



**XIX ANNUAL CONFERENCE
DECEMBER 15-16-17-18, 2025
CA' FOSCARI UNIVERSITY, VENICE**

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**With a Special Section on
"Knowledge Production about Central Asia and the Caucasus"
on December 15 and 16**

ASIAC XIX Annual Conference is organized by the Italian Association for the Study of Central Asia and the Caucasus, in cooperation with:



Ca' Foscari
University
of Venice

MAP

Centro di ricerca
Marco Polo
sulle connessioni
globali Europa-Asia
Marco Polo Centre
for Global Europe-Asia
Connections

ZOI's

Zentrum für Osteuropa-
und internationale Studien
Centre for East European
and International Studies

**CAUCASUS
SURVEY**



ASIAC XIX ANNUAL CONFERENCE CA' FOSCARI UNIVERSITY, VENICE DECEMBER 15-16-17-18, 2025



ABOUT ASIAC



Founded in 2004, ASIAC is the reference association in Italy for Central Asian and Caucasian area studies. It aims at promoting knowledge and collaborative relationships with the countries of the area, its activities have by definition a multi- and inter-disciplinary nature. The association is aimed primarily at universities and cultural institutions, and proposes meetings between scholars and the coordination of research activities.

THE PARTNER INSTITUTIONS

MAP

**Centro di ricerca
Marco Polo
sulle connessioni
globali Europa-Asia**
Marco Polo Centre
for Global Europe-Asia
Connections

The Marco Polo (MaP) Centre for Global Europe-Asia Connections has been established in 2018 within the Department of Asian and North African Studies at Ca' Foscari University. The Centre is devoted to the study of interactions and connections between Europe, the Mediterranean region, and Asia from antiquity to contemporary times. The MaP Centre's mission is to foster collaborative scientific research and networking for the study of cultural, social, political, economic, and religious interactions across Europe, the Mediterranean region, and Asia.

The Centre for East European and International Studies (ZOiS) is an independent, international, publicly funded research institute. It focuses on foundational and socially relevant academic research on Eastern Europe and shares the results with policymakers, the media, and the broader public.

ZOiS research activities cover five main topics: Societies between Stability and Change; Conflict Dynamics and Border Regions; Migration and Diversity; Youth and Generational Change; Political Economy and Integration. Research covers Eastern and Central Europe as well as the South Caucasus and Central Asia.

ZOiS

**Zentrum für Osteuropa-
und internationale Studien**
Centre for East European
and International Studies



The World Philology Union (WPU) is an international association dedicated to promoting philology globally across research, education, society, and culture. Its mission is to safeguard and revitalize the rich academic traditions of philological studies, recognizing them as foundational to the humanities and to the understanding of human culture. In response to the increasing marginalization of philology within academia, the WPU seeks to unite scholars from all linguistic and literary traditions to affirm philology as a coherent and vital discipline at every level of education and research worldwide.

Caucasus Survey is a peer-reviewed, multidisciplinary journal, publishing triannually and concerned with humanities research into the contemporary Caucasus. It aims to advance an area studies tradition in the humanities and social sciences about and from the Caucasus, connecting this tradition with core disciplinary concerns in the fields of modern history, political science, anthropology, cultural and religious studies, political economy, human geography, conflict and peace studies, and sociology.

CAUCASUS SURVEY

STEERING COMMITTEE

ASIAC XIX Annual Conference is organized by **Cesare BARBERIS, Giorgio COMAI, Rebecca CIATTINI, Carlo FRAPPI, Laura MAFIZZOLI, Frank MARACCHIONE, Caterina RE, Giulia SCIORATI, and Eleonora TAFURO AMBROSETTI**, in cooperation with the Association's Board.

ASIAC XIX ANNUAL CONFERENCE CA' FOSCARI UNIVERSITY, VENICE



CONFERENCE VENUES



AULA MAGNA 'SILVIO TRENTIN'

Ca' Dolfin building, Dorsoduro 3859/A - 30123 Venice

The Aula Magna (Great Hall) 'Silvio Trentin' is a large XV century room with decorated ceilings and walls with frescoes of Tiepolo's legacy, Murano chandeliers and mirrors. It is located at the **1st floor** of the Ca' Dolfin building.

Additional info [may be found here](#).



AULA 'MARIO BARATTO'

Ca' Foscari building, Dorsoduro 3246 - 30123 Venice

The Aula Baratto is located in the Ca' Foscari University Rectorate, a late-Gothic Venetian building built in 1453. It is located at the **2nd floor** of the Ca' Foscari building and is accessible via the stairs located in the main hall, on the right side.

Additional info [may be found here](#).



AULA 'MARINO BERENGO'

Ca' Foscari building, Dorsoduro 3246 - 30123 Venice

Like the Aula Baratto, the Aula 'Martino Berengo' is located in the historic Ca' Foscari building. It is located on the **1st floor** of the building - accessible via the stairs located in the main hall of the building, on the right.

Additional info [may be found here](#).



'SALA CONFERENZE' - SAN SEBASTIANO

Campo San Sebastiano, Dorsoduro 1686 - 30123 Venice

The Sala Conferenze (Conference hall) is located on the third floor of the San Sebastiano building, adjacent to the 16th-century church of the same name. It is accessible through the building's inner courtyard, following the posted directions.



SCUOLA DEI LANERI

Fondamenta del Gaffaro, Santa Croce 131/a - 30123 Venice

The late-afternoon events will take place at the Scuola dei Laneri, which from 1633 to 1786 housed the school of the ancient congregation of wool manufacturers. Today, it serves as a venue for cultural events, including those associated with the Venice Biennale.



