# XX ANNUAL CONFERENCE

## DECEMBER 14-15-16, 2026
## CA' FOSCARI UNIVERSITY, VENICE



**With a Special Section on**
**"Exploring Verticality in Central Asia and the Caucasus"**
**on December 14 and 15**

ASIAC XX 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
Department of Asian and North African Studies

BAKU RESEARCH INSTITUTE

NAASR

WPU

# ASIAC XX ANNUAL CONFERENCE
# CA' FOSCARI UNIVERSITY, VENICE
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## 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

Ca' Foscari University of Venice
Department of Asian and North African Studies

The **Department of Asian and North African Studies** (DSAAM) at Ca' Foscari University is dedicated to the study of the languages, cultures, histories, and societies of Asia and Mediterranean Africa. Its teaching and research activities combine linguistic and cultural expertise with an interdisciplinary approach spanning from antiquity to the present. DSAAM research encompasses four main fields: linguistics, philology, and literature; religions and philosophies; archaeology, cultural heritage, and the visual and performing arts; and history, institutions, economics, politics, and international relations.

The **Baku Research Institute** (BRI) is a non-profit think-tank launched by independent experts aiming to provide a local and international audience with analysis, opinion, surveys, and research on a variety of issues in Azerbaijan, including social and religious issues, the economy, and history.
BRI collaborates with both local and international experts specializing in Azerbaijani studies and those interested in the region.

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.

Founded in 1955, the **National Association for Armenian Studies and Research** (NAASR) is an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to advancing Armenian Studies. Based in Belmont, Massachusetts, it promotes research across Armenian history, literature, language, art, and politics, while supporting scholars and fostering international academic connections. NAASR provides research grants, organizes lectures, symposia, and public programs, and maintains the Mardigian Library, which holds approximately 40,000 volumes.

## STEERING COMMITTEE

ASIAC XX 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 XX 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**.



### 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 XX ANNUAL CONFERENCE
# DAY 1 – MONDAY, DECEMBER 14

## REGISTRATION

*10:00 - 10:30, Great Hall 'Silvio Trentin'*

## WELCOMING SPEECHES

*10:30 - 11:00, Great Hall 'Silvio Trentin'*

**Attilio ANDREINI**, Department of Asian and North African Studies, Ca' Foscari University *(tbc)*

**Lorenzo PUBBLICI**, ASIAC / University of Naples "L'Orientale"

## KEYNOTE SPEECHES

*11:00 - 13:00*

### THINKING WITH VERTICALITY: INTERDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES ON CENTRAL ASIA AND THE CAUCASUS

*Location*: Great Hall "Silvio Trentin", Ca' Dolfin
*Chair*: **Stefano PELLO', Ca' Foscari University**

**Lorenzo PUBBLICI,** University of Naples "L'Orientale"
Thinking vertically, looking beyond: Mongol Caucasia and its historiographical horizons

**Tsypylma DARIEVA,** Centre for East European and International Studies (ZOiS)
Authoritarian Resilience: Governing ethno-religious diversity, power and resistance in the South Caucasus

**Andrea ZINZANI,** University of Bologna
Geographies of verticality: mountain communities, conservation and the frontier in Central Asia

**Alessandra GILIBERT**, Ca' Foscari University
Verticality: archaeological perspectives on landscape and identity in the South Caucasus

# ASIAC XX ANNUAL CONFERENCE
# DAY 1 – MONDAY, DECEMBER 14

**PARALLEL SESSIONS # 1 - 2 - 3** *14:00 - 15:45*

## # 1. VERTICALITY, INFRASTRUCTURE, AND SACRED LANDSCAPES IN CENTRAL ASIA AND THE CAUCASUS

*Location*: Great Hall "Silvio Trentin", Ca' Dolfin
*Chair*: **Konrad SIEKIERSKI** & **Anna CIEŚLEWSKA,** University of Lodz

**Anna CIEŚLEWSKA,** University of Lodz
Religious Infrastructure and Vertical Relations: A Mosque in an Azerbaijani Village in Georgia

**Konrad SIEKIERSKI,** University of Lodz
Contested Shrines and Power Relations: (In)Visible Infrastructure of the Armenian Apostolic Church in Georgia

**Agathe GUY,** École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris; Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München
Thresholds of Halal: Verticality from the Halal Butcher's Counter in Contemporary Qazaqstan

**Yulia ANTONYAN,** Yerevan State University
How Is a Sacred Place "Assembled"? Vertical Power and Materiality in an Armenian Christian Vernacular Shrine

