Dear Colleagues,

We’re once again excited to tell you about the many accomplishments of ARISC’s members and fellows in 2016-17! This year saw continued accomplishments overseas, and our support of research in the region continues to make a strong impact on the careers of junior scholars. Activities you can read about here include ARISC-funded programs that have as their common theme the need to preserve cultural heritage—both the material remains of history and the fragile cultural ties between political adversaries.

Dr. Talinn Grigor (UC Davis) and Yeva Ess used ARISC funds to create the Online Encyclopedia of Armenian Modernist Architecture, or “ArmArch”, documenting unique examples of modernist vernacular architecture in Armenia from the Soviet era, Armenia’s more recent architectural heritage, and a searchable database of buildings and artwork.

You can also read about recent efforts funded by ARISC to conserve more ancient forms of material culture. Dr. Barlow Der Mugrdechian (Cal State Fresno) and Arusyak Baldryan (University of Cottbus Senftenberg, Germany) in concert with Armenia’s leading specialists at the Matenadaren restored in situ the Gospel of Tsaghut, a rare and fragile 1000-year old parchment.

I also invite you to read our “Notes From Abroad” (p. 5) to learn about ARISC-funded scholarship on the complex relationship between humans and the environment, highlighting the rich and diverse geography of the South Caucasus. For example, Richard Tate, ARISC Student Director and PhD student at the University of Florida, combines research methods of botany and anthropology to study how local people in Georgia’s Adjara region make use of native plants for food, traditional medicines, and pasture. In addition, ARISC Fellow Jesse Swann-Quinn (PhD student at Syracuse), who has been documenting post-Soviet mining and logging policies in Georgia, including the economic, environmental, and health impacts of extractive industries on local populations.

ARISC Fellow, Alyssa Mathias (UCLA), is salvaging the less tangible aspects of regional heritage, in her dissertation research to explore the concept of “musical diplomacy” to create a community of Armenian and Turkish artists advancing peace through forms of communication that transcend political speech.

One of the exciting new programs we began to offer this year are online networking opportunities (p. 4), in which young scholars from the South Caucasus and the US can connect via teleconference with an ARISC senior scholar to discuss issues related to their research.

And be sure to check out the section on news items from you, our ARISC members (p. 2), including new books, awards, job placements, and other milestones! We’re proud to share the great work you’re doing, not only among our members, but also on our social media outlets. Keep us in the loop about professional developments so we can share them with the broader community.

As always, our activities are made possible because of the hard work and dedication of our overseas staff, Diana Lezhava, Susan Marukhyan, and Leyla Rustamli (p. 3). As we advance, we continue to rely on our cadre of generous supporters. Your help ensures a vital ARISC presence in the region and the expansion of our programming and fellowships. Thank you for taking the time to discover more about ARISC!
Congratulations to ARISC Member Marilyn Kelly-Buccellati! In summer 2016, she curated the exhibition, “Georgia, Land of Gold and Faith. The Power of Christian Identity” with the National Museum of Tbilisi in Georgia, at the Meeting in Rimini. Running from 19 August 2016 - 25 August 2016 in Rimini, Italy, the exhibit was a great success as over twelve thousand people visited it in the one week of the Meeting. With the Pope’s visit to Georgia, articles on the exhibit and the catalog for the exhibit were made available in two major newspapers in Italy. See more about the exhibit at the following links:
http://www.meetingrimini.org
http://www.meetingmostre.com
http://www.ilsole24ore.com
http://www.ilsussidiario.net

Read about the 7 things you should know about the October 2016 election in Georgia by ARISC Member Dustin Gilbreath!

Check out ARISC Member Stephen B. Riegg’s new research article out in the latest issue of The Russian Review (http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com). Congratulations, Stephen!

Congratulations to ARISC member Emily Hammer! She is starting an Assistant Professor position in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at the University of Pennsylvania as of fall 2017. This is a joint NELC-Price Lab for the Digital Humanities position. Congratulations, Emily!

