

Research Connections — E-Bulletin

Improving Media Accuracy - Armenia and Azerbaijan

What do Armenians and Azerbaijanis think of mass-media quality in their countries? Recently the Eurasia Partnership Foundation (EPF) Armenia and Azerbaijan have launched a project entitled “Unbiased Media Coverage of Armenia-Azerbaijan Relations”. The project, supported by the British government, aims to increase accurate and unbiased reporting between Armenia and Azerbaijan and about the Nagorno-Karabakh (NK) conflict. It also seeks to foster a cooperative network of editors, journalists and media NGOs from Armenia and Azerbaijan. Within the framework of this project, CRRC conducted eight focus groups in Yerevan and Baku to better understand the level of trust in media, especially regarding bilateral Armenia-Azerbaijan relations. If you are interested in attending the presentation of the research or would like to get a copy of PowerPoint presentation, you can email [Turana](#) in Baku and [Anna](#) in Yerevan.

Selected Upcoming Events

- Presentation: “[Describing Urban Changes: Baku in the 21st Century](#),” Baku, Azerbaijan, October 7 – Oriana Kraemer (ENG).
- Training: [Writing Your Statement of Purpose](#), Tbilisi, Georgia, October 9 — Hans Gutbrod (ENG).
- Workshop: [Government Systems in the Capital Cities: Experience of European Cities and Implications for Yerevan](#), Yerevan, Armenia, October 10-11 – Dian Schefold (ENG).
- Training: [Knowledge in a Globally Networked World: Implications for Teaching and Learning](#), Yerevan, Armenia, October 15-16 – Molly Freeman (ENG).

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

Urban Change — How can Baku handle it?



Visit the CRRC-Armenia Blog!

The CRRC-Armenia blog is constantly updated on social science research in Armenia. For example, an interesting post on one of CRRC fellow’s research, [Educational Problems of Disabled Children](#), was recently posted online. Visit the blog [here](#). Also don’t forget to check out the CRRC-Regional [blog](#).

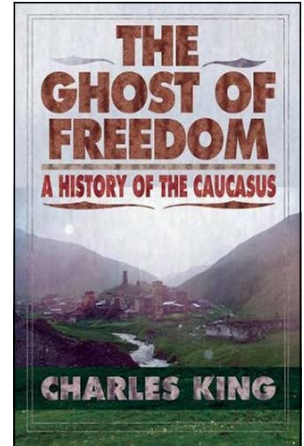
In Baku the city grows by sprawl and increased urban density. How can the city handle it? Is there really a need for all the apartments in the city center? Why then are so many of them unoccupied?

CRRC-Azerbaijan held a presentation on *Comparative Urban Development: Lessons for Baku* on September 15, 2008. The presentation was delivered to a diverse audience by Anar Valiyev, PhD in Urban and Public Affairs, University of Louisville, Kentucky.

After discussing the various theories of urban policy and development based on his research in USA and Eastern Europe, Anar also discussed the urban development in Baku by examining various strategies of turning Baku into a competitive city. The city, he argued, has potential to be appealing for tourists but only if the demolition of historic downtown is stopped and Baku’s identity is recognized and appreciated by Bakuivians. Furthermore, a much more comprehensive plan for strategic development and zoning will need to be put into place.

You can read more on urban change in Baku through the [blog](#) that two researchers from Germany (who attended Valiyev’s presentation) created; the site has an excellent photo gallery of urban development in Baku — see the photo on the left. Another presentation by the bloggers on urban development will occur later this month (see above).

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CRRC Book of the Month

[The Ghost of Freedom: A history of the Caucasus](#) by Charles King

King’s new wide ranging history of the Caucasus, which covers both the North and the South Caucasus from Russian involvement onwards, provides an overview of the region. The book draws on an unusual set of sources including a variety of travelogues and memoirs.

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