

**CR
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**THE EURASIA
FOUNDATION**



About CRRC

The Caucasus Research Resource Centers (CRRC) opened in 2003 and is a network of resource and training centers in the capital cities of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. A partnership between the Carnegie Corporation of New York and the Eurasia Foundation (EF), the program's outcomes are to increase the accessibility of high-quality research resources, to strengthen capacity and to increase the dialogue and collaboration between social science researchers and policy practitioners. Direct and indirect beneficiaries include social science researchers, faculty from academic institutions, policy practitioners, and other professionals from non-governmental, private and public sectors.

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Results of the CRRC Data Initiative Survey 2005 Released

In October, CRRC released the results of the 2005 Data Initiative Survey—a yearly regional survey on household economic behavior and social attitudes conducted simultaneously in Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia. The event raised the attention of numerous local and regional media and aroused on-going debates.

CRRC coordinated its first socio-economic and demographic survey in 2004 to gather reliable and consistent raw data on a variety of issues related to demography, education, migration, economic behavior, health, political activities, social institutions, and crime. The survey was conducted by interviewing 1,500 randomly selected households in each of the capital cities—Yerevan, Baku, and Tbilisi—using

walkers who went door-to-door filling out each survey. The data was then digitized, archived, and carefully checked by panels of experts to ensure consistency throughout the three countries.

This year's survey also queried 1,500 households from the capital cities and was extended to an additional region in each country. In Armenia, the survey was conducted in Yerevan and Kotayk Marz; in Azerbaijan, Baku and the Mugan zone of the Aran region; and in Georgia, Tbilisi and the Shida Kartli region.

“The Data Initiative is an integral part of CRRC's program. It will improve the quality and availability of up-to-date

data in the region,” states CRRC Program Director Lara Tcholakian. “Ultimately, the CRRC data sets will enable local and regional social scientists and policy practitioners to collaborate and engage in meaningful dialogue about the ongoing transitions in their homelands.”

What makes CRRC's Data Initiative Survey unique is that it coordinates three simultaneous surveys and joins experts from Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia to ensure that all data collecting methods, polling, interviewing, data coding, and archiving are in sync.

To encourage the effective use of this data, CRRC provides research grants through its Fellowship Program, which supports yearly grants for the research of key social issues. A portion of fellowship

grantees are carrying out their research using data collected by the CRRC Data Initiative.

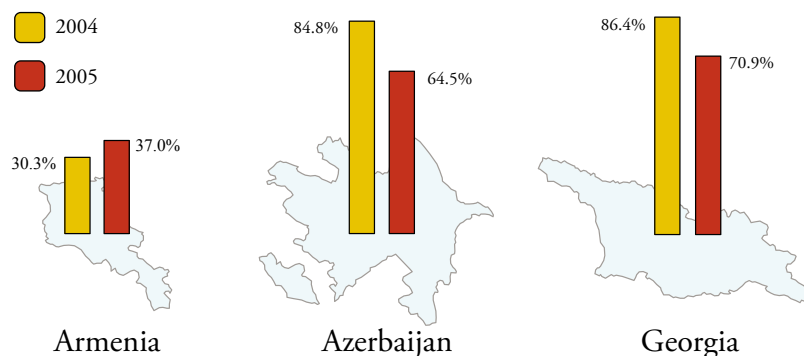
In the next few years, CRRC will expand the Data Initiative even further to ensure a more well-rounded view of the socio-economic situation in the South Caucasus. The data is now available on CRRC's websites for researchers throughout the world. To view or download the Data Initiative 2004 and 2005 databases, please visit the CRRC website at www.crrccenters.org. In every issue, *Research Connections* will highlight one interesting finding from CRRC's Data Initiative in the Data Initiative Spotlight.



CRRC Armenia presents the results of the CRRC 2005 Data Initiative Survey. The event brought together researchers and professionals from NGOs, think tanks and government, and the media.