ARISC Member William Fierman recently attended a conference at Baku’s Western University on “The Current Problems of National Self-Awareness and Self-Esteem in Changing World” 1-2 June, 2017. His talk focused primarily on identity as reflected in language policy and language change.

Congratulations to ARISC Member Nathaniel Erb-Satullo, who has begun a position as Departmental Lecturer in Archaeomaterials at the University of Oxford!

From July 17 to 20, 2017, ARISC Member Lori Khatchadourian led an archaeological summer camp for six young girls from the town of Aparan, Camp Aragats. Campers learned the basics of archaeology, beginning with excavations at the Early Bronze Age settlement of Gegharot. Other sessions covered obsidian knapping, potting, tools of remote sensing and map-making, survey, excavation, paleoethnobotany, and bioarchaeology. ARISC members Ian Lindsay, Alan Greene, and Maureen Marshall also led some of the sessions. The camp is the first programmatic initiative of the U.S.-based Aragats Foundation and its Armenian sister organization, the Aragats Cultural Heritage Foundation.

Do you have news you’d like to share with the ARISC community? Please let us know by sending an email to admin@arisc.org.
The employment with and for ARISC is very dynamic. The multi-faceted work that we do as supporters to our scientists is interesting and challenging. It is a great opportunity to meet different people from different places all over the world, who strive for scientific research and devote themselves to the search of the answers to global questions. Discovering the unknown… what else could be so interesting than this!

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.

Armenia@arisc.org

This year was the most silent one for ARISC in Azerbaijan. Due to the lack of funds and consequently time, we had to keep ARISC presence in Azerbaijan at a minimum. However, our communication with Caucasian colleagues and our Executive Director Talin Lindsay was still regular and ARISC Azerbaijan tried to contribute to the fulfillment of ARISC objectives. I think this is one of the main attributes of ARISC: even with its lowest profile it makes you feel affiliated. I truly believe in the significance of ARISC’s mission in the South Caucasus and hope the upcoming year will be more productive.

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 Rathberg 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 teaches various courses on foreign policies of Middle East countries, international security problems and peace and conflict studies at Azerbaijan University of Languages.

Azerbaijan@arisc.org

I have been with ARISC for three years already, and have been part of all the great activities and events ARISC has conducted. For these years, I met many wonderful people from various disciplines and participated in interesting conferences and public discussions. It is a privilege to be part of ARISC’s wonderful team — always ready to help everyone interested in the region.

Diana Lezhava holds a BA degree in Humanities (English Language and Literature) from Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, and a MA in International Affairs from the Georgian Institute of Public Affairs. Currently, she is a PhD student of Sociology of Culture and Media at Tbilisi State University. Her research interests comprise: Higher Education, Educational Policy and Management, Europeanization of Higher Education, Higher Education and Labor Market.

Georgia@arisc.org
ARISC’s Accountants

Ketevan Gikashvili, Georgia Accountant

ARISC provides a wonderful opportunity for networking with international scholars from both the region and the US. It is the venue for the exchange of innovative ideas and thus is attractive to both academics and those outside academia. The joint insider-outsider view of the regional themes ensures rich multinational and multidisciplinary perspectives. Considering the above-mentioned, it is a true pleasure to collaborate with ARISC.

Nina Panyan, Armenia Accountant

It is already quite a time that I work as an Accountant for the Armenian Branch of ARISC. The work with ARISC enables me to both implement my professional knowledge and skills, and be a part of the interesting work and atmosphere created by outstanding ARISC researchers in different fields. I feel pleased being a part of ongoing research and projects in different disciplines. Friendly and cooperative working relations and the feeling of contributing to the work of people engaged in prospective scientific discoveries – this is what I like the most about my work with ARISC.

ARISC’s Interns

Mariam Nersisyian, Armenia Intern

I started my Internship at ARISC from May 2017 without even imagining how grateful I would be at the end of the program. The internship lasted for 5 months and those months were full of a lot of work and events. I got acquainted with ARISC staff, friends, grantees, researchers, architects and musicians, people who had no Armenian or Turkish relatives but were interested in our ancestors, traditions and culture. Helping the staff to organize events was a new way of knowing myself better.

