identifications of...
This differs from how I approached this project initially, which was to essentially be a mirror of my research strategy at the site of Domuztepe in Turkey, my dissertation focus. One of the many benefits to the way this project is organized is that the Mil Plain Project has excavated a number of small Late Neolithic sites in the area, so behavior that may be exceptional or related to particular activities unique to Kamiltepe proper will perhaps be most profitably evaluated against the more “normal” picture produced by the other sites.

In addition to expanding my thoughts regarding my particular research project and research design, this period of fieldwork has inspired me to consider several broader, related issues. I have become increasingly interested in how we evaluate “special” behaviors when we are working with archaeological data from an area and period that is historically so under-researched and thus our sense of what “normal” daily behavior looks like is imperfect.

I have also become more interested in how to structure research questions when one deals with a landscape that is characterized by a likely highly mobile population and where the occupations may have been so ephemeral. These interests will impact how I design research projects in the future.

An unexpected research interest that has come out of participating in the excavations at Kamiltepe is a question related to Neolithic subsistence strategies, specifically hunting. Excavations over the last five years, and especially this season, have recovered an abundant amount of sling pellets and sling stones, both from Kamiltepe and from the other Mil Plain sites. These finds, and the large avifauna assemblage raise a number of questions regarding the function of sites in the area, resource acquisition strategies, the seasonality of occupations, and what the implications may be for the lifeways of the Neolithic inhabitants, both more sedentary and more mobile. I hope to pursue some of these questions in future seasons.

Hannah Lau is a PhD student at University of California, Los Angeles. She has obtained her MA from UCLA’s Interdepartmental Program of Archaeology and her BA from University of Pennsylvania, Department of Anthropology.

Jesse Quinn
“Forests, State, and Territory in the Republic of Georgia”

The last several decades have seen drastic shifts toward decentralization in systems of managing forested areas around the planet.

Such patterns have transferred control of significant areas of land from the hands of states to those of the private sector. This global forest tenure transition has involved nearly every continent on the planet, and has only hastened since the fall of many socialist governments across Eurasia.

However, as resource governance systems emerge as part of broader political-economic shifts, they shape new relationships among state, society, and relevant stakeholders, as well as with the natural resources themselves.

Within this pattern of transition the Republic of Georgia has some of the most bio-diverse and important forested areas on the planet, a rural population that relies on these forests for fuel and other resources, and a set of forest governance structures that are currently in development.

This ongoing research project draws from 38 interviews completed in the summers of 2012 and 2013 with the assistance of an ARISC research grant.

The results of this research support the idea that the shifting politics of Georgian forest governance result in new state formations with impacts not limited only to the natural resource sector.

This case of governance through decentralization demonstrates how democratic institutions may be shaped...
through state practices, yet complicated by socio-cultural and political histories.

Exploring the political, economic and social connections within this process strengthens our understanding of how neoliberal ideologies, state, society, and environmental resources intersect in this post-soviet democratic territory.

During the summer of 2013 I continued by previous Master’s research investigating contemporary forest governance structures in Georgia as perceived by central and international players in the Georgian forestry sector through semi-structured interviews and established the groundwork for my PhD research on this same topic.

I drew from my past research experience to move beyond the realm of legislation and investigate more of the lived experience to move beyond the realm of web-based, qualitative research program explanatory components within the free, for relevant themes, overarching topics, and used in Georgian forests and their impacts.

Over the course of three weeks I completed 12 semi-structured interviews with national park managers, foresters, policy makers, and community members that live near parks and timber concessions. As a result, the total number of respondents involved in this study between the summers of 2012 and 2013 is 38.

These respondents were drawn from social connections and data gained during previous research, and from following development in the Georgian forestry sector regarding key players. Interviews were done in person and in English, using the help of a translator when necessary. I documented these conversations with a digital audio recorder when approval of individual interviewees was acquired.

Drawing from the governance framework of this project, discourse analysis was used to find patterns as they emerged among respondents and to understand the technologies of governance used in Georgian forests and their impacts.

This process involved transcribing each interview and coding them individually for relevant themes, overarching topics, and explanatory components within the free, web-based, qualitative research program Dedoose. These codes were then analyzed to find overlaps and contradictions, revealing connections between institutions, professed feelings of relative influence, and concepts of effectiveness.

I used the results of these interviews to determine who the key players in the forest sector are, how they are connected through different systems of state governance, and to provide a sampling of what the perceived values and political

“My affiliation with ARISC has been nothing but pleasant, and extremely productive.”

— Jesse Quinn

engagements within this system are.

Using my past video experience, I have also attempted to innovate this project methodologically by developing further video-based interviews and a collaborative video interpretation project with Georgian citizens. This approach seeks to advance a recent trend of participatory video in geographic methodologies, and pushes these approaches forward by using the digital video production process itself as a way toward deeper subject integration and collaboration.

While this method did not prove fruitful during the short research period of 2013, valuable lessons were learned regarding how to discuss this methodology with respondents, how to approach research subjects with the idea, and the logistics of implementing such a project in future research.

The findings of this research highlight the importance of continuing political upheaval to the structure of the state and the material reality of large portions of Georgian society. The Georgian state continues to shift in structure, making legibility and understanding of it difficult for those both included and excluded from state processes.

Clashes among state, society, and hybrid entities do occur; but examples of cooperation and collaboration also exist as local stakeholders negotiate household strategies of resource use.

The key component in this dynamic seems to be resource access, yet the governmental response has thus far proven to not be completely adequate and corporate investment has been dwindling. The issue of livelihood and identity tactics in relation to state action requires further attention that I hope to address while completing my PhD.

Livelihood generation regarding forest resources can be received from state entities (forest rangers and designated harvesting lots; park rangers and allotted wood harvests; corporate logging operations and their production remnants) or acquired illegally. How these tactics of either reliance/compliance or theft intersect with identity is not something I was able to fully address during this research period, but will be an interesting course to pursue in the future.

Entering this research project I was focused on the clash between corporate and community interests within state structures. However, watching the still-developing results of political shifts occurring between my research periods in 2012 and 2013, I have come to solidify my research orientation that considering the fractured nature of the state and its constituents is revealing for understanding political dynamics.

As a result I feel that even more important for Georgian communities than conflicting interests with corporations regarding forest governance is a lack of participation in governance technologies and a guiding ideology of decentralization that crosses political party lines to structure the nation. My future research will be addressing these broader questions of democratization and ideology in the context of resource governance.

Jesse Quinn recently completed his MA in geography at the University of Arizona. He will begin a PhD program in geography at Syracuse University this coming fall. Having previously spent four years working for National Geographic Television as an associate producer, he plans to combine both his academic and videography skills through future research projects in Georgia and the greater South Caucasus region.
This is the fourth year we have awarded the Collaborative Heritage Management Grant, whose purpose is to support collaborative teams in the preservation and conservation of the Republic of Armenia’s archaeological and historical heritage. One award of $3,000 was made to the team of Dr. Diana Ter-Ghazaryan (University of Miami, USA) and Dr. Sarhat Petrosyan (urbanlab, Armenia) for their project, “Other Yerevan: A Virtual Museum of Yerevan’s Cultural Heritage.” The goal of the project is to create a virtual museum of important cultural-architectural heritage sites in contemporary Yerevan.

Graduate Fellowships

In our fifth year of awarding Graduate Fellowships, three awards of $1,500 were made to graduate students enrolled in degree-granting programs in the US. The aim of these awards is to help cover travel to and/or living expenses in the Southern Caucasus. Several highly qualified applicants applied. Awards were made to the following projects:

- Metals, Mining and Movement: Landscape Archaeology in Kvemo Kartli, Georgia (Nathaniel Erb-Satullo, Harvard University).
- Between East and West in Transcaucasia: Regional Perspectives on the Roman-Parthian Borderland (Lara Fabian, University of Pennsylvania).
- Ceramic Entanglements at the Urartian Periphery: Technological Analysis in Naxçivan, Azerbaijan (Susannah Fishman, University of Pennsylvania).

ARISC members can look forward to reports on these projects in forthcoming newsletters.

ARISC sends its best wishes to the awardees for a fruitful research season!