Trust Toward the President

The graph below shows the results from the Data Initiative 2004 and the Data Initiative 2005 to the question “Assess your trust toward the president”. The percentage of respondents who answered either “Trust” or “Fully Trust” is shown below. The data was collected from the CRRC Survey in the months of May and June, in 2004 and 2005. Margin of error: +/- 5%



Letter From The Director



Welcome to our first issue of *Research Connections*!

Access to adequate resources and up-to-date information is a luxury not widely shared in the South Caucasus. The Caucasus Research Resource Centers (CRRC) have expectations to address these needs. Not just simple expectations - but great expectations!

CRRC reaches out to social science experts and institutions in a sustained effort to teach and share new methods and resources, and to help build a true academic community of scholars on par with international standards. CRRC also reaches out to policy practitioners through policy related research and training. Finally, CRRC constructs a bridge between the local and international social science community through visiting professors and scholars, joint research and data gathering projects, fellowship programs, and intensive research networks.

We expect that the results that we will achieve in addressing the weaknesses of social science research and public policy analysis in the South Caucasus will also strengthen the capacity of local academics, researchers and policy practitioners, and even help them to actively work together – something that is still not part of the policy-making culture here.

In October 2005, all centers publicly presented the latest results of the 2005 Data Initiative Survey, an event that captured the attention of not only research and academic institutions, but local governments and media as well. CRRC's highlight on the 2005 Data Initiative in this issue of *Research Connections* shows you that after another year of hard and long efforts, the centers have been successful in collaborating regionally to develop and release their second data initiative survey results.

Our newly revamped Web sites include a more dynamic site useful for everyone, including resource databases, on-line bibliographic libraries, and electronic publications and journals. The section "Coming up at CRRC" provides information on upcoming events both locally and regionally, so we welcome you to visit us at www.crrccenters.org.

Today is yet another milestone for CRRC in reaching out to its beneficiaries. With this first issue of *Research Connections*, CRRC is extending its knowledge base to the most remote regions. Each issue will include

a program highlight, an article on a research fellow, a description of upcoming events, new and valuable resources at the center or on-line, and additional information about other research institutions.

The New Year will bring new and exciting programs to CRRC. We will be launching the 2006 Data Initiative—this time expanding the survey to a few more regions in each country of the South Caucasus. CRRC will also be launching the 2006 Fellowship Program—a program designed to support local researchers and to help them implement their research using the analysis of data collected through the CRRC Data Initiative databases.