One of the unexpected things that happened to me during the internship program was finding the name of an archeologist, while updating the contact list, whom I met 4 years ago in the hospital room both of us having the same health problem.

I want to thank ARISC Armenia’s coordinator Susan, for motivating and supporting me, since I would not manage to do all the tasks without her encouraging words.

I am so happy to get the chance to be a part of ARISC community.

Million thanks to ARISC Team.

Networking Opportunities

South Caucasus Online Forum

We are pleased to announce that we have put together an online web space where we can communicate with each other about exciting opportunities, including research, funding opportunities, and chances to participate in conferences. This resource is free and open to all.

Networking Calls

ARISC organizes teleconferenced networking call sessions for scholars of the South Caucasus from around the world. These networking sessions are an informal way for scholars in all stages of their careers to connect and have a chance to discuss issues relevant to their research.

• “Collaboration in Archaeological Research” with Adam Smith, May 23, 2017
• “The Study of Post-Soviet Georgia” with Stephen Jones, March 30, 2017
• “Language Dynamics in the Post-Soviet Space” with William Fierman, February 7, 2017
• “Linguistics in the Republic of Georgia and Beyond” with Alice Harris, January 19, 2017

Speed Networking Research Mixer

27 July 2017 at Ligamus Bookstore, Tbilisi, Georgia

Organized by ARISC Student Director Richard Tate, this first speed networking session allowed a group of scholars to practice elevator speeches of their research interests and goals. The session also gave participants a chance to make connections with ARISC fellows, students, and scientists from the social- and life-science communities in short, one-on-one conversations.
“Linking Botanical and Cultural Conservation in Adjara, Georgia (Caucasus)”

This multi-faceted ethnobotanical research project sought to tie the conservation of Adjara’s diverse plant life to the continued viability of local people’s traditional knowledge systems. Ethnobotany is a field aptly described as a crossroads of botany and anthropology, and the discipline’s interdisciplinary nature makes it uniquely suited to examining the complex interactions of humans and the environment.

Adjara’s unique history, rich vegetation, and diverse terrain has created a rich tapestry of human-plant interactions. Through interviews with local peoples, our research team explored how cultural features, land use choices, and environmental factors affect traditional plant use patterns in the dynamic context of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara.

Richard W. Tate is a Ph.D. student in the Interdisciplinary Ecology program at the University of Florida (UF). He is a recipient of a Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowship from U.S. Department of Education. This research supported by UF’s Center for European Studies, the School of Natural Resources and Environment (UF), and ARISC.
Jesse Swann-Quinn
“Geopolitical Ecologies: The Politics and Effects of Mining Governance in Georgia”

Like many post-Soviet countries, natural resource governance provides an important revenue source for Georgia. The Georgian state auctions off long-term, geographically delimited extraction licenses for minerals, metals, oil, gas, water, and timber resources to the highest bidders as part of broad neoliberal reforms instituted during the past decade and a half.

In so doing, the government has introduced both a new resource governance system and new forms of territorial administration. However, these changes have generated resistance among citizens and produce new social relations among Georgian society, corporations, and the state – as well as diverse material effects.

My dissertation research builds on recent work within political geography and political ecology to explore these dynamic relationships through a case study of an open-cast gold and copper mining complex in southern Georgia. This investigation employs a primarily qualitative mixed methodology, drawing from a range of texts, datasets, and five months of field work undertaking semi-structured interviews and participant observation.

The purpose of drawing together these various data sources is to create a rich, highly contextualized portrait of the social experiences and political discourses that shape mining practices in Georgia. Particularly significant among my preliminary findings are the environmental and health impacts mining activities have on local populations, the contested economic outcomes generated by this development project, and the relationships between these local political tensions around resource governance and broader geopolitical change in Georgia.