## # 2. POLITICAL ECOLOGIES OF VERTICALITY: EXTRACTION, GREEN CAPITALISM AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTESTATION

*Location:* "Mario Baratto" Hall, Ca' Foscari
*Chair:* **Andrea ZINZANI**, University of Bologna

**Bakhtiyar NASTAGIMOV,** Nastagimov Advisory
Reading the Closed Basin Vertically: Power From Above and Below in the Caspian Macro-Region

**Frank MARACCHIONE ,** SOAS University of London
China's 'green' capitalism and Uzbekistan's socio-ecological futures: Everyday agency in Chinese-funded 'green' projects in Uzbekistan

**Jessica ZAPPALA',** Cagliari University
Shifting Volumes: Extractive Flows and Vertical Relations in Ch'iatura

**Görkem ATSUNGUR,** American University of Central Asia
Exploring Verticality in Central Asian Environmental Activism: Layered Struggles and Scalar Politics in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan

# ASIAC XX ANNUAL CONFERENCE
# DAY 1 – MONDAY, DECEMBER 14

## # 3. VERTICAL STRUCTURES OF AUTHORITY: RELIGION, KNOWLEDGE AND THE PRODUCTION OF LEGITIMACY

*Location*: "Marino Berengo" Hall, Ca' Foscari
*Chair*: **Laura MAFIZZOLI**, Czech Academy of Sciences

**Giorgi PARESHISHVILI,** Caucasus International University
From Throne to Parish: Vertical Authority, Transcendent Legitimacy, and the Georgian Orthodox Church as Geopolitical Actor

**Eugenia FABBRI,** University of Uppsala
From Above, Below, and Abroad: Reconfiguring Religious Authority in the Chechen Digital Diaspora

**Inzhu MUKHAMETKALI,** Tselinny Center of Contemporary Culture
Can Horizontal Knowledge Production Be Institutionalized? Negotiating Epistemic Verticality in Kazakhstan's Cultural Sector

**Berikbol DUKEYEV,** Nazarbayev University
Vertical Narratives of Nationhood: History Textbooks and the Production of Regional Imaginaries in Central Asia

## PARALLEL SESSIONS # 4 - 5 - 6

*16:00 – 17:45*

## # 4. VERTICAL SPACES, HORIZONTAL LINKS: RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES BETWEEN HIGH-RISES AND SACRED LANDSCAPES

*Location*: Great Hall "Silvio Trentin", Ca' Dolfin
*Chairs*: **Susanne FEHLINGS,** Frobenius Institute for Research in Cultural Anthropology

**Jonah NEUENHAUS,** Goethe University Frankfurt am Main / Frobenius Institute
Administrative verticality and lived religion: Bahá'í Community Building in Bishkek

**Baktygul SHABDAN,** Goethe University Frankfurt am Main
From Secular to Multireligious Neighborhoods: Religion and Everyday Life in Bishkek's Post-Soviet Microrayons

**Roland HARDENBERG,** Frobenius Institute for Research in Cultural Anthropology
Monumental Memories: Commemorative Architecture in Urban Bishkek and the Rural Landscape

**Tatia TAVKHELIDZE RIEBOLD**, Leipzig University
Mountains, Nation, and Ethnocentrism: Vertical Landscapes in the Georgian National Imagination

**Maia RIZHVADZE**, Goethe University Frankfurt am Main
Everyday Coexistence in Post-Soviet Micro-Districts: An Ethnography of Multireligious Vertical Neighbourhoods in Tbilisi

# ASIAC XX ANNUAL CONFERENCE
# DAY 1 – MONDAY, DECEMBER 14

## # 5. EVERYDAY VERTICALITIES: PRECARITY, BELONGING AND AGENCY IN CONTESTED SPACES

*Location:* "Mario Baratto" Hall, Ca' Foscari
*Chairs*: **Frank MARACCHIONE**, SOAS University of London

**Elena BATUNOVA,** RWTH Aachen University
Privatized Housing, Public Responsibility: Vertical Claims in Post-Earthquake Gyumri

**Marika MURGIONI,** Università di Padova / Ca' Foscari University
"Borrowed Safety" among Queer Armenian People as an Expression of Agency through Their Relationship with the Russian Migrant Community

**Madina GAZIEVA,** Dublin City University
Relational and Provisional Identities of Mountain Tajiks across Borders

**Tatia DVALI**, Université Paris 8
Becoming a Trace: Protests Outside the Public Broadcaster in Georgia's Authoritarian Turn

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## # 6. VERTICAL IMAGINARIES: SACRED SYMBOLISM, VISUAL CULTURE AND CULTURAL MEMORY

