

University of Warsaw
Faculty of Oriental Studies
*Department of Turkish Studies
and Inner Asian Peoples*

The Centre for Azerbaijani Studies was established in November 2018 at the Faculty of Oriental Studies of the University of Warsaw by the Embassy of Azerbaijan and the Institute of History of the National Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan and with support of the Azerbaijan International Development Agency of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan

IN THIS ISSUE



Our Students

• 4 •



Poles About Azerbaijan

• 6 •



*Azerbaijani Studies in
universities of other countries*

• 9 •

Letter from the Editor

Dear Reader,

We are glad to bring you the second edition of the Bulletin of the Centre for Azerbaijani Studies. This issue will focus on the activities of the centers for Azerbaijani studies in other universities around the world. It will provide you with information about new studies on the history and culture of Azerbaijan published internationally. Brief information about the promotion of Azerbaijan's scholarship and culture in Poland is also included in a separate section. Referring to our Centre at the University of Warsaw, this issue will tell you in more detail about its didactic activities, about the subjects in Azerbaijani studies

being taught at the university, and give you brief information about the courses of lectures scheduled for the 2020-2021 academic year. The Centre for Azerbaijani Studies takes this opportunity to wish our students a successful academic year. We hope the 2020-2021 academic year will not be as difficult as the last one, and that any surprises it may bring will be pleasant ones. We wish you every success in the winter and summer semesters. We will endeavor on our part to offer you plentiful new knowledge and interesting lectures here in our university.

Enjoy your reading, and we look forward to receiving your contributions.



What is the field of Azerbaijani Studies? The Azerbaijani studies cover all areas of enquiry addressing history, culture, language, ethnic origin and ethnography of the Azerbaijani people. The specialists involved in these areas are called Azerbaijani experts. The main goals of the Centre for Azerbaijani Studies in Warsaw are to give a precise account of the culture and scholarship of Azerbaijan, its state symbols, history, language, script, traditions, and provide accurate information about the social life, politics and economy of Azerbaijan. Our task is not only to recount the historical roots and modern problems of Azerbaijan, but also to give comprehensive assistance to students and specialists seeking to develop their knowledge in the field of Azerbaijani studies.

For this purpose, the Centre for Azerbaijani Studies places strong emphasis on conducting didactic activities among Polish students. For several years, lectures on Azerbaijani culture, history and language have been held at the University of Warsaw. In this issue of our newsletter we wish to give detailed information about the classes in Azerbaijani studies held in the current 2020-2021 academic year. Note that in the first semester, students are taught online. Nevertheless, for the employees of the Centre, this will be an additional incentive to prepare a particularly rich program for studying the subjects included in Azerbaijani studies.

In this issue, we would like to acquaint the reader with the subjects that will be addressed in the new academic year. The Centre for Azerbaijani Studies offers students at the University of Warsaw lecture courses in Polish and English. History lectures are in English, culture lectures are in Polish. The history lectures comprise four courses:

- History of Azerbaijan from ancient times till the Seljuk Invasion
- Medieval history of Azerbaijan
- Azerbaijan in Russian Empire and under Soviet Rule
- Foreign policy of Azerbaijan

OUR COURSES OF AZERBAIJANI STUDIES

1. AZERBAIJAN IN RUSSIAN EMPIRE AND UNDER SOVIET RULE

This course covers very important events in the history of Azerbaijan related to the division of Azerbaijan into two parts and the annexation of territories of Northern Azerbaijan by Russia. Students can observe the development of one nation simultaneously in two different socio-political and ideological systems of Persia and Tsarist and later Soviet Russia up to the proclamation of independence of Azerbaijan in 1991.

2. FOREIGN POLICY OF AZERBAIJAN

In these lectures students are introduced to major directions of the policy of the Azerbaijani Republic and its relations with different countries and international organizations. This course highlights key problems and challenges of Azerbaijan in the domestic and international arena. The lectures include the study of foreign policy of the independent Azerbaijan Democratic Republic (1918-1920) on the eve of the Soviet invasion, together with the foreign policy of the modern Azerbaijani Republic from 1991 to the present day.

