



Research Fellowships

Program Goal - to bring social science research in the South Caucasus up to international standards of excellence.

The rapid pace of economic and political change in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia requires researchers who are able to objectively assess and report on these processes, and whose work helps to develop future policies. While there is a pressing need for indigenous scholars to carry out public-policy relevant research, neither governmental nor non-governmental support for research has materialized in the region.

Responding to these needs, CRRC began funding research fellowships in 2004 and has continued to fine-tune the fellowship program in each consecutive year. To date, we have funded over 50 fellowships worth over \$120,000.

Research Capacity Building

All fellowships build research capacity that strengthen the skills necessary for international publication and peer review. An innovative application process on an online platform provides interactive training to potential fellows. As they design their proposals, potential fellows get concrete guidance on their research plans. Consequently, we receive better proposals and all applicants learn research skills that they can apply throughout their careers. We hope that this model will have a significant impact on the ongoing process of developing local Ph.D. programs.

Connecting Local Researchers to the Worldwide Academic Community

We now require all our fellows to submit their research to peer-reviewed journals. This raises the benchmark to a new level and integrates the Caucasus into larger academic debates. It also encourages fellows to learn from other scholars who address similar problems in other countries. Moreover, publishing internationally will generate additional opportunities for our fellows and will help them gain recognition. Within the Caucasus, CRRC supports the dissemination of research findings through seminars and lectures that reach out to relevant audiences, including both local governmental and non-governmental organizations and the business community. We also make this research accessible to a broader audience through an attractive social science blog (<http://crrc-caucasus.blogspot.com>), which has drawn readers from all parts of the world.

Cross-border Cooperation: Supporting Local Research Networks

Not only do we encourage scholars to engage globally, CRRC places particular emphasis on cross-border cooperation among the countries of the South Caucasus. We encourage our fellows to work in international teams from Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, as well as outside the South Caucasus. Fostering a local network of researchers who can learn from one another will strengthen the quality of research through collaboration and learning from peers.

The Caucasus Research Resource Centers (CRRC) is a network of resource and training centers established in the capital cities of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia with the goal of strengthening social science research and public policy analysis in the South Caucasus. A partnership between the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Eurasia Foundation, and local universities, the CRRC network offers scholars and practitioners stable opportunities for integrated research, training and collaboration in the region.