*Location*: "Marino Berengo" Hall, Ca' Foscari
*Chair*: **Rebecca CIATTINI**, Ca' Foscari University

**Alessia BOSCHIS,** Università degli Studi di Udine
**Onofrio GASPARRO,** Ca' Foscari University
From Sacred Pillars to Cross-Stones? Sasanian Legacies in the Symbolism of the Armenian Xač'k'ar

**Nino GODERDZISHVILI,** Georgian National Museum
Verticality and the Silk Road: Cross-Cultural Iconography and Zoomorphic Semiotics in the 10th-Century Relief Programs of Akhtamar and Tabatskuri

**Nino GELOVANI,** Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University
Archaic Ritual and the Cinematic Construction of Vertical Space in Sergei Parajanov's The Legend of the Suram Fortress

**Parvina RIZOEVA,** Khujand State University
Vertical Dimensions in Farzona's Poetry

# ASIAC XX ANNUAL CONFERENCE
# DAY 1 – MONDAY, DECEMBER 14

## SPECIAL SESSION
## BOOK TALKS IN CONVERSATION WITH THE AUTHORS

*18:00 - 18:45*

### RETHINKING EURASIA: SOVIET LEGACIES, GLOBAL ORDERS, AND EVERYDAY LIFE

*BOOK TALKS IN CONVERSATION WITH THE AUTHORS*

- **The Death and Life of Southern Soviet Cities. Urban Futures and their Afterlives**
  with **David LEUPOLD**, University of Rijeka / Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
  Moderated by **Cesare FIGARI BARBERIS**, Leiden University
  Location: "Mario Baratto" Hall, Ca' Foscari

- **Global Resentment: Chinese and Russian Narratives of International Order**
  with **Flavia LUCENTI**, LUISS Guido Carli
  Moderated by **Beatrice GALLELLI**, Ca' Foscari University
  Location: "Marino Berengo" Hall, Ca' Foscari

- **Restless Quietists: Muslim Forms of Life in Russia's Volga Region**
  with **Matteo BENUSSI**, Ca' Foscari University
  Moderated by **Laura MAFIZZOLI**, Czech Academy of Sciences
  Location: "Archivio" Hall, Ca' Foscari

## SOCIAL DINNER

*Ristorante San Trovaso, 20:00 - 22:30*

# ASIAC XX ANNUAL CONFERENCE
# DAY 2 – TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15

**PARALLEL SESSIONS # 7 - 8 - 9** *09:00 - 10:45*

## # 7. CIRCULATING TEXTS AND IDEAS: TRANSLATION, PHILOLOGY AND TRANSNATIONAL LITERARY WORLDS

*Location*: Great Hall "Silvio Trentin", Ca' Dolfin
*Chair*: **Velizar SADOVSKI**, Austrian Academy of Sciences

**Tinca GARDENGHI,** Universitat de València
The Reception of Chingiz Aitmatov in the Spanish-Speaking World

**Vittorio Springfield TOMELLERI,** University of Turin
**Alessio GIORDANO,** Independent Scholar
The Correspondence of Gappo Baev and Bernát Munkácsi: Between Life and Scholarship

**Kamila AKHMEDJANOVA,** University of Oxford
The Legacy of Dilshād Barnā and Ahmad Dānish within the Context of 19th-Century Persian-Speaking Literary and Intellectual Trends

## # 8. BRIDGING THE GAP: RECENT ITALIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH BETWEEN THE CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIA (PART 1)

*Location*: "Mario Baratto" Hall, Ca' Foscari
*Chair*: **Elena ROVA**, Ca' Foscari University

**Enrico ASCALONE,** Università del Salento
Italian-Uzbek excavations at Djarkutan, 2026 season

**Alberto C. POTENZA,** Università del Salento
Animal Rituals in the Graves of Djarkutan ,Uzbekistan. New Data from The 2026 Archaeological Excavations

**Roberta MENEGAZZI,** Centro Ricerche Archeologiche e Scavi di Torino per il Medio Oriente e l'Asia - CRAST
Landscape and power through time: Mongolian-Italian researches in the Bayangolyn Valley

**Carlo LIPPOLIS,** Università di Torino
The Art and Architecture of Old Nisa: The Meaning of an Ecumenical and Multilingual Visual Language

**COFFEE BREAK** *VenicEat, Ca' Foscari Courtyard, 10:45 - 11:15*

# ASIAC XX ANNUAL CONFERENCE
# DAY 2 – TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15

## # 9. CONNECTIVITY AND ITS DISCONTENTS IN THE SOUTH CAUCASUS

*Location*: "Marino Berengo" Hall, Ca' Foscari
*Chair*: **Maria GUNKO**, SAME, University of Oxford / Yerevan State University