Junior Research Fellowships

With funding from a grant from the US Department of Education, ARISC offered the Junior Research Fellowships for a second year. The goals of the fellowship are 1) to support research in and the study of the South Caucasus; and 2) to select, recognize and financially support individuals early in their careers who demonstrate high potential to contribute to research in this region.

Unique to this fellowship is the requirement that all projects include local undergraduate and/or graduate students as research assistants/participants in order to foster long-term ties between the academic communities in the U.S. and the South Caucasus. The following awards were made:

- Kathryn Franklin (University of Chicago): Village life on the Armenian Silk Road: Local and Large scale in the late medieval period (AD 1100-1400).
- Dr. Alan Greene (Stanford University): Late Bronze Age Political Economies in the South Caucasus: The View from Aragatsi Berd and Armenia’s Plain of Flowers.
- Kathryn Weber (Cornell University): Transitions in Human-Animal Interactions and Social Inequality in the Bronze Age South Caucasus.

A Word from the President

ARISC’s commitment to diverse bodies of work across the region has been reflected in its membership. Our first president, Karen Rubinson, is an archaeologist with extensive field experience in Georgia. As ARISC’s second president, I was pleased to include cultural anthropologies of Azerbaijan in our portfolio. To extend this public reach, I am especially pleased to welcome ARISC’s incoming president and vice-president, Professors Stephen Rapp and Stephen Jones, first-rate specialists on the history and politics of Georgia and beyond. We are lucky to see such work thrive, and we hope that you will join us.

-- Bruce Grant
In Appreciation

2013-2014

Donations

ARISC is very fortunate and thankful to have received generous donations from Prof. John F. Cherry, Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Giragosian, Anoush Mirijanian, MD, Carl and Valerie Narsasian, Toros Shamlian Jr., Rouben and Lida Surenian, and several Anonymous donors in support of our projects. Thank you!

In Appreciation

ARISC would like to thank all our 2013-124 representatives for their tremendous work. In Armenia, Nina Iskandaryan and Susan Marukhyan have been steadily working to create the ARISC Armenia Branch; Leyla Rustamli has been the steadfast ARISC Azerbaijan Representative; and in Georgia, our activities were expertly carried out by Medea Turashvili and Diana Lezhava.

Many thanks to Alen Amirkhanian, Meruzhan Karapetyan, and Tom Samuelian for all their assistance with organizing ARISC activities at the American University of Armenia; to Pavel Avetisyan, Roman Housepian, and Gayane Shagoyan at the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography; and to the Institute of Geology and the Caucasus Institute for co-sponsoring many of our events.

In Azerbaijan, Gursel Aliyev, Sevinj Mammadova, and Nargiz Guliyeva from the Caucasus Research Resource Center have assisted with coordinating our events, as has Shahla Khudiyeva at the Baku American Center.

In Georgia, Timothy Blauvelt (American Councils), Natia Mestvirishvili (CRRC), and Joseph Salukvadze (Georgian Geographic Society) have been instrumental in coordinating co-sponsored lectures, as have the wonderful people at Science Café.

We are eternally grateful to Cheryl Gibbs, our contact at the US Department of Education, for her tireless guidance.

And many, many thanks to everyone at the Council of American Overseas Research Centers for all their assistance: Monica Clark, Mary Ellen Lane, Robin Presta, and Heidi Wiederkehr.

We would not be able to do any of the activities on these pages if not for the constant assistance of our active members! From preparing grant calls, to coordinating the conference, to reading through applications, you are what keeps ARISC running! Thank you!

ARISC Reading Groups

ARISC Reading Groups offer a unique way to build bridges between US and local scholars. Depending on the country, the groups meet regularly at a designated location, be it a local cafe, the American Center, or the American University of Armenia. Reading materials, selected by group members, are always relevant to the South Caucasus and are widely available.

Our Representatives also occasionally may bring in a scholar to enhance discussions. While the concept of Reading Groups is novel in the South Caucasus, participants so enjoy it, that in Armenia another scholarly group has begun their own reading group on literature in Armenian.

The groups select from fiction and non-fiction pieces alike. Among the international list of authors whose works have been read are Rovshan Abbasov, Anar, Touraj Atabaki, Ghasi Ayyazyan, Betty Blair, Lord Byron, Günil Özlem Ayaydın Cebe, Paulo Coelho, Thomas de Waal, Alexandre Dumas, Elchin, Thomas Frear, Alar Goyushov, Bruce Grant, Hamlet Isakhani, Stephen F. Jones, Mikhail Lermontov, Alar Mammadov, Lewis Mennerick, Mehrangiz Najafizadeh, Fridtjof Nansen, Suzanne Rothman, Kurban Said, William Saroyan, John Steinbeck, Nayereh Tohidi, Lev Tolstoy, and David Turashvili.

Please join us! For upcoming events, check our website www.arisc.org.

Writing Group

ARISC coordinates writing groups for visiting and local academics. The first ARISC Writing Group was held in Armenia in May 2013. The group discussed two short stories by Nairi Avedissian, “School Lunch” and “Sherin,” about the author’s childhood in Egypt. Since these were unpublished the group had the privilege to be among the first readers and critics.

Are you interested in joining? This is a great motivator and opportunity to have peers offer their unique perspectives on your work, be it a publication, grant proposal, or other as-yet unpublished writing. Contact our reps: armenia@arisc.org, azerbaijan@arisc.org, georgia@arisc.org.
Caucasus Connections Conference

April 4-5, 2014
Indiana University, Bloomington
Co-sponsored by ARISC and the Sinor Research Institute for Inner Asian Studies at Indiana University, Bloomington

ARISC in cooperation with the Sinor Research Institute for Inner Asian Studies at Indiana University, Bloomington held the “Caucasus Connections Conference,” an interdisciplinary conference focused on the institutions, languages, cultures and histories that connect, as well as divide, the various places and peoples of the South Caucasus. The conference featured 19 high-caliber presentations by scholars in very different stages of their careers, from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Canada, Georgia, Poland, UK, and the US.

Scholarly contributions spanned the humanities and social sciences and the conference addressed the ties that bind the Caucasus - and the Caucasus to the outside world - in relation to a series of themes.

“The Imagined Caucasus” explored the role of both internal and external representations in shaping the region. Papers explored images of the South Caucasus in literature, history, art, film and other media from the ancient past to the present.

“Caucasus and Circulation” investigated the movement of people and goods across the Caucasian landscape. Papers addressed the infrastructure and dynamics of movement from the Silk Road through modern pipelines.

“Cultural Connections” examined the myriad everyday practices that provide the basis for recognition across even the most contested borders: the music, dances, foodways, and material culture that give rise to a sense of the South Caucasus as a shared world.

“Crossroads and Peripheries” studied the South Caucasus region in relation to its near neighbors and distant diasporas.

Renowned scholars Dr. Ed Lazzerini (Indiana University), Dr. Christina Maranci (Tufts University), and Dr. Kevin Tuite (University of Montreal) headed each of the themed sessions and the conference Keynote Speaker Dr. Harsha Ram (University of California, Berkeley) closed the first day’s presentations with his talk, “The Literary Origins of the Georgian Feast: The Cosmopolitan Poetics of a National Tradition.”

As one reviewer aptly put it, “This conference was noteworthy in so many ways. The shared space among experts, the breadth of topics, and most important, the emphasis on a region that is too often lost in a sea of greater empires. Perhaps knowing a bit more about Transcaucasia, we can understand more about the complexities of these sorts of regions: their peoples’ cultures, histories, economies, and in doing so, possibly assist in finding resolutions to their conflicts.”

The conference was supported in part by a Title VI grant from the US Dept. of Education. Specifically, 87% of the program cost ($13,255) was financed with these funds and the remaining 13%, or $2060, was financed through non-governmental sources.

