



**XVIII ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
DECEMBER 9-10-11, 2024  
CA' FOSCARI UNIVERSITY, VENICE**

With a Special Section on "Connections, Mobilities, and Infrastructures  
in Central Asia and the Caucasus throughout the Centuries"



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ASIAC XVIII Annual Conference is organized by the Italian Association for the Study of Central Asia and the Caucasus, in cooperation with:



Ca' Foscari  
University  
of Venice

**MAP**  
Centro di ricerca  
Marco Polo  
sulle connessioni  
globali Europa-Asia  
Marco Polo Centre  
for Global Europe-Asia  
Connections

Leibniz-Institut  
für Länderkunde



**OACC**  
OSSERVATORIO ASIA  
CENTRALE E CASPIO

# ASIAC XVIII ANNUAL CONFERENCE

## CA' FOSCARI UNIVERSITY, VENICE

### DECEMBER 9-10-11, 2024



## ABOUT ASIAC



Founded in 2004, ASIAC is the reference association in Italy for Central Asian and Caucasian area studies. It aims at promoting knowledge and collaborative relationships with the countries of the area, its activities have by definition a multi- and inter-disciplinary nature. The association is aimed primarily at universities and cultural institutions, and proposes meetings between scholars and the coordination of research activities.

## THE PARTNER INSTITUTIONS

### MAP

Centro di ricerca  
Marco Polo  
sulle connessioni  
globali Europa-Asia  
Marco Polo Centre  
for Global Europe-Asia  
Connections

The Marco Polo (MaP) Centre for Global Europe-Asia Connections has been established in 2018 within the Department of Asian and North African Studies at Ca' Foscari University. The Centre is devoted to the study of interactions and connections between Europe, the Mediterranean region, and Asia from antiquity to contemporary times. The MaP Centre's mission is to foster collaborative scientific research and networking for the study of cultural, social, political, economic, and religious interactions across Europe, the Mediterranean region, and Asia.

The Observatory on Central Asia and the Caspian was founded in 2019 under the aegis of ASIAC, with the support of two Italian companies active in Kazakhstan and in collaboration with the Italy-Europe-Asia Export Consortium. OACC is a platform for dialogue aimed at increasing of economic and academic cooperation, in line with Italy's increased attention towards the area, demonstrated by the launch of the '1+5' Ministerial Conference in 2019.



The Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography (IFL) is a research institute for geography concerned with spatial structures. Its Mobility and Migration research group works on spatial mobility focusing on access to and negotiations of mobility, infrastructures which enable or preclude mobility, and biographical approaches to mobility and migration decisions. Based on the mobility turn in social sciences, the group is also increasingly turning towards the mobility of goods, concepts, practices, ideas and data.

## STEERING COMMITTEE

ASIAC XVIII Annual Conference is organized by **Giorgio COMAI**, **Carlo FRAPPI**, **Giulia SCIORATI**, **Laura MAFIZZOLI**, and **Frank MARACCHIONE**, in cooperation with **Edoardo LAVEZZO** and the Association's Board.

# ASIAC XVIII ANNUAL CONFERENCE

## CA' FOSCARI UNIVERSITY, VENICE

### DECEMBER 9-10-11, 2024



#### CONFERENCE VENUES



#### AULA MAGNA 'SILVIO TRENTIN'

Ca' Dolfin building, Dorsoduro 3859/A - 30123 Venice

The Aula Magna 'Silvio Trentin' is a large fifteenth century room with decorated ceilings and walls with frescoes of Tiepolo's legacy, medallions with allegorical figures, Murano chandeliers and mirrors.

It is located at the **1st floor** of the Ca' Dolfin building.

Additional info [may be found here](#).



#### AULA 'MARIO BARATTO'

Ca' Foscari building, Dorsoduro 3246 - 30123 Venice

The Aula Baratto is set in the context of the historic Ca' Foscari building, a late-Gothic Venetian building built in 1453, current seat of the University Rectorate.

It is located at the **2nd floor** of the Ca' Foscari building and is accessible via the stairs located in the main hall of the building, on the right.

Additional info [may be found here](#).



#### AULA 'MARTINO BERENGO'

Ca' Foscari building, Dorsoduro 3246 - 30123 Venice

Like the Aula Baratto, the Aula 'Martino Berengo' is located in the historic Ca' Foscari building.

It is located on the **1st floor** of the building - accessible via the stairs located in the main hall of the building, on the right.

Additional info [may be found here](#).



#### 'SALA A' - CA' VENDRAMIN

Ca' Vendramin building, Fondamenta Foscari 3462 - 30123 Venice

The 'Sala A' is located inside the Ca' Vendramin building, which hosts the Department of Asian and North African Studies. It is located on the **1st floor** and can be reached through the stairs on the left side of the palace's atrium.



