

Infrastructure has played a crucial role in all empires as a way to access, administrate and control the peripheries, but also to integrate them. By developing infrastructure, the political center promised to supply material goods, security, and knowledge to these regions; at the same time, this infrastructure was also used to project imperial military power. From the local perspective, building infrastructures, such as railroads or transportation routes, was essential to the functioning of a region, because they increased the movement of people and goods and made these flows more efficient.

By examining the development of infrastructure in the greater region of North and South Caucasus, long a border zone between the Russian, Ottoman and Persian empires, we can increase our understanding of regional development, power relations, and intraregional interactions, as well as conflicts, violence, and peace processes.

The conference aims to bring together scholars in the fields of history, geography, economic history, sociology, ethnology, anthropology, environmental history, and historical demography who focus on areas that were under Russian rule or interacted with them. An additional purpose of the conference is to strengthen the connections between Western scholars and their colleagues from the Caucasian countries.



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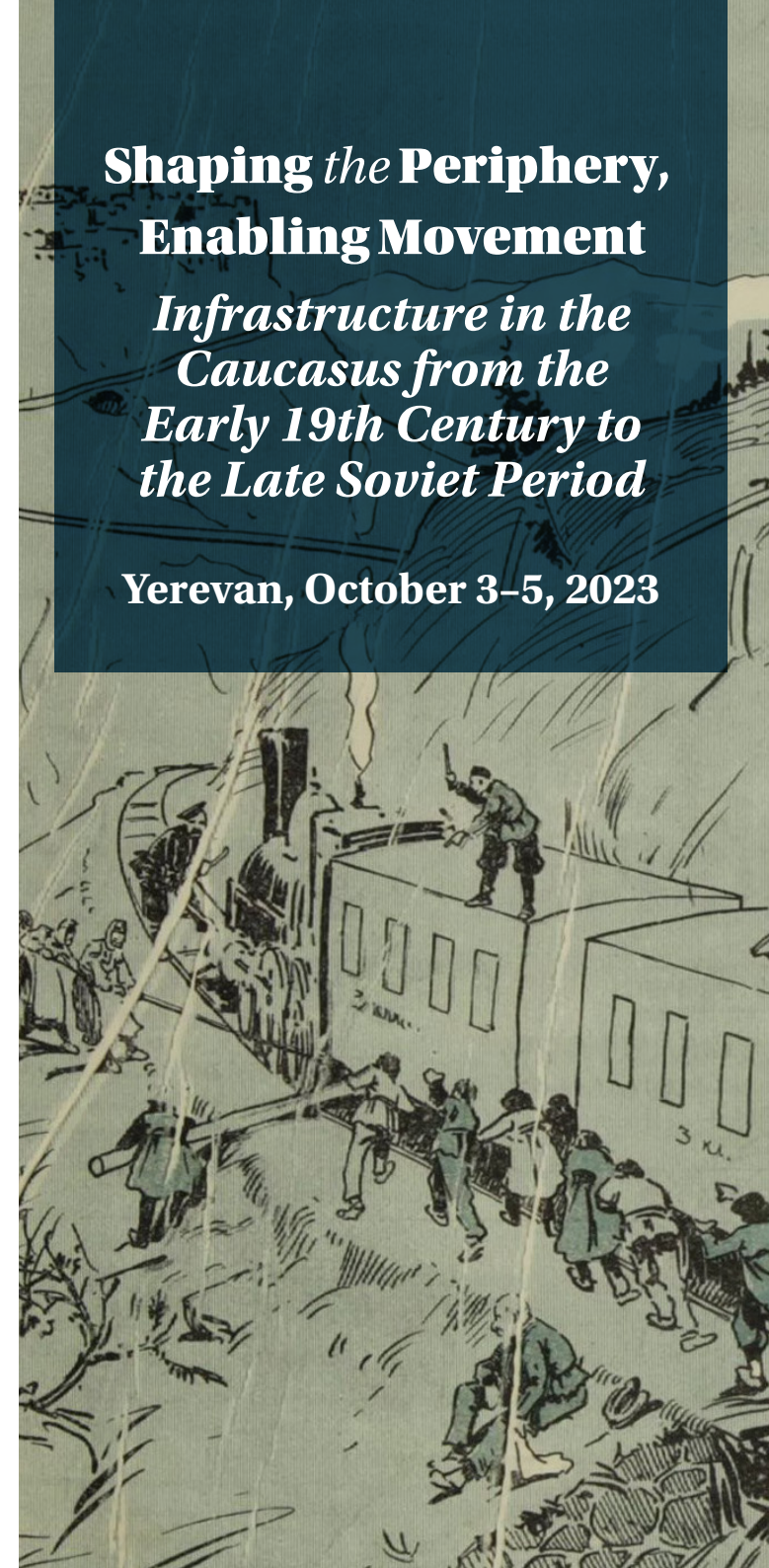
Zoom:
<https://shorturl.at/bcoG3>