3. MEDIEVAL HISTORY OF AZERBAIJAN

This course of lectures introduces the students to a full historical description of Azerbaijan at a time when this region, and particularly its southern part, was the center of such great empires as the Atabegs, Hulaguids, Qaraqoyunlu, Aqqoyunlu and the Safavids. In this course students learn in detail about the characteristics of the socio-political and religious development of the region and its international relations in each of these historical periods.

4. HISTORY OF AZERBAIJAN FROM ANCIENT TIMES TO THE SELJUK INVASION

All the stages of the Primitive-Communal system and the first tribal confederacies introduced in the territory of Azerbaijan will be discussed in the lectures. The course also includes the period of the appearance of the Huns in the Caucasus, which played an important role in the ethno-

cultural history of the region; the period when the heirs of the Huns – Bulgars, Sabirs, Khazars, Oguzes, Seljuks – formed a certain historical epoch in the ethnic history of this region; the period of the feudal split in Azerbaijan on the eve of the Seljuk invasion, and the history of the states of Ravvadids, Salarids, Shirvanshakhs, etc.

All these courses of history lectures are conducted in an interactive form using abundant material from various archives and medieval sources. In each of these courses a special place is given to the history of relations between Azerbaijan and Poland.

Furthermore, the Centre for Azerbaijani Studies of the University of Warsaw offers a range of tailored training seminars on the ancient, medieval and modern history of Azerbaijan, which include a course of lectures on the following topics:

- Turkic Dynasties in Azerbaijan
- Religion doctrines in medieval Azerbaijan
- History of the Azerbaijani-Polish relations (from the Middle Ages to the present day)
- The Soviet period in Azerbaijan
- History of the oil industry in Azerbaijan
- Foreign policy of Azerbaijan



Dr Nargiz Akhundova meets Dr Gulnara Agalarova, the councillor of AIDA of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan, in the office of the Centre



Turkic studies at the University of Warsaw includes lectures on the Azerbaijani language and culture. Lectures are given in Polish and include also the subjects: “Social and Cultural Aspects of Azerbaijan” and “The Culture of Azerbaijan”

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ASPECTS OF AZERBAIJAN

The lecture is directed to those interested in the socio-cultural issues of Azerbaijan from pre-Islamic to modern times, and in particular the problems of everyday life, customs and traditions, women's issues, and changes taking place during the period of the cultural revolution in the Soviet period and after independence. During the classes, fragments of literary works, films and musical works are presented.

The rich and vibrant culture of Azerbaijan is the subject of its pride

The lecture focuses on elements of Azerbaijani culture, its sources, foreign influences and interactions with Eastern and Western cultures. Rites, holiday customs, folk costumes, and symbolism are discussed. The lecture also focuses on the most important issues and factors influencing the formation of the socio-cultural face of modern Azerbaijan. The course will discuss the topic of women in the culture and social life of modern Azerbaijan. The lecture also discusses Azerbaijan's shoemaking art, painting and contemporary art. The lecture presents wedding ceremonies, engagements and the role of family in Azerbaijani society.

CULTURE OF AZERBAIJAN

Lectures combined with a multimedia presentation deal with the basics of Azerbaijani culture, tradition and customs, along with the country's impact on global culture. During the lecture, students will learn about beliefs, customs, pre-Islamic national folk costumes, dances, religious and folk holidays (traditions related to Novruz Bayram), wedding customs, epics, Ashug and mugham music, the expansion of Islam (7th century) and its influence on the region's history, as well as the peak of the cultural bloom during the Middle Ages – the time of the Turkic dynasties.

The art of carpetmaking is also discussed, from ancient times up to today, with the main centers of this art presented during the classes.

An overview of the progress of Azerbaijani culture and literature during the 19th century is then presented. The Azerbaijani people were pioneers in the Muslim world in many aspects of culture – opera, theater and satirical magazines. The works by writer and reformist Mirza Fatali Akhundzade, together with other writers of the 19/20th centuries are presented.

The lecture also encompasses the music of Uzeir Hajibeyli – a prominent Azerbaijani composer,

who wrote the first libretto and composed the first mugham opera in the Muslim East – *Leyli and Majnun* (1908), the musical comedy *Arshin*



Mal Alan and created a new wave in classical music – symphonic mugham. Also, Azerbaijani jazz (jazz-mugham) during the Soviet times by Vagif Mustafazade is presented. During the lecture, the development of Azerbaijani press and magazines will also be mentioned.