**Maria GUNKO,** SAME University of Oxford / Yerevan State University
Kinship as Infrastructure: Tracing Connectivity in Small-Town Armenia

**Haykuhi MURADYAN,** Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, National Academy of Sciences of Armenia
From Soviet Circuits to Empty Shells: Houses of Culture in Armenia's Border Settlements

**Laura LUCIANI,** Ghent University; Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Connectivity as pacification: Corridors, affect and the making of geopolitical order in Armenia's Syunik

**Harutyun VERMISHYAN,** Yerevan State University; SOCIES
**Milena SARMAKYAN,** Yerevan State University
When Corridors Arrive: Solitude, Dignity and the Uneven Promise of Connectivity

**Narine ABGARYAN, Milena SARGSYAN, Aram VARTIKYAN,** Yerevan State University
Displacement without leaving: Tourism, Space, and the Belonging in Gyumri,

**COFFEE BREAK** *VenicEat, Ca' Foscari Courtyard, 10:45 - 11:15*

**PARALLEL SESSIONS # 10 - 11 - 12** *11:15 – 13:00*

## # 10. NATIONALISING THE PAST: LANGUAGE, HISTORICAL MEMORY AND CULTURAL REPRESENTATION

*Location*: Great Hall "Silvio Trentin", Ca' Dolfin
*Chairs*: **Rebecca CIATTINI**, Ca' Foscari University

**Heghine BARSEGHYAN,** Johannes Gutenberg University
Language and Belonging in Times of Upheaval: Mshak's Discourse on the Armenian Language Question in Revolutionary Russia

**Turkay GASIMOVA,** Miyazaki International University
Methodological Challenges and Political Interference in Azerbaijani Historiography

**Anel KULAKHMETOVA,** inVision U
"Our Steam Locomotive Flies Ahead! There Is a Stop in Communism": The UralskPishpek Railway and the Deportation of a Family from Western Kazakhstan

**Andrea CARTENY, Anna TIRO,** Sapienza University of Rome
Historical Heritage and Fashion Style in Kyrgyzstan: Mountain Textiles, Riding Culture and Modern Identity Formation

# ASIAC XX ANNUAL CONFERENCE
# DAY 2 – TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15

## # 11. BRIDGING THE GAP: RECENT ITALIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH BETWEEN THE CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIA (PART 2)

*Location*: "Mario Baratto" Hall, Ca' Foscari
*Chair*: **Davit DAREJANASHVILI**, Caucasus University

**Alessandra GILIBERT ,** Ca' Foscari University; **Pavol HNILA,** Freie Universität Berlin**; Arsen BOBOKHYAN,** Armenian Academy of Sciences
Traditional Water Management in the High Mountains: An Archaeological, Historical and Ethnographic case-study from Mount Aragats, Armenia

**Riccardo FAVA, Elena ROVA,** Ca' Foscari University
Decoding Kurgan Fields Without Excavation: A Multiscalar Perspective from Gardabani ,Southern Georgia

**Sergio FERDINANDI,** Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale
Aruch: Rediscovering a Medieval Armenian Capital

**Manuel CASTELLUCCIA,** ISMEO
The Perilous Frontier: the Caspian Corridor during Antiquity and Early Middle Ages. Nomadic Mobility and Imperial Strategies

**Piera Allegra RASIA, Francesca BERTOLDI,** Ca' Foscari University**; Pier Francesco FABBRI,** Museo Fiorentino di Preistoria**; Liana BITADZDE,** Tbilisi State University**; Shorena LALIASHVILI,** Tbilisi State University
Cranial Trauma in a Sample of Medieval Human Skeletons from Berebis Saqdrebi, Borjomi, Samtske-Javakheti, Georgia

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## # 12. GOVERNING FROM BELOW: CIVIC ORGANISATIONS, INSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY AND URBAN COMMONS

*Location:* "Marino Berengo" Hall, Ca' Foscari
*Chair:* **Laura MAFIZZOLI**, Czech Academy of Sciences

**Dina SHARIPOVA, Bakhytzhan KURMANOV,** Nazarbayev University
Staying Afloat: Coping Strategies of NGOs in Central Asia

**Agnieszka PIKULICKA**, Turan Tales
New Approaches to Journalism in Central Asia: Turan Tales

**Viktoria KOBZEVA,** University of Birmingham
What Is Self-Governance in Post-Soviet Cities? Urban Transformations and Local-Level Governance in Tashkent and Baku

