

Speakers and Abstracts

Prof. Dr. Diana Forker, Dr. Bidzina Lebanidze, Veronika Pfeilschifter

(Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena)

Neighbourhood Ambiguity - On Inclusion and Exclusion of the EU's Foreign Policy Resilience Approach in the South Caucasus

Over past fifteen years, the Caucasus region has come closer to the EU through numerous foreign policy initiatives such as European Neighborhood Policy (ENP) and the Eastern Partnership (EaP). A new research project seeks to deliver comprehensive analysis of the new resilience approach of EU foreign policy in the South Caucasus and its contribution to conflict and crisis prevention. Through an inside-out analysis will focus on studying preferences of state and non-state stakeholders and a role of minority and language policy.

Richard Giragosian

(Director, Regional Studies Center (RSC) Yerevan, Armenia)

Post-War Armenia: Promise & Peril

Armenia was seriously shaken by the unexpected military defeat in the recent war for Nagorno Karabakh. In the aftermath of the Russian-imposed ceasefire agreement, post-war Armenia faces an unprecedented new geopolitical reality, but with a significant degree of both promise and peril. While the necessity for adaption and adjustment to this new regional reality is undeniable, Armenia has been slow to respond and with little luxury for time, the pressing challenge is to prepare for a return of diplomacy in order to ensure greater resiliency and enshrine democratic gains to date.

Prof. Dr. Heather D. DeHaan

(Binghamton University, State University of New York)

What is a Neighbour? The Practice of “Living Together” in Late Soviet Baku

This talk discusses intra- and inter-neighborhood life in Baku in the late Soviet period, with an eye to defining a “neighbourhood” and, more specifically, what “being a neighbour” meant for inter- and intra-ethnic relationships in Baku from the 1950s to early 1980s. Though both Soviet propaganda and popular memory identify late Soviet Baku as a site and place marked by inter-ethnic harmony, neighbourhood relations—and, with them, ethnic interactions—were mediated by social status, geographic location, and also national affiliation. Being a good “neighbour” required the navigation – and often, the minimization—of social difference.