#### AULA MILONE

Malcanton Marcorà building, Dorsoduro 3484 - 30123 Venice

The Aula Milone is located inside the Malcanton Marcorà building, which houses the humanities pole of Ca' Foscari University. The room is located on the **3rd floor** of the building and it is accessible through the elevators located to the right of the main entrance of the building

#### VENICEAT

Ca' Foscari building, Dorsoduro 3246 - 30123 Venice

VENICEAT is the university restaurant bar located in the courtyard of Ca' Foscari. Coffee breaks will be held at VENICEAT on Tuesday 10th and Wednesday 11th December, in the mid-morning break.





# ASIAC XVIII ANNUAL CONFERENCE

## DAY 1 – MONDAY, DECEMBER 9



### REGISTRATION

09:00 – 10:00, Aula Magna Silvio Trentin

### WELCOMING SPEECHES

10:00 – 10:30, Aula Magna Silvio Trentin

**Laura DE GIORGI**, Department of Asian and North African Studies, Ca' Foscari University

**Aldo FERRARI**, ASIAC and Ca' Foscari University

### PLENARY SESSION

10:30 – 12:00, Aula Magna Silvio Trentin

## CROSSING BOUNDARIES: CONNECTIONS, MOBILITIES, AND INFRASTRUCTURES IN CENTRAL ASIA AND THE CAUCASUS THROUGHOUT THE CENTURIES

*Chair.* **Lorenzo PUBBLICI**, University of Naples L'Orientale

**Giulia SCIORATI**, London School of Economics and Political Science  
Crafting "Attractive" Histories: (Visual) Narrative Contestation Along the Silk Road

**Beril OCAKLI**, University of Vienna  
Whom the Roads Bypass: Rikoti's East-West Connections in a Disconnecting Georgia

**Matteo FUMAGALLI**, University of St Andrews  
Diasporisation in Central Asia. Hybridity, Liminality and Change

**Federica NARDELLA**, Independent Scholar  
Moving Along the Boundary, Travelling Across: Vocality as Intangible Infrastructure and  
Mobility in the Golden Eagle-Man Partnerships of Kyrgyz Eagle Hunting

**Alina KAMALOVA**, Suleyman Demirel University  
Signs of Change: English, Globalism and Neoliberalism in Kazakhstan's Coffee Shops

### BREAK

12:00 – 13:00

# ASIAC XVIII ANNUAL CONFERENCE

## DAY 1 – MONDAY, DECEMBER 9



**PARALLEL  
SESSIONS # 2 - 3**

13:00 – 14:30

### **ARMENIAN ART AND ARCHITECTURE: A THREATENED HERITAGE**

*Location:* Room A, Ca' Vendramin

*Chair:* **Anna SIRINIAN**, University of Bologna

**Alessia BOSCHIS**, University of Udine

The Artistic Heritage of Medieval Armenia: An Endangered Treasure

**Cecilia Maria Roberta LUSCHI**, University of Florence

The Armenian Architecture in Nakhichevan as a Case Study on Cancel Culture

**Nazenie GARIBIAN**, Matenadaran Institute of Ancient Manuscripts

Khatravank Monastery in Artsakh/Karabakh as the burial place for ladies of Dopian family

**Igor DORFMANN-LAZAREV**, Sofia University St Kliment Ohridski

Caucasian Albania and the Genesis of an Ethnogenetic Myth in Azerbaijan

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### **CONFLICTS AND HARD SECURITY**

*Location:* Room Baratto, Ca' Foscari

*Chair:* **Marco PULERI**, University of Bologna

**Alessandra RUSSO**, University of Trento

Cultural Heritage Protection in Conflict-Ridden Eastern Peripheries of Europe: Mapping the Assemblage of Actors, Norms, and Practices

**Helge BLAKKISRUD**, University of Oslo

The War in Ukraine as a Gamechanger for the Eurasian De Facto States

**Giorgio COMAI**, OBC Transeuropa

What Was the Post-Soviet De Facto State? A Forward-Looking Retrospective Investigation

**Elçin BASOL**, Adnan Menderes University

The Influence of the Abkhaz Diaspora in Turkey on the State-Building Process of Abkhazia

**BREAK**

14:30 – 14:45

# ASIAC XVIII ANNUAL CONFERENCE

## DAY 1 – MONDAY, DECEMBER 9



### PARALLEL SESSIONS # 4 - 5

14:45 – 16:15

#### CURRENT PROBLEMS OF PHILOLOGY AND LINGUISTICS OF IRAN, CENTRAL ASIA, AND CAUCASIA

*Location:* Room A, Ca' Vendramin

*Chairs:* **Paolo OGNIBENE**, University of Bologna, and **Velizar SADOVSKI**, Austrian Academy of Sciences