**Vincenzo ZENOBI,** Independent Researcher
The Armenian Church and the Georgian Church as Actors in the Urban Development of Yerevan and Tbilisi

**Armine GHALAMDARYAN,** Yerevan State University
Who Keeps the Courtyard? Care, Belonging, and Erosion in Post-Soviet Armenian Small Cities

# ASIAC XX ANNUAL CONFERENCE
# DAY 2 – TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15

**PARALLEL SESSIONS # 13 - 14 - 15**

*14:15 - 16:00*

## # 13. LITERARY AND VISUAL ECOLOGIES IN CENTRAL ASIA: TRANSREGIONAL AND TRANSMEDIAL PERSPECTIVES

*Location*: Great Hall "Silvio Trentin", Ca' Dolfin
*Chair:* **Lara RIGHI**, University of Verona

**Jan BRZOBOHATÝ,** Palacký University
Autumn, Rice, and Distant Homelands: Environmental Imagery in Soviet and Post-Soviet Dungan Poetry

**Rebecca CIATTINI,** Ca' Foscari University
Landscapes on Stage: Performing Natural and Urban Environments in Soviet Tajik Drama

**Olga KHAN,** Kyoto University
Urban Cities and Kishlaks as Living Bodies in Uzbek Cinema

**Rauan BOLAT,** Al-Farabi Kazakh National University
The Aral Sea as an Imperial Ecological Space: Verticality of Power and Knowledge in Abdijamil Nurpeisov's Final Respects

**Caterina RE,** Independent researcher
Of Squirrels and other Non-humans: Anatolij Kim's Belka ,1985 as a Manifesto of Interconnectedness in Soviet Russophone Literature from Central Asia

## # 14. PREMODERN EURASIA: MATERIAL CULTURES, SACRED LANDSCAPES AND CROSS-CULTURAL ENCOUNTERS

*Location*: "Mario Baratto" Hall, Ca' Foscari
*Chair*: Lorenzo PUBBLICI, University of Naples "L'Orientale"

**Nicola MARTINELLI,** University of Naples "L'Orientale"
Ceramic Technology and Material Connectivity in the Murghab Alluvial Fan: New Data from Bronze Age Togolok Depe, Turkmenistan

**Matteo COMPARETI,** Capital Normal University
Nana and the other Sogdian "Zoroastrian" Deities in the "Lamentation Scene" at Penjikent

**Ludovica NULLI**, Independent researcher
The Horse and the Queen: Indian Ritual Elements in Central Asian Zoroastrianism

**Alice MUMFORD KAZANTSEVA,** University of Cambridge
'Because There Was No Other Way to Settle These Things': Medieval Georgian Diplomacy under Rusudan (1223-45) prior to the Mongol Conquest

# ASIAC XX ANNUAL CONFERENCE
# DAY 2 – TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15

## # 15. BELONGING AND PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS: IDENTITY, MEMORY AND SOCIETY IN CENTRAL ASIA

*Location*: "Marino Berengo" Hall, Ca' Foscari
*Chair:* **Frank MARACCHIONE,** SOAS University of London

**Diana TOIMBEK**, Ulster University
Public Sentiment in Kazakhstan amid the Russo-Ukrainian War

**Douglas ANDERSON,** Dow Jones, European Guanxi
**Sardor ALLAYAROV,** University of Washington
The Euphoria of Central Asia's Multivector Diplomacy

**Niginakhon URALOVA**, Johannes Gutenberg Universität
Contested Soviet Social Memories and Central Asian Youth

**Aigul SERALINOVA**, Texas A&M University
Kazakh Diaspora in Houston: Belonging, Religion and Cultural Continuity

## PARALLEL SESSIONS # 16 - 17

*16:15 – 18:00*

## # 16. PHILOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES ON CENTRAL ASIA AND THE CAUCASUS: LANGUAGES, RITUALS, AND MYTHS

*Location*: Great Hall "Silvio Trentin", Ca' Dolfin
*Chair:* **Velizar SADOVSKI,** Austrian Academy of Sciences

**Paolo OGNIBENE**, University of Bologna
Herodotus and the Languages of Scythia

**Velizar SADOVSKI**, Austrian Academy of Sciences
Philology and material culture traces of Indo-Iranian male initiation rituals in Central Asia

**Nazibrola BERIDZE GABAIDZE**, Universität Tübingen
Medea at the Threshold: From Colchis to Kolchos and After: Giwi Margwelaschwili's Die Medea von Kolchis in Kolchos

## # 17. ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS IN CENTRAL ASIA: CAPITAL, EXTERNAL ACTORNESS AND LIVED ECOLOGIES

