Karen S. Rubinson

Welcome from the President

Dear colleagues, members and friends:

It is very exciting to begin this calendar year with a new ARISC newsletter, a mark of ARISC’s progress towards building an established institution. You can see in the many reports and articles included here that ARISC has had activities in all three countries of its purview: Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia. And this year we’ve awarded three fellowships for advanced graduate work; fortuitously covering all three countries of the South Caucasus. The program committee, chaired by Lauren Ristvet, created the guidelines and laid the foundation for future growth in the grant-giving arena.

We are most grateful to CAORC for a year’s funding for the Baku center through their US State Department grants. Unfortunately that funding was not renewed, so our on-the-ground representative there, Leyla Rustamli, has moved on to the next phase in her career. Leyla worked out of the offices of the Caucasus Research Resource Center in Baku as do our current representatives in Armenia, Richard Antaramian, and Georgia, William Sadd. Hans Gutbrod, Regional Director of CRRC, has provided extraordinary support for ARISC, and even if ARISC’s representatives are unavailable, those of you who go to the capital cities can visit CRRC to access JSTOR. Your colleagues in the region can use JSTOR as well there – ask them to let the librarians know that “ARISC sent them”!

In order to extend our activities, ARISC needs to increase our funds. Please be sure that your institution joins ARISC or you become or remain an individual or student member. Due to the wonders of modern technology, you can even pay through PayPal.

Are we making the best uses of technology? Feedback on ARISC electronic outreach would be most welcome. How is the website? Do you see announcements about ARISC on the listservs you subscribe to? Would you like to see more email from ARISC (or less)? Do you know we have a discussion board on Google? As an organization whose membership covers many disciplines, it is through electronic means that we will best be able to meet and exchange ideas and information. I would like to optimize that electronic communication during this year if at all possible, but we need your input.

We have budgeted time to apply for funding this year. Please let us know if you have any suggestions of private foundations or other places where ARISC might look for support. Our time would be optimized if efforts could be focused on writing letters and proposals rather than researching funding sources. You can see from the newsletter that even on a shoe-string budget ARISC has participated in programs both in the US and in the South Caucasus, furthering scholarly research in and knowledge about the region. We can create more robust programming about this part of the world where we work with more funds to further ARISC’s mission.

Thanks to all the officers and members, ARISC has had a productive year of operation. Please join ARISC to continue making a contribution to knowledge in and about the South Caucasus.

Karen
New Programs

2009-2010

GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS

In 2009, ARISC announced its first call for fellowships for graduate students enrolled in degree-granting programs in the US. Projects were judged on their quality and on the potential of the research to strengthen scholarship on the Southern Caucasus. Awards of $1500 were made to help cover travel to and/or living expenses in the Southern Caucasus. Several highly qualified applicants applied. Awards were made for the following projects.

- Neither Empire Nor Nation: Networks of Trade in the Caucasus, 1750-1925 (Megan Dean, Stanford University).
- Negotiating Public Schools for Muslims among Russian Imperial Bureaucrats, Local Administrators, and Azerbaijani Elites, 1862-1890 (Aimee Dobbs, Indiana University - Bloomington).
- Courting the Nation Abroad: Diaspora Policies in Postcommunist Armenia, Croatia, Serbia, and Ukraine (Sarah Garding, University of California, Berkeley).

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!

ARISC DISCUSSION GROUP

At the request of several members, ARISC created an online discussion group for members only. While still in its infancy, the discussion group hopes to foster scholarly discussion and the sharing of information for studying about and working in the South Caucasus. Several calls for papers, funding opportunities and summer research programs have been posted to the group. We encourage members to sign in and begin discussions on any relevant topics! If you have not yet signed in, send an email to info@arisc.org to request an invitation.

JSTOR

ARISC is pleased to announce that access to the humanities, social science, science and business research tool JSTOR is available in Yerevan, Baku, and Tbilisi for the scholarly community through the support and cooperation of the Caucasus Research Resource Centers (CRRC).

JSTOR provides electronic access to past and current volumes of many scholarly journals including those on the lists found at http://www.jstor.org/page/info/about/archives/collections.jsp.

The accessible collections are distributed as follows:

CRRC-Armenia (access through Global Development Network): Business I and II and Arts & Science II and VI Collections
CRRC-Azerbaijan: Arts & Sciences I and II
CRRC-Georgia: Art & Sciences I and Art & Sciences II

Instructions on using JSTOR are available at http://www.jstor.org/page/info/about/archives/tutorials.jsp#RemA.