**Andrea PIRAS**, University of Bologna

The 'Parthian and Middle Persian Commonwealth' and its terminologies between Caucasus and Central Asia

**Alessia ZUBANI**, University of Oxford

Crafting Mechanical Devices: The Exchange of Technological Knowledge Across Medieval Iran, Central Asia, and China

**Stefano DAMANINS**, SOAS University of London

A Re-evaluation of the cvi-structure in Yasna 62.2-3

**Nicolò BORDONI**, Ca' Foscari University of Venice

Who Were the Sakā? Notes on the Presence of Nomads in Achaemenid Inscriptions

**Velizar SADOVSKI**, Austrian Academy of Sciences

Ossetic Personal Names From the Beginnings of Written Attestation up to the Present Day: Between Common Iranian Origin, Cross-Cultural Influences and Ideological Curiosities

**Paolo OGNIBENE**, University of Bologna

Ossetian Lexicon and Alanic Past

#### WHAT'S IN A JOB? RETHINKING INFORMAL, PRECARIOUS, AND MIGRANT LABOUR IN CENTRAL ASIA

*Location:* Room Baratto, Ca' Foscari

*Chair:* **Frank MARACCHIONE**, University of Kent

*Discussant:* **Luca ANCESCHI**, University of Glasgow

**Franco GALDINI**, University of Birmingham & **Eugenia PESCI**, University of Helsinki

What's in a Job? Rethinking Informal, Precarious, and Migrant Labour in Central Asia

**Binazir YUSUPOVA**, Dublin City University

Reading Ugiyol's Story with Gibson-Graham: Understanding Precarisation through a Feminist Lens in Uzbekistan

**Eugenia PESCI**, University of Helsinki & **Giulio BENEDETTI**, Maastricht University/Stockholm School of Economics in Riga

Women at the Birzha: Navigating Gender and Precarity in Kyrgyzstan

**Franco GALDINI**, University of Birmingham

Rise of the Surplus Population: Land Decollectivization, Class Stratification, and Labor Precarization in Uzbekistan

### BREAK

16:15 – 16:30

# ASIAC XVIII ANNUAL CONFERENCE

## DAY 1 – MONDAY, DECEMBER 9



**PARALLEL  
SESSIONS # 6 - 7**

16:30 – 18:00

### **NOMADS AGAINST SEDENTARY CIVILIZATIONS - URBAN SOLDIERS AGAINST NOMADIC SETTLEMENTS. SIEGES IN ANTIQUITY AND MIDDLE AGES**

*Location:* Room A, Ca' Vendramin

*Chair:* **István ZIMONYI**, University of Szeged

**Valéria KULCSÁR**, University of Szeged & **Eszter ISTVÁNOVITS**, Independent  
Researcher

Historic and Archaeological Data on Sieges by and Against Iranian-Speaking (Scythians, Sarmatians) Nomads

**Katalin PINTÉR-NAGY**, University of Szeged

Siege Engines of the Nomadic Peoples of the Eurasian Steppe in the 6th–7th Centuries

**István ZIMONYI**, University of Szeged

The Mongol Campaigns Against the Volga Bulgars

**Szilvia KOVÁCS**, University of Szeged

Hungarian Defences Against the Mongol Conquerors

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### **EXTERNAL ACTORS IN CENTRAL ASIA (HYBRID)**

*Location:* Room Baratto, Ca' Foscari

*Chair:* **Giulia SCIORATI**, London School of Economics and Political Science

**Eleonora TAFURO AMBROSETTI**, Italian Institute for International Political Studies  
Turkey's Public Diplomacy in Central Asia

**Aloudin KOMILOV**, Center for Progressive Reforms

China's Foreign Policy in Central Asia

**Elżbieta Maria PRÓŃ**, University of Silesia in Katowice – *Online*

China's Belt and Road Initiative in Central Asia: A Critical Assessment and Future Directions

**Muhayyoi RAHIMZODA**, Corvinus University

Dependent on Foreign Aid in Central Asia: A Case Study of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan

**Zhanibek ARYNOV**, Nazarbayev University

Illegitimate and Unpopular? Perceptions of the Eurasian Economic Union among the Armenian, Kazakh, and Kyrgyz Publics

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# ASIAC XVIII ANNUAL CONFERENCE

## DAY 1 – MONDAY, DECEMBER 9



**SPECIAL  
SESSION**

18:00 – 19:00

### **THE ZHELEZKA PROJECT: ON THE TRACKS THROUGH CENTRAL ASIA**

#### **DOCUMENTARY SCREENING AND ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

*Location:* Room Baratto, Ca' Foscari

*Chair:* **Frank MARACCHIONE**, University of Kent

*Discussant:* **Giulia SCIORATI**, London School of Economics and Political Science

