A Word from the Presidents

Dear Colleagues,

It is bittersweet to note that this is my final president’s “Word” of introduction to our annual newsletter as I pass the torch to incoming President, Dr. Maureen E. Marshall. I hope you will join me in welcoming Maureen to ‘the bridge’ as she guides ARISC’s steady growth into our second decade as an organization. Please read more about Maureen below!

2017-18 was once again a productive and exciting period of scholarly accomplishments for ARISC’s members and fellows, and we’re thrilled to share some of them with you here! Your support of research in the region continues to make a strong impact on the careers of South Caucasus scholars as you can see from the list of new publications, degrees awarded, and job appointments secured in the US and abroad in the “News from our Members Section” (p.2).

In our “Notes From Abroad” section (beginning on p. 6) I invite you to explore groundbreaking studies into the South Caucasus’ rich past, spanning the Bronze Age (including research conducting by incoming president Maureen Marshall!) through the Imperial and Soviet periods. For example, Dr. Stephen Riegg, ARISC fellow and assistant professor of history at Texas A&M, discusses his current research on the South Caucasus unique geopolitical position in Russo-Persian relations during Russia’s Imperial period. In addition, Dr. Jonathan Sicotte, currently a post-doc at the People’s Friendship University of Russia, used his ARISC fellowship for his emerging historical studies of Soviet energy extraction policy in Baku during Lenin’s New Economic Policy through WWII. University of Illinois doctoral student and ARISC Fellow, Jonathan Hollis, reveals the fascinating musical connections between Armenia and Azerbaijan found in the historical mugham tradition.

This year we extended our online networking opportunities (p.11), in which young scholars from the South Caucasus and the US can connect via teleconference with an ARISC scholar to discuss issues related to their research. This year’s networking topics included a range of topics within anthropology, art history, migration studies, and regional gender and identity studies.

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. 10). And of course, it is your support that 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!

Ian C. Lindsay

Dear Colleagues,

I am both delighted and humbled to take on the responsibilities of President; Ian Lindsay has so productively steered ARISC’s efforts these last 3 years that I look forward to continuing his work on building on the current programs and initiatives. I am excited to work with the dedicated ARISC staff, engaging scholars, and amazing donors to continue to advance and support research in the South Caucasus. I know from experience how important and vital ARISC’s support is for early career scholars and the great impact it has on protecting the cultural heritage of the South Caucasus.

Maureen E. Marshall
News from ARISC Members

Sharing updates from our members (October 1, 2017 - September 30, 2018)


**Dr. Alisse Waterston**, ARISC Member, City University of New York, John Jay College, had her book published, **Gender in Georgia: Feminist Perspectives on Culture, Nation, and History in the South Caucasus**. The volume is edited with Maia Barkaia with afterword by Elizabeth Cullen Dunn, and is available through Berghahn Books (2017).

ARISC Member **Dustin Gilbreath** has two articles in an issue of Caucasus Survey. “The self-defeating game: how state capacity and policy choice affect political survival” and “Elections and election fraud in Georgia and Armenia.”

**Dr. Aleksandr V. Gevorkyan**, ARISC Member, St. John’s University, published on Armenia’s exchange rate in the Journal of Economic Studies “**The foreign exchange regime in a small open economy: Armenia and beyond**” in Vol. 44(5): 781-800.

Congratulations to ARISC member, **Dr. Selin Nugent**, on completing her PhD from Ohio State University in Biological Anthropology! Her dissertation is titled, *Pastoral Mobility and the Formation of Complex Settlement in the Middle Bronze Age Şərur Valley, Azerbaijan*. Dr. Nugent is presently a Research Affiliate at the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World at New York University and a Postdoctoral Researcher at University of Oxford, School of Anthropology & Museum Ethnography.

ARISC member **Dr. Stephen Riegg**, Texas A&M University, has published a piece on the reasons for Russia’s lack of involvement in Armenia’s “velvet revolution” in Real Clear World.

A joint publication by ARISC President, Members, and Fellows, is available. **Ian Lindsay** (Purdue University), **Karen Rubinson** (New York University), **Alan Greene** (New York University), **Emily Hammer** (University of Pennsylvania), & Lawrence, Dan (Durham University), “**Progress, problems, and possibilities of GIS in the South Caucasus: An international workshop summary**,” Antiquity, 92 (362), E9.

Congratulations to ARISC Member **Dr. Kathryn Franklin**, who is a Lecturer in Medieval History at Birkbeck, University of London, starting in September 2018!

ARISC Member **Dr. Anna Ohanyan**, Stonehill College, has several recent publications out about the “velvet revolution” taking place in Armenia: Al Jazeera, World Policy, and Keeping Democracy Alive.