SALA ARCHIVIO

Ca' Dolfin building, Dorsoduro 3859/A - 30123 Venice

The Sala Archivio, featuring fine Gothic single-lancet windows and a typical Venetian floor, houses Ca' Foscari Historical Archive. Adjacent and connected to the Aula Baratto, it is accessed through a wooden boiserie designed by Carlo Scarpa. The room will host a photographic exhibition and the poster sessions.

VENICEAT

Ca' Foscari building, Dorsoduro 3246 - 30123 Venice

VENICEAT is the university restaurant bar located in the courtyard of Ca' Foscari. Coffee breaks will be held at VENICEAT on the 16th, 17th and 18th December, in the mid-morning break.



ASIAC XIX ANNUAL CONFERENCE

DAY 1 – MONDAY, DECEMBER 15



REGISTRATION

09:00 – 10:00, Great Hall 'Silvio Trentin'

WELCOMING SPEECHES

10:00 – 10:30, Great Hall 'Silvio Trentin'

Laura DE GIORGI, Department of Asian and North African Studies, Ca' Foscari University

Aldo FERRARI, ASIAC / Ca' Foscari University

PLENARY SESSION

10:30 – 13:00, Great Hall 'Silvio Trentin'

KEYNOTE SPEECHES

Chair: Dina SHARIPOVA, Nazarbayev University

Jens E. BRAAVIG, World Philology Union
Philology and Heritage: Central Asia, the Caucasus and Beyond

Laurence BROERS, Chatham House / Caucasus Survey
Cerberus in the South Caucasus: The Politics of Producing Knowledge about a Fractured Region

KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION AND EXCHANGES IN CENTRAL ASIA AND THE CAUCASUS. A VIEW FROM CA' FOSCARI

Silvia BURINI, Centre for Studies in Russian, Central Asian and Caucasian Art, Ca' Foscari University

BREAK

13:00 – 14:00

ASIAC XVIII ANNUAL CONFERENCE

DAY 1 – MONDAY, DECEMBER 15



PARALLEL SESSIONS # 1 - 2 - 3

14:00 – 15:45

1. KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION ABOUT AND THROUGH HERITAGE: THE ARMENIAN EXPERIENCE (1)

Location: Conference Hall, San Sebastiano

Chair: **Maria GUNKO**, SAME University of Oxford, TS&D Lab Yerevan State University

Mariam ARAKELYAN, The Alan Turing Institute, London

Urban Knowledge through Heritage Layers: A Comparative Study of Symbolic and Spatial Orders in Yerevan and Tallinn

Sarhat PETROSYAN, Urbanlab, Yerevan

Make Soviet Heritage Great Again? How Revalorisation of Soviet Heritage Influenced Public Discourse in Armenia

Aram VARTIKYAN, Department of Applied Sociology/ TS&D Lab Yerevan State University

Shushan ABRAHAMYAN, TS&D Lab Yerevan State University/EHESS

Armenia's Soviet Industrial Heritage Today: Reinterpretation, Destruction, Oblivion

Elena BATUNOVA, RWTH Aachen University

Albina DAVLETSHINA, RWTH Aachen University

Resilience as a Function of Memory: Rethinking Soviet Housing Legacy in Gyumri

2. PHILOLOGY AND KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION (1)

Location: Great Hall 'Silvio Trentin', Ca' Dolfin

Chair: **Velizar SADOVSKI**, Austrian Academy of Sciences

Amund HAAVE, Norwegian Institute of Philology

Barlaam and Josaphat: the roots of the Georgian tradition

Kianoosh REZANIA, CERES – Ruhr-Universität Bochum

Between Iran and Central Asia: MPCD and Digital Lexicography of Middle Persian

Domenico Giuseppe MUSCIANISI, University of Parma

Extended families: Indo-European brotherhoods and polyandry in the Ancient Iranian traditions of Central Asia (and beyond).

Paolo OGNIBENE, University of Bologna

Herodotus and the Languages of Scythia

ASIAC XVIII ANNUAL CONFERENCE

DAY 1 – MONDAY, DECEMBER 15



3. CHANGING CAUCASUS PARADIGMS? MOBILITY, ENTANGLEMENTS AND NEW ACTORS IN THE SOUTH CAUCASUS

Location: 'Mario Baratto' Hall, Ca' Foscari

Chair: **Tsypylma DARIEVA**, ZOiS Berlin/ Humboldt University Berlin

Discussant: **Heather DEHAAN**, Binghamton University

Veronika PFEILSCHIFTER, Friedrich Schiller University, Jena/ZOiS Berlin

Rethinking Caucasus Paradigms Through the Left and Emotions: Centering Young Women's Political Subjectivation in Armenia

Khayyam NAMAZOV, UKRI Polarities Fellow / The University of Glasgow

Knowledge Production in the Pro-Democracy Movement in Azerbaijan: Understanding Postcolonial Conditions (2003–2013)

Valentin KRÜSMANN, ZOiS, Berlin

China, the EU, and the Reconfiguration of Georgian Connectivity Landscapes

Tsypylma DARIEVA, ZOiS, Berlin/ Humboldt University Berlin

Navigating New Migration Patterns: From the North to the South: Reversed paradigms

BREAK PHOTO EXHIBITION OPENING

15:45–16:15

DUST AND ECHOES ON THE STEPPE. TRACING HUMAN MARKS IN CENTRAL ASIA'S LANDSCAPES.