Jesse Swann-Quinn is a Ph.D. candidate in the Geography Department at Syracuse University. His research addresses political geographies of the environment, and concentrates on the politics of mineral and metal mining in post-Soviet space. Focusing on publicly oriented scholarship, Jesse was a 2016 Public Humanities Fellow through the New York Council for the Humanities, and before returning to graduate school he made wildlife documentaries as an associate producer for National Geographic Television.

“In all, my affiliation with ARISC was extremely productive and enjoyable, and I truly could not have completed my dissertation research without their generous support in all forms.”
— Jesse Swann-Quinn

Top: Graffiti in Bolnisi, Georgia.
Bottom: Graffiti in Tbilisi, Georgia.

Photos courtesy of Jesse Swann-Quinn
Alyssa Mathias
“Shared Culture and Musical Diplomacy Between Armenia and Turkey”

The closed border between Armenia and Turkey represents the two countries’ deep differences over genocide recognition and resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. In the absence of formal diplomatic relations, international and domestic institutions invested in regional stability have supported musical projects to open up dialogue. However, previous research on the role of music in peace building shows that music can be just as effective in stoking conflict as in resolving it. Through ethnographic research in both countries, my project examines music’s ability to communicate across a contentious political divide.

During my ARISC supported research, I documented musical diplomacy projects and considered how they fit into Armenian cultural life. I interviewed participants about their attitudes towards Turkey, their artistic philosophies, and their views on music’s political effectiveness.

Musical diplomacy, in the case of Armenia and Turkey, appears to be successful in creating a cross-border community of artists and offering an emotionally-resonant alternative to speech communication. In addition, I found that perceptions of musical quality – rather than politics – are one of the most significant factors that musicians and audience members use to evaluate musical diplomacy initiatives, affecting their willingness to participate, and also what they think about citizens of the other country.

On September 8, 2017, I gave a talk, “‘Sari Aghjik’ and Other Stories: The Promises and Pitfalls of Musical Diplomacy” at the Komitas State Conservatory of Yerevan.

Alyssa Mathias is a Ph.D. Candidate in Ethnomusicology at the University of California, Los Angeles. To increase her fluency in the Armenian folk music repertoire, Alyssa attended weekly voice lessons during her time in Yerevan. This fellowship is made possible in part by private donations.

“I am immensely grateful to ARISC for the fellowship opportunity, and for clear and prompt communication at every stage of the fellowship… I am proud of ARISC’s commitment to working with all three South Caucasus countries, which removes some of the barriers to doing research in the regions.”

— Alyssa Mathias
Collaborative Heritage Management Grant

This ARISC program, generously funded by Project Discovery! and private donations, seeks to foster joint work between American and Armenian scholars and institutions dedicated to the proper curation and preservation of heritage materials.

Talinn Grigor and Yeva Ess

“‘ArmArch’ Online Encyclopedia of Armenian Modernist Architecture”

Surprisingly little is known about Armenian modernist architecture, spanning from the 1960s to the 1990s. The known heritage of modernist architecture is mainly located in the capital, Yerevan. However, a vast number of modernist architecture is scattered over other Armenian towns, which are not covered either by print or digital media. Common people and even specialists both in Armenia and worldwide subscribe to a stereotype that Armenian modernist architecture is a concrete and ‘international style-oriented’ type of architecture. However, Armenian modernism is presented both by concrete architecture, which echoed the international style or organic architecture popular beyond the borders of the former Soviet Union, and by stone architecture, which continued the traditions of vernacular (local, historical, traditional, national) architecture in the modernistic language, which is referred to as regional modernism. The architecture representing regional modernism is not well known or studied within or beyond the country, modernist architectural heritage of Soviet Armenia. We want to break the stereotype that Armenian modernist architecture is just a provincial echo of the International Style and to reveal for the Armenian and international community and specialists the potential of Armenian regional modernism. The encyclopedia is searchable by multiple parameters, including dates of construction, architect, style, ownership, and other architectural parameters. Each parameter of each entry represents a separate page of information, making ArmArch a wiki type of online resource with cross-links and references.

