



Non-Governmental Public Action Programme

Annual Report

Babken Babajanian

NGPA Post-Doctoral Fellowship

1 February 2007 – 2 February 2008

Research in Central Asia

My research proceeds according to my work plan. In April-June 2007, I carried out analytical, synthetic and theoretical work as a preparation for my fieldwork in Central Asia (Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan). I was awarded a Visiting Fellow position at the American University of Central Asia (AUCA) in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. I was based at AUCA in July-August 2007, during which time I conducted a fieldwork in eight rural communities in Kyrgyzstan. I also visited Uzbekistan in order to assess the possibility of expanding my research to rural areas in Uzbekistan. I am currently analysing the data I gathered in Kyrgyzstan. I expect to complete the analysis and produce a research paper (possibly two) by June 2008.

Research Dissemination

As a means to disseminating my research findings, I organised a photo exhibition on people's lives in Kyrgyzstan. The exhibition was on display at LSE from 3 December 2007 to 11 January 2008. The photographs that I took during my fieldwork provided insight into the lives of ordinary men, women and children living in rural Kyrgyzstan today. The images of people were accompanied with captions that provided information on various aspects of social and economic life in rural communities. The exhibition was funded by the NGPA Funding Scheme for Programme Events (FSPE).

Journal Submissions

I have completed and submitted for publication three papers:

1. "Social Capital and Community Participation in Post-Soviet Armenia"
2. "Local Governance in Post-Soviet Armenia: Leadership, Livelihoods and Accountability"
3. "Social Welfare in Post-Soviet Armenia: From Socialist to Liberal and Informal?"

Publications

"Rolling Back the Welfare State in Post-Socialist Armenia" (in Hungarian), Esély, December 2007, Budapest, Hungary.

"Promoting Institutional Change in Post-Soviet Armenia: Is Social Capital the 'Missing Link'?"
NGPA Working Paper No1, LSE.

Book Reviews

Christoph H. Stefes, "Understanding Post-Soviet Transitions: Corruption, Collusion and Clientelism", *Central Asian Survey*, Vol. 26 (2), June 2007.

Svetlana Stephenson, "Crossing the Line: Vagrancy, Homelessness and Social Displacement in Russia", *Slavonic and East European Review*, Vol. 85 (4), October 2007.

Presentations

'Promoting Social Inclusion and Good Governance in Post-Soviet Kyrgyzstan', Social Policy Departmental Research Seminar, LSE, 28th January 2008.

'External Donors and Civil Society in Kyrgyzstan', Centre for Civil Society Discussion Forum, LSE, 21 November 2007.

'Local Governance and Citizens' Welfare in Kyrgyzstan', Social Research Center, The American University of Central Asia, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 10 August 2007

'Civil Society and Traditional Institutions in Central Asia', The Institute of Ismaili Studies, London, 4 June 2007

'Citizenship and Informal Networks in Post-Soviet Armenia', Association for the Study Nationalities World Convention, Columbia University, NYC, 14 April 2007

'Social Welfare in Post-Soviet Countries: Between Formal and Informal', Public Seminar on 'What Hinders Eastern European Development?', LSE, 8 March 2007

Training Courses

LSE Researcher Development Programme 2: Getting grant funding, LSE Teaching and Learning Centre, 15 January 2008

One to One Voice Training, LSE Teaching and Learning Centre
23 November 2007

Relax about Writing, LSE Teaching and Learning Centre
19 November 2007

Pronunciation Session, LSE Teaching and Learning Centre
06 November 2007

Publishing your thesis as a book or journal articles, LSE Teaching and Learning Centre
25 January 2007

Computer Packages for Qualitative Analysis course, LSE Methodology Institute
February-March 2007

Survey and Sampling Design Methodology course, LSE Methodology Institute
January-March 2007