

Research Connections — E-Bulletin

Regional Training on Sampling and Weighting

No, this regional training did not focus on food, it focused on how to randomly select individuals or households in surveys in an effort to ensure the data are representative. The training was conducted by Daniel Hidalgo from the University of California, Berkeley, from July 4-6 in Tbilisi for participants from Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia and demonstrated the large toolbox of sampling options available to the modern researchers while also focusing on the limitations of population data in the Caucasus. The training also introduced a software called R, a powerful object-based statistical program used by statisticians across the world. R significantly differs from other Windows-based programs like SPSS and STATA. Since R was new for most of the participants, Reid Hamel, CRRC Fellow, provided additional training and materials on R, including a training for demographers from the Department of Statistics.

Issue 18, September 2008



Daniel Hidalgo presenting

Blogging the Georgian Crisis and its Aftermath

While Georgia has made headlines around the world in the past weeks, many social and political aspects lack in-depth coverage. CRRC will continue to update its [blog](#) with insights and research results related to the current events in Georgia. Already CRRC has written on a prescient talk given by Dr. Alexandre Rondeli on Georgia's foreign policy and on issues of IDP housing and resettlement.

Selected Upcoming Events

- Lecture: [The Sociology of the Georgian-Russian War: Problems of Rationality and Identity](#), Yerevan, Armenia, September 10 — Dr. Tillman Allert (ENG).
- Fellowship Presentation: [Cultural Policy and the Specificity of Institutionalization of Ethnic Communities in Azerbaijan](#), Baku, Azerbaijan, September 18 (AZE).
- Fellowship Presentation: [To Export or Not: The Prosperity Choice of an Armenian Firm](#), Yerevan, Armenia, September 19 (ARM).

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

CRRC Adds New Staff Members in Baku and Tbilisi



New Country Director Bayaz Zeynalova

CRRC extends a warm welcome to its new Azerbaijan Country Director Bayaz Zeynalova. Bayaz holds a Master's Degree in Public Policy from the University of Michigan, USA, and an MA and BA in Economic Theory from Baku State University, Azerbaijan. Prior to joining CRRC, Bayaz worked for the Health Sector Reform Project of the World Bank at the Ministry of Health, and managed a shelter program for the Norwegian Refugee Council in Azerbaijan. Her current research interests revolve around program evaluation, public policy analysis and policy evaluation. You can get in touch with Bayaz through her [email](#) or stop by the Azerbaijan office.

What Do you Want to Know about Georgian Attitudes?

CRRC is discussing doing a poll on reactions to the crisis in Georgia and is interested in what our readership might like to know. If you have ideas for survey questions related to the recent events in Georgia, please send an email to [Nana Papiashvili](mailto:Nana.Papiashvili@crcc.org) ASAP, with your questions(s) and a brief rationale.

Furthermore, CRRC welcomes [Elshad Mikayilov](#) as a Program Manager in Azerbaijan. Elshad holds a Master's Degree in Public Policy from Central European University and an MA and BA in Linguistics from Azerbaijan University of Languages. Elshad's major interests deal with decentralized governance, policy analysis, economics of social relations and social network analysis.

In addition to Azerbaijan, the CRRC-Georgia office has a new addition — Research Associate [Giorgi Babunashvili](#), who holds an MA in International Relations from Tbilisi State University. Giorgi's research background includes a scholarship from Heinrich Böll Foundation and joint research with the European Stability Initiative. Our new colleagues look forward to meeting you soon.

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