Congratulations to ARISC Vice President **Dr. Stephen Jones**, Mount Holyoke College, on being awarded an honorary doctoral degree from Ilia State University in Georgia! The first event took place on 28th May, when Dr. Jones was the presented with an honorary doctorate from Ilia State University. It coincided with the reissue of his book *Socialism in Georgian Colors: on the European path to Social Democracy, 1883-1917*, in Georgian. The second event, also at Ilia State University, was a panel of Richard Hovannisian (UCLA) and Dr. Jones talking about the experience of the independent republics between 1918-21. The talk celebrated the 100th anniversary of the declaration of independence. You can read more about the events in Georgian [here](#) and [here](#).
News from ARISC Members

Sharing updates from our members (October 1, 2017 - September 30, 2018)

Congratulations to ARISC member Dr. Kristine Martirosyan-Olshansky on finishing her PhD from the University of California, Los Angeles! Her dissertation is titled, *Obsidian Economy in the Armenian Highlands During the Late Neolithic. A View from Masis Blur.* Congratulations, Dr. Martirosyan-Olshansky!

ARISC members Dr. Nathaniel Erb-Satullo (University of Oxford), Dr. Lara Fabian (Albert-Ludwigs-Universitat Freiburg), and Dr. Kathryn Franklin (University of Chicago), published in *Landscape Archaeology in Southern Caucasia: Finding Common Ground in Diverse Environments*, edited by William Anderson, Kristen Hopper, and Abby Robinson. Research for these publications was supported in part by ARISC funding opportunities.

**Erb-Satullo, N.L.** “Patterns of Settlement and Metallurgy in Late Bronze–Early Iron Age Kvemo Kartli, Southern Georgia.”

**Fabian, L.** “Moving in the Mountains: GIS and Mapping the Phenomenology of Travel through the South Caucasus.”

**Franklin, K.** and A. Babajanyan. “Approaching Landscapes of Infrastructure: Methods and Results of the Vayots Dzor Silk Road Survey.”

In summer 2018, ARISC member Dr. Lori Khatchadourian, Cornell University, ran another successful season of Camp Aragats through the Aragats Foundation. Camp Aragats provides a hands-on educational experience for girls living in the vicinity of archaeological sites that are under active investigation by the collaborative research initiative, Project ArAGATS. Over the course of 3 days, girls learn how archaeologists use scientific and humanistic methods to study the past through interactive sessions on excavation, architectural drawing, ceramic restoration, zooarchaeology, bioarchaeology, paleoethnobotany, drone flight and more. ARISC member Dr. Maureen Marshall, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, led training sessions, as did researchers Ruben Badalyan, Lilit Ter-Minasyan, Arshaluys Mkrdichyan, Belinda Monahan, Amy Cromartie, and Armine Harutyunyan, who also co-directed the camp.

ARISC Member Dr. Mehrangiz Najafizadeh, Department of Sociology, University of Kansas, has published a co-edited anthology, *Women of Asia: Globalization, Development, and Gender Equity*, with a substantial content on the former Soviet Eurasia/Central Asia. With 32 original chapters by scholars from over 20 countries, this comprehensive anthology reflects cutting edge content throughout developed and developing Asia as it contributes significantly to understanding globalization’s transformative process and the resulting detrimental and beneficial consequences for women in the four major geographic regions of Asia—East Asia, Southeast Asia, South Asia, and Eurasia/Central Asia —by giving "voice" to women and by providing innovative ways of bringing salient understudied issues to the forefront.

Dr Najafizadeh also has had her previously published article, “Ethnic Conflict and Forced Displacement: Narratives of Azeri IDP and Refugee Women From the Nagorno-Karabakh War,” reprinted in *Trapped Between War And Peace: The Case of Nagorno-Karabakh*, edited by Gulshan Pashayeva and Fuad Chiragov and published by the Center for Strategic Studies under the President (Baku, Azerbaijan 2018).
News from ARISC Members

Sharing updates from our members (October 1, 2017 - September 30, 2018)

Congratulations to Dr. Alisse Waterston, City University of New York, John Jay College, on being awarded an honorary doctorate from Ilia State University in Georgia! Dr. Waterston was awarded the doctorate on June 6, 2018. As part of the event, she gave the talk, “In Dark Times: The Power and Promise of Engaged Scholarship,” situating the promises and possibilities of contemporary, critical scholarship in the context of today’s politically fraught times. Offering a view from the United States, Professor Waterston considered the movements towards critically applied and publicly engaged scholarship to confront and transform the condition of ubiquitous violence in the contemporary world. Read more. Photos.

ARISC Member Sabrina Papazian was a presenter at the summer 2018 Smithsonian Folklife Festival, “Armenia: Creating Home.” The event took place at the National Mall from June 27th to July 1st and July 4th to July 8th, and included exciting presentations, workshops, and food. Sabrina was at a booth highlighting the Areni-I prehistoric cave, where archaeologists found the world’s oldest leather shoe and wine production center.


In Summer 2016, ARISC awarded the team of Dr. Talinn Grigor (University of California, Davis) and Yeva Ess-Sargsyan (ReArk Architectural Environment Research Center, Armenia), a Collaborative Heritage Management Grant for their project, "Digital Catalog of Armenian Modernist Architecture." The project resulted in the creation of the online Encyclopedia of Armenian Modernist Architecture. Two years later, the first issue of the journal, ArmArch: Language of Armenian Architecture, edited by Yeva Ess-Sargsyan, has been e-published and is available for a free download. The first issue is dedicated to regionalism in modernist architecture. ArmArch is a think-tank and an online platform involved in the research of various theoretical aspects of Armenian architecture.