Location: 'Archivio' Hall, Ca' Foscari

Author: **Tommaso AGUZZI**, Tallinn University of Technology

PARALLEL SESSIONS # 4 - 5 - 6

16:15 – 18:00

4. KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION ABOUT AND THROUGH HERITAGE: THE ARMENIAN EXPERIENCE (1)

Location: Conference Hall, San Sebastiano

Chairs: **Elena Batunova**, RWTH Aachen University

Sofia BORUSHKINA, European University Institute

Marina SAPUNOVA, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology

The 'Parthian and Middle Persian Commonwealth' and its terminologies between Caucasus and Central Asia

Harutyun VERMISHYAN, TS&D Lab Yerevan State University

Silent Infrastructures: Industrial Remnants and Narratives of Urban Estrangement

Maria GUNKO, SAME University of Oxford

The "Female Fix:" Gendered Repair in Post-Soviet Armenia

ASIAC XVIII ANNUAL CONFERENCE

DAY 1 – MONDAY, DECEMBER 15



5. PHILOLOGY AND KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION (2)

Location: Great Hall 'Silvio Trentin', Ca' Dolfin

Chairs: Jens E. **BRAARVIG**, World Philology Union

Velizar SADOVSKI, Austrian Academy of Sciences

Indo-Iranian Phraseological Heritage in Bactrian and Sogdian Compounds

Samira MÜLLER, Heidelberg University, Centre for East Asian Studies

Writing Culture in Central Asia – Eastern Influences as Seen Through Chinese Administrative Writings

Milad ABEDI, University of Innsbruck

Writing in Central Asia and the Caucasus – Western Influences as Seen in the Extension of Aramaic Scripts Under Persian Rule

Jens E. BRAARVIG, World Philology Union

General Discussion of Panels on Philology and Knowledge Production (#2, #5)

6. KNOWLEDGE SHARING IN CENTRAL ASIA: ORAL CULTURE, THEORY-BUILDING AND MENTORSHIP

Location: 'Mario Baratto' Hall, Ca' Foscari

Chair: **Matteo FUMAGALLI**, University of St Andrews

Zarina URMANBETOVA, Geneva Graduate Institute

Oral Culture in Central Asia

Sofya DU BOULAY, University of Sussex

Theory-Building in Central Asia

Gulzat BOTOEVA, University of Swansea

Hikoyat SALIMOVA, USTA Mentorship

USTA Academic Mentorship: Empowering Central Asian Voices

Arzuu SHERANOVA, Osh State University

Co-Producing Knowledge Under Constraint: Lessons from Participatory Research in the South of Kyrgyzstan

**ASIAC
ANNUAL ASSEMBLY**

'Mario Baratto' Hall (in Italian) 18:00 – 19:00

ASIAC XVIII ANNUAL CONFERENCE

DAY 2 – TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16



PARALLEL SESSIONS # 7 – 8

09:00 – 10:45

7. PLANT KNOWLEDGE IN THE CAUCASUS

Location: 'Mario Baratto' Hall, Ca' Foscari

Chair: **Roland HARDENBERG**, Frobenius Institute for Research in Cultural Anthropology

Anja SALZER, Free University of Bozen-Bolzano

Listening to Thyme: A multi-species lecture performance about pastoral ecosystems in the South Caucasus

Hamlet MELKUMAN, Department for Cultural Anthropology, IAE, Yerevan

The Mulberry Tree as a Microhistory of the City's Past and Modernization

Tsypylma DARIEVA, ZOiS, Berlin

Exploring trees and tree planting as diasporic collective actions in Armenia

Susanne FEHLINGS, Frobenius Institute for Research in Cultural Anthropology

Pomegranate Roads

Gabi SCHAFFNER, Datscha Radio

Radio Seeds – Investigations into Plant Knowledge in Armenia

8. ROUNDTABLE - REPORTING ON CENTRAL ASIA IN 2025: HIERARCHIES, DEPENDENCIES, AND LOCAL VOICES

Location: Conference Hall, San Sebastiano

Chair: **Catherine PUTZ**, The Diplomat

Participants:

- **Catherine PUTZ**, The Diplomat
- **Aigerim TURGUNBAEVA**, Kyrgyzstan-based freelance journalist
- **Reid STANDISH**, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty
- **Temur UMAROV**, Carnegie Russia Eurasia Center, Berlin
- **Chris RICKLETON**, Qadam

COFFEE BREAK

VenicEat, Ca' Foscari Courtyard, 10:45 – 11:15

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PARALLEL SESSIONS # 9 – 10

11:15 – 13:00

9. EDUCATION, LITERATURE AND SOCIAL MEDIA AS KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION MEANS IN KAZAKHSTAN

Location: 'Mario Baratto' Hall, Ca' Foscari

Chair: **Matteo FUMAGALLI**, University of St Andrews

Durdona YUSSUPOVA, SDU University

Postcolonial Hybridity and the Politics of Inclusive Education in Kazakhstan: Rethinking Knowledge and Power.

Assel SADYKOVA, Nazarbayev University

Michelle BEDEKER, New Uzbekistan University

The Obvious but Often Overlooked: Tracing Western Cultural Logics in English Academic Texts

Alina KAMALOVA, Queen Mary University of London

Speaking Back: Negotiating Postcolonial Subjectivities and Colonial Discourse on Kazakhstani social media.

