

Research Connections — E-Bulletin

CRRC Announces New Azerbaijan Country Director

CRRC extends a warm welcome to its new Azerbaijan Country Director, Leyla Karimli. Leyla brings impressive international experience to CRRC. She holds an M.A. in Political Science from Kansas State University, a DEA in European Studies from University of Nice, France, and an M.A. in International Relations from Baku State University, Azerbaijan. Before joining CRRC, Leyla worked with Oxfam GB in Azerbaijan, Uganda, Kenya and Rwanda. Since 1999 Leyla has taught various courses at Baku State University, Western University and Khazar University. Her current research interests revolve around social capital, poverty and inequality, and international development. You can reach Leyla through her [email](#) or by stopping by the Azerbaijan office.

Selected Upcoming Events

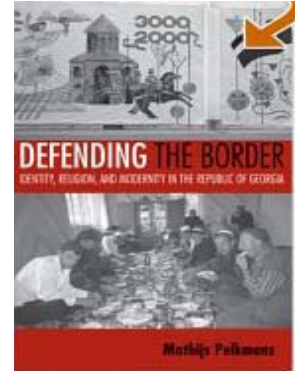
-Lecture: “[Inflation in Armenia: What is Happening to Armenian Prices?](#)” Yerevan, Armenia, February 22 – Ms. Nienke Oomes (ENG).

-Workshop: [Academic Writing Workshop for 2007 Fellows](#), Tbilisi, Georgia, February 23-24 – Jonathan Kulick (ENG).

-Regional Training: “Topics in Questionnaire Design,” Tbilisi, Georgia, February 22-25 – Dr. Gary Pollock (ENG).

For more events, particularly those in local languages, please go to our country websites listed below.

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CRRC Book of the Month

[Defending the Border: Identity, Religion, and Modernity in the Republic of Georgia](#) by Mathijs Pelkmans

Pelkmans' book examines three types of bordering, the literal border, the border between Islam and Christianity and the relationship between the urban provincial capital of Batumi and its rural periphery. Book available in CRRC-Georgia upon request.

Understanding the political sources of Dutch Disease

CRRC-Azerbaijan hosted a presentation on “Understanding the political sources of Dutch Disease” on January 29, 2008, by Andrea Herschman, PhD candidate in Political Science (University of California, Los Angeles).

The presenter mainly focused on the Dutch Disease as a significant obstacle for the development of oil abundant countries. While the economic foundations of this problem are clear, the political factors explaining why governments fail to take corrective action remain poorly understood. Using cross-national statistical analysis and qualitative data from field research in Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan, Andrea examined political pressure created by factors such as political time horizons, electoral cycles, and fragmentation in the decision-making process. [More](#)

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Armenia www.crcc.am

Azerbaijan www.crcc.az

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CRRC Armenia Data Initiative 2007



On January 30, 2008, CRRC-Armenia presented some results of the Data Initiative (DI) 2007 survey to the general public and media in Armenia. DI 2007 is the 4th wave of the DI survey conducted among adults from over 8000 households randomly selected in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. The CRRC DI survey provides a unique opportunity to examine socioeconomic, demographic and political developments. The dataset also allows analysts to make parallels between the three countries of the South Caucasus and the developments between rural and urban areas within each country. Moreover, it sheds light on migration patterns in the region by providing comprehensive information on both returned migrants and migrants residing abroad.

CRRC Armenia hosted more than 70 participants, including 12 representatives from NGOs, 19 from the government, 26 academics, and six media representatives.

The alpha version of the DI dataset with comprehensive documentation is now [online](#).



CRRC-Caucasus Research Resource Centers

Strengthening social science research and public policy in the South Caucasus



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