Participants:

- **Pavel DEMCHENKO**, Scuola Superiore Meridionale
  - **Sofia GAVRILOVA**, Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography
  - **Lyubomir POZHARLIEV**, Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography
  - **Akbota SADUAKASSOVA**, Corvinus University of Budapest
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# ASIAC XVIII ANNUAL CONFERENCE

## DAY 2 – TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10



**PARALLEL  
SESSIONS # 8 - 9**

08:45 – 10:30

### **LAYERS OF LEGACY: POWER, CONFLICT, AND IDENTITY IN ARMENIAN URBANISM**

*Location:* Room A, Ca' Vendramin

*Chair:* **Maria GUNKO**, University of Oxford

**Sarhat PETROSYAN**, UrbanLab

Paving the Path to Yerevan

**Harutyun VERMISHYAN**, Socies Expert Centre

Narratives of Transformation in Post-Soviet Armenian Small Towns

**Sona BALASANYAN**, University of Vienna

Narratives of Transformation in Post-Soviet Armenian Small Towns

**Aram VARTIKYAN**, Yerevan State University

Biography of Industrial Cities in Armenia: Reflections on the New Urban Reality

**Tigran SIMYAN**, Yerevan State University

Yerevan in the Soviet and Post-Soviet Era: Historical Memory and Meanings

**Maria GUNKO**, University of Oxford

Demodernization: Reflections on the Changed Built Environment of Small Armenian Towns

### **CONNECTIVITY AND MOVEMENT IN ANCIENT AND EARLY MEDIEVAL CENTRAL ASIA AND THE CAUCASUS: PEOPLE, GOODS, KNOWLEDGE**

*Location:* Room Berengo, Ca' Foscari

*Chair:* **Laura MAFIZZOLI**, Czech Academy of Sciences

**Michele MINARDI**, University of Naples L'Orientale

A Road to Asia in Late Antiquity: The Neglected Northern Branch of the So-Called Silk Road

**Marta ZERBINI**, University of Florence

From Trebizond to Baku. The Medieval Compound in the Historical Region of Tashir, Armenia

**Manuel CASTELLUCCIA**, ISMEO

Trading Commodities and Luxury Objects Between Nomads and Empires in Ancient Caucasia

**Lorenzo PUBBLICI**, University of Naples L'Orientale

Thirteenth Century Caucasia: Crossroad of Knowledge Between Nomadism and Sedentary Societies

**COFFEE  
BREAK**

*VeniceEat, Ca' Foscari Courtyard, 10:30 – 11:15*

# ASIAC XVIII ANNUAL CONFERENCE

## DAY 2 – TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10



**PARALLEL  
SESSIONS # 10 - 11**

11:15 – 12:45

### **THE FLUIDITY OF INFRASTRUCTURE: EMOTIONS, BODIES, AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATIONS**

*Location:* Room A, Ca' Vendramin

*Chair:* **Tamta TATARASHVILI**, Ilia State University

**Ketevan LAPACHI**, Ilia State University

Hair as a Commodity: The Infrastructure of Hair Trade in Georgia

**Lika JALAGANIA**, Ilia State University

Infrastructure of Sociality: Rioni Valley Movement and Protest that Flows

**Esma BERIKISHVILI**, Ilia State University

Navigating Ruins: The Emergence of Informal Labour within Post-Soviet Infrastructure in Georgia

**Mariam URDIA**, Ilia State University

Hemerging Nostalgia: The Transformed Materiality of a "Lost" River's Infrastructure

**Dato LAGHIDZE**, Ilia State University

Kutaisi Airport: Everyday Migration and Mobility in Post-Soviet Georgia

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### **ROUNDTABLE: ITALY - CENTRAL ASIA. PERSPECTIVES ON CONNECTIVITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

*Location:* Room Berengo, Ca' Foscari

*Chair:* **Lorenzo TERMINE**, Sapienza University of Rome

*Discussant:* **Carlo FRAPPI**, Ca' Foscari University of Venice

*Participants:*

- **Luca ANCESCHI**, University of Glasgow
- **Matteo FUMAGALLI**, University of St Andrews
- **Fabio INDEO**, University of Siena
- **Frank MARACCHIONE**, University of Kent
- **Alessandra RUSSO**, University of Trento
- **Giulia SCIORATI**, London School of Economics and Political Science
- **Eleonora TAFURO AMBROSETTI**, Italian Institute for International Political Studies