The lecture also covers the first period of the Azerbaijani Republic, the idea of statehood and the attributes of the Republic. The cultural and personal ties of the Caucasian and Polish nations in historical perspective are discussed. The lecture mentions the Polish-Azerbaijani relations and the contribution of Polish architects, scientists and political leaders to Azerbaijan's modern history.

The employees of the Centre do not limit themselves to lecturing only in the University of Warsaw; they give lectures and spread knowledge about Azerbaijan also in other universities in Warsaw and in Poland.

Taking the example of Lazarski University in Warsaw, we can describe how the Days of Azerbaijan are organized in other institutions in Poland. On April 9, 2019, the Day of Azerbaijan under the name "Azerbaijan - the pearl of the Caucasus" was held at the Lazarski University in Warsaw. The Centre for Azerbaijani Studies introduced the history, traditions and culture of the Azerbaijani people to the wide audience of the students and teaching staff of the institution, who gathered in the ceremonial hall of Lazarski University. Nargiz Akhundova gave a presentation "Yesterday and Today" on the historical roots of the Azerbaijani nation, about the monuments of the ancient

and medieval material and spiritual culture of the people, about certain problems and development of modern Azerbaijan and its place in the international arena today. The national musical instrument, the tar, was then presented to the audience by the performer B. Abbasov, along with a talented performance of Azerbaijani mugham on it. Shahla Kazimova introduced the university audience to the traditional customs of the Novruz holiday in Azerbaijan.

In turn, the students at Lazarski University prepared a short video on the sights of Baku. At the end of the event, a show of Azerbaijani national dance as well as cuisine were presented.

Lectures on the culture and history of Azerbaijan gained much interest of students of the Institute of Oriental

Studies of the Jagiellonian University in Krakow. In the summer and winter semesters of 2019, the Centre gave lectures on the historical and cultural ties between Azerbaijan and Poland. There was also a meeting and scholarly exchange between the colleagues of the Centre for Azerbaijani Studies and the Department of Turkology, headed by Prof. Ewa Siemienieć-Golaś.

In November 2020, Nargiz delivered a lecture at the Institute of Oriental Studies at Adam Mickiewicz University. At this lecture, Dr. Akhundova told the audience about the activities of the Centre for Azerbaijani Studies and shared her views on the impact of the Arab invasion on the history of Azerbaijan.

In the new academic year, we are going to continue cooperation with these and other universities in Poland.

The Centre for Azerbaijani Studies attracts active students to participate in various competitions and training. Last summer, the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Azerbaijan organized a student competition, "What I know about Azerbaijan". Five students from the University of Warsaw were the winners of the competition:

- *Maria Jagodzińska "The Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict"*
- *Katarzyna Kwiatkowska "Qara Qoyunlu - Tribble influence"*
- *Kamelia Penkowska "Role of intelligentsia in the development of the independent state of Azerbaijan"*
- *Adela Kamińska "The art of Azerbaijani Mugham"*
- *Krzysztof Osica "Azerbaijan - Land of the Kitab-i Dede Korkut"*

They were invited to visit Azerbaijan in the second half of August 2019.

On October 14, 2019, these students attended a meeting with the Delegation from the State Committee on Work with Diaspora of Azerbaijan during the scientific seminar "Diasporas and Ethnic Minorities in Poland and Azerbaijan", organized by the Centre of Azerbaijan at the University of Warsaw.

We congratulate Maria Jagodzińska on her graduation from the university and successful completion of the bachelor's degree work on the Nagorno Karabakh conflict.

Our Students

The Centre for Azerbaijani Studies attracts active students to participate in various competitions



“The Coming Spring”

Piotr Obszarski, a student at the Institute of International Relations of the Faculty of Political Science and International Studies, who successfully completed the course on the history of Azerbaijan in the Russian Empire and under Soviet Rule last year, says that he first became interested in Azerbaijan thanks to the book by Stefan Żeromski “The Coming Spring”. This book subsequently became a reference for him. Piotr has prepared a special short report about this book and its author for our issue.

Stefan Żeromski was a well-known Polish writer. In 1925 he published one of his most famous books, entitled “The Coming Spring”. It tells the story of Cezary Baryka, whose life is closely connected with the fate of Poles at the beginning of the twentieth century.