*Location*: "Marino Berengo" Hall, Ca' Foscari
*Chair:* **Frank MARACCHIONE,** SOAS University of London

**Lorena LOMBARDOZZI,** SOAS, University of London
Competing Investment Regimes and the Political Economy of Energy in Central Asia

**Zarina MUKASHEVA,** L.N. Gumilyov Eurasian National University
The EU's Environmental Actorness in Central Asia: Local Media Perceptions and Framings

**Buğra GÜNGÖR,** Parami University
The Politics of Breathing: An Autoethnography of Air Pollution and Identity in Bishkek

# ASIAC XX ANNUAL CONFERENCE
# DAY 2 – TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15

## SPECIAL SESSION
## DOCUMENTARY SCREENING (PART 1)

*16:15 - 18:45*

*Location*: "Mario Baratto" Hall, Ca' Foscari
*Chair:* **Laura MAFIZZOLI**, Czech Academy of Sciences

### Commemorating Ashura in an Azerbaijani Village in Georgia
Authors: **Konrad SIEKIERSKI, Anna CIEŚLEWSKA**, Institute of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, University of Lodz

### Offering for Saint Mary in Samshvilde Armenian Village in Georgia
Authors: **Konrad SIEKIERSKI, Anna CIEŚLEWSKA**, Institute of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, University of Lodz

### It Did Not Rust, It Survived..., Georgian Documentary Film
Author: **Nino GELOVANI**, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University

### Quyosh - an Uzbek tale
Author: **Ray WU**, Columbia University

## SPECIAL SESSION
## DOCUMENTARY SCREENING (PART 2)

*19:15 - 20:30*

*Location*: Scuola dei Laneri, Fondamenta del Gaffaro, Santa Croce 131/a - Venice
*Chair:* **Frank MARACCHIONE**, SOAS University of London

### "When Wild Tulips Bloom" - An ethnographic documentary
Author: **Elena BORISOVA**, University of Sussex

# ASIAC XX ANNUAL CONFERENCE
# DAY 3 – WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16

**PARALLEL SESSIONS # 18 - 19 - 20**

*09:00 - 10:45*

## # 18. THE BAGRATID DYNASTIES OF ARMENIA AND GEORGIA: A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE ON MEDIEVAL SUB-CAUCASIA (PART 1. HISTORY AND EPIGRAPHY - STARTS AT 08:45)

*Location*: Great Hall 'Silvio Trentin', Ca' Dolfin
*Chair*: **Nazenie GARIBIAN**, Mesrop Mashtots Research Institute of Ancient Manuscripts
*Discussants*: **Anna SIRINIAN,** University of Bologna; **Paolo LUCCA**, Ca' Foscari University

**Pogos Levon ZEKIYAN**
The Origin of the Bagratid Dynasties and the History of their Division

**Natia CHANTLADZE**, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University
The idea of a unified state under the Bagrationi rule in the medieval Caucasus and the old Armenian translation of " Kartlis Tskhovreba"

**Stephen Jr. RAPP**, Sam Houston State University
The Bagratids as a Pan-Caucasian Phenomenon

**Georgi TCHEISHVILI**, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University
Georgian Bagratids in the Byzantine "Family of Kings": A View from 11th-Century Georgia

**Isabelle AUGÉ**, Université de Montpellier Paul-Valéry;
**Agnès OUZOUNIAN**, Institut national des langues et civilisations orientales - Inalco
Distant Descendants of Queen XosrovanuŠ: The Patronage of the Princesses of Loŕi at the Turn of the 12th and 13th Centuries

**Arsen HARUTYUNYAN**, Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography of the Republic of Armenia / Mesrop Mashtots Institute of Ancient Manuscripts
Royal Epigraphy: Inscriptions of Queens in the Bagratid Kingdom of Armenia

## # 19. AFTER WAR, BEFORE POLITICS: AUTHORITARIAN CONSOLIDATION, SECURITIZED GOVERNANCE,AND THE CLOSURE OF POLITICAL IMAGINATION IN AZERBAIJAN

*Location*: 'Marino Berengo' Hall, Ca' Foscari
*Chair:* **Cesare FIGARI BARBERIS**, Leiden University

**Shalala MAMMADOVA** , Baku Research Institute
Intelligentsia Under Authoritarian Power

**Samira ALAKBARLI**, Baku Research Institute
Geopoliticizing Azerbaijan: Hegemony and the Closure of Politics from Below in Azerbaijan