“ARISC is the first foundation to appreciate a project regarding regional modernist architecture, which talks about the vast knowledge and open-mindedness of the people operating it. We are grateful to ARISC and to its supporters for helping us to realize this project which is of urgent importance for Armenian heritage management, culture and identity in general. It is a great pleasure working on this project and knowing that we have created an important tool, which has a big potential of becoming a truly important resource of Armenian architectural culture.” — Talinn Grigor & Yeva Ess

Photographs featured in the Encyclopedia are primarily taken by the ArmArch team (photographer Romina DerBedrossian, katchidb photography) during their trip to the north of Armenia in August 2017. Overall more than 300 architectural structures (including urban furniture and architectural artwork) have been documented.
As of October 2017 the Encyclopedia showcases more than 50 architectural entries and short descriptions of almost all its featured parameters. The team continues to work on the encyclopedia, compiling the gallery and preparing analytical texts to accompany entries.

The ArmArch Online Encyclopedia was unveiled on August 19, 2017, in Yerevan, with presentations by team members Yeva Ess, and Talinn Grigor, as well as architecture scholars Karen Balyan and Tigran Haroutyunyan, and architect Davit Stepanyan.

Prof. Talinn Grigor is Chair of the Art History Program at the University of California, Davis. Her research concentrates on the cross-pollination of visual culture and global politics and historiography. Yeva Ess (Sargsyan) is an architectural theorist, critic and journalist of architecture.

Barlow Der Mugrdechian and Arusyak Baldryan

“The Conservation of the Gospel of Tsughrut”

The 1000 year old Gospel of Tsughrut (or Hovhannes Avetaran) is a significant piece of Armenian medieval art in terms of archaeography and simplicity of miniature expression. Many times referred to as the Guardian of Tsughrut, the Gospel has been carefully preserved and protected by the Saponjyan family as the holy relic of the village.

Made of parchment, the 394-page Gospel with text and miniature paintings was copied by Hovhannes Grich and received by Priest Eghia in 974. Unknown are the name of the miniaturist and the place where the Gospel was copied.

In 1829 the Hovhannes Avetaran was taken from the village of Ilica, Erzurum to Tsughrut, Akhaltsikha by Armenian refugees who were forced to evacuate during the Russian-Turkish war. Since then, the Hovhannes Avetaran has been used for prayers in case of illnesses, happy and somber occasions, special celebrations and ceremonies in the local church.

The manuscript had been preserved in the same village by the same family of the Saponjyan, who have transmitted the Gospel from generation to generation through the elder son of the family. Nevertheless, it is considered to be the common cultural and religious property of the community of Tsughrut and is provided to the church for religious ceremonies on special occasions. While the local community ensured the preservation of the manuscript in the safest way they could, the manuscript had never been professionally taken care of.

In 2013, specialists from the Matenadaran had reported that the holy book’s parchment was in a state of decay. The professional restoration of the manuscript was never possible because the Saponjyan family, guardians of the Avetaran, would not allow anyone to take the Gospel away from the village, for fear that calamity would befall them all.

Vanadzor Museum of Fine Arts. Photo courtesy of Romina DerBedrossian (katchidb photography).
An ARISC Collaborative Heritage Management Grant awarded to the team of Barlow Der Mugrdechian and Arusyak Baldryan has made it possible to implement conservation and restoration work on the manuscript locally in the village of Tsuchhrut, ensuring longer preservation of the unique relic.

The conservation of the manuscript was implemented by Senior Conservators of the Yerevan Matenadaran, Artavazd Ayvazyan and Arthur Petrosyan, Biologist Lusine Markaryan, with professional supervision by Dr. Gayane Eliazyan, Head of the Restoration Department.