**BREAK**

12:45 – 14:00

# ASIAC XVIII ANNUAL CONFERENCE

## DAY 2 – TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10



**PARALLEL  
SESSIONS # 12 - 13**

14:00 – 15:30

### **ROUNDTABLE: PRACTICAL AND ETHICAL CHALLENGES OF DOING FIELDWORK IN AZERBAIJAN**

*Location:* Room A, Ca' Vendramin

*Chair:* **Cesare FIGARI BARBERIS**, Graduate Institute of Geneva

*Discussant:* **Laura LUCIANI**, University of Ghent

*Participants:*

- **Cesare FIGARI BARBERIS**, Graduate Institute of Geneva
- **Sevinj SAMADZADE**, Ghent University
- **Laura LUCIANI**, Ghent University
- **Mirkamran HUSEYNLI**, Vytautas Magnus University
- **Yéléna MAC-GLANDIÈRES**, Université Paris 8
- **Bahruz SAMADOV**, Charles University in Prague

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### **CROSS-CULTURAL ARMENIA**

*Location:* Room Berengo, Ca' Foscari

*Chair:* **Aldo FERRARI**, Ca' Foscari University of Venice

**Sona HAROUTYUNIAN**, Ca' Foscari University of Venice

Political Poems from the Armenian Diaspora: Alan Whitehorn

**Filippo PERFETTI**, University of Udine

Speaking Is Not Seeing? Ritorno a Khodorciur by Gianikian and Ricci Lucchi

**Valentin MUNOWI LUNTUMBUE**, Norwegian University of Science and Technology

A new Armenia that struggles to be born - The end of Artsakh, the Tavush Movement and the competing ideas of Armenia

**BREAK**

15:30 – 16:00

# ASIAC XVIII ANNUAL CONFERENCE

## DAY 2 – TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10



**PARALLEL  
SESSIONS # 14 - 15 - 16**

16:00 – 17:30

### **RESILIENCE AND CONFLICT IN THE SOUTH CAUCASUS**

*Location:* Room A, Ca' Vendramin

*Chair:* **Thomas WIER**, Free University of Tbilisi

**Thomas WIER**, Free University of Tbilisi

Political Conflict and Language Endangerment in the South Caucasus

**Timothy K. BLAUVELT**, Ilia State University

The Russian Language in Contemporary Georgia: What a Difference a War Makes

**Donnacha Ó BEACHÁIN**, Dublin City University

What Has Been the Effect of Russia's Full-Scale Invasion of Ukraine on the Central Asian and the South Caucasus Regions?

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### **EVERYDAY APPROACHES FOR THE STUDY OF CENTRAL ASIA AND THE CAUCASUS (HYBRID)**

*Location:* Room Berengo, Ca' Foscari

*Chair:* **Matteo FUMAGALLI**, University of St. Andrews

**Yang ZHAO**, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

Qishloqchilik and the Remaking of a Masculine Self Amidst Urban Liminality Among Male Rural-Urban Migrants in Tashkent, Uzbekistan

**Steve SWERDLOW**, University of Southern California

Decolonization and Human Rights in Uzbekistan: How Human Rights Can Combat Colonial Legacies

**Laura LUCIANI**, University of Ghent

Framing Feminism in Eurasia: Bottom-Up Strategies of De- and Re-Politicisation

**Elena ZHIRUKHINA**, Ca' Foscari University of Venice

Rehabilitation and Reintegration Strategies Towards Foreign Terrorist Fighters and Families in Central Asia

**Kamilla ASKHAT**, Independent Researcher - Online

Public Opinion and Environmental Discourse in Kazakhstan News Media

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# ASIAC XVIII ANNUAL CONFERENCE DAY 2 – TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10



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## THE SEVEN SLEEPERS/ASHAB AL-KAHF IN THE SILK ROADS REGIONS

*Location:* Room Berengo, Ca' Foscari

*Chair:* **Fabio L. GRASSI**, Sapienza University of Rome

**Laura MAFIZZOLI**, Czech Academy of Sciences

Georgian Perspectives on the Seven Sleepers: Unveiling Cultural Devotion along the Silk Roads

**Chiara BARBATI**, University of Pisa

The Sogdian Version of the Seven Sleepers of Ephesus

**Anna TOZZI DI MARCO**, University of Padua

Ashab al-Kahf Caves Along One of the Southern Routes of the Silk Road

**ASIAC  
PLENARY MEETING**

*Room A, Ca' Vendramin, 17:45 – 18:45 (in Italian)*

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# ASIAC XVIII ANNUAL CONFERENCE

## DAY 3 – WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11



**PARALLEL  
SESSIONS # 17 - 18 - 19**

08:45 – 10:30

### **CONNECTIVITY AND DISCONNECTIVITY: EXPLORING INFRASTRUCTURE AND MOBILITY IN THE SOUTH CAUCASUS (HYBRID)**

*Location:* Room Baratto, Ca' Foscari

*Chair:* **Susanne FEHLINGS**, Frobenius Institute

*Discussant:* **Marcello MOLLICA**, University of Messina

**Franziska SMOLNIK**, Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik

Hair as a Commodity: The Infrastructure of Hair Trade in Georgia

**Leyla SAYFUTDINOVA**, University of Glasgow – Online

Revisiting Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan Pipeline: A Decolonial or Postcolonial Infrastructure?