The first part of the novel is set in Baku, where Cezary Baryka was born in 1900. His father Seweryn Baryka is a high-ranking official. This gives young Cezary access to the best education, which involves studying Russian, Polish, French, English, German and many other additional activities. He is a diligent student and a good son. Everything changes in 1914, when the Great War breaks out. Seweryn Baryka is drafted into the Russian army where he serves as an officer. Almost everyone anticipates that the conflict won't last longer than a few months and after that time the men will come back home, and everything will be as before. At that time Cezary is getting interested in the revolutionary movement, so when in 1917 the revolution breaks out, Cezary is involved in it and takes part in various rallies. After a while Cezary notices the dark sides of revolution. Baryka's house is nationalized and the former owners are only allowed to live in one small room. All their savings are taken away and the Baryka family is forced to live in hunger and poverty. One of the effects of the revolution is the outbreak

of ethnic disputes, especially between Armenians and Azerbaijanis (Żeromski calls them Tatars). This leads to massacres and other acts of violence. And this in turn leads to the entry of the Turkish army into the territory of Azerbaijan, to protect the Azerbaijanis.

In the pre-war times Żeromski describes Baku as the land of milk and honey, with a warm climate, excellent and extremely cheap southern fruit, delightful silks easily obtained for a penny, cheap labor, the possibility of spending the hot season in Zych. The city looks completely different in 1918: well-known streets are a disheartening sight. With no exaggeration nor metaphor, the blood flows not in ditches, but over the ground in rivulets. It runs into the sea where it dyes the clear waves.

We may wonder why Żeromski sets the first part of his novel on the Absheron Peninsula, especially as he had never visited Baku and had only second-hand knowledge about the city. One of the reasons is that on the cusp between the 19th and 20th centuries, Transcaucasia was a popular destination for Polish emigration. Some were sent there as political exiles but many others came to the region voluntarily, encouraged by boom of the oil industry and the chance of a completely new life.



One of the streets of the Old City in Baku
(Image from open sources)

It was not by accident that the Centre for Azerbaijan Studies at the University of Warsaw was opened at the Faculty of Oriental Studies.

The faculty includes thirteen departments such as Iranian studies, Arabic studies, Far Eastern culture, together with the department of Turkish Studies and Inner Asian Peoples, headed by Dr. Agata Bareja-Starzyńska. Dean of the Faculty Prof. Taracha and Dr. Bareja-Starzyńska were among the main initiators of the establishment of the Centre for Azerbaijani Studies in the Faculty of Oriental Studies.

Azerbaijan is among the five Turkic states on the political map today. The language, history and culture of the Azerbaijani people have been studied by Turkologists from many countries in the world. The brightest period in the history of classical Azerbaijani literature is considered to be the 16th century. This era includes the works of such scholars as Muhammad Fizuli, Habibi, Shah Ismail Khatai, Hagigi Tabrizi, Zamiri, Ruhi

Baghdadi, Gulshani Bardai, Fadai, and Muhammad Amani. Azerbaijan literature of the 16th century is also rich in literary translations. *Hadisi-arba'in* and *the Hadiqat us-suada* of Fizuli, Muhammad Hussein Katib Nishati's *Shuhadaname* and *Safwat al-Safa*, etc. were examples of the most excellent translations in Azerbaijani literature.



Baghdadi, Gulshani Bardai, Fadai, and Muhammad Amani. Azerbaijan literature of the 16th century is also rich in literary translations. *Hadisi-arba'in* and *the Hadiqat us-suada* of Fizuli, Muhammad Hussein Katib Nishati's *Shuhadaname* and *Safwat al-Safa*, etc. were examples of the most excellent translations in Azerbaijani literature.



Building of City Hall and Baku Mayor Office build by the Polish architect Józef Gosławski in 1900-1904 (Image from open sources)

Poles about Azerbaijan

Tadeusz Łada Zabłocki was born in a family of the Polish gentry in Vitebsk province. At the end of the gymnasium, in 1831, he was enrolled as a state-bonded student in the Department of Literature at the Imperial University of Moscow. During his studies, he met and joined the student community named "Literary Society Number 11" and created by V. G. Belinsky, and then, together with Jan Savinic, organized the secret "Society of Russian Literature Lovers" among Polish university students.