Meeting-ID: 656 702 5397
Passcode: 2021

Shaping *the* Periphery, Enabling Movement

Infrastructure in the Caucasus from the Early 19th Century to the Late Soviet Period

Yerevan, October 3–5, 2023



Tuesday, October 3

**Faculty of History, Yerevan State University
52 Abovyan St, Yerevan**

9:00 Welcome

Sandra Dahlke (Max Weber Foundation)

Edik Minasyan (YSU, Yerevan)

Hagop Yacoubian (AUA, Yerevan)

9:30 Introduction

Helena Holzberger (Munich/Tbilisi) /

Arpine Maniero (Munich)

10:00 Keynote Lecture with Discussion

Chair: Oliver Reisner (Tbilisi)

Elke Shoghig Hartmann (Berlin)

Rethinking Infrastructures – Perspectives, Aims and Challenges

10:45 – 11:00 Coffee Break

11.00 – 12.30 Panel 1: Structuring States

Chair: Andreas Hilger (Tbilisi)

Reinhard Nachtigal (Freiburg i. Br.)

An Epoch of Russian Dominance: The Slow Integration of the Southern Caucasus in the 19th Century as a Matter of Infrastructure

Evgeniya Prusskaya (Tbilisi)

Islamic Infrastructure in the South Caucasus Under the Tsarist Rule

Christoph Neumann (Istanbul)

Infrastructures in the Caucasus, Infrastructure in Between Empires – an Ottoman(ist) View

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch Break

14:00 – 15:30 Panel 2: Travel and Trade

Chair: David Jishkariani (Tbilisi)

Michel Abeßer (Freiburg i. Br.)

Infrastructural Power for Whom? Exchange Courts, Imperial Clients and the Caucasian Borderland

Vahram Ter-Matevosyan (Yerevan)

Infrastructural Constraints and Development Trajectories in the Imperial Peripheries:

Russian Armenia vs. Turkish Armenia in the travel notes of Levon Sargsyants, 1888

Mkhitar Gabrielyan (Yerevan)

Culture and Trade “Open” the Borders of Empires: Case of the Town Akhaltsikhe

15:30 – 16:00 Coffee Break

16:00 – 17:30 Panel 3: Urban Development Chair: Mikayel Malkhasyan (Yerevan)

Mariam Urdia (Tbilisi)

Mtkvari as Urban Transport: Traditions, Lost Opportunities and Potential

Hamlet Melkumyan (Yerevan)

Urban Development of Metsamor Atomic City in Soviet Armenia: Tracing the Complexities of Colonization and Decolonization Discourses

Tamar Qeburia (Tbilisi)

Manganese Ferroalloys Factory During the First Five-Year Plan

17:30 – 17:45 Coffee Break

18:00 – 19:00 Documentary with Introduction and Discussion

Chair: Phillip Schroeder (Düsseldorf)

Evelina Gambino (Cambridge)

A State in a State

**19:30 Dinner for the participants of the conference
hosted by the Max-Weber-Foundation**

Wednesday, October 4

9:00 – 10:30 Panel 4: Shaping Environment Chair: Naira Sahakyan (Yerevan)

Mikayel Malkhasyan (Yerevan)

The Demographic Policy of the Russian Empire in the Kars Oblast, 1877-1917

Tyson Sadleir (New York City)

Russian Imperialism and the Bridges of the Darial Gorge, 1769-1917

Anush Hovhannisyan (Yerevan)

Turkish Water Policy in Araks-Kura Basin: Instrument of Cooperation or Conflict?

10:30 - 11:00 Coffee Break

11:00 - 13:00 Panel 5: Structuring Culture Chair: Suren Manukyan (Yerevan)

Nzhdeh Yeranyan (Yerevan)

Archaeology and the Cultural Heritage of Artsakh (Nagorno Karabakh)

Haykuhi Muradyan (Yerevan)

Cultural Infrastructure of Early Soviet Armenia (1920s-1930s): Political, Cultural and Ideological Aspects

Commentary on the Conference

Ronald Grigor Suny (Ann Arbor / Michigan)

Concluding Discussion

Chair: Helena Holzberger

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch Break

14:30 Visit of Matenadaran (Central Archive for Manuscripts)

17:00

Round Table on the question of the Southern Caucasus as a research landscape for Western East-European and Eurasian History: Edita Gzoyan, Andreas Hilger, Vahagn Poghosyan, Tamar Qeburia, Oliver Reisner, Andreas Renner, Vahram Ter-Matevosyan
Chair: Arpine Maniero

**American University of Armenia
40 Marshal Baghramyan Ave, Yerevan**

19.00 Reception hosted by AUA

Thursday, October 5

10:00

Visit of the Genocide Museum and Memorial

13:00

Lunch and Excursion to Etchmiadzin