The conservation work was preceded by a biological analysis of the manuscript to identify fungi, other biological bodies, and to evaluate the overall state of the manuscript. The test results were communicated regularly with conservators in Yerevan during the on-site restoration period. In this way the conservation work was guided remotely regarding the condition of the manuscript parchment, paints and other elements.

The project also involved the Saponjyan family and the village inhabitants who would visit the house throughout the project. In this sense, they gained a greater appreciation for the significance of this cultural heritage that they own as a community by hearing about the value of the gospel from the professionals.

Additionally, the inhabitants and members of the Saponjyan family were provided oral and written guidance on how to treat the manuscript, clean the room, and represent the Gospel to visitors. The conservators also gave them basic cleaning materials like spirit, white gloves, masks and other attributes for the continued care of the manuscript.

The project is also remarkable, in that, as the Matenadaran’s Acting Director Mr. Ara Khzmalyan and Ter Zakaria Bakhumyan, a representative from Holy Ejmiatsin, said, “the stereotypes have been broken. Now we know that it is also possible to take care of the innumerable Armenian manuscripts preserved in family houses, locally”. Indeed, for the conservation department this was a first: to implement conservation work outside the conservation laboratory, which has been a new learning experience for the department. After successful completion of this project, neighboring villages have sent inquiries to the conservation team as to whether their manuscripts can also be conserved.

On October 25, 2016, Ms. Baldryan and the Conservation Team presented their project to the public at the Matenadaran. Local media coverage of the lecture is available on the ARISC website.

Dr. Barlow Der Mugrdechian is a historian and the Berberian Coordinator of Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno.

Aruzak Baldryan is a MA student of UNESCO World Heritage Studies at Brandenburg Technical University of Cottbus Senftenberg in Germany.

Left: A damaged page of the Gospel.
Right: Arthur Petrosyan and Artavazd Ayvazyan (l-r) preserving the Gospel.

Photos courtesy of Arusyak Baldryan
Donations

ARISC is very fortunate and thankful to have received generous donations from Martin Barooshian, Avedis & Houry Boyamian, Lisa & Joseph Dagdijian, Sarah K. Dergazarian, Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Giragosian, Armen Khachaturian, Ann Marie Kohlligian, Anoush Miridjanian, MD, Carl & Valerie Narsasian, Martin & Sylva Surabian, Rouben & Lida Surenian, and numerous anonymous donors in support of our fellowships, activities and general costs in Armenia. Thank you!

In Appreciation

ARISC would like to thank all our 2016-17 representatives for their tremendous work. In Armenia, Resident Director Susan Marukhyan, Accountant Nina Panyan, and Intern Mariam Nersisyan have maintained ARISC’s steady presence with the Armenia Branch; Leyla Rustamli has been the steadfast ARISC Azerbaijan Resident Director; and in Georgia, our activities were expertly carried out by Resident Director Diana Lezhava and Accountant Ketevan Gikashvili.

Many thanks to Lilit Yernjakyan, Professor at the Komitas State Conservatory in Yerevan for hosting our lecture at the Komitas State Conservatory; to Gayane Eliazyan, Head of Tsghrutt conservation team, Artavazd Ayyazyan, Senior Conservator, Arthur Petrosyan, Senior Conservator, and Lusine Markaryan, biologist at the Matenadaran for co-sponsoring our talk on the Tsghrutt Project at the Matenadaran. We are also grateful to the assistance of Pavel Avetisyan, Gayane Shaghoyan, and Roman Hovsepyan at the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, as well as Yuliya Antonyan at Yerevan State University.

In Georgia, Timothy Blauvelt (American Councils), and Mariam Sikharulidze, Nino Stavridi and Mariam Kobaladze (CRRC), have been instrumental in coordinating the WiP co-sponsored lectures. We also want to thank Dr. Lika Tsuladze (Center for Social Sciences) and Dr. Ketevan Gurchiani (Ilia State University).

In the US, thanks to Elizabeth Fagan for creating and maintaining the online South Caucasus Forum.