“What ARISC is doing is extremely valuable, bringing together researchers from the Caucasus region and from the international scholarship community to learn from each other and promote research in this region. I look forward to future such events.” — Anonymous feedback

Video clips of the presentations are available at http://arisc.org/?page_id=1036
EVENTS News and Events from the past year

ARISC has held numerous events this past year in the South Caucasus! This section briefly lists the many, many talks held. To read the full descriptions, see our website www.arisc.org. We are grateful to all the institutions that have co-sponsored events with ARISC. In Armenia: the Caucasus Institute, the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, and the Institute of Geology. In Azerbaijan, the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences, Naxçivan Section, the Caucasus Research Resource Centers (CRRC), and the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography. In Georgia, the American Councils for International Education: ACTR/ACCELS, the Caucasus Research Resource Centers (CRRC), and the Science Café series by the Georgian National Museum.

WiP - Roundtable on Language Purity and Language Policing

June 5, 2013
6:15pm
CRRC-Tbilisi

With the participation of Dr. Thomas Wier, Dr. Tinatin Bolkvadze, Neal Zupancic, and Nicholas Drozd, and moderated by Dr. Timothy Blauvelt.

Why do languages borrow from other languages? Is this phenomenon harmful to smaller languages like Georgian? Is it inevitable? How does it reflect on the “health” of a language? How effective can state institutions or policy or society be in “policing” language and preserving a form of “language purity”? These are some of the issues discussed during the roundtable.

WiP - “The Jury Trial as Legal Translation: The Case of Georgia”

Anna Dolidze
University of Western Ontario

June 12, 2013
6:15pm
CRRC-Tbilisi

This project contributes to the scholarship on the global diffusion of jury trials by focusing on the recent revival of jury trials in Republic of Georgia. Surveying the scholarly debates over the phenomenon of legal transplants, this project argues that the adoption of jury trials in Georgia is more accurately captured by the metaphor of legal translation. The project departs from existing accounts that center on historical waves of global diffusion of jury trials. Rather than belonging to a particular “wave” of diffusion, jury trials in Georgia are an amalgamation of customary traditions of lay participation, a revival of jury trials from the beginning of 20th century, and recent criminal law reform efforts. Georgia’s relations with Russia as a part of the Russian empire also played a significant role. The project offers a sociopolitical and historical account of the emergence of jury trials in Georgia, arguing that the establishment of jury trials in Georgia should be understood as a part of larger internal and external sociopolitical trends in the country.

Anna Dolidze (LLB TSU, LLM Leiden, JSD Cornell) is Assistant Professor of Law at the University of Western Ontario.

WiP - “Constitutional Design and Democracy: Georgia in Comparative Perspective”

Henry E. Hale
George Washington University

June 19, 2013
6:15pm
CRRC-Tbilisi

The speaker presented findings from a comparative analysis of how constitutions function in what he called “patronalistic” countries, where ideology and the rule of law are weak and politics tends instead to revolve strongly around extended personal networks. In such conditions, characteristic of most of the former communist world, comparative experience shows that presidentialist constitutions tend almost always to “regime cycles”: periods of growing political closure that can be regularly interrupted by revolution. Pure parliamentarism has not proven much better. More promising, but also fraught with some danger, may be a “divided-executive” constitution such as Georgia’s new constitution. Other postcommunist cases of divided-executive constitutions were discussed and the experience related to Georgia’s current situation.

Henry E. Hale (PhD, Political Science, Harvard 1998) is Associate Professor of Political Science and International Affairs at the George Washington University’s Elliott School of International Affairs.
WiP - "The Radical Reproduction of Transitions in Georgia Since Independence"

Zviad Diasamidze
Tbilisi State University

Dustin Gilbreath
Heinrich Böll Stiftung

June 26, 2013
6:15pm
CRRC-Tbilisi

Georgia, since independence, has undergone the reproduction of radical transitions whereby a critical mass of opposition is formed politically and socially, a consolidating event then occurs which is shortly followed by a transition of authority. Once a new authority gains de jure recognition of power it then goes about a process of state capture that aims to consolidate and personalize its hold through changes to institutional design and legislative procedures. These processes further set in motion a process wherein as a regime is consolidated it is simultaneously isolated through its marginalization and exclusion of elites and non-elites alike. This causes opposition to spring up in society once again and the diffusion of support for opposition parties is given impetus from the backdrop of a consistently weak economic state of affairs in the country despite improvements during various regimes. Upon the appearance of both a viable opposition and the occurrence of a consolidating event a transition is then again born.

Zviad Diasamidze is a doctoral student at Tbilisi State University in the Political Science Department. Dustin Gilbreath has worked in Georgia for the past several years and is applying to graduate programs in social and cultural anthropology.

WiP - "The Last Master: Georgian Orthodoxy and the Oral Chant Tradition"

John A. Graham
Princeton University

July 3, 2013
6:15pm
CRRC-Tbilisi

In 1966, Artem Erkomaishvili recorded 108 polyphonic chants of the Georgian Orthodox liturgy for the Tbilisi Conservatory professor Kakhi Rosebashvili. He admitted knowing 2500 chants by heart, with the assistance of his notebook of texts. But no other singers were available to take part in the historic recording session as Erkomaishvili was the last one alive who knew the intricacies of this semi-improvised, complex repertory. When he died in 1967 at age 80, many secrets of his knowledge, passed down through oral transmission, vanished.

In an effort to recreate the precepts that guided the transmission and practice of chant in the oral tradition, this presentation offered critical perspectives on the corpus of priceless sources from Erkomaishvili’s archive, including the 1966 recordings, rare video footage and photographs, and samples from his personal journal of chant texts.

John A. Graham is a Ph.D. candidate in the Musicology Department at Princeton University.

WiP - “Political and Theological Aspects of the May 17, 2013 Events”

Paul Crego
U.S. Library of Congress

July 10, 2013 at 6:15pm
CRRC-Tbilisi

Paul Crego is a Senior Cataloging Specialist at the Library of Congress in Washington, DC. He has a PhD in Theology from Boston College, a Master of Divinity Degree from Harvard Divinity School, and an MA in Soviet Studies from Harvard. His particular area of interest is the history of the Orthodox Church in Georgia, and he is also interested in topics of religion, ethnicity, and language and identity in the Caucasus region.

WiP - “Georgian Bolsheviks and the Making of the Multiethnic Soviet Empire”

Erik Scott
University of Kansas

July 17, 2013
6:15pm
CRRC-Tbilisi

The “Russian Revolution” was made mainly by non-Russians and revolutionary ferment was often greatest among groups for whom class revolution and national revolution coincided. The Georgian Bolsheviks’ presence in prominent political positions was striking: Sergo Ordzhonikidze supervised the massive industrialization drive as Commissar of Heavy Industry, Avel Enukidze headed the powerful Presidium of the Central Executive Committee and, of course, Joseph Stalin (Dzughashvili) was General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party. While these figures are well known, their relationship to each other, and to their native Georgia, has been less studied. By examining letters, diaries, and memoirs, this talk brought to light the so-called “Caucasian group” that came to power in the 1920s and 1930s. It explored what held this group together, how they saw themselves, and how they were seen by others. In so doing, it considered what made Georgian political networks different and in some ways more effective than those of other groups competing for power in the early Soviet Union. Finally, it looked at the relationship between Georgian political dominance and the dissemination of Georgian culture throughout the Soviet Union.

Erik Scott is Assistant Professor of Russian and Soviet history at the University of Kansas.
EVENTS

“The Present and the Future of Bioarchaeological, Archaeological and Paleontological Collections at Yerevan State University”

Miriam Belmaker
University of Tulsa
Ruzan Mkrtchyan
Yerevan State University
Colleen Bell
University of Tulsa
July 17, 2013 at 1:00pm
Museum of Geology, Institute of Geology, Yerevan

In 2013, the American Research Institute of the South Caucasus sponsored Dr. Miriam Belmaker and Dr. Ruzan Mkrtchyan to curate (preserve, catalogue, and digitize) the human remains collection at the Yerevan State University and to make the content of the collections accessible via publication and online platform to the research community, thereby drawing new research to Armenia and preserving knowledge regarding the heritage of Armenia which can be derived from its paleo-population. At the seminar, the speakers discussed the collection, its importance and scientific uses.