All three libraries are open from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM. The libraries are located as follows:

Armenia
52, Abovyan Street
3rd floor, rooms 305, 307, 309, 312
Yerevan 0025, Armenia

Azerbaijan
122, B. Safaroglu Street
Khazar University, 2nd floor
Baku AZ1009, Azerbaijan

Georgia
16, Zandukeli str. (ISET building)
0108, Tbilisi, Georgia

When you go to use JSTOR, please inform the librarian that you heard about the resource through ARISC and note whether it was from the website or a list-serve announcement. You can also let us know directly by sending an e-mail to info@arisc.org.

TRAVELING ABROAD?

ARISC co-sponsors events both in the US and the countries of the South Caucasus to further knowledge about the area in the US, share recent scholarship and create links with local scholars. As a relatively new organization, we rely on the assistance of our members to make this possible. If you will be traveling to any of the South Caucasus states in 2010, please email info@arisc.org to let us know where and when you will be going. In the past, many of our members have used this opportunity to give talks on their ongoing research or fieldwork and even collaborated their lectures with local scholars.

We would very much appreciate your help!
William Sadd
**Tbilisi Representative**

At 5:30 pm on a Wednesday afternoon this past March, Dr. Timothy Blanvelt of American Councils for International Education began a presentation in the conference hall of Tbilisi’s CRRC (Caucasus Research Resource Centers) offices on Zandukeli Street. His presentation was entitled, “An Experiment in Language Status in Georgia.” This presentation kicked off the newly started ‘Works-in-Progress’ (WiP) series.

Officially, the purpose of the ‘WiP’ series is twofold: 1) to provide support and productive criticism for those researching and developing academic projects pertaining to Georgia and the Caucasus region, and 2) to engage the vibrant academic community living in Tbilisi, and local residents, with a more consistent level of discourse, discussion, and debate in consideration of the most curious matters concerning Georgia and its neighbors.

Put simply, the aim of ‘WiP’ is to create a comfortable forum, whereby those living and conducting research in Tbilisi can present projects they are working on before publication. As the title of this series suggests, the presented material need not be in finished form, but rather to the contrary, the point is for research to be introduced at all stages, whether that be data analysis, data collection, or even while theoretical frameworks are still in early stages of development. The diversity of topics explored will cover history, politics, linguistics, quantitative survey analyses, and the arts; the parameters of this series can only be expanded upon.

The ‘Works-in-Progress’ series is being co-sponsored by the Caucasus Research Resource Centers (CRRC), American Councils for International Education, and the American Research Institute of the South Caucasus (ARISC).

Mr. Sadd is available Monday - Thursday 10:30-12:30 at the CRRC office at 16, Zandukeli st. (formerly Javakhishvili street, in the ISET building) in Tbilisi. He can be reached at ARISCTbilisi@yahoo.com.
Richard Antaramian
Yerevan Representative

Before leaving the US for Armenia on a Fulbright-Hays fellowship to conduct the first part of my dissertation research, I was asked to be the first ARISC in-country representative in Yerevan. Requiring only a few hours of my time each week, it was an opportunity I gladly accepted.

Between juggling my own research on 19th century Ottoman social history and whatever other little tests of patience countries in this part of the world are notorious for, my time at ARISC is generally focused on starting and completing a number of projects that will be of assistance to researchers hoping to work in Armenia. These include information sheets on coming to and living in Armenia, how to gain access to and work in museums and archives in the country, and which scholars and institutions can help facilitate research locally. It is our hope that collating this information will help future researchers maximize their time in the country, and not have to reinvent the wheel.

Sometimes the details of access to facilities are not easily accessible and ARISC hopes to make them more so.

We are presently provided office space by the Caucasus Resource Research Center’s (CRRC) Yerevan branch, from 1-3pm on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at at 52, Abovyan Street, 3rd floor. Heghine Manasyan and the staff at CRRC have been very welcoming and accommodating. American academics visiting should not hesitate to drop by.

*Ms. Antaramian can be reached at ARISCYerevan@yahoo.com.*

Leyla Rustamli
Baku Representative

We were very fortunate to have a diligent and conscientious representative in Leyla Rustamli, ARISC’s first country representative, stationed in Azerbaijan. Ms. Rustamli is a graduate student of Foreign Relations of the Middle and Near East, and was available for several hours every weekday from May to December 2009, thanks to funding from the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC).

During these months, Ms. Rustamli completed numerous and detailed guides to assist scholars with the logistics of their research. Ms. Rustamli also assisted over a dozen scholars on topics ranging from archaeology to theatre to political science. And she coordinated Dr. Barbara Helwing’s lecture.

