

## Research Connections — E-Bulletin

### How to Identify a Good Survey

Ever wondered what the difference between a cluster survey and a stratified survey is? On the 27th of February, Aaron Erlich, CRRC Regional Coordinator, led a training on assessing the quality of surveys for project managers in NGOs and multilateral organizations in Azerbaijan. The trainees learned about different types of sampling strategies and what kinds of questions to ask survey implementers about their approach to sampling. The group also discussed strategies for ensuring that questions are worded appropriately and question-answer options are mutually exclusive and collectively exhaustive. Trainees examined questions from a wide variety of questionnaires carried out in Azerbaijan and discussed how they would approach the same topic. A follow up training will be held on how to monitor fieldwork. If you are interested, please contact [turana@crrccenters.org](mailto:turana@crrccenters.org).

### Selected Upcoming Events

- Training: [Introduction to Qualitative Research Methods](#), Baku, Azerbaijan, March 6, 13, 17, and 27 – Shahin Bayramov (ENG, AZE).
- Lecture: [In Search of a Dramatic Equilibrium: Was the Armenian Dram Overvalued?](#) Yerevan, Armenia, March 13 — Nienke Oomes (ENG, ARM).
- Training: [Competition in Various Commodity Markets in Armenia](#), Yerevan, Armenia, March 25 — Mikayel Mikayelyan (ARM).
- Presentation: [Land Market and Rural Poverty Trends in Armenia](#), Yerevan, Armenia, March 27 — Hranush Kharatyan (ARM).

*For more events, please go to our country websites listed below.*

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Training participants

### DI 2008 Coming Up

The CRRC Data Initiative will be available online shortly. The annual nationwide survey covers all three South Caucasus countries. The survey has already been conducted and the results are being finalized. This year we have a richer section on the European Union, but also many of the questions from 2007. This will allow a detailed comparison of trends. Stay tuned and get ready for exciting data analysis!

### CRRC Welcomes New Country Director in Azerbaijan



Gursel Aliyev

CRRC welcomes Gursel Aliyev as its new Country Director in the Azerbaijan Office. Gursel received his MA in Economics from Northeastern University (Boston, USA – Muskie Alumnus) and Bachelor's degree in International Economic Relations from Azerbaijan State Economic University. He has extensive development experience with international organizations, including the World Bank and UNICEF. Gursel also teaches Business Statistics, Microeconomics and Math for Economists at the School of Economics and Management at Khazar University. Gursel's major fields of interest are Econometric Analysis, Microeconomics and Labor Economics.

### Research Opportunity in the United States

CRRC announces the Carnegie Research Fellowship (CRFP) 2009-2010! Last year three researchers from the South Caucasus were chosen to do their research for four months at Harvard, University of Chicago and University of Washington in Seattle. The CRFP is a great opportunity for researchers from the region, allowing them to engage with US academia. Find out more by writing to [Nana](#).

Gursel has cooperated with CRRC for a long time, for example by contributing extensive analysis to a research report that summarized the findings of the 2006 Data Initiative in Azerbaijan, which should still be of interest and is available on attractive CDs, or by email upon request. He has also offered various trainings, and is thus well known to the local research community. Gursel took over from Bayaz Zeynalova in mid-February. Bayaz will join her husband who is taking up a position in Leipzig, Germany.

[Gursel](#)'s research and training experience is a great addition to the team, and will further invigorate CRRC's work, both in Baku and regionally. If you are in Baku, do stop by the office to say hello. Gursel: welcome!

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