TADEUSZ ŁADA ZABŁOCKI

In the summer of 1833, he was arrested for distributing a song directed against the Tsar, expelled from the university and sent back to Vitebsk. The investigation lasted two years. According to the sentence passed on Zabłocki, he was exiled to the Caucasus and appointed as an ordinary sapper. A.A. Bakikhanov, the founder of Azerbaijani academic historiography, met the famous exiled poet Tadeusz Łada Zabłocki in Tiflis. By that time, Bakikhanov had compiled the first monographic study of the academic plan, entitled *Gulistani-i*

Iram, dedicated to the eastern part of the Caucasus (1841). He was preparing to translate it into Russian. The writer Tadeusz Łada Zabłocki gave



him valuable help in preparing the Russian text. The translation was completed in 1844. In addition, in the "Rubon" magazine Tadeusz Łada Zabłocki published works of Azerbaijani folklore translated into Russian. He is also the author of beautiful poems about Shemakha and Quba.

Ewa Siemieniec-Gołaś

Prof. dr hab. Ewa Siemieniec-Gołaś, born in Krakow, professor of humanities, is a research and teaching staff at the Jagiellonian University, employed since 1980 at the Institute of Oriental Studies (formerly Institute of Oriental Philology) at the Department of Turkology.

In this issue we would like to let you know our colleagues Turkologists from the Jagiellonian University and give a list of works on Azerbaijani studies.

She obtained her Master degree and diploma with honors in 1978 on the basis of a thesis entitled: „Nouns with the suffix -lik in the 17th century Ottoman-Turkish language” [Rzeczowniki z sufiksem -lik w języku osmańsko-tureckim XVII wieku], and a doctorate in humanities in 1990, based on the dissertation entitled: „Word formation structure of nouns in the 17th century Ottoman-Turkish [Budowa słowotwórcza rzeczowników w języku osmańsko-tureckim XVII wieku]. In 2000, she obtained her habilitation on the basis of the dissertation: “The Karachay-Balkar Vocabulary of Proto-Turkic Origin”.

She has been a titular professor since 2010, and since 2016 she has been employed as a full professor at the Jagiellonian University. From September 1, 2020 she was awarded the title of honorary full professor of the Jagiellonian University.

Scientific interests of Prof. Ewa Siemieniec-Gołaś focus on issues of Turkish linguistics with particular emphasis on lexicological and word-formation topics in both diachronic and synchronous aspects. The domain of research is primarily Ottoman-Turkish language, modern languages: Chuvash and Karachay-Balkar, as well as cultural and linguistic contacts of Poles with Turkic ethnos. The research topics are reflected in the published papers (written mainly in English).

Her academic achievements include eight books and over a hundred articles and reviews.

As a researcher, she cooperated and still works with many foreign centers, incl. with CNRS in Paris (France) and with the universities of Lausanne (Switzerland), Vilnius (Lithuania), Ankara, Konya, Tokat (Turkey), Uppsala (Sweden), Göttingen, Mainz (Germany).

She has lectured at many foreign universities, incl. in: Urbana-Champaign (USA), Bochum (Germany), Szeged (Hungary), Naples (Italy), Vilnius (Lithuania), Ankara and Konya (Turkey). She also completed research internships in Turkey in 1982 and 1988.

She participated in many national and foreign conferences (including Turkey, Russia, Azerbaijan, Lithuania, Germany, France, Sweden, USA and others).

As a part of her research, she participated and still participates in several research projects (publishing project „Encyclopaedia of Turkic Language and Linguistics”; Brill Academic Publishers; international project „Christian-Muslim Relations 1500-1900”) and managed national grants (promoter’s grant MNiSW and a team grant „Orientalia Polonica” under the National Programme for the Development of Humanities). Moreover, under the supervision of Prof. Ewa Siemieniec-Gołaś dozens of BA and MA theses have been written.

As part of the participation in the education of scientific staff, she has promoted five doctors and is looking after another doctoral dissertation that is about to be completed.

In the field of organizational activities, she has performed and continues to perform functions in various areas of the academic community. She was among others vice-director and director of the Institute of Oriental Philology in 1999-2008, head of doctoral studies (2012-2016) and since 2000 she has been continuously managing the Department of Turkology at the Institute of Oriental Studies.