Coordinating Dr. Helwing’s talk in September 2009 brought Ms. Rustamli in touch with a variety of people, including the German Ambassador to Azerbaijan and the Director of the Institute of Archaeology, both of whom were in attendance for the lecture.

In completing the country guides, Ms. Rustamli ran into many of the same frustrations with bureaucracies that most foreigners do: the hours posted on websites may have been inaccurate, clerks may have stepped out without notice, and administrators would often redirect her to other administrators. But with persistence, Ms. Rustamli was able to gather much data for our scholars to more easily complete their research.

Although Ms. Rustamli is no longer at her ARISC post due to the end of the project’s funding, she has agreed to assist ARISC coordinate any upcoming lectures in Baku for 2010.

We thank Ms. Rustamli profusely for all her assistance and wish her all the best as she continues her studies toward a PhD!

ARISC
In Appreciation

ARISC would like to thank all our country representatives, Richard Antaramian, William Sadd and Leyla Rustamli, for their tremendous work in helping ARISC establish itself in Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan, respectively.

We are also very grateful to the Caucasus Research Resource Centers (CRRC), namely Hans Gutbrod (Regional Director), and Country Directors Heghine Manasyan (Armenia), Gursel Aliyev (Azerbaijan) and Koba Turmanidze (Georgia), for allowing us space and resources at their offices for our country representatives.

And many, many thanks to everyone at the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) for all their assistance and guidance in helping us make big strides towards establishing our centers.
**News and Events from the past year**

**“Anthropology: Heritage as a Cultural Resource”**

Hülya Sakarya  
February 2, 2010  
CRRC - Georgia, Zandukeli 16, Tbilisi

ARISC and the Caucasus Research Resource Centers (CRRC) sponsored a talk by American Councils Title VIII fellow Hülya Sakarya. She discussed her research on heritage, both its revival in the aftermath of the Rose Revolution and its potential with respect to Georgia’s diverse constituents. Her research asks how Tbilisi’s culturally diverse social fabric can be compared to diversity in American and European settings. She also conducted a unique photodocumentation project during Tbilisoba 2009 with Tbilisi State University students as co-collaborators. The talk included pictures from this project as well as a frank discussion on if and how Georgia is multicultural.

**“Holiday Moments: Photographic Essays on the City of Tbilisi”**

January 21 to 31, 2010  
Ioseb Grishashvili Tbilisi History Museum  
“Karvasia”, 8, Sioni Street, Tbilisi

A collaborative photodocumentation project conducted by Tbilisi State University Students from the Humanities Faculty and curated by Hülya Sakarya and Maia Kutateli. With partial support from the Title VIII Combined Research Language Training Program of the US Department of State and from ARISC.

**“Production and Perception of Consonant Clusters in Georgian”**

October 13, 2009  
Tbilisi State University  
Institute of General and Comparative Linguistics and Phonetics

This workshop at the Tbilisi State University focused on the production and perception of consonant clusters in Georgian and other Caucasian languages. The workshop was co-sponsored by ARISC.

**“Acoustic Investigation of Ejectives and Voicing Contrasts: A Typological Perspective”**

October 5, 2009  
Tbilisi State University  
Institute of General and Comparative Linguistics and Phonetics

This workshop, co-sponsored by ARISC, was related to an ongoing research project of the institute, on the acoustic investigation of ejectives and voicing contrasts in Georgian and other Caucasian languages.

**“Joint Azerbaijan-German Excavations in the Prehistoric Site of Kamiltepe, Mil Steppe, Agjabedi, Baku, Azerbaijan”**

Barbara Helwing (DAI) and Tavakkul Aliyev (AZE)  
September 8, 2009  
CRRC-Azerbaijan, Baku

Barbara Helwing (DAI) and Tavakkul Aliyev (AZE) gave a well-attended talk co-sponsored by ARISC, highlighting some finds from their recent excavations. The earliest sedentary occupation in Azerbaijan is attested with the type site of Shomutepe in the area of the middle Kür River and its tributaries. Sedentary life seems to begin only later in the region further east, where the first settlement mounds are known in the fifth millennium BC, for example in the Mil Steppe and the Karabakh plain. Archaeological investigations at Kamiltepe began in summer 2009, following previous findings by Tavakkul Aliyev in 2008. The site was known as an Eneolithic settlement site through surveys and investigations by Iessen and Narimanov in the 1950/60s. It came as a big surprise though that the site turned out to consist in large parts of a massive mudbrick platform, preserved to a height of 13 layers of brick. Apparently, life in the fifth millennium BC took place around and possibly on top of this platform. Cooking ware and animal bones accumulated around it indicate that a considerable amount of cooking took place there. Such an observation would appear suitable, either if the platform served daily domestic cooking activities over a longer period, or if this was the location of a feast or ceremony. However, the monumentality of the construction within the context of the earliest sedentary sites in the Mil Steppe remains enigmatic and indicates a so far unknown degree of complexity in the fifth millennium BC communities of southwest Azerbaijan.
NEWS

(Continued from Page 5)

"The Ark and the Harp: Kingship on the Edges of the Byzantine World"

Stephen Rapp, Jr.