**Wladimir SGIBNEV**, Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography

Ambitious, Conflicting, Equivocal: Modernisation Through Public Transport Infrastructures in Central Asian Cities

**Tsypylma DARIEVA**, Zentrum für Osteuropa- und internationale Studien

Framing Russian Migrants in the South Caucasus: Encounters and Disconnects

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### **POLITICAL ECONOMY OF INFRASTRUCTURES**

*Location:* Room Baratto, Ca' Foscari

*Chair:* **Luca ANCESCHI**, University of Glasgow

**Yéléna MAC-GLANDIÈRES**, University of Paris 8

Silk, People, Oil, and Containers: Mapping the Evolution of Trans-Caspian Logistical Networks and Hinterland Relations Through Time and Space

**Cordelia BUCHANAN PONCZEK**, Finnish Institute of International Affairs

The Ties That Bind: Impact of Physical, Regulatory, and Finance Infrastructure in Central Asian Extraction Projects

**Ayaz RZAYEV**, University of Trento

The Middle Corridor in the Aftermath of Russia's Invasion of Ukraine

**Olga DOROKHINA**, University of St. King Tamar

Cross-Border Mobility and Regional Tensions: The Evolution and Impact of the Railways in the Caucasus

**John BRITTON SEITZ**, Tennessee Wesleyan University

Global Labor, Global Capital, and Empire in the Early Oil Industry in Kazakhstan

**Matthew GRAY**, Morningstar and United Nations

A Practitioner's Perspective: The Investment Trends and What It Means on the Socio-Industrial Future of Central Asia's Middle Power Engagements

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# ASIAC XVIII ANNUAL CONFERENCE

## DAY 3 – WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11



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### ARCHAEOLOGICAL CHALLENGES IN THE CAUCASUS: RECENT DISCOVERIES, CHANGING PARADIGMS AND NEW PERSPECTIVES (PART I)

*Location:* Room Milone, Palazzo Malcanton Marcorà  
*Chair:* **Elena ROVA**, Ca' Foscari University of Venice

**Arsen BOBOKHYAN**, Armenian Academy of Sciences; **Alessandra GILIBERT**, Ca' Foscari University of Venice & **Pavol HNILA**, Freie Universität Berlin  
Above the Treeline: The High-Mountain Sacred Landscape of Tirinkatar on Mt Aragats, Armenia as UNESCO Candidate for World Heritage Site

**Andrea CESARETTI**, ISMEO & **Roberto DAN**, ISMEO  
Thousands of Graves and Missing Settlements: Problems and Perspectives in the Archaeology of the Middle Bronze Age in the South Caucasus

**Manuel CASTELLUCCIA**, ISMEO  
Nomadic Impact in Eastern Caucasia: From the Scythians to the Khazars. An Archaeological Overview and Further Perspectives

**Francesco BIANCHI**, Munich University  
The Southern Borders of the Southern Caucasus: An Archaeological Point of View

#### COFFEE BREAK

*VeniceEat, Ca' Foscari Courtyard, 10:30 – 11:00*

#### PARALLEL SESSIONS # 20 – 21 – 22

*11:00 – 12:30*

### MEMORY AND HISTORY: ENTANGLEMENTS AND PASTS PRESENCING

*Location:* Room Baratto, Ca' Foscari  
*Chair:* **Laura MAFIZZOLI**, Czech Academy of Sciences

**Yipeng ZHOU**, University of Michigan–Ann Arbor  
(Un)Replicable Russian Factories, Quirky Asian Rocks, and “Enlightened Absolutism” in Eighteenth-Century Inner Asian Mining Zones

**Elena SIMONATO**, University of Lausanne  
Swiss Cheesemakers in the Caucasus: History and Memory of Technological Innovation

**Bryan GIGANTINO**, Georgian–American University  
Post-Soviet Peripheralization, Anti-Communist Memory Regime

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# ASIAC XVIII ANNUAL CONFERENCE

## DAY 3 – WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11



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### WATER MANAGEMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE IN CENTRAL ASIA: POLITICS, SOCIETY, AND TRANSNATIONAL CONNECTIONS (1948-2024)

