

University of Warsaw
Faculty of Oriental Studies, Centre for Azerbaijani Studies,
Faculty of History,
Faculty of Political Science and International Studies
in cooperation with
the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan

are pleased to organize

the 5th International Conference

AZERBAIJAN – POLAND

on JUNE 6th, 2022
at the University of Warsaw

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN AZERBAIJAN AND POLAND**

CALL FOR PAPERS

On behalf of the Organizing Committee, the Centre for Azerbaijani Studies is pleased to invite academicians, researchers, and related experts to participate in the international conference, which will be held on **June 6th, 2022** at the University of Warsaw, the Columned Hall, 26/28 Krakowskie Przedmieście St., 00-927 Warsaw.

Brief Introduction:

In 2022 Poland and Azerbaijan celebrate several significant dates in the history of bilateral relations, among which, first of all, the 550th anniversary of the historical ties of medieval Azerbaijan with the Polish Kingdom, the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Azerbaijan and Poland, as well as the 5th anniversary of strategic partnership between the two countries.

I

First diplomatic contacts between Akkoyunlu and Poland (1472)

The first visit to the court of the Polish king Kazimierz IV by the ambassadorial mission of Uzun Hasan led by the Venetian legate Caterino Zeno in 1472 can be considered the date of the establishment of the first diplomatic contacts of Akkoyunlu with Poland. The Akkoyunlu dynasty originated from the Bayandur Oghuz tribe and settled initially in Diyarbakir, ruling the Akkoyunlu beylik. After the victory over Karakoyunlu (1468), Uzun Hasan Akkoyunlu moved the capital of his state to Tabriz. Tabriz, by that time, for many centuries served as the capital of a number of turkic dynasties, which ruled over the territory of Azerbaijan as well as some other nearby territories. The establishment of a new state in this particular region corresponded not only to the political interests of Uzun Hasan. The territory and population of Azerbaijan were quite close to Akkoyunlu in terms of cultural and ethnic composition.

II

Azerbaijani – Polish relations in the 19th-20th centuries

Azerbaijani – Polish relations were continued on the level of intellectual contacts, for example, Polish missionary Tadeusz Krusiński (18th century) is considered a pioneer among Polish researchers of Azerbaijan. The eminent Azerbaijani Orientalist, professor at the University of St. Petersburg, Mirza Jafar Topchubashov, was friend with the Polish poet Adam Mickiewicz. Topchubashov, with the help of his Polish student, Aleksander Chodźko, was the first to make a poetic translation of one of Mickiewicz's sonnets into Persian. Tadeusz Łada-Zabłocki helped Azerbaijani poet Bakikhanov in translating his work *Gulistani-i Iram* into Russian (1844). Zabłocki, along with other Polish exiles to the Caucasus (Michał Butowt-Andrzejkiewicz, Mateusz Gralewski, Juliusz Strutyński, Władysław Strzelnicki), created the so-called "Caucasian group of poets", which played a significant role in documenting customs, culture, and lexical reality in Azerbaijan at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries.

The oil boom in Azerbaijan, which began in 1863, attracted many Polish engineers and scientists to this country, among whom the geologist Witold Zglenicki, the originator of oil extraction from the seabed, has special merits. His work was continued by the Polish engineer Paweł Potocki. Polish engineers and architects changed the face of the then Baku: Józef Gosławski, Józef Płoszko, Kazimierz Skórewicz, Eugeniusz Skibiński, Konstanty Borysoglebski, and others devoted their talents and energy to adorn the capital of modern Azerbaijan with their building projects.

The first Azerbaijani republic was proclaimed on May 28th, 1918. The Polish government was one of the first to recognize the de facto independence of Azerbaijan. The government of the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan included persons of Polish descent: Wiktor Kleniewski was Minister of Social Security, Stanisław Wąsowicz served as Secretary of the Legislative Commission, Lieutenant-General Maciej Sułkiewicz was appointed as Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan. Having existed for 23 months, the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan was overthrown by the Red Army in 1920. After the Bolshevik coup, a part of Azerbaijani political emigration collaborated with the authorities of the Second Polish Republic.

III

The 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Poland and modern Azerbaijan and the 5th anniversary of the establishment of a strategic partnership

After 70 years, Azerbaijan restored its independence based on the declaration of 1918. It is noteworthy that Poland again became one of the first states that recognized the independence of Azerbaijan on December 27th, 1991. Diplomatic relations between the two countries were established on February 21st, 1992. Relations between Azerbaijan and Poland are assessed by the leadership of the two countries as a strategic partnership based on the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity, and inviolability of internationally recognized borders of States. The Declaration on the Roadmap for Strategic Partnership and Economic Cooperation between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Poland signed on June 2nd, 2017 in Warsaw instilled new dynamism in bilateral partnership.

Conference Objectives

We invite scholars to share their research results and unique perspectives about diverse aspects of studies on Azerbaijan and Poland (language, literature, culture, arts, history, politics, economy, tourism, etc.). We hope that the conference will become a platform for fruitful discussion and it will provide an opportunity for networking and learning, as well as for common publication.

Practical information for the participants

- If you wish to present a paper please send an email letter confirming your interest in attending the conference and the title of your presentation by email to n.akhundova@uw.edu.pl or cas.office@uw.edu.pl
- Please fill in the conference **registration form** and send it together with your **abstract by April 25th, 2022 to the email address: cas.office@uw.edu.pl**
- Abstracts should be limited to **300 words**
- Presentations should not exceed **20 minutes**
- The conference will be organized in hybrid mode: **onsite and online**
- Please be informed that the conference organizers are not able to cover travel and accommodation costs. Please inform us if you wish to participate **online** (in such a case we will collect your recorded presentation by **May 25th, 2022**)
- The organizers plan to publish the conference papers in form of a **monograph volume**
- Papers shall be presented **in Polish or English**
- Conference admission is **free of charge**

We are looking forward to welcoming you at the conference in Warsaw!

On behalf of the organizers,

*Dr. Nargiz Akhundova, Dr. Shahla Kazimova, Prof. Agata Bareja-Starzyńska, Faculty of Oriental Studies,
Dr. Natalia Królikowska-Jedlińska, Faculty of History,
Prof. Maciej Raś, Faculty of Political Science and International Studies, University of Warsaw*