And many, many thanks to everyone at the Council of American Overseas Research Centers for all their assistance: Monica Clark, Katie Jost, Nanette Pyne, Rick Spees, Chris Tuttle, 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 and applications, to moderating networking sessions, to reading through applications, you are what keeps ARISC running! Thank you!

A summer residence in the Lesser Caucasus Mountains (Adjara region, Georgia).

Photo by Richard Tate
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 Matenadaran, and the Komitas State Conservatory of Yerevan. In Georgia, the American Councils for International Education: ACTR/ACCELS, the Caucasus Research Resource Centers (CRRC), Center for Social Sciences (CSS), Ilia State University (ISU), and the Georgian National Museum.


WiP – “The Documentary Tradition in Georgian Film” by Julie Christensen, George Mason University. October 26, 2016, Tbilisi, Georgia.


“Oral History as a Tool for Research and Museology” by Robert van Voren, Human Rights in Mental Health – Federation Global Initiative on Psychiatry. November 8, 2016, Tbilisi, Georgia. This talk was held in conjunction with the Georgian National Museum, the Center for Social Sciences, and Ilia State University.


WiP – “Georgian Social Democracy: From Class to Nation” by Stephen Jones, Mount Holyoke College and ARISC Vice President. November 16, 2016, Tbilisi, Georgia.

WiP – “Modern Russian Politics — Myths and Realities” by Archil Sikharulidze, Tbilisi State University. December 7, 2016, Tbilisi, Georgia.

WiP – “Pedagogy, Modernity and Nationalism in the Caucasus in the Age of Reaction, 1880-1905” by Timothy Blauvelt, Ilia State University and American Councils, and Anton Vacharadze, National Archives of Georgia and Ilia State University. December 14, 2016, Tbilisi, Georgia.
WiP – “In These Complicated Times…’: The Disassembly and Assembly of Landscapes of Irrigation in Post-Communist Ukraine” by Brian Kuns, Stockholm University. December 21, 2016, Tbilisi, Georgia.


WiP – “Russian Imperial Humanitarianism & Armenian Refugees on the Caucasus Front of the Great War” by Asya Darbinyan, Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Clark University. April 19, 2017, Tbilisi, Georgia.

WiP – “Georgia In-Between: Religion in Public Schools” by Ketevan Gurchiani, Ilia State University. April 26, 2017, Tbilisi, Georgia.

EVENTS

(Continued from Page 13)


“Strategies for Applying to Graduate Programs” by Talin Lindsay, American Research Institute of the South Caucasus and Purdue University. June 28, 2017, Tbilisi, Georgia.

Left: Larkspur (Delphinium sp.). Right: Globe Thistle (Echinops sp.)

Photos by Richard Tate
WiP – “The Ties That Bind (Until They Don’t): Political Networks and Regime Transformation in Georgia” by Julie George, Queens College, CUNY. July 5, 2017, Tbilisi, Georgia.

“Strategies for Applying to Graduate Programs” by Talin Lindsay, American Research Institute of the South Caucasus and Purdue University. July 7, 2017, Yerevan, Armenia.


“Plants, People, the Mountains and the Sea: Ethnobotanical Investigations in Adjara, Georgia” by Richard W. Tate, University of Florida and ARISC Fellow. July 26, 2017, Tbilisi, Georgia.


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2. Complete the appropriate form and email to info@arisc.org or mail to the address in the sidebar. Institutional Members will need to submit a hard copy of their membership form.
3. Submit annual membership fee via post or Paypal from our website.
4. Memberships run from October 1st through September 30th.

Benefits of Membership
Members have the opportunity to shape ARISC activities and offerings in the South Caucasus, by serving on a variety of committees. Access to a discussion group gives members immediate news on the latest scholarly developments and opportunities in the region.

An annual newsletter and member directory are invaluable resources for following ARISC’s work and networking with a wider community of scholars. ARISC also works to publicize members’ scholarly events that are pertinent to the South Caucasus, and offers modest funds for co-sponsoring events. ARISC has worked with several local vendors to provide discounts to members.