In Washington Post’s Monkey Cage, ARSC member Dr. Anna Ohanyan, Stonehill College, writes about Russia’s strategy of “regional fracture” in its borderlands, which it uses to protect its own borders. Dr. Ohanyan elaborates on this policy in her edited volume, Russia Abroad: Driving Regional Fracture in Post-Communist Eurasia and Beyond (Georgetown University Press, 2018).

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.
Donations

ARISC is very fortunate and thankful to have received generous donations in support of our fellowships, activities and general costs in Armenia from Avedis & Houry Boyamian, Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Giragosian, Armen Khachatryan, Ann Marie Kohlligian, Anoush Miridjanian, MD, Carl & Valerie Narsasian, Dr. Arsine Oshagan, Linda Shahinian & Herb Schiff, Rouben & Lida Surenian, and numerous anonymous donors. Thank you!

In Appreciation

ARISC would like to thank all our 2017-18 representatives for their dedicated work. In Armenia, Resident Director Susan Marukhyan, Accountant Nina Panyan, and Intern Aleta Serobyan have been smoothly running ARISC programming through the Armenia Branch. In Azerbaijan, Leyla Rustamli has been ARISC’s steadfast Resident Director. Diana Lezhava, ARISC’s Resident Director of the Georgia Branch, and Accountant Ketevan Gikashvili have been enthusiastically promoting ARISC through our activities.

Many thanks to Pavel Avetisyan, Gayane Shaghoyan, Roman Hovsepyan, Ruben Badalyan, and Arthur Petrosyan at the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography; Yuliya Antonyan, YSU; Heglune Manasyan, and Tatevik Azizyan at CRRC Armenia; Karine Harutyunyan, Levon Babamyan, and Lusine Madoyan at the State Institute of Foreign Languages After Brussov; Arevik Ohanyan at Eurasia University; and Sean Reynolds, AUA.

In Azerbaijan, our events were coordinated with the assistance of Nargiz Guliyeva at EPF/CRRC Azerbaijan and Nejef Museibli, Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography of ANAS.

In Georgia, Timothy Blauvelt (American Councils), Nino Stavridi and Mariam Kobaladze (CRRC), have been instrumental in coordinating the WiP co-sponsored lectures. We also want to thank Mariana Unapkoshvili, Tamar Sabedashvili, Maia Barkaia, and Irakli Iremadze from TSU; Tamar Tskhadadze, ISU; and Beka Kobakhidze, Georgian Institute for Public Affairs.

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: Glenn Corbett, Nick Gottschall, Arcelia Jackson, Katie Jost, Nanette Pyne, Rick Spees, 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!

St. Ellia’s Church, Dedoplists’q'aro (Kakheti, Georgia).

Photo by Richard Tate
Jonathan Hollis

Mugham in Armenian Music: Echoes of Conflict in Exile

Mugham is perhaps the most historically and politically significant musical tradition of the South Caucasus, and is particularly associated with Azerbaijan. However, I am studying ethnic Armenian musicians who perform mugham, some of whom were forced to leave Azerbaijan because of inter-ethnic violence leading up to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. By interviewing and recording life histories of Armenian mugham musicians, learning the mugham tradition firsthand from master musicians, and examining the recorded history of the mugham tradition in Armenia, I will explore the social and cultural aspects of the Armenian-Azeri conflict through the lived experience of these musicians.

Jonathan Hollis is a doctoral student in Musicology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Jonathan’s research focuses on music in the global Armenian community. His Master’s project involves music-making in the Armenian diaspora community of Toronto, Canada, and the musical manifestations of politics and collective memory.
Jonathan Sicotte

Baku: Violence, Oil, and Promise: 1920 – 1945

My project, “Baku: Violence, Oil, and Promise: 1920-1945” is an exploration of Soviet economic policy toward petroleum production, specifically in Baku, Azerbaijan, during the New Economic Policy (NEP) through the first and second five-plan to the Second World War. The Soviets across the 1920s provided limited regulatory autonomy to Azneft, and to promote oil production in order to accrue hard currency from exportation.

This reform simultaneously created an increasingly complicated institutional trade framework that both monopolized trade policy and long-term economic planning of the industry, a development which unintentionally also complicated the profitability of the oil industry as a conduit of exports needed to secure trade credits for imported machinery and industrial goods. The purpose of this investigation has been to explore a causative effect between the healthy recovery of Baku’s industry after 1920, shifts in broader regulatory policy during and after the NEP, and the unanticipated negative ramification of post-1927 Soviet trade policy as Baku’s oil industry began to see stagnate levels of production after 1932.

Furthermore, I have investigated how the relatively quick recovery of the oil industry in Baku from 1920 to 1932, have lead Gosplan to make perpetual over-assumptions regarding potential achievable production during the first and second five-year plans, and that after those over-expectations were in turn adopted by party leadership in both Moscow and Baku, they helped cause increasing inefficient patterns of investment in Baku’s aging fields across the 1930s and 1940s.