Zhanargul AIZAKOVA, Narxoz University

Reading as an act of decolonization: literary references in Kazakhstan

10. ARCHIVES, FIELDNOTES, AND LEGACY: RESEARCHING (CENTRAL) ASIA AND THE CAUCASUS THROUGH PERSONAL AND SCHOLARLY ARCHIVES

Location: Conference Hall, San Sebastiano

Chairs: **Vittorio S. TOMELLERI**, University of Turin; **Emine ŞAHINGÖZ**, Goethe University, Frankfurt

Larisa BONDAR, St. Petersburg Branch of the Archive of the Russian Academy of Sciences

Ritsa ZELITSKAYA, Russian Ethnographic Museum

Ancestral and Communal Rituals among the Abkhazians in the Materials of the N. Marr Personal Papers in the St. Petersburg Branch of the Archive of the Russian Academy of Sciences

Emine ŞAHINGÖZ, Goethe University, Frankfurt

How to Become a Linguistic Consultant in Exile: Barasbi Baytugan's Role in Sir Harold Bailey's Research on Ossetic

Vittorio S. TOMELLERI, University of Turin

Between Scholarship and Exile: Adolf Dirr, Georg-Gappo Baev, and the Foundations of Ossetic Studies in Interwar Germany

Aleksey ANDRONOV, National Library of Russia

Asel ISAEVA, National Academy of Sciences of the Kyrgyz Republic

On the Critical Edition of Evgenij Polivanov's Line-by-Line Translations from "Manas"

Trang PHAN, Ca' Foscari University of Venice

From Glosses to Grammaticalization: Tracing Sino-Vietnamese Prefixes in Archival Texts from the 13th to the 20th Century

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DAY 2 – TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16



PARALLEL SESSIONS # 11 – 12

14:00 – 15:45

11. ART AND CINEMA AS MEANS OF KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION

Location: 'Mario Baratto' Hall, Ca' Foscari

Chair: **Caterina Re**, University of Genoa

Olga KHAN, CSEAS, Kyoto University

Visualizing Disobedience: Unruly Women in Uzbek Post-Soviet Cinema

Lara RIGHI, University of Verona

The Influence of Soviet Orientalism on the Representation of Central Asia: an Analysis of Vladimir Motyl's "White Sun of the Desert"

Jevgenija RAVCOVA, University of Manchester

In Search of Classical Antiquity in the Caucasus. The Painted Staircase Murals of the Caucasus Museum

Dilda RAMAZAN, Sorbonne Université, CNRS/IFÉAC

Sacred body, broken body: on the public image of Nursultan Nazarbayev

12. REVISITING MYTHS AND HISTORICAL NARRATIVES IN CENTRAL ASIA AND THE CAUCASUS

Location: Conference Hall, San Sebastiano

Chair: **Vittorio Tomelleri**, University of Turin

Antonio CARLUCCIO, FSCIRE

Muridism and Historical Representation: A Comparative Analysis of A. I. Runovskii's works and the Kniga Vspominanii by 'Abd al-Raḥmān al-Ghāzī al-Qumuqī

Hayk HAKOBYAN, Mesrop Mashtots Research Institute of Ancient Manuscripts

Tsovinar KIRAKOSIAN, Russian-Armenian University, Yerevan

Folklore and Issues of Identity in Abgar Payazat's Unpublished Manuscript on Udis

Kamila AKHMEDJANOVA, University of Oxford

Creation and development of the myth of Ahmad Dānish

Hana STANKOVA, Yale University

Applications of the Aryan Myth in Russian Turkestan

BREAK

15:45 – 16:15

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DAY 2 – TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16



PARALLEL SESSIONS # 13 - 14

16:15 – 18:00

13. PERSISTENCE AND CHANGE OF WESTERN AND COLONIAL PRACTICES OF KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION

Location: 'Mario Baratto' Hall, Ca' Foscari

Chair: **Caterina Re**, University of Genoa

Giorgia TROIANI, Nazarbayev University

Hidden cost of Western-centric practices in the making of linguistic datasets in Central Asia

Valentina TANAYLOVA, Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology of the Russian Academy of Sciences / Moscow State Linguistic University

Tell us about us: heritage production practices in Chechnya and the dynamics of the transformation of colonial «knowledge about the Other»

Makar TERESHIN, University College London

Sovereign Bodies: From Transcendence to Entrapment

Azizjon BAGADIROV, Goethe University, Frankfurt

Balthazar de ROBIANO, Independent Researcher

Ethnonationalism questioned: Soviet past and present in Central Asia

Egor MULEEV, Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography

How to fool two institutional banks and ruin a sustainable transition in urban transportation: a trolleybus drama in Bishkek

14. CONTESTING FOREIGN AND LOCAL KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION ABOUT CONFLICT IN THE CAUCASUS

Location: Conference Hall, San Sebastiano

Chair: **Eleonora TAFURO AMBROSETTI**, Istituto per gli Studi di Politica Internazionale

Rovhsan MAMMADLI, Independent analyst

Decolonizing Security Knowledge: Rethinking the Armenia-Azerbaijan Conflict Beyond Western Epistemologies

Anna OHANYAN, Stonehill College

Too Small to Fail: Small States and Big Geopolitics in the South Caucasus

Andrea PEINHOPF, University of Ostrava

"Before Bucha was Abkhazia": Conflict (in)visibility and the politics of victimhood in Georgia

Steve SWERDLOW, University of Southern California

Applying the Rome Statute to the South Caucasus: Azerbaijan's troops and Armenian Territory.