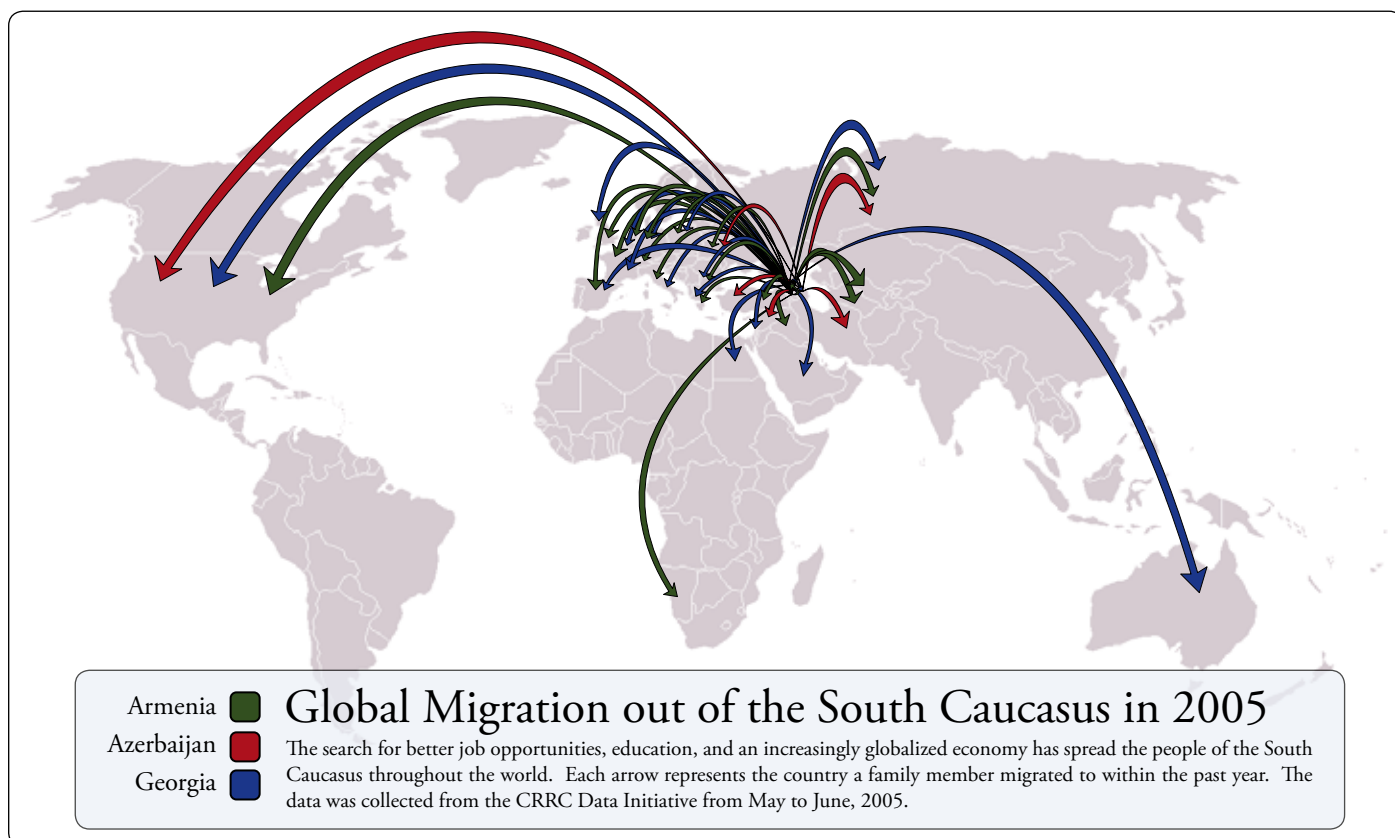
All centers will be conducting new local and regional courses on a wide variety of topics, examples of which include Economics, Survey Methodologies, Demographic Methods, Public Policy Analysis, European Integration and Conflict Resolution in the South Caucasus.

On behalf of CRRC beneficiaries and staff, I wish to express a deep gratitude to Carnegie Corporation of New York for their invaluable support in funding this program. We hope you find *Research Connections* both interesting and useful, and we welcome your feedback to assist us to improve this newsletter over time.

Best,

Lara Tcholakian

Data Initiative Spotlight



Fellowship Spotlight: Badri Koplatadze

Media coverage of the South Ossetian conflict



CRRC Fellow Badri Koplatadze is examining newspaper coverage of the South Ossetian conflict, and through statistical analysis, he is gaining insight into biases in Georgian media. His initial analysis shows that 45% of the articles mention representatives of the Georgian government while only 27% mention representatives of the South Ossetian government. This is just one issue Koplatadze is seeking to explore through his CRRC grant.

Using CRRC resources, Koplatadze is applying quantitative analysis to Georgian newspaper sources. One such method is counting the frequency of keywords in Georgian newspaper articles, theoretically revealing biases through the frequency of certain keywords. Koplatadze is also scrutinizing the “story frames” categorizing each article into a group of seven story frames. The purpose of story frames is to help organize principles that guide the structure and content of a story. These frames use various visual and textual cues that draw in the readers, ultimately influencing their decisions.

Information on the South Ossetian conflict is rare and Koplatadze faces significant challenges in his quest for a better understanding of Georgian media. The method that he is applying is the first of its kind in Georgia, and he is actively contributing to the development of the study of mass communications. Koplatadze will finish his research fellowship in March 2006, and his efforts will culminate in a monograph and a public presentation of his findings.