1:00 - 1:30 Ruzan Mkrtchyan “Changing paradigms in teaching bioanthropology and human evolution”; 1:30 – 2:00 Miriam Belmaker “Biochronology and biogeography of the Levant and Caucasus – new data from the museum”; 2:00 - 2:30 Colleen Bell “Using old lithic collection to gather new data”

This talk was co-sponsored by the American Research Institute of the South Caucasus and the Institute of Geology of the Armenian Academy of Sciences.

WiP - “History That Splinters: Education Reform and Memory Politics in Georgia”

Jane Kitaevich
Harvard University
July 24, 2013
6:15pm
CRRC-Tbilisi

Sudden collapse of Communism and uncertainty of the new order brought about renewed fascination with the national history in former Soviet states, as they increasingly turned to their historical past to explain and mold the new present. These historical crusades became a regular feature in regional nation-/state-building processes, sparking greater scholarly interest in memory studies. Much of the research on collective memory formation and identity-building in the post-Soviet space, however, paid disproportionate attention to the role of the state as the main locus of collective memory production through such mechanisms as the legislation on historical memories, public memorials, and history textbooks. The method of qualitative inquiry in this study goes beyond the more limiting analysis of the formal articulations of history by the traditional state institutes alone: instead, in a constructivist vein, the formation of collective memory narratives and the visions of statehood is examined from the ground up in the context of Georgia. The speaker discussed the analysis of the data derived from extensive interviews, content analysis of primary sources, and official curriculum plan, suggesting that societal views of history, as represented by teachers’ narratives, are noticeably divided along the generational cleavage lines, forming 4 distinct categories of narratives that respond to and often contest the state-generated discourse, while informing the visions of statehood of the members of polity.

Jane Kitaevich is a graduate student at Harvard University, where she is a graduate student affiliate at the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies.

MIRIAM BELMAKER
ARMENIA

Conducting bioarchaeological fieldwork.

Photo courtesy of Miriam Belmaker
EVENTS

(Continued from Page 19)

WiP - “The Samtavro Cemetery of Caucasian Iberia: Recent Research”

Aleksandra Michalewicz
University of Melbourne, Australia

July 24, 2013
5:00pm
Science Café, Georgian National Museum, Tbilisi

The Samtavro cemetery in ancient (and modern) Mtskheta, Georgia, was used as a burial ground throughout the Late Bronze and Iron Ages, and then in the Roman to late Antique periods. This presentation gave an overview of the later phase of burials, focusing on tomb architecture and grave assemblages. Data had been collected for over 1000 tombs and almost 2000 artefacts, excavated during Soviet and post-Soviet excavations. The project had amassed one of the largest collections of data for a late Antique cemetery, achieved via generous access to archives and material culture held by the Georgian National Museum.

Aleksandra Michalewicz is a final year PhD candidate at the University of Melbourne, Australia. This talk was co-sponsored with Science Café.

WiP Series in Baku: “Navigating Persianate Influences in 19th Century Azeri Cultural Production”

Kelsey Rice
University of Pennsylvania
ARISC Fellow

July 26, 2013
5:00pm
CRRC-Azerbaijan, Baku

Azeri intellectual history often starts with the turn-of-the-century Jadids (modernists) and ignores preceding intellectual traditions that led up to this movement. As a result, European and Russian influence becomes emphasized while the much longer history of cultural exchange and connectedness with the Persian Empire is ignored. Ms. Rice discussed various aspects of Persian-Azeri cultural intersections and exchanges in 19th Century Azerbaijan. Primarily she discussed bilingual Persian-Azeri speaking intellectuals who wrote in the two languages from the mid-19th century and showed how their intellectual legacy influenced turn-of-the-century Azeri Jadids. In particular Ms. Rice investigated which aspects of Persian culture were embraced and which were rejected over the course of the nineteenth century, tracing the evolution of cultural and intellectual values in Azerbaijan. She used findings from her recent research on Persian Literary Influence in Azeri Intellectual History.

Kelsey Rice is is currently working on her PhD at the University of Pennsylvania, and an ARISC Graduate Student, Postdoctoral and Junior Faculty Research Fellowship awardee. Funding for this fellowship is made possible by a grant from the US Department of Education.

WiP - “Geopolitical Implications of Baku-Tbilisi-Kars Railway”

Rusudan Khotivari
Paris 8 Vincennes Saint-Denis University

July 31 2013
6:15pm
CRRC-Tbilisi

The construction of the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway, to be completed in 2014, will have important geopolitical implications for the South Caucasus and Turkey. As an alternative to the Trans-Siberian railway, it will diminish the dependence of European countries on Russia and will further contribute to the development of a transit corridor between Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey, strengthening the economic and political ties among these countries. The new railway, which passes through Javakheti, Georgia’s southern and mostly Armenian-populated region, is a source of anxiety between local populations, as it may increase the influence of Tbilisi and Ankara. But it may bring prosperity to these economically undeveloped southern regions of Georgia and help relieve ethnic tensions. Baku-Tbilisi-Kars may also contribute to the further marginalization of Armenia in the South Caucasus and deepen its dependence on Georgia and Iran. It may also equally strengthen Turkey’s role as a regional leader and contribute to the freeing of the South Caucasus from Russian political and economic influence.

Rusudan Khotivari is an MA student in Geopolitics at Paris 8 Vincennes Saint-Denis University.

KELSEY RICE
AZERBAIJAN

Presentation, “Navigating Persianate Influences in 19th Century Azeri Cultural Production”

Photo courtesy of Leyla Rustamli
**EVENTS**

(Continued from Page 20)

**“Highland Fortress-polities and Their Settlement Systems in the South Caucasus”**

Emily Hammer  
New York University  
ARISC Fellow  
July 31 2013  
11:00am  
Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences, Naxçıvan City

Landscape-oriented archaeological research in the Şərur Plain of Naxçıvan, Azerbaijan, has revealed a multiple fortress-settlement complex that offers the opportunity to examine the Bronze- and Iron-Age populations living in the shadows of fortresses. Əğlanqala, the dominant fortress on the plain, was part of a settlement complex consisting of two fortresses and a domestic settlement, all of which may have been surrounded by a wall enclosing at least 487 ha. The size of the enclosed area is particularly significant: in the South Caucasus, settlements of pre-Medieval periods rarely encompass more than 10 ha, including their fortification walls. The position of the complex at the entrance to a river pass may have facilitated control of highland pastoral and lowland agricultural resources. These discoveries demonstrate the benefits of settlement and landscape archaeology approaches in the South Caucasus, suggest that a large fortified settlement emerged in Naxçıvan as early as the Middle Bronze Age (during a period where few settlements are known and archaeological interpretations largely rest on excavation of kurgan burials), and indicate that the Iron Age Urartian state (ninth-seventh centuries BC) expanded into an area with pre-existing complex political and settlement traditions.

Emily Hammer is currently Visiting Assistant Professor at the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World at New York University and an ARISC Graduate Student, Postdoctoral and Junior Faculty Research Fellowship awardee. Funding for this fellowship is made possible by a grant from the US Department of Education.

**Studying Pastoralism in Ancient Armenia: Excavations of Late Bronze Age Kurgans in the Tsaghkahovit Plain**

Hannah Chazin  
University of Chicago  
ARISC Fellow  
August 2 2013 at 2:00pm  
Museum of Geology, Institute of Geology, Yerevan

Hannah Chazin is a 2013 recipient of the American Research Institute of the South Caucasus (ARISC) Graduate Fellowship. Ms. Chazin was conducting excavations in the Tsaghkahovit Plain, studying pastoralism in the Late Bronze Age in Armenia. In the seminar, she spoke about her research, addressing the social, economic, and political roles of herd animals in Late Bronze Age life.

Ms. Chazin is a graduate student at the University of Chicago, an ARISC Fellow, and a member of Project ArAGATS—a joint Armenian-American archaeological expedition. Her technical specialization is the study of animal bones and her research focuses on the role of animals in social life. This talk was co-sponsored with the Museum of Geology of the NAS of Armenia.