Soslan KOSHTY, Independent Researcher

Political Aspirations and Conflict-Related Human Suffering in Abkhazia and South Ossetia: Barriers between Local Perspectives and International Knowledge Generation and Dissemination.

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DAY 2 – TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16



**SPECIAL
SESSION**

18:30 – 19:30

DOCUMENTARY SCREENING

Location: Scuola del Laneri, Santa Croce 131/A, Venice

Chair: **Giulia SCIORATI**, The London School of Economics and Political Science

William CALLAHAN, Singapore Management University

Knowledge Production, Film, and China: Watching "The Nose Knows: Foreignness and Fortune in China" (23')

Davide PILLONI, University of Bologna

Byt (15')

Anel KULAKHMETOVA, InVisionU

Sovereign Bodies: From Transcendence to Through eyes of Kazakhstani students: zines as tools of political reflection in authoritarian contexts

ASIAC XVIII ANNUAL CONFERENCE

DAY 3 – WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17



PARALLEL SESSIONS # 15 – 16 – 17

09:00 – 10:45

15. ARMENIA AND GEORGIA: A MILLENNIA-OLD PROXIMITY (1)

Location: Great Hall 'Silvio Trentin', Ca' Dolfin

Chair: **Anna SIRINIAN**, University of Bologna

Bernard OUTTIER, CNRS, Paris

Armenian and Georgian Translators in Front of a Text: Similarities, Differences and Collaboration.

Emilio BONFIGLIO, CSMC, University of Hamburg – DeLiCaTe ERC Project

Armeno-Georgian Connections Through the Lens of Palimpsested Manuscripts

Paolo LUCCA, Ca' Foscari University

Unrolling Protection: Textual Amulets in Caucasian and Sub-Caucasian Ritual Practices.

Nino GODERDZISHVILI, Georgian National Museum

Variations of Hunting Scenes in Medieval Caucasian Relief Sculpture

Khatuna GAPRINDASHVILI, Korneli Kekelidze National Center of Manuscripts, Tbilisi

The Armenian Population of Georgia According to the Georgian Manuscript Heritage (18th–19th centuries)

16. ISSUES OF KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION AND BELONGING IN GEORGIA

Location: 'Marino Berengo' Hall, , Ca' Foscari

Chair: **Laura MAFIZZOLI**, Czech Academy of Sciences

Sofia GAVRILOVA, Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography

From Positionality to Responsibility: Reimagining Research in Former Soviet States

Tinatin KHOMERIKI, Austrian Academy of Sciences

Those Without a Homeland: Georgian Academia and Choreographies of Suspicion Amidst Post-2023 Political Crisis

Ila SIKHARULIDZE, Austrian Academy of Sciences / University of Vienna

Mistrust and Doubt: Knowledge Circulation in the Azerbaijani Community of Georgia

Maria SAKIRKO, University of Cambridge

'A Guest and a Host in One': The Experiences of Second-Generation Georgian Migrants Returning from Russia.

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DAY 3 – WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17



17. ALTERNATIVE IMAGINARIES? EXPLORING PRACTICES OF SOLIDARITY AND SUBVERSION IN THE SOUTH CAUCASUS

Location: Conference Hall, San Sebastiano

Chair: **Anna OHANYAN**, Stonehill College

Veronika ZABLOTSKY, Freie Universität Berlin

New Non-Aligned Politics in Postsocialist Armenia and its Transnational Diaspora

Veronika PFEILSCHIFTER, Friedrich Schiller University, Jena

Despair and Hope Across Borders: The Azerbaijani Transnational Left and Emotive Transnationalism

Elisabed GEDEVANISHVILI, Ilia State University

Laura LUCIANI, Ghent University

Rethinking Queer Resistance Through Failure: The “InVisible” Festival in Between Decoloniality and Projectification

**COFFEE
BREAK**

VenicEat, Ca' Foscari Courtyard, 10:45 – 11:15

**PARALLEL
SESSIONS # 18 – 19 – 20**

11:15 – 13:00

18. ARMENIA AND GEORGIA: A MILLENNIA-OLD PROXIMITY (2)

Location: Great Hall ‘Silvio Trentin’, Ca’ Dolfin

Chair: **Paolo LUCCA**, Ca’ Foscari University

Yana TCHEKHANOVETS, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Armenians and Georgians in the Late Antique Holy Land: New Insights

Sipana TCHAKERIAN, Institut national d’histoire de l’art

Exploring Shared Faith and Sacred Topography in Late Antique Armenia and Georgia Through Four-Sided Monumental Crosses

Natalia CHITISHVILI, University of Fribourg

George CHUBINASHVILI, National Research Centre for Georgian Art History and Heritage Preservation

Seats of Secular Authorities in Medieval Caucasian Church Architecture

Zaruhi HAKOBYAN, State Academy of Fine Arts of Armenia

Language as Confessional Marker: The Inscriptions of the Armenian-Chalcedonian Monuments

Margarita KHAKHANOVA, Masaryk University of Brno

Divide et Impera: Imperial Roots of the Caucasian Rivalry

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DAY 3 – WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17



19. REFRAMING ENVIRONMENTAL TRANSFORMATIONS AND LOCAL NARRATIVES IN CENTRAL ASIA

Location: 'Marino Berengo' Hall, Ca' Foscari

Chair: **Frank MARACCHIONE**, University of Kent

Andrea ZINZANI, University of Bologna

Climate change and mountain communities' socio-ecological transformations in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan: the case of Karatyube and Zeravshan ranges