September 10, 2009
Patrimonial University of St. Andrew the First-Called, Tbilisi

This talk shed new light on the nature and extent of the Byzantine Commonwealth, an enormous transcontinental zone of exchange and communication. The commonwealth extended east to the Caucasus Mountains and south to the Horn of Africa. Three non-Greek dynasties on the very edges of the commonwealth—the Georgian and Armenian branches of the Bagratid family and the Solomonids of Ethiopia—rationalized and attempted to make central their place within that extensive polycultural enterprise through the careful manipulation and rewriting of the Bible, the selective appropriation of Byzantine political ideas (e.g., the Eusebian Theory of Christian monotheistic kingship), and their fusion with local concepts of rulership. Of special importance is the Bagratid and Solomonid claim to be the direct biological descendants of the ancient Hebrew kings David and Solomon respectively, and their imagined association with biblical relics, like the Ark of the Covenant. This lecture was sponsored by St. Andrew's Georgian University and co-sponsored by ARISC.

"Language Policy in the Post-Soviet Space"

William Fierman

March 19, 2009
CRRC-Azerbaijan, Baku

"Language Policy in the Post-Soviet Space" given by William Fierman, Vice-President of ARISC, focused on issues of language and identity in Central Asia and Azerbaijan. Dr. Fierman explained how language and language processes in Central Asia and Azerbaijan reflect major political, economic, social, and cultural tendencies and phenomena in the respective societies. He used examples both from language status and corpus (orthography, terminology and onomastics) to illustrate the varying policies and processes with regard to russification, and to the establishment of national identity for the post-Soviet states and for their titular groups.

"Armenia and Armenians in International Treaties" Conference

March 18-21, 2009
University of Michigan
Armenian Studies Program

Organized by the Armenian Studies Program and co-sponsored by ARISC, this well-attended conference covered instruments of international law over two thousand years. Given the history of Armenia and Armenians, 24 scholars from Armenia, Europe, South America and the US covered treaties and agreements involving the South Caucasus from ancient Roman and Persian empires to the Arab Caliphathe; Byzantium, the Mongol Empire, Italian city-states and Muslim and Crusader states in the Middle Ages; the Ottoman, Safavid and Russian empires and European states and Turkey in early modern and modern history; and Russia, Kazakhstan and international organizations since Armenia's independence in 1991. The conference was webcast live and questions were taken for the speakers by email.

"Georgia - Diversity and Environment: Reflections on the History, Political Geography, and Cultures of a Newly Independent State"

Archil Kikodze

March 12, 2009
University of Chicago

Georgian prize-winning novelist and photographer, Archil Kikodze gave a talk in which he discussed the environment and cultural diversity of his native land. Mr. Kikodze gave an illustrated lecture depicting the cultural and physical wealth of the Republic of Georgia. He also provided specific examples illustrating the complex history and ethnic tensions that have beset Georgia from Stalinist times to the present, including the deportation of the Meskheti Turks from Djabakheti at the end of World War II. His talk concluded with consideration of the recent tragic events that unfolded in August 2008, which resulted in costly and deadly conflict and led to an intensification of ethnic hostilities in the area. On the 13th, he held a workshop on media and contemporary politics in the South Caucasus after the 2008 conflict with Russia. Mr. Kikodze's visit was co-sponsored by ARISC.
NEWS

(Continued from Page 6)

Symposium on “Languages of the Caucasus and Linguistic Theory”

Alice C. Harris, Symposium Organizer

January 2009
Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting

ARISC co-sponsored a symposium on “Languages of the Caucasus and Linguistic Theory” as part of the 2009 Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting. Organized by Dr. Alice C. Harris (SUNY, Stony Brook), the symposium emphasized those aspects of linguistic theory that rest in part on data from languages of the Caucasus, which in turn provide challenges to linguistic theory and in this way help to shape it. Papers presented ranged from phonetics-phonology to syntax and included some language change. Ioana Chitoran (Dartmouth College), who studies Lezgian consonant clusters produced by syncope, argued that syncope is the trigger for a number of consonant alternations previously observed in the language. Johanna Nichols (University of California, Berkeley) argued that Chechen and Ingush have the type of verb-second phenomena observed in German, with the preverb separated from the verb under certain circumstances. Maria Polinsky (Harvard University) argued for a decompositional view of agreement in Tsez and other Caucasian language, showing that under certain conditions morphophonemic features may not match conceptual features. Work from several young scholars was also included.