In addition, I believe the relative slowness of regulatory authorities in Moscow to react to consistent overestimation of income from oil exports paralleled the glacial reaction to serious fiscal and productivity issues the industry in Baku was facing and illustrated many of the core issues facing the Soviet Union as it attempted to both industrialize and reduce the excess debt burden it had accrued from negative trade balances with Western countries during the NEP.

My project also explores not only how the industrialization of oil secured Baku both as a place of industrial importance to the Soviet Union, but how the Soviet pattern of investment from 1920 to 1945 and its contradictory regime of institutional regulation led to an inefficient investment strategy towards Baku’s fields, initiating the beginning of a process that would steadily lead to increasingly lagging productivity and reduced profitability.

“My affiliation with ARISC has been beneficial to my project and has made a positive difference in it. First of all, Executive Director Talin Lindsay has been in regular contact before and after my time in Baku and has been very helpful through the fellowship process. Furthermore, the local ARISC director in Baku, Leyla Rustamli, helped me get settled in Baku and arranged the presentation venue. In addition, ARISC has provided access to a community of scholars interested in the region and its history.”

— Jonathan Sicotte
Moreover, my project addresses the limits of Azneft’s autonomy in the Soviet regulatory environment: Azneft was able to conduct the mechanics of production relatively independently in regard to regulation from the central state itself, including minimal safety or environmental regulations.

Nevertheless, due to the fact that export pricing and revenue was handled by the People’s Commissar of External Trade [NKVT], Azneft would have little ability to independently negotiate export prices or foreign concession.

Furthermore, due to the fact that much of the long-term planning would be handled by Gosplan after 1927, Azneft would be restricted in developing an independent production strategy. The end result was that early success of Azneft fed into an ill-fated strategy in which leadership in Moscow assumed the oil industry could be a key lynchpin of supporting mass industrialization.

Jonathan Sicotte is currently a post-doctoral fellow at People’s Friendship University of Russia and a former post-doctoral fellow at the Higher School of Economics in Moscow. Recently Dr. Sicotte received a PhD in Russian and Soviet History at Georgetown University in 2017 and previously received a Masters in Middle Eastern Studies from the University of Chicago.

Stephen Badalyan Riegg

In the Imperial Vise: The South Caucasus between Russia and Persia, 1785-1917

From May 31 until June 12, 2018, I collected unpublished primary sources at the National Archive of Armenia (NAA) in Yerevan. This research will serve as the foundation for my second book project, “In the Imperial Vise: The South Caucasus between Russia and Persia, 1785-1917.”

My new monograph will be an international history of Romanov Russia’s encounter with Qajar Persia from the reign of Catherine the Great to that of Nicholas II. During that time, the tsarist empire struggled to capitalize on its military strength over Persia while holding off other powers—mainly the Ottoman empire, Britain, and France—from menacing Russia’s interests in the Caucasus and Central Asia. Emerging from the understudied nexus of the Eastern Question and the Great Game, this history elucidates imperial Russia’s navigation of national, sectarian, and ethnic lines in the contested borderlands of the South Caucasus. In the long nineteenth century, Russo-Persian relations evolved from a bitter bout for control over the Caucasus to a partnership between unlikely imperial allies who cooperated to repel external actors from regional affairs. Through war and peace, the tsar and the shah honed their political arsenals to meet international challenges on the local and global stages.

Dr. Stephen Badalyan Riegg is an Assistant Professor of History at Texas A&M University. His research interests include imperial Russian history, nineteenth-century European politics, and nationalism and imperialism in Eurasia.

“It was a privilege to receive a fellowship from the American Research Institute of the South Caucasus. I am grateful to ARISC for contributing to the gestation of my second book project. Thank you!” — Stephen Riegg

Archives
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.

Ruben Badalyan and Maureen E. Marshall

Preserving the Cultural Heritage of Karnut Cemetery

This project contributed to Armenia’s cultural heritage by preserving endangered materials and remains of an Early Bronze Age (EBA, 3500 - 2500 cal BC) cemetery in the village of Karnut, located on the eastern edge of the Shirak Plain. The project excavated and documented burials endangered by daily village activities, and the remains are being carefully preserved, restored, and curated for future generations. The project contributes a rare and unique collection to Armenia’s cultural heritage.

Three burials were excavated, revealing the remains of multiple successive interments in two tombs dating to the Kura-Araxes I and II periods. In the process of excavating burials, we also revealed a previously unknown part of the EBA settlement at Karnut.

The project has already changed the understanding of the EBA occupation at Karnut and contributed to an emerging picture of EBA mortuary ritual. Meanwhile the ongoing study of materials and human remains will provide an unprecedented view into EBA life.

Dr. Ruben Badalyan (Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, NAS Armenia) studies Old World Archaeology during the Neolithic-Chalcolithic, Bronze and Iron Ages of the South Caucasus; Dr. Maureen Marshall (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA) is a bioarchaeologist whose work focuses on early complex polities and empires in the South Caucasus and Eurasia.

