

Historical narratives have played, and continue to play, an important role in the political development and national consolidation of the states and ethnic territories of the Caucasus region. In conflict situations, history serves as a powerful force to legitimize specific claims – over territory, resources and peoples. History is highly politicized especially in countries facing deep political or even territorial divisions; in these countries, national narratives often develop around political claims rather than representing a reflection of the past in its own right.

Historical research cannot flourish and live up to academic standards when put to the service of political goals. This conference seeks ways beyond the politics of history towards the development of historical research. In order to understand the Caucasian conflicts, we also need to understand the underlying historical myths and conflicting narratives. This conference thus aims to identify and analyze those conflicting issues of the past, which complicate relations within and between the individual states and ethnic territories, and seeks new approaches based on new archival sources.

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SWISS NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION



AN INITIATIVE OF GEBERT RÜF STIFTUNG IN COOPERATION
WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF FRIBOURG

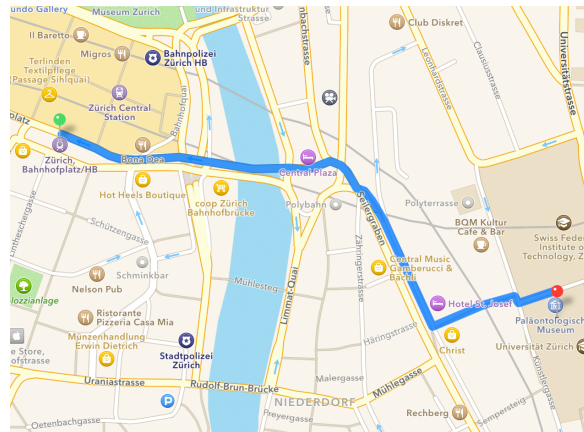
— GEBERT RÜF STIFTUNG —

Organizers

Prof. Dr. Nada Boškovska
Prof. Dr. Jeronim Perović
East European History, Department of History
University of Zurich

Venue

University of Zurich, Room KO2-F-152
Karl Schmid-Str. 4, 8006 Zurich



Further Information

www.hist.uzh.ch/fachbereiche/oeg/caucasus.html

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Guest auditors are kindly requested to register in
advance with Regina Klaus: oeg@hist.uzh.ch.

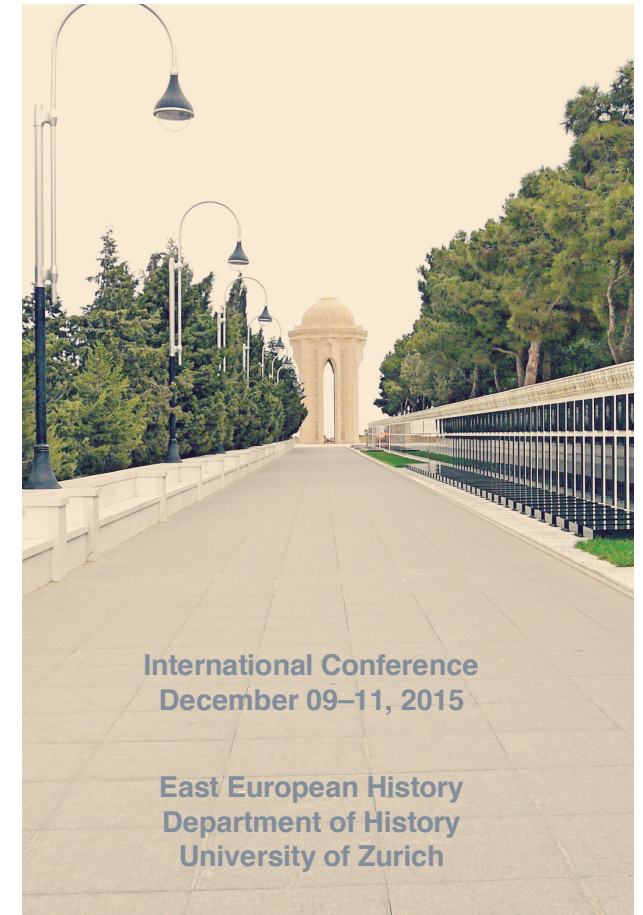


University of
Zurich^{UZH}

CONFLICTING NARRATIVES

History and Politics in the Caucasus

Rita Willaert: Baku Martyr's Lane, 2008



International Conference
December 09–11, 2015

East European History
Department of History
University of Zurich

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

16.15–16.30

Welcome and Introduction

Nada Boškowska & Jeronim Perović (University of Zurich)