**Araz BAGHIROV**, Baku Research Institute
State Secularism and Repressions Against Believers in Azerbaijan

**Vafa NAGHIYEVA**, Leipzig University
Governing Through Death: Authoritarianism in Post-Conflict Azerbaijan

**Lala DARCHINOVA**, European University Institute
From Other to Enemy: The End of Political Imagination in Post-War Azerbaijan

# ASIAC XX ANNUAL CONFERENCE
# DAY 3 – WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16

## # 20. ON THE CROSSROADS OF EUROPE AND ASIA: LINGUISTIC AND HISTORICAL VERTICALS OF GEORGIA

*Location*: "Mario Baratto" Hall, Ca' Foscari
*Chair*: **Eka DADIANI**, Akaki Tsereteli State University; **Natia PUTKARADZE**, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University

**Manana TABIDZE, Keso GEJUA, Mikheil LABADZE, Sophio KEKUA,** St. Andrew the First-called Georgian University
Factors Determining Toponymic Change in Northwestern Georgia ,Abkhazia

**Eka DADIANI,** Akaki Tsereteli State University
**Giorgi MULIANI,** Independent researcher
The Results of Georgian-Persian Linguistic and Cultural Contacts in the Phraseology of Fereydanian Georgians

**Natia PUTKARADZE,** Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University
**Tinatin MILORAVA,** Akaki Tsereteli State University
Influence of the Turkish Language and the Changed Construction of the Georgian Verb, According to the Speech of Ethnic Georgians Living in Turkey

**Ekaterine NAVROZASHVILI** ,Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University
Functional Names and their Translation according to the „Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats“ by T. S. Eliot

**Merab MEGRELISHSHVILI, Sulkhan MAMULADZE, Niko MEGRELISHVILI**, Batumi State University
The Italian Consulate in Batumi: 1878-1921

**Iamze VASHAKIDZE**, Caucasus University, **Tariel PUTKARADZE †**, **Maka PARKOSADZE**, European University
Why Georgian University Should not be Established: Ivane Javakhishvili and Nikolaj Marr

**COFFEE BREAK** *VenicEat, Ca' Foscari Courtyard, 10:45 - 11:15*

# ASIAC XX ANNUAL CONFERENCE
# DAY 3 – WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16

**PARALLEL SESSIONS # 21 - 22 - 23**

*11:15 - 13:00*

## # 21. THE BAGRATID DYNASTIES OF ARMENIA AND GEORGIA: A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE ON MEDIEVAL SUB-CAUCASIA (PART 2. ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY)

*Location:* Great Hall 'Silvio Trentin', Ca' Dolfin
*Chair:* **Nazenie GARIBIAN**, Mesrop Mashtots Research Institute of Ancient Manuscripts
*Discussants:* **Anna SIRINIAN**, University of Bologna; **Paolo LUCCA**, Ca' Foscari University

**Ioanna RAPTI ,** École pratique des hautes études PSL
Legacy and Aferlife of the Late Antique Book: The Evidence from Armenian and Georgian Manuscripts

**Nina IAMANIDZE,** Collège de France
Building Power in Space: Architectural Transformations of Dynastic Authority in the Georgian Bagrationi Kingdom ,10th-13th c.

**Arpine ASRYAN,** Mesrop Mashtots Institute of Ancient Manuscripts
**Zaruhi HAKOBYAN,** State Academy of Fine Arts of Armenia / Mesrop Mashtots Institute of Ancient Manuscripts
"Queen of Abkhazia and Armenia": The Political and Cultural Phenomena of Mariam Bagratuni-Artsruni in the First half of the 11th Century

**Lynn JONES,** Florida State University
Diplomatic Dress: Bagrationi and the Byzantine Oikumene

**Mariam ANJAPARIDZE**, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University
The Hymnographer of Distance: Narrative and Theological Strategies in Ioane Mtbevari's Hymn of the Resurrection

**Christina MARANCI**, Harvard University
Reconsidering Ani Cathedral and Gagkashen in light of A New Discovery

## # 22. CONFLICT, MOBILISATION AND POLITICAL VOICE IN THE NORTH AND SOUTH CAUCASUS

*Location:* "Mario Baratto" Hall, Ca' Foscari
*Chair:* **Giorgio COMAI**, Osservatorio Balcani Caucaso Transeuropa

**Giuliano BIFOLCHI,** European Forensic Institute of Malta, SpecialEurasia
Here We Go: Vendetta, Hospitality, and Omertà: How Socio-Cultural Codes Shaped Insurgencies in the North Caucasus

**Emil ASLAN,** Charles University
Defining Borders, Defining Selves: A South Ossetian Perspective on Borderization

**Leonardo ZANATTA,** Corvinus University of Budapest
"If we are One Nation, Why do we Commemorate Differently?" A Comparative Analysis of Memory Regimes in North and South Ossetia