Prof. Ewa Siemieniec-Gołaś is also a member of domestic and foreign scientific societies and organizations, including Societas Uralo-Altaica (Germany), Central-Eurasian Studies Society (USA), Polish Linguistic Society, Polish Orientalist Society (since 2014 – vice-president), Committee of Oriental Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences (since 2016 – member of the Presidium), Committee of Oriental Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences (Krakow Branch). In addition, she is a member of the editorial board of the journals: „Folia Orientalia” and the Ukrainian „Horizon of Printing”.

[The list of publications related to the Azerbaijan subject](#)

- *Azerbaijan in the eyes of Polish travellers and exiles to the Caucasus, Khazar Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences, 14, nr 2, Baku 2011, s. 70-78;*

- *Sadyk Bej Agabeyov i jego gramatyka języka tureckiego, Materiały III Konferencji Naukowej Azerbejdżan-Polska, Warszawa 2014, s. 56-60;*
- *Mateusz Gralewski – the Polish exile to the Caucasus and his contribution to study on history, geography and ethnography of the Caucasus, International Journal of Humanities and Social Science Invention, 2017, s. 103-107;*
- *Azerbaijan in the light of the description from „Dykcyonaryz geograficzny” [Geographic dictionary] by Echard (1782) – the paper presented at the International conference „Azerbaijan – History, Society, and Culture”, Warsaw, November 14th, 2019 - forthcoming;*
- *New Turkish Vocabulary in Sadik Bey Agabeyov’s Turkish Grammar (1930) – [in:] B. Michalak-Pikulska, M. Piela, T. Majtczak (eds), Oriental Languages and Civilizations, Kraków 2020, pp. 191-199;*
- *In preparation: Józef Chodźko – Polish surveyor and the researcher of the Caucasus*

[The participation in national and international conferences with papers related to Azerbaijan as regards subject-matter](#)

- The International Symposium – Azerbaijan in World Literature, Baku 2011;
- III Konferencja Naukowa Azerbejdżan-Polska, Warszawa 2014;
- Ogólnopolska Konferencja Turkologiczna, Poznań 2015;
- The 8th International Congress on Atatürk, Ganja 2015;
- Anatolia-the Caucasus-Iran: Ethnic and Linguistic Contacts, Yerevan 2018;
- The International Congress of Turkology, Warsaw 2018;
- The International Conference „Azerbaijan-History, Society and Culture”, Warsaw 2019.

Grażyna Zając

In 1978 she completed her education at the Maria Kopnicka Secondary School in Nowy Sącz and she undertook Oriental Studies at the Jagiellonian University. Her MA thesis was devoted to contemporary Turkish poetry. After she graduated from the university (in 1983) she was offered employment in her home institute. She works there to this day. In 1995 she defended her PhD thesis entitled “Życie i twórczość Orhana Kemała” [The Life and Output of Orhan Kemal], and in 2009 she completed her habilitation on the basis of a book entitled “Smutna ojczyzna i ja smutny”.

Kręgi literackie epoki Abdulhamita II w świetle tureckiej autobiografii ["The Homeland sad as am I". The Literary Circles of the Era of Abdülhamid II in the Light of Turkish Autobiography].

Grażyna Zając specialises in the Turkish literature of the 19th and 20th centuries, with special reference to the Ottoman memoir literature of the 19th century. She is also engaged in the research of Azerbaijani literature and the Turkish Cypriot literature. She is the author of three scholarly books. Apart from the works which were mentioned above, she also published a book entitled "*Ciało twoje, kości moje*". *Rodzina i szkoła epoki Abdulhamita II w świetle tureckiej autobiografii* ["The Flesh Is Yours, but the Bones Are Mine". The Family and The School in the Period of Abdülhamid II in the Light of Turkish autobiography], Kraków 2013, and "*Ożenek poety*" *İbrahima Şinasiego i narodziny teatru tureckiego* ["The Wedding of a Poet" by İbrahim Şinasi and the Origins of Turkish Theatre], Kraków 2014. She published more than seventy articles and presented more than forty papers at symposia held in Poland (in Kraków, Warszawa and Poznań) and abroad (in Turkey, Cyprus and Germany). She graduated sixty MA students and one PhD student. She supports the community of Polish Tatars by publishing original texts and translations in the Polish Tatar press. She is a translator of Turkish literature into Polish. Her translations of poems and short stories appear in periodicals. She also translated a book about Adampol into Polish (Akgün Akova, *Polonezköy. The Eagle Under the Crescent and Star*), and a volume of poetry by an Azerbaijani poet Selim Babullaoğlu "*No One Writes to the Colonel*" (jointly translated with İlahə Karimova).