**Spaces of Diaspora Investment: Urban Transformations and Transnational Linkages in the Landscape of Yerevan**

Diana Ter-Ghazaryan  
University of Miami  
ARISC Fellow  
August 9 2013 at 2:00pm  
Caucasus Institute, Yerevan

With the help of a fellowship from the American Research Institute of the South Caucasus (ARISC) in 2013 Dr. Diana Ter-Ghazaryan was conducting research on diaspora investment in Yerevan, and two spaces in particular—the Cafesjian Center of the Arts and the Yerevan Park of Lovers. In the seminar, she presented preliminary research results and spoke about how these spaces, revitalized with diaspora funds, construct new material and symbolic spaces in the contemporary landscape of Yerevan.

Dr. Diana Ter-Ghazaryan is a Lecturer at the University of Miami’s Department of Geography, and is an ARISC Graduate Student, Postdoctoral and Junior Faculty Research Fellowship awardee. Funding for this fellowship is made possible by a grant from the US Department of Education. This talk was co-sponsored with the Caucasus Institute.

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**HANNAH CHAZIN**  
ARISC FELLOW 2012-13

Stone ring encircling a Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age tomb.  

*Photo courtesy of Project ArAGATS*
The last several decades have seen drastic shifts toward decentralization in systems of managing forested areas around the planet. Such patterns have transferred control of significant areas of land from the hands of states to those of the private sector. This global forest tenure transition has involved nearly every continent on the planet, and has only hastened since the fall of many socialist governments across Eurasia. However, as resource governance systems emerge as part of broader political-economic shifts, they shape new relationships among state, society, and relevant stakeholders, as well as with the natural resources themselves. Within this pattern of transition Georgia has some of the most bio-diverse and important forested areas on the planet, a rural population that relies on these forests for fuel and other resources, and a set of forest governance structures that are currently in development. The case of contemporary Georgian forest governance through decentralization demonstrates how democratic institutions may be shaped through state practices, yet complicated by socio-cultural and political histories.

Jesse Quinn is an American graduate student who has recently completed his MA in geography at the University of Arizona. He is a 2013 awardee of ARISC Graduate Student Fellowship. He will begin a PhD program in geography at Syracuse University this coming fall. This talk is co-sponsored by the American Research Institute of the South Caucasus (ARISC), and Georgian Geographic Society.
EVENTS

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WiP - “Re-writing the Russian Conquest of Central Asia Caucasus”

Alexander Morrison
University of Liverpool

September 18, 2013
6:15pm
CRRC-Tbilisi

The conquest of Central Asia by the Russian empire in the 19th century permanently transformed the political destiny of this vast region, ensuring that it would later be subject to the Soviet experiment, and that today it remains culturally and economically oriented towards Russia. The reasons behind this rapid example of European colonial expansion remain poorly understood by historians: the three dominant narratives are 1) Marxist-Leninist, in which Russian conquered the region at the behest of big capitalists as a captive market for industrial goods and a secure source of raw cotton for the Moscow textile industry; 2) the ‘Great Game’, in which the conquest is no more than an incidental outcome of Russia’s rivalry with Britain and a desire to threaten India; and 3) The ‘accidental’ conquest, in which the ‘men on the spot’ – ambitious Russian officers – got out of control in their search for medals and glory. This paper proposes a new interpretation, one which focused on Russia’s relations with Central Asian rulers and people, on reconstructing microhistories of different phases of the conquest, and on the changing self-perceptions of Russia’s ruling elite.

Alexander Morrison is Lecturer in Imperial History at the University of Liverpool, UK.

WiP - “Public Opinion and the May 17th Events in Tbilisi: CRRC Survey Results”

Natia Mestvirishvili
CRRC

September 25, 2013
6:15pm
CRRC-Tbilisi

In late May and early June of 2013, CRRC Georgia conducted a small survey among Georgian-speaking adult residents of Tbilisi regarding the events of May 17th, during which two demonstrations – one for the International Day Against Homophobia and another against homosexuality – ended with the participants of the latter violently overwhelming the participants of the former.

The survey revealed some interesting paradoxes in the opinions of Tbilisi residents: the majority of Tbilisi residents believe that democracy is preferable to other forms of government and that freedom of speech and tolerance for differing opinions are major components of democracy; at the same time, people seem to be uneasy about differing opinions with regard to the May 17th events.

Natia Mestvirishvili is the Regional Research and Outreach Coordinator at CRRC.

From Humble Meals to the Food of Empire: Exploring Political Complexity Over Time in Ancient Southwest Asia Through Zooarchaeological Data

Hannah Lau
University of California, Los Angeles
ARISC Fellow

September 25, 2013 at 6:15pm
Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences, Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, Baku

Zooarchaeological data — animal bones recovered from archaeological contexts — offer an essential means of learning about the lives of past peoples. This vein of archaeological inquiry contributes to a broader understanding of social history by illuminating aspects of the past economy, social organization, and political and ritual structure. This talk focused specifically on the lecturer’s research reconstruction of the political economy from faunal assemblages using two different case studies. The first compared subsistence strategies and commensal politics at the Late Neolithic sites of Kamiltepe in Azerbaijan and Domuztepe in Turkey. The second discussed changing occupations and concomitant changing subsistence strategies over time at the multi-period site of Oğlanqala in Naxçıvan, Azerbaijan.

Hannah Lau is a PhD student at University of California, Los Angeles. This talk was co-sponsored with the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography of Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences.

GERGETI TRINITY CHURCH
KAZBEGI, GEORGIA (ELEVATION 2170 M)

Located under Mount Kazbegi, the Gergeti Trinity Church was built in the 14th century. A major tourist destination, it can be reached by a steep 3 hour climb up the mountain, or 30 minutes by off-road vehicles up a rough mountain trail.

Photo by Diana Lezhava
### EVENTS

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<table>
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| **WiP - “Tobacco Control: Common Challenges and Opportunities across Communities and across Countries”** | Several countries are in the process of implementing tobacco control policies such as smoke-free air policies, increased taxation, regulations on advertising, licensing of tobacco importers and producers, and graphic health warning labels on tobacco products. Interestingly, several countries are facing similar challenges in implementing some of these policies; on the other hand, distinct opportunities have emerged that have allowed certain countries to make unexpected movements toward achieving these tobacco control goals. This talk highlighted the trends in Georgia and drew some comparisons with other countries, such as the US.  
  *Dr. Carla J. Berg is Assistant Professor in the Department of Behavioral Sciences and Health Education at the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University, and in in Georgia as a Visiting Fulbright Professor.* |
| **WiP - “Explaining the Absence of Russian-Georgian Cooperation over North Caucasus Security Threats: Three Hypotheses”** | The North Caucasus has been point of contention in Georgian-Russian relations since the demise of the Soviet Union. This sub-region has been a source of security threats for the 2 countries. Although the North Caucasus is of great shared interest for both countries, they have little experience of cooperation in dealing with threats originating in these unstable autonomous republics. This can be explained through a combination of three theoretical approaches in international relations: neo-realism, regional security complex theory, and a constructivist understanding of sovereignty.  
  *Levan Kakhishvili graduated from St. Anthony’s College of the University of Oxford with an MSc in Russian and East European Studies.* |
| **WiP - “In God’s Name: How the Post-Soviet Mafia used the Church as a Source of Reputation in Georgia”** | After the dissolution of the Soviet Union, a number of actors began engaging in a “power struggle” for opportunities to shape the new order in the successor states. One of these actors was the organized crime groups, united under the trademark name of vory-v-zakone (thieves-in-law), originally a prison fraternity that had significant influence on Georgia in the transition period after the Soviet collapse. As the establishment of reputation is of vital importance for organized crime groups, this research analyzed the case of the post-Soviet mafia in Georgia and its association with the Orthodox Church as its strategy for establishing its reputation.  
  *Ana Kvintradze has an MSc in Sociology from the University of Oxford. She received her BA and MA in Sociology from Tbilisi State University.* |
| **WiP - “Institutions as Straightjackets? Revisiting the Role of NGOs in Competitive Authoritarian Regimes”** | Scholars have long assumed that institutions in authoritarian regimes regularly function as effective regime stabilizers as long as power holders correctly evaluate threats and power. Institutions have mainly been conceived as self-enforcing structures that only change at critical junctures, as a result of external shocks. These assumptions have important implications for theorizing NGOs’ role under authoritarian rule. NGOs are most notably seen as caught in institutional straightjackets; their actual preferences, activities and contributions are regularly left unexplored. This talk presented a theoretical framework that focused on incremental institutional change, and took agency within institutions seriously. Mariella Falkenhain is PhD candidate in Political Science at the Hertie School of Governance in Berlin, and holder of a doctoral scholarship by the Heinrich Böll Foundation. |
| **WiP - “Orthodox Politics: The Religious Renaissance and its Political Implications in Post-Soviet Georgia”** | This talk examined the rise of the Orthodox religion in post-Soviet Georgia and its political implications. It looked at two major explanations for this religious revival: 1) socio-political conditions and 2) the ideological vacuum created by the fall of Communism. The talk focused on the emergence of the Georgian Orthodox Church as a key political player and the different leverages that the church used to influence political processes in Georgia. It investigated two major questions: whether the Georgian Orthodox Church is a political actor, and what leverage it uses to influence politics.  
  *Mariam Naskidashvili recently graduated from the University of Oxford with an MSc in Russian and East European Studies. She also holds an MA degree in Political Science from Leiden University.* |
EVENTS (Continued from Page 24)