“We thank ARISC for its financial support, facilitating the collaboration between Armenian and American scholars at different stages in their careers and significant contributions to the project. ARISC’s support has made possible the preservation of rare and unique materials that contribute to Armenia’s cultural heritage. The CHM grant has been instrumental in raising awareness of cultural preservation for the local residents of the village of Karnut and for calling attention to this important and unique site among the scholarly community.” — Maureen Marshall and Ruben Badalyan

Left: EBA burial chamber with 16 ceramic vessels, rings and bracelet, used for successive burials. Right: Intact vessels found in the burial chamber.

Photo courtesy of Badalyan and Marshall
ARISC’s Representatives

The people who make everything happen abroad
Funding for these positions has been made possible in part through private donations.

Caucasus Mountains. Photo by Giorgi Bedianashvili.

The research funded through ARISC is diverse, and so are the people exploring the South Caucasus, and particularly Armenia. The work here makes one know more about one’s own country from different perspectives. Helping our visiting researchers to explore their topics, we also read and learn interesting things about our own culture, history, and nature. ARISC is a place where one can think, propose, and create. This is a place for meeting new and interesting people, a place to learn and to grow. I enjoy working for ARISC!

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.

Belief in the mission has been the reason of my attachment to ARISC throughout the years. ARISC is doing a great job in bringing US and South Caucasian scholarly communities together, though there is still a long way to go, especially in Azerbaijan. Being part of the team that carries out excessive efforts to foster academic research of our region and constantly strives to overcome obstacles towards this objective, is indeed satisfying for me. Thank you, ARISC!

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

ARISC creates an interesting and diversified platform for the exchange of scholarly thought. It is one of the few organizations that work in all three Caucasian countries creating opportunities for cross-border cooperation and trying to cover as many different disciplines as possible. It is a privilege to work for ARISC together with its wonderful team.

Diana Lezhava has worked with ARISC since 2014. She is a doctoral student of Sociology at Tbilisi State University and works on the links between the higher education and the labour market. She has led number of research projects related to the higher education that resulted in respective research reports and publications. In 2018 Diana became a Higher Education Expert of Erasmus+ Capacity Building in the Field of Higher Education, and an Authorization Expert at the National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement of Georgia.

Armenia@arisc.org
Azerbaijan@arisc.org
Georgia@arisc.org
ARISC’s Accountants
Ketevan Gikashvili, Georgia Accountant

It is my fifth year of working with ARISC and I have enjoyed working in this wonderful environment every day. ARISC creates an interesting and diverse grounds for international and local scholars to collaborate, do joint research and organize various exciting events. I am happy to be part of ARISC team.

Nina Panyan, Armenia Accountant

This was a year of new ideas and different projects with good results. As always working at ARISC gives the opportunity to support the scientific research about the South Caucasus. With the help of this our next generations will have good base for discovering more in this sphere.

ARISC’s Interns
Aleta Serobyan, Armenia

I have the nickname “forever a Volunteer.” Just before I convinced myself that I won’t do volunteering anymore after EVS, I forgot the passion and the energy it is actually giving me.

Voluntary work and my internship at ARISC is a very special experience for me. My journey as an ARISC Intern started from February until the end of September 2018. During this period, I met a lot of special people, expanded my knowledge and skillset in different fields.

Working with the ARISC team was just AMAZING. Each and every one of them is very knowledgeable, it’s like joining a family where everyone is supportive of each other and also enjoy their time together.

I helped with several projects and no two projects were alike. For me it’s a realistic experience of professional world and work environment in general. I am fortunate to meet and work in this environment.

Note to future interns: It’s a good opportunity to learn intercultural values, meet awesome people, flexible work, and great, great benefits you’ll find out for yourself later :)

Networking Opportunities

South Caucasus Online Forum

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. 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.

• “Preserving Cultural Identity” with Jane Britt Greenwood, AIA, November 2, 2017
• “History of the Caucasus” with Michael Reynolds, November 30, 2017
• “Anthropology in the South Caucasus” with Kevin Tuite, December 7, 2017
• “Migration into and out of the South Caucasus” with Erin Hofmann, Utah State University, April 19, 2018
• “Where is Armenia in the History of Art?” with Christina Maranci, Tufts University, May 17, 2018
• “Cross-Disciplinary Collaborations: Gender Studies in the South Caucasus” with Alisse Waterson, City University of New York- John Jay College of Criminal Justice, June 18, 2018
Remembering the Georgian Democratic Republic 100 Years On: A Model For Europe?

June 25-30, 2018  Tbilisi, Georgia

The international academic forum entitled, “Remembering The Georgian Democratic Republic 100 Years On: A Model For Europe?” held June 25 - 30, 2018, in Tbilisi, Georgia, consisted of two parts: an international conference and a summer school, both dedicated to the centennial of the First Democratic Republic of Georgia (1918-21).

The conference was held on June 25 and 26, 2018 at the Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University and the Georgian National Museum. The program featured several prominent international scholars working on the First Democratic Republic, as well as established and emerging local historians who presented their research findings to the academic community. The program looked at the three years of Georgia’s independence from multiple angles, including domestic and foreign policies, relations with European countries and immediate neighbors, military and armed forces, self-governance, cultural and religious affairs. Presentations were also made on the First Democratic Republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan, which were declared at the same time.

