

- 1) *Caucasian Boundaries and Citizenship from Below*, Head of Research: Dr. Lale Yalcin-Heckmann, MPI for Social Anthropology, Halle/Saale, Research Associate Olarak- 1 Year (2006)

Research Group: Caucasian Boundaries and Citizenship from Below

Citizenship and Labour Migration in Georgia

Teona Mataradze investigates the relationship between labour migration and citizenship in Imereti, Republic of Georgia. Despite ongoing privatisation of former state property, many rural residents leave their villages for either Georgian cities or abroad. In Imereti ca. one third of the population is said to have migrated between 1989 and 2002. What do such economic and political dynamics and population movements mean for the locality and for state-citizen relationship?

Teona Mataradze obtained her bachelor's and master's degrees in sociology at Tbilisi State University. She joined the MPI for Social Anthropology in 2006 as a PhD candidate.

Social Implications of Armenian Citizenship for Refugees from Azerbaijan

Milena Baghdasaryan looks at social citizenship and belonging through the process of naturalisation of refugees in Armenia. These Armenian refugees fled Azerbaijan between 1988 and 1992 during the war over the status of the Autonomous Region of Nagorno Karabakh. How and why refugees select their formal status in Armenia and how this process is shaped by new notions of citizenship, statehood and national belonging is especially important given their low level of naturalisation and the historical Armenian experiences of displacement and diaspora.

Milena Baghdasaryan received her MA in sociology and social anthropology from the Central European University, Budapest, Hungary. She joined the MPI for Social Anthropology in 2006 as a PhD candidate.

Citizenship in Motion: The Politics of Belonging in Post-Soviet Georgia

Florian Mühlfried's project looks at various factors of social organisation in the eastern highlands of Georgia and particularly the border region of Tusheti. Tusheti is marked by Christian and Muslim frontiers, traditional structures of transhumance and an officially closed border to the Russian Federation (Dagestan and Chechnya). How Georgian citizens living in this region negotiate their belonging, civil and social rights and entitlements with Tbilisi from the periphery is examined here.

Before joining the MPI for Social Anthropology in 2006 as a postdoctoral research fellow, **Dr. Florian Mühlfried** completed his PhD at the University of Hamburg and taught social anthropology at the Tbilisi State University (Georgia).

Property and Citizenship in an Eastern Anatolian Border Region

Neşe Özgen in her **associated project** looks at the Caucasian border region between Turkey, Georgia and Armenia. She considers a 150-year-old history of territorial change, including the impermeable Soviet period and explores the recent expropriation policies in the region associated with the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline. These processes of changing borders and property relations are expected to have shaped contemporary perceptions of citizenship.

Prof. Neşe Özgen teaches sociology at Okan University, Istanbul (formerly Ege University, Izmir/Turkey) , Turkey. Her research includes issues of gender, accumulation and citizenship on Turkey's borders.

Markets and Citizenship in Azerbaijan

Lale Yalçın-Heckmann's project examines the informal economy and new markets for petty trade flourishing in Azerbaijan since 1991. High degrees of mobility for trade and labour migration have led to an estimated one million Azerbaijani citizens working permanently or temporarily abroad, primarily in the Russian Federation. These mobile citizens and the new economic relationships they develop shape the way politics and economics function in their society, and the new Azerbaijani state has had to adjust to these citizenship practices appropriately.

Dr. Lale Yalçın-Heckmann studied social anthropology at the London School of Economics (PhD 1986). After teaching and carrying out research in Germany and Turkey, she joined the MPI for Social Anthropology in 2000 with her habilitation project on rural property in Azerbaijan. Since 2006 she has been leading the research group for "Caucasian Boundaries and Citizenship from Below".

Focus of the Research Group

After the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the new republics of the former socialist bloc were subject to transnational processes of democratisation, market economic change and privatisation. These have been accompanied by the nationalising of politics, new territorial regimes and new forms of citizenship, belonging and property.

In employing the concept of "citizenship from below," the members of the project group intend to explore how **social citizenship** is articulated in the South Caucasian republics. The notion of social citizenship includes not only citizens' economic, social and political entitlements vis-à-vis the welfare state but also state practices resulting in the inclusion and exclusion of individuals as citizens (rights) and the civic commitments that are expected of them (duties). To what degree do the claimed rights and duties of citizens correspond to state policies and practices regarding citizenship? When they do not correspond, do citizens organise themselves and act as agents, shaping new notions of citizenship and belonging; and if so, how?

The work of this independent Research Group takes place within Department II “Socialist and Postsocialist Eurasia” of MPI for Social Anthropology headed by **Prof. Chris Hann**. Since its founding in 1999 the department has been focusing on themes of property, religion and morality and social security.

Past and forthcoming activities

Workshop “Caucasus Paradigms”, 16th-17th March, 2006, at MPI for Social Anthropology, Halle/Saale, Germany; organised by Lale Yalçın-Heckmann and Bruce Grant

International conference planned for 2007/2008; venue: MPI for Social Anthropology

Forthcoming publication: *Caucasus Paradigms: Anthropologies, Histories, and the Making of a World Area*, (eds.) Lale Yalçın-Heckmann and Bruce Grant, vol. 14, Halle Studies in the Anthropology of Eurasia, Münster: LIT Publishers.

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