WiP - “A Crisis in the Caucasus: The Implications of the Iranian Nuclear Crisis for Georgia and the South Caucasus”

Sarrah Bechor
IREX IARO Fellow

November 6, 2013 at 6:15pm
CRRC-Tbilisi

This study explored the regional implications of the ongoing Iranian nuclear crisis for the South Caucasus states, and Georgia in particular, and considered the stakes present for the foreign and national security policies of Georgia, as well as Armenia and Azerbaijan. This study examined the regional geopolitics and deterrence policy adopted also by friends and adversaries of the South Caucasian states: the United States, Iran, Israel, Europe, and Russia. These lend specific significance to and reiterate the complexity of the divergent stances pursued by Georgia and its neighbors. In this study, of great interest is the potential for the current and eventual trajectory of this crisis to require that Georgia and its neighbors more explicitly define their roles in this context.

Sarrah Bechor is a recent graduate of the Master’s in Eurasian, Russian and East European Studies Program at Georgetown University.

WiP - “The Politics of Civil Service Reform in Georgia”

Bret Barrowman
The George Washington University

November 13, 2013 at 6:15pm
CRRC-Tbilisi

Why are some political elites able to reform corrupt civil service bureaucracies to benefit the public while others not? This project used a comparison of Georgia and Ukraine to explore how political systems shape the process of civil service reform. Existing research on public sector corruption has tended to fall into one of two camps—principal-agent approaches, in which corruption is viewed as economic opportunism that bureaucratic managers can reduce with more effective monitoring, sanctioning, and rewarding of subordinates; or patron-client approaches, which tend to view corruption as a political tool through which elites secure political allegiance in highly personalized political systems. The case study of Georgia provides an interesting opportunity to synthesize these approaches because the process of civil service reform has significantly reduced petty corruption while retaining a personalized political system, including a politicized bureaucracy.

Bret Barrowman is currently conducting dissertation research in Georgia as part of the American Councils Combined Research and Language Training Program. He is a Ph.D. candidate in political science at George Washington University.

WiP - “Testing Innovative Approaches to Improving Policy Research – Everywhere”

Hans Gutbrod

November 20, 2013 at 6:15pm
CRRC-Tbilisi

How can we use innovative approaches to improve the quality of policy research in Georgia and beyond? How can this be done with impact, at low cost, and ideally contributing to lasting change? Hans presented a project that he was about to launch, sharing what often goes wrong behind the scenes, and discussing trade-offs in making a difference.

Dr. Hans Gutbrod does consultancy projects in East Timor and other locations.

ABUDELAURI BLUE LAKE
KHEVSURETI, EASTERN GEORGIA

Blue lake is one of the three lakes (Blue, Green and White) located in Khevsureti, Eastern Georgia. All of the three lakes are located about 2800 meters above sea level, just at the bottom of the Kavkasioni mountain range. Green and Blue lakes are quite near each other, however the White lake is about one hour away.

Photo by Diana Lezhava
EVENTS

(Continued from Page 25)

WiP - “Ethno-Cultural Mixed Families as Confidence Building Agents for Reconciliation”

Nino Lotishvili
University of Lugano

November 27, 2013
6:15pm
CRRC-Tbilisi

In multiethnic societies, people often put up an imaginary boundary line between self and others that develops a number of stereotypes and prejudice about other ethnic groups. Such a superior perception of self can be exploited by nationalist leaders to abuse the concept of culture as a differentiator from others, which can constitute an obstacle for the civil integration and can therefore contribute to the social distance between different ethnic groups within the same territory. Such stereotypical attitudes can represent a precondition for mistrust, fear, hatred and xenophobia among the peoples which can be used by political purposes and can therefore be related to intrastate conflicts. The present research aimed to suggest a new approach for conflict transformation and reconciliation process through the example of ethno-cultural mixed families, asking what we can learn from the strategies of these successful ethno-cultural mixed families, who stay united within these complex geo-political forces.

Nino Lotishvili holds a Master’s degree in Public Management and Policy from the University of Lugano (USI – Università della Svizzera Italiana).

WiP - “Social and Political Engagement among Young People in Telavi and Kutaisi”

Tamuna Khoshtaria and Natia Mestvirrishvili
CRRC-Georgia

December 4, 2013 at 6:15pm
CRRC-Tbilisi

In the framework of the MYPLACE (Memory, Youth, Political Legacy and Civic Engagement) project, CRRC conducted 60 in-depth interviews with young people in Kutaisi and Telavi. These interviews were conducted shortly after the parliamentary elections and covered topics on the perceptions of history, nationalism and identity, political and social participation, as well as democratization. The key findings in these four aspects of young people’s lives was presented and discussed.

Tamuna Khoshtaria is a researcher at CRRC. She holds a BA and MA in Social Sciences from Tbilisi State University. Natia Mestvirishvili is the Regional Research and Outreach Coordinator at CRRC. She earned an M.Sc. in Social Research from the University of Edinburgh (UK) and a M.A. in Global Development and Social Justice from St. John’s University (US).

WiP - “Echo in the Periphery: the Change in Government and Local Politics in Georgia”

Giorgi Gotua and Mikheil Svanidze

December 11, 2013
6:15pm
CRRC-Tbilisi

By 2013, independent Georgia had seen 3 full political transition cycles, and in October 2012 in a landmark case it saw its first electoral regime change. While the (world) political implications are hard to overstate, the case is of theoretical and perhaps comparative importance internally and regionally. The local power groups in the Georgian regions were caught off guard by the change, and have reacted in various ways to the election results. Our initial question therefore concerned the initial knee-jerk reactions and the subsequent regional political processes: how do such changes in the centre, the first of their kind, ripple out to the Georgian periphery? Second, through this reaction we examine the broader question of peripheral politics and their place in theory: can we speak of neopatrimonial structures in Georgia against the backdrop of the oft mentioned “democratization” paradigm?

Giorgi Gotua is an independent researcher with experience in academic and applied research projects. Mikheil Svanidze is a PhD candidate at Ilia State University in Tbilisi.

ANNUAL REPS MEETING
TBILISI, GEORGIA

ARISC Reps finally meet in person! Funding for the meeting is made possible by a grant from the US Department of Education.

Photo by Talin Lindsay
EVENTS

(Continued from Page 26)

WiP in Baku: “Uncertain Returns: Ahiska Turks in Azerbaijan?”

Irina Levin
New York University
CAORC Fellow
December 16, 2013
6:30pm
CRCC- Azerbaijan, Baku

This project focuses on issues of law, citizenship, and property in the daily lives of Ahiska Turks and Meskhetians. Deported from southwestern Georgia in 1944, this population has had a dedicated return movement since the 1950s. Today, this movement engages with local, national, and international human rights legal regimes in its efforts to give deportees and their descendants a way home. The aim of the study is to augment our understanding of long-term adaptation and return processes among a forcibly displaced population.