What is the CRRC Fellowship Program?

CRRC awards fellowship grants to support individual researchers interested in pursuing original policy-oriented research. With this program, we aim to increase local capacity, the availability of new research published in the region, and to support research collaboration. The next fellowship competition will be announced in January 2006.

Coming Up at CRRC



Armenia

Measuring Human Rights Protection from the Perspectives of Comparative Politics: Methods, Issues, and Problems

Type of Event: Methodological Training

Date: January (TBD)

Description: This training will focus on the development of international human rights, methods of comparative politics applicable to human rights research, measuring human rights protection, global comparative political research on human rights, and the human rights performance of Armenia and other Post-Soviet countries.

Location: CRRC-Armenia Office, Yerevan

Trainer: Lilit Umroyan is Senior Human Rights Assistant at the OSCE Yerevan office. Ms. Umroyan holds an MA degree in Human Rights from the University of Essex, UK.

The Social State: Concepts, Armenian Reality and Prospects

Type of Event: Conference

Date: February 24-26, 2006

Description: The goal of this conference, which will be organized in cooperation with the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), is to promote a better understanding of the social state and its system of administration in European countries and in Armenia. The conference will include German and Armenian participants. To obtain more information about this event and/or submit a paper, visit www.crrc.am and www.daad.am.

Location: Tsakhkadzor (TBA)

Azerbaijan

Qualitative Research Methods

Type of Event: Training

Date: December 2005

Description: The training will discuss the qualitative data analyses methods and focus on topics such as when, why, and how to combine qualitative research methods.

Location: CRRC-Azerbaijan Office, Baku

Lecturer: Azad Aliyev was a participant of a CRRC sponsored regional training on Qualitative Research Methodology in Tbilisi and is chairman of the Association of Socio-Economic Researchers.

Economies in Transition

Type of Event: Workshop

Date: December 28, 2005

Description: The workshop will cover: the process and obstacles of economic transition in the South Caucasus; managing the transition from socialist to market oriented economic systems; problems of the public sector and economic reforms in each country; possible resolutions of these problems; highlighted best practices from Central and Eastern European countries; the impact of globalization on the region; the influence of joining the European Union on the transition countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

Location: CRRC-Azerbaijan Office, Baku

Lecturer: Gursel Aliyev is a lecturer at the School of Management and Economics at Khazar University.

Theory of Demographic Transition

Type of Event: Workshop

Date: December 7-9, 2005

Description: The workshop will cover the following issues: demographic transition conception, demographic polling, and the demographic situation of Azerbaijan.

Location: CRRC-Azerbaijan Office, Baku

Lecturer: Imran Garayev is a senior researcher at Azerbaijan National Academy of Science.

Georgia

Policy and Analysis of Macroeconomics

Type of Event: Training

Dates: October 22 – December 24

Description: The training will cover the following issues: policy, methods, and diagnosis of macroeconomics. Trainings are held every Saturday. The duration of each session is 2.5 hours.

Location: CRRC-Georgia Office, Tbilisi

Trainers: Tamaz Asatiani is a systems analysts working on the socio-economic issues of transition countries. Mikhail Tokmazishvili is an Economic Expert for CASE-Transcaucasus and a Professor of Economics at Tbilisi State University.

Are you interested in learning more about CRRC events? Come and visit our Web sites at www.crrccenters.org where you can learn about our resources available, upcoming local and regional trainings, lectures, and conferences.

In 2005, CRRC hosted over 60 training courses and trained over 1,700 local beneficiaries!

Other Fellowships



UNESCO/Keizo Obuchi Research Fellowships

UNESCO is calling on young researchers with advanced degrees (M.A., M.Sc. or equivalent) in developing countries to apply to the UNESCO/Keizo Obuchi Research Fellowship Programme for fellowships ranging from US\$ 6,000 to US\$ 10,000. The amount varies according to duration and place of study.