16.30–18.00

Panel 1. Politics, History, and Conflict

Chair: Nada Boškowska (Zurich)

- Bruno Coppieters (Brussels): On the Concept of “Forgotten Conflicts”

18.00–18.15 Break

18.15–19.45

Panel 2. Nationalism, Memory, and Identity: Armenia and Georgia

Chair: Nicolas Hayoz (Fribourg)

- Arsène Saparov (Michigan): The National(ist) Revival in Soviet Armenia during Krushchev’s Rule
- Ana Kirvalidze (Tbilisi): The (Re)Creation of Collective Memory and National Identity: The Case of Georgia

20.00 Dinner

Thursday, December 10, 2015

8.30–9.00 Coffee & Gipfeli

9.00–11.00

Panel 3. Origins of Georgian Nationalism in the 20th Cent.

Chair: Carmen Scheide (St. Gallen)

- Hrant Mikaelian (Yerevan): Uprisings in Georgia, 1900–1917
- Oliver Reisner (Tbilisi): Georgian Academic Nationalism in the 1940s
- Mauricio Borrero (New York): Identity Through Sport. The Case of Dinamo Tbilisi and Georgian Football

11.00–11.30 Break

11.30–13.00

Panel 4. Caucasia Between “Unity” and Conflict in Historical Perspective

Chair: Hans-Lukas Kieser (Zurich)

- Erik Davtyan (Yerevan): Transcaucasia under the German-Ottoman Rule: Georgia’s Brinkmanship Policy toward Armenia and Azerbaijan, May–November 1918
- Sarah Slye (Turkey): Kavkaz. The True Face of the Movement for a Caucasian Confederation

13.00–14.00 Lunch

14.00–16.00

Panel 5. Georgian-Abkhaz Relations

Chair: Eva-Maria Auch (Berlin)

- Timothy Blauvelt (Tbilisi): Clientalism and Policy in Early Soviet Abkhazia, 1921–54
- David Jishkariani (Tbilisi): In the Name of Historical Justice. Historical Narratives as a Battlefield of Georgian and Abkhaz Historians
- Claire Kaiser (Philadelphia): Nationalization and its Discontents: Georgian and Abkhaz Entanglements, 1945–1978

16.00–16.30 Break

16.30–18.30

Panel 6. The Caucasus as Contested Space

Chair: Bruno Coppieters (Brussels)

- Elli Ponomareva (St. Petersburg): Tbilisi as Contested Space. Comparing Georgian and Armenian Historical Narratives
- Shalala Rafik Mammadova (Baku): Enemy Nation. To Destroy In Order To Survive
- Krista Goff (Miami): Ethnogenesis as Politics in National Minority Regions

20.00 Dinner

Friday, December 11, 2015

8.30–9.00 Coffee & Gipfeli

9.00–11.00

Panel 7. The Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict

Chair: Oliver Reisner (Tbilisi)

- Mkhitaryan Gabrielyan (Yerevan): Archiving Daily Life: The Photo Collection of the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography as a Source for the History of Karabakh in the Soviet Period
- Katja Doose (Tübingen): The Armenian Earthquake of 1988. A Perfect Stage for the Karabakh Conflict?
- Sergey Rumyansev (Berlin): The Karabakh Conflict and Peaceful Interethnic Cooperation. The Case of Collective Village Swap

11.00–11.30 Break

11.30–13.30

Panel 8. The North Caucasus

Chair: Bianka Pietrow-Ennker (Konstanz)

- Viktor Shnirelman (Moscow): Imagining Ancestors—Producing Conflict
- Lars Karl (Leipzig): (Re-)Inventing a Rebel: The Case of Imam Shamil in Imperial Russia and the Soviet Union
- Magomed Gizbulaev (Dagestan): Dagestan and Russia: Competing Narratives of Identity and Values in Historical Perspective

13.30–14.30 Lunch

14.30–16.30

Panel 9. Trauma, Deportation, and Genocide

Chair: Jeronim Perović (Zurich)

- Vicken Cheterian (Geneva & London): Uses and Abuses of History: Genocide and the Making of the Karabakh Conflict
- Ian Lanzillotti (Athens, TN): “Nativization” in the Kabardian ASSR and the Re-Establishment of Kabardino-Balkaria, 1948–1965
- Federico Salvati (Rome): The Balkars Deportation and the Effects of its Narrative on the Current Socio-Political Situation in Kabardino-Balkaria

16.30 Closing Discussion / End of Conference