Paul WOODS, Asia Graduate School of Theology - Alliance

Examining Representations of the Aral Sea Using Postcolonial Theory and the Threefold Mimesis

Anastasia SINITSYNA, Ca' Foscari University of Venice

Re-centering Local Heritage in Aral Sea Narratives: Cultural Continuities and Community Perspectives

Aimeerim TURSALIEVA, Independent researcher

Reclaiming Environmental Knowledge: Nomadic Epistemologies and Ecological Education in Kyrgyzstan

20. EVOLVING BORDERS AND SPATIAL AMBIGUITY IN THE CAUCASUS

Location: San Sebastiano, Conference Hall

Chair: **Giorgio COMAI**, Osservatorio Balcani Caucaso Transeuropa

Mahammad MEHDIYEV, Topchubashov Center

Cartographic Controversies: Google Maps and the Geopolitics of Place Names in Conflict Zones

Leonardo ZANATTA, Corvinus University of Budapest

Defining Borders, Defining Selves: A South Ossetian Perspective on Borderization

Ramesh GANOHARITI, Leiden University

The Politics of Sub-State Recognition: The case of Nagorno-Karabakh

Gela MERABISHVILI, KU Leuven

The Black Sea-South Caucasus link in the European Union's geopolitical visions

BREAK

13:00 – 14:00

ASIAC XVIII ANNUAL CONFERENCE

DAY 3 – WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17



PARALLEL SESSIONS # 21 - 22 - 23

14:00 – 15:45

21. ECCLESIASTICAL ENCLOSURES OF ARMENIA: ARCHAEOLOGY OF TEXTS AND MONUMENTS (1)

Location: Great Hall 'Silvio Trentin', Ca' Dolfin

Chair: **Nazénie GARIBIAN**, Mashtots Institute of Ancient Manuscripts "Matenadaran"

Hamlet PETROSYAN, Yerevan State University, National Academy of Sciences of Armenia
Christian Archaeology in a Conflict Zone: On a Specific Way of Organization of Early Christian Sepulcher-Reliquaries in Artsakh-Nagorno Karabakh (5th-6th Century)

Ioanna RAPTİ, *Ecole pratique des hautes études (EPHE-PSL)*

Monastic Thresholds. Delimitating the Structure and the Semantics of Monastic Space Across Time: The Case of Tatev

Marta ZERBINI, *University of Florence*

Knowledge Beyond the Borders: Architectural Practice in Early Medieval Religious Monuments Across the River Landscapes of Historical Tashir (Northern Armenia)

Achim LICHTENBERGER, *University of Muenster*

Torben SCHREIBER, *University of Muenster*

Mkrtich H. ZARDARYAN, *National Academy of Sciences of Armenia*

The Newly Discovered Early Christian Octagonal Church at Artaxata/Artashat

Cassandre LEJOSNE, *University of Lausanne, Ecole pratique des hautes études, Paris*
Between Texts and Stones: The Reconstruction of the Church at Dvin by the Catholicos Nerses III

Lavinia FERRETTI, *University of Turin*

Armenuhi MAGARDITCHIAN, *University of Geneva*

An Engraved Basalt Block from the Fortress Wall of Garni

22. WATER MANAGEMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE IN CENTRAL ASIA: POLITICS, SOCIETY AND TRANSNATIONAL CONNECTIONS (1948-2020S)

Location: 'Mario Baratto' Hall, Ca' Foscari

Chair: **Niccolò PIANCIOLA**, *University of Padua*

Niccolò PIANCIOLA, *University of Padua*

Science and State Policies in the Lower Aral Sea Basin, 1900-1975

Riccardo Mario CUCCIOLLA, *University of Naples "L'Orientale"*

The Soviet Central Asian Agenda for the Development of the Third World: Irrigation Projects of the Uzbek SSR (1955-1983)

Tommaso TREVISANI, *University of Naples "L'Orientale"*

Life After Cotton? A Century of Cotton Agriculture and the End of the Era of Water Abundance in Karakalpakstan

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23. MATERIALIZING TRADITION AND EXPERIENCE IN BAKU: ARCHITECTURE AND SPACE AS SITES FOR THE PRODUCTION AND TRANSMISSION OF POPULAR KNOWLEDGE

Location: 'Marino Berengo' Hall, Ca' Foscari

Chair: **Tsypylma DARIEVA**, ZOiS, Berlin

Discussant: **Maria GUNKO**, SAME University of Oxford

Yulia ALIYEVA, ADA University

The Baku Lutheran Kirche or Organ Hall: Negotiations of Religious and Secular from Below

Heather DEHAAN, Binghamton University

"The Power of Place": The Built Landscape as an Archive of Community

Bairam AKHUNDOV, ADA University

Bayırşəhər under Demolition: Urban Informality and Planning Exceptionalism in Baku

BREAK MEET OUR POSTER SESSION PHDS

15:45–16:15

Location: 'Archivio' Hall, Ca' Foscari

Bushra ALHUZILI, University of Leeds

The 'Islam Card' in Cold War Diplomacy: Central Asia's Role in Saudi-Soviet Relations

Tamarakhonum DAVLATOVA, University of Fribourg

Gender, Visibility, and Fieldwork in Geosciences in Uzbekistan during the Late Soviet Period

Carlo BUSINI, University for Foreigners Perugia

From Karabakh to Yerevan: Armenia as a Benchmark test Case of Post-Defeat Democratization in the Global East