The summer school program, held from June 27 to 30, 2018, at Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, National Archives of Georgia and National Parliamentary Library of Georgia, included presentations on various aspects of the history of the First Democratic Republics of Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan. The students attending the school were from all three South Caucasian countries, creating a foundation for future cooperation of junior scholars interested in 1918-1921 history of the South Caucasus.

The event was co-organized by Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, National Archive of Georgia, National Parliamentary Library of Georgia, National Museum of Georgia and ARISC with the generous funding from Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation. Translation services for the workshop were funded by the Council of American Overseas Research Centers by a sub-grant to ARISC.
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](http://www.arisc.org). We are grateful to all the institutions that have co-sponsored events with ARISC. In Armenia: Caucasus Research Resource Centers (CRRC), Eurasia International University, NAS Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, and Yerevan Brusov State University of Languages and Social Sciences (YSULS). In Azerbaijan, Baku Idea Lab, Caucasus Research Resource Centers (CRRC), European Partnership Foundation, and Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography of ANAS. In Georgia, the American Councils for International Education: ACTR/ACCELS, the Caucasus Research Resource Centers (CRRC), Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, National Parliamentary Library of Georgia.


Contextualizing Gender in Georgia: Nation, Culture, Power and Politics
Alisse Waterston, Presidential Scholar and Professor of Anthropology, City University of New York
June 5, 2018, Tbilisi, Georgia

This keynote lecture of the international symposium, Gender in Georgia, provided an overview of Gender in Georgia: Feminist Perspectives on Culture, Nation, and History, the first woman-centered collection of research and analysis on Georgia by Georgian feminist scholars. The lecture offered thick description and political economic framing explaining gender as a lightning rod issue in this post-Soviet state. The lecture theorized Georgia’s strategic geopolitical location and the significance of contingent history in understanding contemporary gender politics. Thus contextualized, the lecture provided analysis of Gender in Georgia as decolonized social science research that offered a feminist critique of power, assessed women’s political agency, and reclaimed a history in process of being written.

Funding for this lecture comes from a grant from the Council of American Overseas Research Centers. Hosted by National Parliamentary Library of Georgia.


WiP — “Some Reflections on the Historiographical Materials of the Aurangzeb ‘Almgir (Gov. 1685-1701), or: How to Legitimize India’s Most Controversial King?” by Tilmann Kulke, Ilia State University. April 11, 2018, Tbilisi, Georgia.


WiP – “Democratization, Nationalism, and Media on the Path to Civil Conflict: The Structure and Dynamics of Nationalist Appeals in Georgian Print Media” by Nino Abzianidze, University of Copenhagen. April 18, 2018, Tbilisi, Georgia.


“Home Country Engagement: Some Early Results from the Armenian Diaspora Survey”

Aleksandr V. Gevorkyan, St. John’s University
June 19, 2018, Yerevan, Armenia

National diasporas have long since been argued as potential “first-movers” in their home countries’ economic development. This lecture covered some preliminary results from the Armenian Diaspora Survey, which ran between December 2015 and April 2018. The talk explored a range of diverse modalities of diaspora-home model engagement in post-socialist Eastern Europe and Former Soviet Union, with Armenia as specific example. Much of anonymous responses on willingness to engage with historical homeland stand in contrast to popular opinion polls or hypothetical conclusions by extrapolation. Initial evidence suggests a range of non-monetary opportunities, e.g. volunteering, teaching, knowledge-sharing, arts projects, etc.

Funding for this workshop comes from a grant from the Council of American Overseas Research Centers. Hosted by CRRC-Armenia
MEMBER NEWSLETTER ISSUE NO. 9 2017-18

EVENTS
(Continued from Page 15)

WiP – “Armenian-Azerbaijani Co-Living in Georgia as Inspiration for Post-Liberal Peace Research” by Vadim Romashov, University of Tampere. May 16, 2018, Tbilisi, Georgia.


WiP – “In the Centre of the Periphery: Music in Multiethnic Tiflis Circa 1900” by Jonas Löffler, University of Cologne. June 13, 2018, Tbilisi, Georgia.

WiP – “Sacred Space and Gender in Upper Svaneti” by Kevin Tuite, University of Montreal. June 20, 2018, Tbilisi, Georgia.

Centennial of the First Georgian Republic: Past, Present and Future of Georgia

Georgian Association in the USA in collaboration with Levan Mikeladze Foundation and Center for Strategic & International Studies
May 9, 2018, Washington, DC, USA

This widely attended conference by the Georgian Association in the USA began with opening remarks by Elisabeth Kvitashvili, President of the Georgian Association in the USA, Redjeb Jordania, son of the first president of the Georgian Democratic Republic, Tina Mikeladze, President, Levan Mikeladze Foundation, and Ambassador David Bakradze, Ambassador of Georgia to the United States. Three speaker’s panels included several distinguished guests, including former US ambassadors to Georgia and former Georgian Ambassadors to the US. Featured speakers included Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Bridget Brink, Former Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage, and Foreign Policy Adviser to the Prime Minister of Georgia, Tedo Japaridze. The conference was attended by representatives from government, academia, and the Georgian community who at the conference, heard about the many challenges faced by Georgia in the last 100 years, but also of the bright future ahead for the country.