Göygöl Lake in Azerbaijan

(Image from open sources)

Azerbaijani studies in universities of other countries

At the beginning of the 21st century, having history of 30 years as an independent state, it is extremely important for the Azerbaijan that its research and culture be familiar to other nations. Moreover, international cooperation creates a broad base for new research and joint scholarly development and multiculturalism.

The Azerbaijan International Development Agency (AIDA) was established in September 2011 under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan. AIDA is responsible for providing international humanitarian and development assistance by the Republic of Azerbaijan. AIDA supports the efforts of developing countries through its programs in the areas of poverty reduction, development of science, culture and health, application of information and communication technologies, various scholarship programs, and humanitarian assistance.

One of the directions of the agency is the development of Azerbaijani culture and scholarship in educational centers of the world. For example, the opening of the Centre for Azerbaijani Studies at the University of Warsaw in November 2018 was also supported by this agency.

In addition, with the support of AIDA, the Department of History of Azerbaijan operates at Berlin Humboldt University, the Faculty of Azerbaijani Studies at La Plata University in Argentina, and the Azerbaijani Studies program at two Italian universities – Rome Sapienza University and Venice Ca Foscari.

We would like to briefly describe the development of Azerbaijani studies in China. On October 14, 2019, a contract was signed for the establishment of Scientific Centers for Azerbaijan-China Research, which will study the history of relations between Azerbaijan and China. The contract was signed by the Director of the Institute of History at the National Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan, Academician Yagub Mahmudov and the director of the Institute of General History of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (KAON), Professor Wang Chaoguang. According to the contract, the centers will study bilateral relations from ancient times to the present day. The centers are located in both Azerbaijan and China. According to scholars, "This will allow the publication of the works of Azerbaijani researchers in China, and the works of Chinese researchers in Azerbaijan."

Cooperation between the two institutes has been developing since 2015. In April 2016, a round table meeting of Azerbaijani and Chinese researchers was held at the Institute of History of ANAS. An exchange of views took place, at the same meeting, the collected papers entitled "On the historical contact of Azerbaijani and Chinese cultures" edited by Academician Y. Makhmudov was distributed to all the participants. The

researcher of the Institute of World History of the Academy of Social Sciences of China Prof. Hou Aijun during his academic visit to Azerbaijan from October to December 2017 in cooperation with Nargiz Akhundova commenced his research work on the historical development of Azerbaijani-Chinese relations.

By the end of 2019, Nargiz Akhundova's research on the development and popularity of Chinese porcelain in the medieval Azerbaijan was published in the journal *Silk Road Studies*. The research was based on the results of archaeological excavations carried out on the territory of modern Azerbaijan.

Prof. Hou did very valuable research on the location of Azerbaijan, its cities and the Caspian Sea in Chinese sources, starting from antiquity, and ending with information from the 19th century. At the moment, a new joint research work "From the history of Azerbaijani-Chinese relations" is being prepared for publication. The book consists of four sections: "Turkic-Chinese culture in antiquity", "Relations between Azerbaijan and China in the era of the Mongol conquest", "On the historical contacts between Azerbaijani and Chinese cultures in the post-Mongol period" and lastly, "Sources of the 18th-19th centuries".

At present, the Centre for Azerbaijani Studies in Warsaw is preparing to pay a visit to the Scientific Centre for Azerbaijani-Chinese Studies of the Institute of General History of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. The program of our visit includes acquainting the Chinese audience with the development of Azerbaijani studies and the activities of our centre in Warsaw.



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Announcement

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A special issue of the journal "Modern Scientific Thought" dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitutional Act on the State Independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the 100th anniversary of Azerbaijan State Pedagogical University.

Papers are accepted until May 1, 2021 in Russian and English.



City Garden (formerly Governor's Garden) in downtown Baku (image from open sources)