Irina Levin is a doctoral candidate in New York University’s Department of Anthropology. She is currently conducting her dissertation fieldwork in Azerbaijan, supported by grants from the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC), the International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX), and the National Science Foundation (NSF).

WiP - “At the Frontiers of Faith: Contact and Conflict in Medieval Icons of Warrior Saint”

Heather Badamo
University of Chicago
CAORC Fellow
December 18, 2013 at 6:15pm
CRRC- Tbilisi

During the turbulent era of the Crusades, Christians throughout the eastern Mediterranean embraced devotion to the warrior saints, creatively mobilizing these universal heroes to express the aspirations and assuage the anxieties of local communities. Their devotions fueled the production of countless icons, which circulated across political frontiers, sectarian divides, and the boundaries of the Islamic world. Representing fierce warriors armed for combat – often slaying their enemies – these icons provided familiar models for understanding religious difference that medieval elites could transform to serve as heralds of local power and history. The rich core of icons that survive from medieval Georgia, in particular, provides fertile ground for considering how the types of cultural encounters that took place at the frontier fueled and shaped devotion to these aggressive saints.

Heather Badamo is a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Art History at the University of Chicago.

WiP - “Analyses of Anti-Domestic Violence Law: The Case of Georgia”

Gvantsa Jibladze
Nana Chabukiani
Natia Ubilava
January 29, 2014 at 6:15pm
CRRC- Tbilisi

Domestic violence is a particularly problematic issue in contemporary Georgia. According to the National Study on Domestic Violence conducted by UNFPA, every eleventh woman is a victim of domestic violence in Georgia. A law on the prevention of domestic violence, protection and assistance for victims of domestic violence was adopted in 2006 in Georgia. The adoption of this law, however, may be insufficient to overcome the problem. The success of state policy in combating the domestic violence depends on the way in which the state perceives the problem. Consequently, the aim of this research project is to examine: A). what is perceived as the reason for domestic violence; and B). who is perceived to be the victim of domestic violence.

WiP - “The Georgian Question at the 1919 Paris Peace Conference”

Beka Kobakhidze
Tbilisi State University
February 5, 2014 at 6:15pm
CRRC- Tbilisi

In 1918, as World War I ended and the Russian Empire collapsed, Georgia declared its independence. The 1919 Paris Peace Conference was intended to draw up a new world map that would summarize the results of the Great War and deal with the Russian problem. The Caucasus and Georgia were part of a project that involved not only the victorious powers’ policy towards Russia, but also the Turkish peace settlement and, most importantly, British interests in the east. If there would be any opportunity for Georgia to achieve recognition of her independence and provisions for her security, it would be in Paris, where the decision makers of world politics were sitting for an entire year. This talk presented how this story played out for the Georgian question.

Beka Kobakhidze is a doctoral candidate in contemporary Georgian history at Tbilisi State University.

WiP - “Book Presentation of Putin and the Caucasus”

Régis Genté
February 12, 2014
6:15pm
CRRC- Tbilisi

Régis Genté presented his new book Putin and the Caucasus. Putin’s career as President has strong connections to the Caucasus. Putin became Prime minister amid a new increase in tensions in Dagestan and Chechnya, followed by 5 terrorist bombings in Moscow and in the south of the Russian Federation, with a strong suspicion that FSB was involved, the second war in Chechnya, the consecutive extension of the nationalist-islamist rebellion in almost all the North Caucasus, and then the war in Georgia in 2008. All of these events, and especially those connected to his ascension to power, put under question the legitimacy of Mr. Putin and of his policy, especially towards the Caucasus. Therefore, the Sochi Olympic games are about regaining this legitimacy. The book also raises the question of the Russia that Mr. Putin is building and the place for the Caucasian people in the Russian Federation.

Régis Genté, 45, is a French free-lance journalist based in Tbilisi.
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WiP - “Georgian Political Parties and Online Social Networks: Politics as Usual”
Kornely Kakachia and Tamara Pataraia
Tbilisi State University
February 26, 2014 at 6:15pm
CRRC-Tbilisi

This presentation explored the impact of modern communication technologies and social media networks on Georgian party politics and the ways in which political parties can promote greater public involvement in political processes through the use of social networks. The social media profiles of political players taking part in the 2012 Georgian parliamentary elections were analyzed and compared.

Kornely Kakachia is associate professor of political science at Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University and director of Tbilisi based think tank the Georgian Institute of Politics (GIP). Tamara Pataraia is head of the European and Euro-Atlantic Cooperation Program at the Caucasus Institute for Peace, Democracy and Development.

WiP in Baku: “The Pattern and Problems of Development in the Caspian Region: The Cases of Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan”
Sonja Schiffers
Free University of Berlin
March 3, 2014 at 5:00pm
CRRC-Azerbaijan, Baku

The presentation started from the premise that the current Western perceptions of post-Soviet regions do not match reality well. Instead of developing comprehensive strategies for the South Caucasus and for Central Asia and portraying the Caspian merely in energy terms, Western policy-makers need to realize the relevance of the Caspian as a region beyond its natural resources. The presenter examined the cases of Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan and present the pattern and problems in economic and political developments in these countries. Her theoretical approach was mainly informed by the rentier state perspective, that was developed in 1970 and explains that states which generate income mainly through rents, e.g. from natural resources, often face similar political challenges.

Sonja Schiffers is a master's student in International Relations at the Free University of Berlin (DE).

WiP - “Women and Religiosity in Georgia and Poland”
Helena Szczodry
Jagiellonian University
March 5, 2014 at 6:15pm
CRRC-Tbilisi

The experience of women in Poland and Georgia shows that the collapse of the Soviet Union and the process of democratization are not necessarily connected with the developments in the field of gender equality and gender policies. This presentation reviews the interplay between religiosity and gender among young women raised in the Orthodox tradition in Poland and Georgia. This research was the first attempt to explore the way of understanding and experiencing religiosity and gender of women born in the fall of the so-called “Second World” as well as their agency in terms of postcolonial studies.

Helena Szczodry graduated with a M.A. in Sociology from the Jagiellonian University in Poland and minor in Development Studies from the Maastricht University in Netherlands.

WiP - “We Are Existing, Not Living: Protracted Displacement and Structural Vulnerability in Georgia”
Erin Koch
University of Kentucky
March 19, 2014 at 6:15pm
CRRC-Tbilisi

This talk focused on Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in post-Soviet Georgia to examine lived experiences with protracted displacement and marginalization. It drew on ethnographic research conducted in the summers of 2010 and 2011 with IDPs living in western Georgia who were displaced by civil war between Georgia and Abkhazia in 1993 and who have been living in limbo since. The talk focused on their efforts to navigate changing state strategies for housing relocation and to secure their new “rights” to durable housing, and argued that the lives of IDPs living in protracted displacement in Georgia are shaped by a form of sanctioned abandonment that cements their structural vulnerability, making it virtually impossible for them to fulfill the neoliberal expectations of the government and NGOs in achieving social mobility.

Erin Koch is an Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Kentucky.

WiP - “Adoration No More: Perceptions of the West in the South Caucasus”
George Mchedlishvili
University of Georgia
2013 Robert Bosch Fellow, Chatham House
March 26, 2014 at 6:15pm
CRRC-Tbilisi

This talk explored the dynamics of the perception of the West in the societies of the South Caucasus states. It studied how the notion of the West has transformed from a homogeneous entity to a more nuanced grouping in the minds of the people, and what factors conditioned these transformations. The study particularly emphasized the western engagement since the dissolution of the Soviet Union and the policies of the major western actors (US, EU, NATO) and their efficiency in the areas of economy, security and democratization, and considered issues of European identity in the three nations. Also discussed were the challenges on the way to modernization, economic transformation and westernization within the South Caucasus states and the principal reasons of these challenges.

George Mchedlishvili is an Associate Professor at the Department of International Relations and Political Science, University of Georgia.
EVENTS

(Continued from Page 28)

WiP - “Georgica – An Open Access Academic Database on Georgia”

Georgica (http://georgica.tsu.edu.ge/) was launched with the help of the faculty of Social and Political Sciences at Tbilisi State University. The online database is intended for collecting academic materials concerning Georgia and has the following objectives:

Building a rich database for anyone interested in order to help them to better understand Georgia’s issues, Promoting interest and developing expertise by providing a consistent store of necessary materials, Offering early career researchers the opportunity to publish papers, engage with audiences of colleagues and build up their academic profile.