Supporting organizations: America-Georgia Business Council, American Friends of Georgia, Central Asia-Caucasus Institute, American Research Institute of the South Caucasus; Wines Provided by Georgian Wine House.
EVENTS

WiP – “State Modernization and Middle Class Formation in Urban Azerbaijan” by Cristina Boboc, Ghent University. July 11, 2018, Tbilisi, Georgia.

WiP – “Political Opposition Versus Sources of Power in Central Asia: Conceptualizing Political Opposition in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan” by Maia Machavariani, Dublin City University. July 18, 2018, Tbilisi, Georgia.

“After the Revolution: Baku and its Oil — 1918-1927” by Jonathan Sicotte, ARISC Fellow, People’s Friendship University of Russia, Georgetown University. July 18, 2018, Baku, Azerbaijan.


“Mugham and Armenian Music: Preliminary Perspectives” by Jonathan Hollis, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and ARISC Fellow. August 7, 2018, Yerevan, Armenia.

We, The Scholarly Subjects: Theory as Daily (Political) Practice

Nelli Sargsyan, Marlboro College
August 21, 2018, Yerevan, Armenia

Where do our theoretical approaches and daily lives meet? How do the socioeconomic and political circumstances in which we live and work as scholars animate our research and vice versa? What would it mean to live in our daily lives the theories we value in our analyses? How do various systems of power operate in our own scholarly work? And how can we do research without reproducing them? These were some of the questions covered in this interactive lecture. Participants were invited to reflect on their theoretical and methodological work as social scientists.

Funding for this lecture comes from a grant from the Council of American Overseas Research Centers. Hosted by CRRC-Armenia.
Workshop: Academic Writing and Publishing in the New Digital Environment

Alisse Waterston, Presidential Scholar and Professor of Anthropology, City University of New York; Facilitators Maia Barkaia and Tamar Sabedashvili, Gender Studies Programme, Tbilisi State University

June 4, 2018, Tbilisi, Georgia

The workshop provided graduate students and faculty with a deep understanding of the current state of scholarly journal and book publishing, and assisted participants in developing skills and strategies for writing both peer-reviewed journal articles and books, and new, public forms of digital scholarship that will be in dialogue with non-academic as well as academic audiences. The workshop also familiarized participants with current publishing processes and outlets.

_Funding for this workshop comes from a grant from the Council of American Overseas Research Centers. Hosted by Tbilisi State University._

---

Workshop: How to Develop New Courses That Work: Syllabus Design for a Democratic Classroom

Anna Ohanyan, Richard B. Finnegan Distinguished Professor of Political Science and International Relations, Stonehill College

June 27, 2018, Yerevan, Armenia

This workshop introduced the basics, as well as the latest and cutting-edge research on syllabi development and curricular design. Understanding the purpose of a syllabus in structuring teacher-student relationships, and strengthening transparency, accountability and assessment dimensions of the teaching process were some of the issues covered. This interactive workshop engaged participants in break-out sessions, giving them an opportunity to develop and enhance their own syllabi.

_Funding for this workshop comes from a grant from the Council of American Overseas Research Centers. Hosted by Eurasian International University._
Institutional Members’
Upcoming Events

Armeno-Iranica: A Shared History, a conference in honor of Nina Garsoian

January 26, 2019 – January 27, 2019
Armenian Studies Program, University of California, Irvine, USA

Co-organized by UCI’s Samuel Jordan Center for Persian Studies, Massih Chair in Persian Studies, and Meghrouri Family Presidential Chair in Armenian Studies and UCLA’s Richard Hovannisian Chair in Modern Armenian History, Armeno-Iranica: A Shared History, a conference in honor of Nina Garsoian will convene on January 26 and 27, 2019 at UCI and UCLA. This conference is the first in North America to address the common history and shared world of Armenia/ns and Iran/i ans from antiquity to the modern period.

Contested Landscapes, Competing Narratives: Armenian and Global Perspectives

February 22, 2019 10:00am - 5:00pm
Armenian Studies Program, University of Michigan, USA


This Workshop will be devoted to the multi-faceted topic of contested historical landscapes. Bridging Armenian and global perspectives—encompassing a vast geography from Southeastern Europe to the Middle East and the post-Soviet space—the workshop participants will explore competing narratives on cultural heritage, history and, ultimately, homeland. Drawing from the mutually-enriching expertise of different academic disciplines—from history and political science to sociology and anthropology—this workshop will excavate from the debris of 20th century landscapes silenced narratives on disappeared populations, alien homelands and collective violence.