PARALLEL SESSIONS # 24 - 25

16:15 – 18:00

24. GENDER, RELIGIOSITY AND WELL-BEING IN A CHANGING CENTRAL ASIA

Location: 'Marino Berengo' Hall, Ca' Foscari

Chair: **Frank MARACCHIONE**, University of Kent

Sara SCARDAVILLI, International Secretariat for Water – independent researcher
Domestic Violence, Patriarchy, and the Role of the Qaynona in Uzbekistan

Alma KUDEBAYEVA, KIMEP University

Changes in Social Assistance Policies and Subjective Well-being: Lessons from Kazakhstan

Dina SHARIPOVA, Nazarbayev University

Exploring the Link Between Modernization, Insecurity, and Religiosity in Central Asia

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25. ECCLESIASTICAL ENCLOSURES OF ARMENIA: ARCHAEOLOGY OF TEXTS AND MONUMENTS (2)

Location: Great Hall 'Silvio Trentin', Ca' Dolfin

Chair: **Ioanna RAPTİ**, Ecole pratique des hautes études (EPHE-PSL)

Christina MARANCI, Harvard University

The Palace Church of the Citadel at Ani: A Reconsideration

Zuzana URBANOVÁ, Masaryk University of Brno

The Basilica of Mren and its Early Functions

Alessia BOSCHIS, University of Udine

Armenians of Mesopotamia: The Cold Case of Viranşehir (A Historical-Artistic Approach)

Beatrice SPAMPINATO, Ca' Foscari University

Francesca PENONI, Independent Researcher / Centro Studi e Documentazione della Cultura Armena

Photographing Armenian Heritage in Eastern Anatolia: Documentation, Frontiers, and Mobility (1960–1980)

Roberto DAN, ISMEO – The International Association for Mediterranean and Oriental

Nazénie GARIBIAN, Mashtots Institute of Ancient Manuscripts "Matenadaran"

Onofrio GASPARRO, Ca' Foscari University

Archaeological Site of Jrarat: The Christian Consecration of a Millennia-Old Sacred Area

Closing remarks by Prof. Rev. Fr. **Boghos Levon ZEKIYAN**

SPECIAL SESSION BOOK PRESENTATIONS

18:30 – 19:30

Location: Scuola del Laneri, Santa Croce 131/A, Venice

Marco BUTTINO, *I Tattari di Crimea. Dalla deportazione al difficile ritorno* (Brescia: Morcelliana Scholé, 2024)

[*The Crimean Tatars: From Deportation to the Difficult Return (1944–2024)*]

With: **Marco BUTTINO** (University of Turin), **Matteo BENUSSI** (Ca' Foscari University), and **Niccolò PIANCIOLA** (University of Padua)

Riccardo M. CUCCIOLLA, *La repubblica del cotone. Le evoluzioni dell'Uzbekistan sovietico tra inclusione e crisi imperiale* (Roma: Viella, 2024)

[*The Cotton Republic: Soviet Uzbekistan's Trajectories between Imperial Inclusion and Crisis*]

With: **Riccardo M. CUCCIOLLA** (University of Naples L'Orientale), **Niccolò PIANCIOLA** (University of Padua), and **Tommaso TREVISANI** (University of Naples L'Orientale)

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PARALLEL SESSIONS # 26 – 27

09:00 – 10:45

26. CONTRASTING, ADAPTING OR FOLLOWING DOMINANT NARRATIVES IN AZERBAIJAN

Location: 'Marino Berengo' Hall, Ca' Foscari

Chair: **Cesare FIGARI BARBERIS**, Leiden University College

Gumru ALIYEVA, Independent Researcher

Feminists Redefining the Political Life: The Case of Azerbaijan

Aneta STRZEMŻALSKA, Polish Academy of Sciences

Novruz Celebration in Azerbaijan: From Top-Down Policies to Bottom-Up Meanings

Mirkamran HUSEYNLI, Vytautas Magnus University / University of Zurich

Rethinking Nationalism in Azerbaijani Politics: Hegemonic and Alternative Discourses

Kamelia PENKOWSKA, University of Warsaw

Practices of Good Neighborliness: Muslim-Jewish Networks of Mutual Connection in Azerbaijan's Multi-Ethnic Society

27. THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF CENTRAL ASIA

Location: 'Mario Baratto' Hall, Ca' Foscari

Chair: **Reid STANDISH**, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

Franco GALDINI, University of Birmingham

Frank MARACCHIONE, University of Kent

The Limits to State Capitalism? Chinese Investments in EVs in Uzbekistan

Jessica NEAFIE, Nazarbayev University

Chinese Economic Soft Power: Chinese Electric Vehicles (EVs) Are Transforming Not Just Transportation, but Perceptions in Kazakhstan

Claudia EGGART, Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient

Beyond Neoliberalism and Precarity: Entrepreneurial Subjectivities at the Dordoi Bazaar in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Michela BONATO, Ca' Foscari University of Venice

Global China Traces and Uzbek Power Spatialities: An Ethnographic Inquiry of Strategic Partnership Narrative and Infrastructures

Francesco SASSI, University of Oslo

Energy Superpower? Russian Federation and Central Asia

COFFEE BREAK

VenicEat, Ca' Foscari Courtyard, 10:45 – 11:15

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**PARALLEL
SESSIONS # 28 - 29**

11:15–13:00

28. GEOPOLITICS AND EXTERNAL PERCEPTIONS OF CENTRAL ASIA AND THE CAUCASUS

Location: 'Marini Berengo' Hall, Ca' Foscari

Chair: **Steve SWERDLOW**, University of Southern California

Sudhanshu Shekhar NAYAK, Podar International School

Mapping the Dynamics of Indian Narratives on Central Asia: An Account of Neighbour to Extended Neighbours