Irakli Gunia is a second-year graduate student at the Tbilisi State University MA program Diplomacy and International Relations. David Sitchinava is a fourth-year doctoral student at the department of Human Geography, faculty of Social and Political Sciences of TSU.

April 2, 2014 at 6:15pm
CRRC-Tbilisi

WiP - “Dissident Movements in the Late Soviet Period”

This research examined the intent and identity of dissident movements in the late Soviet Period (from 1956 to perestroika). Specifically, through a comparative analysis of the Russian and Georgian cases, this research looked at how dissidents, against the background of this particular time and space, decided to make their movements “closed”—that is, to focus on fostering the networks within the movement as well as preserving the individuality and integrity of those who considered themselves to be a part of it—or “open”—to try to reach the masses and garner widespread involvement.

Emily Tamkin is an M.Phil candidate in the Russian and East European Studies programme at St. Antony’s College, University of Oxford.

April 16, 2014 at 6:15pm
CRRC-Tbilisi

WiP - “Linguistic Dimensions of Ethno-National Identity: the Avars of Contemporary Dagestan”

This talk investigated the “everyday” aspects of language choice in multilingual Dagestan in order to evaluate the importance of ethnicity and identity related motivations. Specifically, by looking at Avars in their titular rural spaces and the urban capital, the thesis assessed the changes in the traditional multilingualism of Dagestan as a result of mandatory bilingualism as subjects of the Russian Federation. While not strictly refuting the importance of rational choice theory, the work considered the reasons why, although Dagestani languages are endangered, speakers do not interpret such endangerment or fear linguistic extinction in the globalizing world.

Kendra Dias holds a BA in Eurasian Studies from Smith College and is currently finishing a Master’s Degree in Nationalism Studies at CEU.

April 23, 2014 at 6:15pm
CRRC-Tbilisi

IKALTO ACADEMY
GEORGIA

One of the first higher educational institutions in Georgia founded in the 12th century by Arsen Ikaltoeli during the reign of King David IV the Builder. The students at the academy were taught theology, rhetoric, astronomy, philosophy, geography, geometry, chanting but also more practical skills such as pottery making, metal work, viticulture and wine making and pharmacology. The Academy was founded on the territory of Ikalto Monastery.

Photo by Diana Lezhava
EVENTS

“Ancient and Modern Identity and Adaptation: the case of the Kura Araxes cultural tradition”

Mitchell Rothman
Widener University

April 30, 2014 at 6:30pm
American University of Armenia, Yerevan

The 4th to 3rd millennium BC in the Middle East and Eurasia was one of the most dynamic in world history. In Mesopotamia the foundations of the modern world were laid. But in the highland zones from where raw materials and technologies were coming, a different kind of change was taking place. The emergence of the Kura Araxes saw the development of new local adaptations and a distinct cultural tradition marked by a type of burnished, handmade pottery and a ritual of the hearth. This tradition, dominant in the South Caucasus, spread southwest across the Taurus Mountains and south into the South Levant, southeast into the Zagros Mountains, and north across the Caucasus. The lecture discussed this topic from an anthropological archaeologist’s point of view.

Mitchell Rothman is professor and chair of the Anthropology Department of Widener University.

WiP - “Gun Control in Georgia”

Matthew Light
University of Toronto

April 30, 2014 at 6:15pm
CRRC-Tbilisi

Contemporary Georgia features relatively lenient policies on possession of handguns, which is surprising for several reasons. Georgian policy strongly diverges from the highly restrictive policies on gun ownership that were in force during the Soviet period, and which persist to this day in neighboring post-Soviet states. Moreover, given that post-Soviet Georgia went through a long period of political and social turmoil in which gun violence was rampant, one might have expected more stringent policies to be enacted. This talk reviewed several possible explanations for Georgia’s unusual gun policy trajectory.

Matthew Light is Assistant Professor of Criminology at the University of Toronto.

WiP - “Religious and National Aspects of Georgian Muslim Women' Identity in Adjara”

Inga Popovaite
Central European University
May 7, 2014 at 6:15pm
CRRC-Tbilisi

To this day, the questions surrounding ethnic Georgian Muslim identity, both in the international and local scholarly literature, have been discussed from a masculine perspective. This talk addressed the less visible part of Georgian Muslim society and analyze how Georgian Muslim women in Adjara manage to be “proper” Georgians and “proper” Muslims at the same time, and examine why they keep their faith rather than following the trend towards conversion to Christianity.

Inga Popovaite is currently an MA student in the Department of Nationalism Studies in the Central European University, Budapest.

WiP - “Informal Criminal Justice among the Svans, Tsova-Tush and Khevsurs”

Jeffrey Renz
University of Montana
May 14, 2014 at 6:30pm
CRRC-Tbilisi

Born in Piscataway, New Jersey, Prof. Renz received his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Montana in 1971 and 1979. Prof. Renz has taught in the clinical program at the University of Montana School of Law since 1993 in the areas of civil rights, criminal law and procedure, and constitutional law. He has also taught at Kutaisi State University and the Tbilisi Institute of Asia and Africa in the Republic of Georgia and at Osh State University in the Kyrgyz Republic. He is a Fellow of the Salzburg Global Seminar. He is currently a Fulbright Scholar in the Republic of Georgia.

COLLECTION OF COPPER CAULDRONS
LAHIC VILLAGE, AZERBAIJAN

Located in the Ismayilli Rayon, Lahic is one of the most ancient settlements in Azerbaijan. The town is also famous for its folk crafts. Due to its geographic location, the town features a unique planning layout and architecture.

Photo by Leyla Rustamli
EVENTS

WiP in Baku: “Comparing the Global Burden of Disease in Azerbaijan and the United States”

Bob Jecklin
University of Wisconsin-La Crosse
May 19, 2014 at 6:30pm
CRRC-Azerbaijan, Baku

The Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation described itself as “an independent research group identifying the best strategies to build a healthier world.” The Institute produced the Global Burden of Disease report for 2010 which used data from 187 countries including 291 diseases and injuries, 67 risk factors and 1,160 non-fatal health consequences; the report also uses 20 age groups and 21 regions of the world to characterize the global burden of disease. This presentation focused on the sections of the Global Burden of Disease Report that describe the individual national burdens carried by the Republic of Azerbaijan and the United States of America.

Bob Jecklin is a Fulbright Teaching Scholar in Public Global Health at Khazar University.

WiP - “U.S.-Georgia Educational Exchange: A Recent History”

Chase Stoudenmire
University of Arkansas
NSEP Boren Fellow
May 21, 2014 at 6:15pm
CRRC-Tbilisi

This paper chronicled the establishment of new and re-purposing of preexisting U.S. state-sponsored educational exchange programs with the newly independent states of the former Soviet Union. Focusing on Georgia, this study extended the story of American state-sponsored exchange programs to the present day, probing which (if any) of the prevailing narratives of Cold War exchange and American cultural expansion are supported by events following the collapse of the Soviet Union. This talk considered questions of purpose, impact and perception in Georgia, the “poster child” of American exchange in the post-Soviet space.

Chase Stoudenmire, an NSEP Boren Fellow, is a graduate student in the Department of History in the J. William Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Arkansas.

WiP - “The Emergence and Evolution of Entrepreneurship in Georgia”

Philippe Rudaz
University of Fribourg
May 28, 2014 at 6:15pm
CRRC-Tbilisi

The purpose of the ongoing study presented was to capture the emergence and evolution of entrepreneurship in Georgia through a longitudinal research framework and to make several observations over a particular period of time. This presentation briefly outlined the structure of the Georgian private sector, thus explaining the reasons why such a study is needed. Also discussed was the concept of entrepreneurship chosen to build the questionnaire, as well as the results of the two rounds of interviews.

Philippe Rudaz works as a research project coordinator for the Academic Swiss Caucasus Network at the University of Fribourg, Switzerland.

UNTITLED

GEORGIA

Photo by Talin Lindsay
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