*Location:* Room Berengo, Ca' Foscari

*Chair:* **Tommaso TREVISANI**, University of Naples L'Orientale

*Discussant:* **Peter FINKE**, University of Zurich

**Niccolò PIANCIOLA**, University of Padua

The "Long 1960s" and the Water Management Crisis in Soviet Central Asia

**Xeniya PRILUTSKAYA**, University of Naples L'Orientale

Attempts to Import Technologies and International Cooperation in Soil Science and Land Reclamation in Pre-Soviet and Soviet Kazakhstan

**Tommaso TREVISANI**, University of Naples L'Orientale

Rural Families Facing Environmental Degradation in Central Asia's Irrigated Oases: Soviet Legacies and New Challenges

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### ARCHAEOLOGICAL CHALLENGES IN THE CAUCASUS: RECENT DISCOVERIES, CHANGING PARADIGMS AND NEW PERSPECTIVES (PART II)

*Location:* Room Milone, Palazzo Malcanton Marcorà

*Chair:* **Elena ROVA**, Ca' Foscari University of Venice

**Francesca BERTOLDI**, Ca' Foscari University of Venice, **Pier Francesco FABBRI**, Museum and Florentine Institute of Prehistory, **Allegra RASIA**, Ca' Foscari University, **Denise PIANO**, University of Molise, **Leonardo CATALINI**, University of Molise, **Roberto CAMERIERE**, University of Molise & **Liana BITADZE**, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University

Medieval Monasteries in Georgia Between Invasions and Resilience: A Bioarchaeological Approach

**Adeline VAUTRIN**, Ca' Foscari University of Venice, **M. MASHKOUR**, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, **D. BOSCH**, Université Montpellier II, **L. GOURICHON**, Université Côte d'Azur & **R. BERTHON**, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique

Multi-Archaeozoological Approaches to Better Understand Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Age Agro-Pastoral Communities in the South Caucasus

**Davit DAREJANASHVILI**, Independent Researcher

Multiuse of Tangible Heritage Infrastructure Near Paravani Lake, South Georgia: Insights from Archaeological Excavations

**BREAK**

12:30 – 13:30

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# ASIAC XVIII ANNUAL CONFERENCE DAY 3 – WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11



**PARALLEL  
SESSIONS # 23 - 24 - 25**

13:30 – 15:00

## **AZERBAIJAN: NEW AND CONTESTED IDENTITIES**

*Location:* Room Berengo, Ca' Foscari

*Chair:* **Carlo FRAPPI**, Ca' Foscari University of Venice

**Cesare FIGARI BARBERIS**, Graduate Institute of Geneva  
Narratives, Emotions, and Trauma of Azerbaijani Displaced People

**Mirkamran HUSEYNLI**, University of Vytautas Magnus  
Contested Citizenship and National Identity: The Case of Azerbaijan

**Fuad ALAKBAROV**, University of Glasgow Caledonian  
Navigating the Final Frontier: Azerbaijan's Space Program and Security Challenges

**Murad MURADOV**, Topchubashov Center  
The Green Policy of Azerbaijan: Its Symbolic and Practical Importance

**Edoardo LAVEZZO**, University of York  
Can We Still Consider Azerbaijan a Small State? Applying Shelter Theory to Understand the Euro-Azerbaijani Bilateralism in Energy Policies

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## **LANGUAGE DYNAMICS**

*Location:* Room Berengo, Ca' Foscari

*Chair:* **Vittorio TOMELLERI**, University of Turin

**Thomas WIER**, University of Free Tbilisi  
Language Endangerment in the Caucasus

**Gilles AUTHIER**, École Pratique des Hautes Études  
A New East Caucasian Language: Gigatli

**Tamar GUCHUA**, Akaki Tsereteli State University  
Russia-Related Proper Name Metaphors in Georgian Political Discourse

**Azizjon BERDIQULOV**, European Centre for Minority Issues  
The Latinisation of the Kazakh Language: Impact on National Minorities

**Daniele ARTONI & Rebecca CELADON**, University of Verona  
Role and perception of the Russian language among ethnic minorities in Georgia

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# ASIAC XVIII ANNUAL CONFERENCE

## DAY 3 – WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11



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### TAJIKISTAN. IDENTITY, AND MATERIALITY

*Location:* Room Berengo, Ca' Foscari

*Chair:* **Steve SWERDLOW**, University of Southern California

**Kamila AKHMEDJANOVA**, University of Oxford  
Lahouti and the New Tajik Identity

**Stefano PELLÒ & Rebecca CIATTINI**, Ca' Foscari University of Venice  
Lenin's Rose Garden: The Persian Canon and Its Political Aesthetics in Soviet Tajikistan