Distinguished Lecture for the Berj H. Haidostian Annual Lecture Series:
Views of the Ottoman Empire: Discovering the Visual Record in Motion

Jay Weissberg
March 14th 2019 7-9 PM
Armenian Studies Program, University of Michigan, USA

A wave of handsome volumes about photography in the Ottoman Empire have appeared in the past decade, straddling an uneasy border between nostalgic evocations of a voiceless time just beyond our grasp, and visual markers guiding us to a more complex reading of a challenging historical epoch. The reproductions of these images are a fairly easy task that enable widespread distribution, but what of the hours of footage from the same period, largely sitting uncatalogued in film archives across the globe? Mostly shot by Western cameramen sent by studios such as Lumière, Pathé, Urban and Edison, these actualities, ranging from views of the ruins at Ani to street performers in Constantinople, panoramas of minarets in Sarajevo to newsreels of Sultan Mehmed V, are now largely inaccessible and poorly researched. The surviving record for Armenia is particularly problematic, existing in unidentified fragments recording refugees from the genocide or international inspectors sent to investigate the massacres. “Views of the Ottoman Empire” is a project begun in 2014 by several archivists and independent scholars to identify what moving images remain, research their history, distribution and reception, and screen curated programs in both the countries where they were initially shot and among diasporic communities for whom film provides an emotional connection that’s difficult to quantify. This lecture will discuss the identification and reevaluation of these little-seen films, alongside thoughts regarding their meaning for audiences today.
Institutional Members’
Upcoming Events

“Lenin’s Revenge: Regional Fracture and Security (Dis)Order in Post-Communist Eurasia”

March 28, 2019
Russian, East European and Eurasian Center, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA

Anna Ohanyan (Richard B. Finnegan Distinguished Professor of Political Science and International Relations at Stonehill College). This lecture is free and open to the public.

Ensemble Adilei

April 7-8, 2019
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA

The Georgian polyphonic group based in Tbilisi, Georgia, has roots in the Guria province, home to the most complicated and colorful form of Georgian folk singing. Georgian polyphony is listed by UNESCO as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Tenth Annual International Graduate Student Workshop: Armenian Studies and Material Objects

April 26 and 27, 2019
Armenian Studies Program, University of Michigan, USA

Organizers: Marie-Aude Baronian, Senior Lecturer at the University of Amsterdam and 2018-19 Manoogian Visiting Professor, U-M, and Dzovinar Derderian, PhD Candidate, Department of Middle East Studies, U-M.

Inspired by the interdisciplinary possibilities and the innovative scholarly avenues that the study of materiality can open in the field of Armenian Studies, the 2019 International Graduate Student Workshop will focus on the theme of material objects. The exploration of society, culture and politics through material objects will provide opportunities to discover the ordinary or the everyday practices and experiences of Armenian communities across space and time. In addition to the disciplines of anthropology, history, literature and political science, this workshop will engage fields such as design and textile studies, media and film studies, art and architecture, archeology and museum studies, that have remained at the margins of Armenian studies.

Moving beyond merely interpreting material objects as symbols or icons, this workshop will ask how that which is deemed material mediates human relations and fosters or translates forms of engagement and dialogue. Thus this workshop aims to question and flex the multiple meanings of materiality, by exploring the historical, social, political, economic, artistic and cultural processes that constitute and give meaning to material objects. How do material objects gain signification, agency and shape the human subject? How can materiality help us understand various conceptualizations of affects and emotions, religion, identity, history, memory, ethics, the media, etc. among different Armenian communities across space and time? Such expansive questions about material objects will allow for novel methodological approaches and bring Armenian Studies in conversation with other fields and disciplines that have been exploring and questioning the meanings and roles of material objects in the world.
Support ARISC!
ARISC welcomes your gift contributions to support its mission!

By Shopping Online
Shop online at AmazonSmile [https://smile.amazon.com/ch/83-0459187](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/83-0459187) and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to ARISC. To know whether an item is eligible, make sure it indicates “Eligible for AmazonSmile donation”. Note that the Amazon mobile app does not participate in AmazonSmile.

By Check
Checks can be made payable to The American Research Institute of the South Caucasus or ARISC and mailed to:

Department of Anthropology
700 W. State Street, Suite 219
West Lafayette, IN 47907

By Donating Online
You may use a credit card and donate now. ARISC uses the PayPal system for collecting online contributions. For more information about security, please visit [www.paypal.com](http://www.paypal.com).

ARISC is a registered 501(c)(3) not-for-profit, academic organization. Donations to ARISC are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

How to Become a Member
1. Determine your level of membership: institutional, overseas institutional, individual, or student. Visit our website for details.
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.

CONTACT US
The American Research Institute of the South Caucasus
Department of Anthropology
Purdue University
700 W. State St., Suite 219
West Lafayette, IN 47907
info@arisc.org [http://www.arisc.org](http://www.arisc.org)

OFFICERS
PRESIDENT
Ian Lindsay
VICE-PRESIDENT
Stephen Jones
SECRETARY
Lauren Ristvet
TREASURER
Mitchell Rothman
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
NEWSLETTER EDITOR
Talin Lindsay

INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS
Brown University
Cornell University
Harvard University
Ilia State University
Mount Holyoke College
New York University
Princeton University
Purdue University
Rutgers University
Smithsonian Institute
Stanford University
Tufts University
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Davis
University of California, Irvine
University of California, Los Angeles
University of Chicago
University of Connecticut
University of Illinois
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
University of Pennsylvania
University of Southern California
University of Texas, Austin
University of Washington