**Silvia SERRANO,** Sorbonne University
Forgotten Voices of Veterans

# ASIAC XX ANNUAL CONFERENCE
# DAY 3 – WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16

## # 23. GEOPOLITICS FROM ABOVE AND BELOW: VERTICALITY, RESILIENCE, AND FOREIGN POLICY IN THE SOUTH CAUCASUS

*Location:* "Marino Berengo" Hall, Ca' Foscari
*Chair:* **Cesare FIGARI BARBERIS**, Leiden University

**Erik DAVTYAN,** Friedrich Schiller University
Pro-Russian no more? Discerning Armenia's foreign policy trajectory after the 2020 war in Nagorno-Karabakh

**Laure DELCOUR,** Sorbonne Nouvelle University
"Resilience" without Transformation? The EU's "Geopolitical Turn" in the South Caucasus

**Bidzina LEBANIDZE,** Ilia State University / Friedrich Schiller University
Puppet or Partner? How Georgia's Ruling Regime Manages Its Relationship with Russia between Hedging and Patronage

**Tiffany WILLIAMS,** Friedrich Schiller University
Nested Peripheries of Power: Verticality and the Reproduction of Hierarchies in the South Caucasus

## PARALLEL SESSIONS # 24 - 25 - 26

*14:15 - 16:00*

## # 24. BETWEEN GREAT POWERS: STRATEGIC AUTONOMY, REALIGNMENT, AND POSITIONING

*Location:* Great Hall 'Silvio Trentin', Ca' Dolfin
*Chair:* **Giorgio COMAI**, Osservatorio Balcani Caucaso Transeuropa

**Jessica NEAFIE,** Nazarbayev University
The Resilience of Between-ness: Liminal Agency and Multivectorism in Comparative Perspective

**Carlo BUSINI,** Università per stranieri di Perugia
**Loretta DELL'AGUZZO,** Link Campus University
Russia's Responses to Democratic Revolutions in the Post-Soviet Space

**Helge BLAKKISRUD,** University of Oslo
Beyond Russia: 'Us' and 'Them' in the Rhetoric of Abkhaz and South Ossetian Leaders

# ASIAC XX ANNUAL CONFERENCE
# DAY 3 – WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16

## # 25. RETHINKING INTERNATIONAL LAW FROM CENTRAL ASIA: GLOBAL GOVERNANCE, LEGAL PLURALISM, AND HUMAN RIGHTS

*Location: "Mario Baratto" Hall, Ca' Foscari*
*Chair:* **Patricio BARBIROTTO,** Tashkent State University of Law / University of Ljubljana

**Sergey SAYAPIN,** National University of Singapore
International Law on the Silk Road: From Connectivity to Global Risk Governance

**Aigerim MUSSABALINOVA,** KIMEP University
Future Generations and Nuclear Disarmament: Kazakhstan's Contribution to the Humanization of International Law

**Patricio BARBIROTTO,** Tashkent State University of Law / University of Ljubljana
Managing Overlapping International Obligations in Central Asia: Verticality and Legal Pluralism Across Eurasian Institutions

**Steve SWERDLOW**, University of Southern California,
**Kenan KORN, Shiza KHAN**, The Detained Global Monitor
New Approaches to Human Rights Work in Central Asia. "The Detained": An Evidence Infrastructure for the Study of Political Imprisonment in Central Asia

## # 26. ROUNDTABLE - DECENTERING THE 1990S: THE POST-COLD WAR TRANSITION FROM CENTRAL ASIA. INTERNATIONAL HISTORY AND AREA STUDIES IN DIALOGUE

*Location*: "Marino Berengo" Hall, Ca' Foscari
*Chair:* **Lorenzo PUBBLICI**, University of Naples "L'Orientale"

Participants:

- **Barbara ONNIS,** Univeristy of Cagliari
- **Frank MARACCHIONE,** SOAS University of London
- **Michele BRUNELLI,** University of Bergamo
- **Rebecca CIATTINI,** Ca' Foscari University
- **Mauro PRIMAVERA,** University of Padova

## CLOSING SESSION
## ASIAC PRIZE FOR BEST DOCTORAL THESIS - AWARDING

*16:15 - 17:00*

*Location*: 'Mario Baratto' Hall, Ca' Foscari
*Closing remarks:* **Lorenzo PUBBLICI,** University of Naples "L'Orientale"

## ASIAC
## ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

*'Mario Baratto' Hall (in Italian) 17:00 - 18:00*