URL: http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=22149&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

Deadline: 14 January 2005

United Nations University-CRIS Research Fellowships in Regional Integration

UNU-CRIS offers the opportunity for university professors, researchers, and other professionals with a background in regional integration to spend research time in Bruges, for periods lasting from 3 to 12 months.

URL: <http://www.cris.unu.edu/>

Deadline: Open

Georg Forster Research Fellowships/The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

Georg Forster Fellowships are awarded to highly qualified scholars holding doctorates from developing countries to carry out academic projects of their own choice in Germany. Unspecified funding for long-term research stays lasting from 6 to 12 months.

URL: http://www.avh.de/en/programme/stip_aus/gf.htm

Deadline: Open

Open Society Archives/Research Grants

The Open Society Archives offers research grants on a competitive basis to support scholars who wish to conduct research in its holdings and whose research projects are relevant to the holdings and research priorities of the Archives. The grants, which are designed to provide access to the Archives for scholars and journalists who live outside Budapest, cover travel to and from Budapest, a modest stipend, and accommodation in Budapest for a maximum research period of two months.

URL: <http://www.osa.ceu.hu/grants/ResearchGrant.shtml>

Deadline: Open

Outside Events



14th International Conference on Cultural Economics

Location: Vienna, Austria

Dates: 6-9 July 2006

URL: <http://www.acei.neu.edu>

Deadline: 31 January 2006

INFINITI Conference on International Finance

Location: Trinity College, Dublin

Dates: 12-13 June 2006

URL: <http://www.tcd.ie/iis/pages/events/infiniti2006.php>

Deadline: 10 February 2006

Conference on Economics of Poverty, Environment and Natural Resource Use

Wageningen, the Netherlands

Dates: 17-20 May 2006

URL: <http://www.socialsciences.wur.nl/enr/research/conference2006>

Deadline: 1 January 2006

Conference on Business, Management and Economics

Location: Izmir, Turkey

Dates: 15-18 June 2006

URL: <http://conference2006.yasar.edu.tr/>

Deadline: 3 April 2006

CRRC libraries and IT labs now have more than 2000 social science related publications and over 20 of the most important on-line databases available.

Ask CRRC



Q. Does CRRC conduct research?

A. Although it is a common misconception that CRRC produces and publishes their own research, CRRC is not a research institution. It is a network of resource and training centers that empowers local researchers and policy practitioners through modern tools, trainings, and conferences.

Q. When will the next fellowship competition be announced?

A. The next competition will be announced in January 2006. Please check the website soon for more information.

Q. Can I access CRRC's databases of online journals from home?

A. Unfortunately, because of the high costs of subscriptions, CRRC's electronic journals and abstracts that CRRC is subscribed to can only be used from our IT labs.

Q. How can I subscribe to the CRRC library?

A. CRRC libraries are open to users from any institution working and/or researching in the field of social sciences. To be able to use our library holdings, visit us in Baku, Tbilisi or Yerevan and complete a subscription form. You will need to submit your passport details as well.

Do you have something to *Ask CRRC*? Do not hesitate to write us at questions@crccenters.org.

Please visit us at:

CRRC Armenia

52 Abovyan Street, 3rd floor
Yerevan, Armenia 375025
tel: +374 10 58-13-30

CRRC Azerbaijan

67 Fizuli Street, 6th Floor
Baku, Azerbaijan AZ1014
tel: +994 12 493 5321

CRRC Georgia

45 Chavchavadze Avenue
Tbilisi, Georgia 0179
tel: +995 32 91-24-51

Comments or Questions? Do you have any comments or questions regarding *CRRC Research Connections*? What do you want to see in the next issue? Please feel free to drop us a line at newsletter@crccenters.org

Receive updates on CRRC right to your mailbox. To join our mailing list, please email tatevik@eurasia.am

If we knew what we were doing, it wouldn't be called research, would it?

-Albert Einstein

Editor: Michael Choe

Assistant Editor: Tatevik Hovhannisyan

CRRC has a new website! Visit us today at www.crccenters.org