**Simon SACKERS**, University of Leiden  
Contesting the Flow of Light/Svet: Tajikistan's Electricity Infrastructure Between Moralities of the Past and the Future

**Malika BHOVADINOVA**, University of Amsterdam  
The State is for the Poor: Practices of Libertarian Statehood in Tajikistan

**Sofia GAVRILOVA**, Leipzig Centre for Regional Geography  
What is in a name? The politics of glacier toponyms in Central Asia, 1870–2023

**BREAK**

15:00 – 15:15

**PARALLEL  
SESSIONS # 26 – 27 – 28**

15:15 – 16:45

### RUSSIANS AMONG OTHERS (HYBRID)

*Location:* Room Berengo, Ca' Foscari

*Chair:* **Cesare FIGARI BARBERIS**, Graduate Institute of Geneva

**Leonardo ZANATTA**, Corvinus University Budapest – Online  
Methodological Issues of Group Self-Deception: A Comparison of Russian Relokanty in Armenia and Georgia

**Görkem ATSUNGUR & Buğra GÜNGÖR**, American University of Central Asia  
Inter-Ethnic Relations Between Russians and Titular Majorities: A Comparative Analysis of Post-Soviet Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan

**Margherita GOBBAT**, University of Bremen and Center for Social Sciences  
From Vineyards to Visions: Strategic Responses to Russian Embargoes in Georgia and Moldova

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# ASIAC XVIII ANNUAL CONFERENCE

## DAY 3 – WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11



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### LITERATURE AND SOCIOPOLITICAL TRANSFORMATIONS

*Location:* Room Baratto, Ca' Foscari  
*Chair:* **Daniele ARTONI**, University of Verona

**Francesco PERI**, University of Paris College of Art  
Entangling Shota: The Knight in the Panther's Skin in the Connected Middle Ages

**Jasur LATIPOVICH KHUDOYBERDIEV**, Westminster International University in Tashkent  
Literature as a Catalyst for Sociopolitical Transformation: Uzbek Jadid Literature

**Caterina RE**, University of Genova  
Unhomely Existences and the Role of Literature: Chingiz Aitmatov, Hamid Ismailov, Andrei Volos

**Tamar KOPLATADZE**, University of Oxford  
Echoes of Semipaliatinsk Nuclear Testing in Central Asian Ecocritical Literature and Activism: The Case of Hamid Ismailov's The Dead Lake (2015)

**Elisa DESTRO**, University of Verona  
"Searching for the Squandered, Scattered, Wasted, Unused Love I'd Left Behind": Migration, Memory and Transgenerational Transmission of Trauma in Nino Haratischvili's The Eighth Life (For Brilka)

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### CROSS-CULTURAL ENCOUNTERS (HYBRID)

*Location:* Room Milone, Palazzo Malcanton Marcorà  
*Chair:* **Velizar SADOVSKI**, Austrian Academy of Sciences

**Lana CHOLOGAURI**, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University  
Exploring Cross-Cultural Dynamics Through Luxury Arts in Late Antique Colchis and Iberia

**Samira MÜLLER**, Heidelberg University  
The Local Backbone of Long-Distance Interconnection in Eurasia: A Philological Inquiry About the Agency of Commoners Along the Han Chinese Routes to the West

**Murid SHAH NADIRI**, University of Oxford  
Modernising Traditional Religious Da'Wa (Mission): The Ismailis and Their Transregional Networks in the Age of Empire and State Building

**Andrea CARTENY**, Sapienza University of Rome  
Origin and Success of Turanism in Dualist Hungary

**BREAK**

16:45 – 17:00

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# ASIAC XVIII ANNUAL CONFERENCE DAY 3 – WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11



## PLENARY SESSION

17:00 – 18:30

### ELITE NETWORKS, AUTOCRACY AND THE STATE (HYBRID)

*Location:* Room Baratto, Ca' Foscari

*Chair:* **Luca ANCESCHI**, University of Glasgow

**Sofya DU BOULAY**, University of Oxford Brookes – Online

Imitating Progress: Mega-Events and How Autocrats Use Them in Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan

**Dina SHARIPOVA**, Nazarbayev University – Online

The State and Civil Society in Central Asian Autocracies

**Wojciech OSTROWSKI**, University of Westminster

Rentier State, Central Asia, and the Question of Regional Cooperation

**Julie GEORGE**, Queens College and The Graduate Center, City University of New York &

**Franziska Barbara KELLER**, University of Bern

Elites and Networks in Hybrid Regimes: Understanding Party Coalitions and Defection during Georgia's Colored Revolution

## CLOSING SESSION

18:30 – 18:45

*Location:* Room Baratto, Ca' Foscari

*Closing remarks:* **Aldo FERRARI**, ASIAC and Ca' Foscari University