“Regimes and Revolutions: Power, Violence, and Labor in Eurasia Between the Ancient and the Modern” Conference

May 1 - 3, 2008
University of Chicago
Conference on Eurasian Archaeology

The Third University of Chicago Conference on Eurasian Archaeology took place at the Oriental Institute, with co-sponsorship by ARISC. The conference brought together graduate students and senior researchers from institutions across North America, Europe, and Asia. The goals for the conference were to examine the instruments of power; the semiotics of legitimation, and the mobilization of labor in the constitution of politics from prehistory to the present; explore the work of power without subsuming it to the domain of governmental institutions; and understand what the picture of authority over the longue durée looks like across Eurasia. The full program can be found at http://acc.spc.uchicago.edu/eurasianconference/.

“Georgia: The Making of a National Culture” Conference

March 15-18, 2008
University of Michigan
Armenian Studies Program

From ancient to modern times Georgians have lived under both the threat and the influence of neighboring states and cultures. They have evolved from pagan to Christian societies, independent kingdoms and principalities, to maintaining their distinctiveness under the rule of Persians, Turks, and Russians. They have lived with Christian and Muslim neighbors, experienced the rule of tsarist and Soviet overlords, and today are building an independent republic itself damaged by ethnic conflict. This conference, co-sponsored by ARISC, explored the ways in which Georgians developed their own culture and notion of nation, particularly in the last two centuries, their relations with their Armenian, Azerbaijani, Russian, and other neighbors, and the acquired resources with which they have forged a post-Soviet national community.

“Land, Territory and Property in War”

Lale Yağcı-Heckmann

February 2008
University of Chicago

This event, co-sponsored by ARISC, was very well-attended with an almost packed house in the Franke Institute at the University of Chicago. Dr. Yağcı-Heckmann’s lecture discussed the themes of property in land, land as territory and the effects of war and displacement on both of them. Using ethnographic case studies to demonstrate how property interacts with war, Dr. Yağcı-Heckmann was able to note that theories of property in the field of economic anthropology have ignored war and its consequences for property. Finally, she summarized the reasons why property interacts with war in the ways it does, based on the cases she had chosen.
Become A Member of ARISC

How to Become a Member

1. Determine your level of membership.
2. Complete the appropriate form and email to info@arisc.org or mail to the address below. Institutional Members will need to submit a hard copy of their membership form.
   
   Professor Adam T. Smith
   Department of Anthropology
   University of Chicago
   1126 East 59th Street
   Chicago, IL 60637

3. Submit annual membership fee.
4. Memberships run from September 1st through August 31st.

Membership Levels

Institutional Membership
Any generally recognized academic or educational institution in the United States or Canada, or any association of such institutions, may become an Institutional Member of ARISC. Annual institutional membership dues are $500.

Individual Membership
Anyone may become an Individual Member of ARISC, upon application and acceptance by ARISC. Annual individual membership dues are $50.

Student Membership
Any undergraduate or graduate student currently seeking a degree at an accredited university may become a Student Member of ARISC, upon application and acceptance by ARISC. Student members will be considered adjunct members and will have the right to benefit from access to ARISC-only online communications and student-only online communications. Annual student membership dues are $20.

Corporate Membership
Any public or private corporation that is not entitled to Institutional Membership may participate in ARISC as a Corporate Partner. Corporate Partners may be recognized at the discretion of the Directors upon submission of an application. Interested corporations should send inquiries to info@arisc.org.

Membership Forms
All membership forms are available online or send your request to info@arisc.org.

Membership Payment Options
You may also pay by check or credit card by visiting the ARISC website www.arisc.org. ARISC uses the PayPal system to collect online membership fees.

Benefits of Membership
ARISC members receive access to an online discussion group, a wiki and an annual newsletter. Members can get in-country support for the logistics of conducting research and access to other scholars of the South Caucasus.

Giving to ARISC
ARISC welcomes your gift contributions to support its mission. Please make a checks payable to The American Research Institute of the South Caucasus or ARISC and mail to:

   Professor Adam T. Smith
   Department of Anthropology
   University of Chicago
   1126 East 59th Street
   Chicago, IL 60637

You may also use a credit card at our website, www.arisc.org. We use the PayPal system for online contributions.

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