Luca STEINMANN, Independent Journalist and War Reporter

Karabakh Seen from both the Armenian and Azerbaijani Fronts: Experience and Reflections as a War Reporter

Sossi TATIKYAN, Université Sorbonne Nouvelle

The Warfare of Strategic Narratives in the Armenia–Azerbaijan Peace Process

Eske VAN GILS, University of Groningen

Agenda-Setting in Relations Between Kazakhstan and the European Union: Norms Contestation and Legitimacy

Fabio INDEO, University of Siena

Leonardo BIANCHINI, Sapienza University of Rome

Italy and the Middle Corridor: Strategic Interests and Future Perspectives

29. STRATEGIC STATE NARRATIVES IN A CONFLICTUAL WORLD

Location: 'Mario Baratto' Hall, Ca' Foscari

Chair: **Alessandra RUSSO**, University of Trento

Zhanibek ARYNOV, Nazarbayev University

The 'Turkic World' in the Political Discourse of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and Türkiye

Elena ZHIRUKHINA, Ca' Foscari University

Navigating the Complexity: Repatriating and Prosecuting Foreign Terrorist Fighters

Buğra GÜNGÖR, American University of Central Asia

Görkem ATSUNGUR, American University of Central Asia

Political Discourse, Framing, and Strategic Communication: Evidence from the Instagram Posts of the Kyrgyz Presidency

Carlo BUSINI, University for Foreigners Perugia

After the Defeat: Armenia Strategic Orientation in a Context of Polarized Narratives

Roberto BELLERI, University of Macerata

Self-Immolation and Disciplinary Power. The Case of Artin Penik and the Armenian Community in Turkey (1923–1982)

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PARALLEL SESSIONS # 30 - 31

14:00-15:45

30. ROUNDTABLE - THE SOUTH CAUCASUS: LOCAL AGENCY AND STRATEGY ADAPTATION IN THE SHADOW OF RUSSIA'S WAR AGAINST UKRAINE

Location: 'Marino Berengo' Hall, Ca' Foscari

Discussant: **Alessandra RUSSO**, University of Trento

Participants:

- **Giorgio COMAI**, Osservatorio Balcani e Caucaso Transeuropa (OBCT)
- **Carlo FRAPPI**, Ca' Foscari University
- **Teona GIUASHVILI**, London School of Economics (LSE)
- **Eleonora TAFURO AMBROSETTI**, Istituto per gli Studi di Politica Internazionale (ISPI)

31. FROM DUSHANBE TO STALINABAD AND BACK. HISTORIES AND NARRATIVES OF URBAN MODERNITY IN SOVIET AND POST-SOVIET TAJIKISTAN

Location: 'Mario Baratto' Hall, Ca' Foscari

Chair: **Stefano PELLO'**, Ca' Foscari University

Matthias BATTIS, Independent Researcher

Stalinabad: Stalinist high-modernism in a regional context

Aeron O'Connor, University College London

IPutting Stalinabad into context: Histories of Movement and Reinvention in the Samarqand-Bukhara-Dushanbe Nexus

Rebecca CIATTINI, Ca' Foscari University of Venice

The City Was as Young as We Were: Staging Modernity and the Creation of Urban Discourse in Soviet Tajik Theatre.

Tahmina INOYATOVA, Simon Fraser University

Between Histories and Modernities: Unpacking Local Narratives Around Dushanbe's Post-2010s Urban Transformation

BREAK MEET OUR POSTER SESSION PHDS

'Sala Archivio', 15:45-16:15

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PARALLEL SESSIONS # 32 - 33

16:15 – 17:15

32. CAUCASIANS AND CALIPHS: INSIGHTS ON THE RELIGIOUS SIDE OF THE HISTORY OF THE NATIVE CAUCASIAN MUSLIM PEOPLES

Location: 'Marino Berengo' Hall, Ca' Foscari

Chair/Discussant: **Marco DI BRANCO**, Sapienza University of Rome

Federico DE RENZI, Independent Researcher

Slaves, Soldiers and Rulers: Caucasian Warriors between Egypt and the Indian Subcontinent (12th-17th Centuries)

Fabio L. GRASSI, Sapienza University of Rome

Imam Shamil as a Religious Leader: His Relations with the Ottoman Empire and the Aftermath

Fulvio BERTUCCELLI, Sapienza University of Rome / University of Bern

Traitor, Loyalist, or Local Power Broker? Reassessing Anzavur Ahmed Pasha in the Twilight of the Ottoman Empire

33. ROUNDTABLE - RETHINKING LIMINALITY. SPACES, IDENTITIES, POWER IN THE CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIA (IN ITALIAN)

With the support of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

Location: 'Mario Baratto' Hall, Ca' Foscari

Chair: **Carlo FRAPPI**, Ca' Foscari University

Participants:

- **Eleonora TAFURO AMBROSETTI**, Istituto per gli Studi di Politica Internazionale (ISPI)
- **Frank MARACCHIONE**, University of Kent
- **Laura MAFIZZOLI**, Czech Academy of Sciences
- **Alessandra RUSSO**, University of Trento

CLOSING SESSION

17:15 – 17:30

Location: 'Mario Baratto' Hall, Ca' Foscari

Closing remarks: **Aldo FERRARI**, ASIAC and Ca' Foscari University