

DESCnet

Jean Monnet Network DESCnet
Developing European Studies in the Caucasus
Newsletter 2/2016

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1 – Editorial

The DESCnet is now approximately 6 months in operation. Thinking back that it was only in early December 2015 that we met in Tartu, we have seen the first activities unfold in almost breakneck speed. As you know, we had been preparing the Pyatigorsk Winter School under high time pressure and in a general political climate that was not too welcoming of our initiatives. Already one month later the first Young Researchers' Seminar in Graz took off, and now, as I hear, the preparations for the Batumi Summer School are in full sway.

It is for us a new experience to work in a consortium, and I have gladly taken up the opportunity to contribute this editorial to promote the spirit of learning together, of mutual respect and understanding. As Universities, we all operate under some kind of constraint, be it political, be it in terms of fulfilling our main obligations of teaching, and yes, engaging in research on our region. At this stage, as you can see from the selected publications in this Newsletter, there are significantly more publications written *on* the Caucasus from outside our region than inside. I think, you will agree with me that it is not our goal in life to remain passive and pose as the colourful objects of multi-disciplinary studies abroad, but to produce our own research on our own regional problems that opens up new perspective for policy makers (our own, but also for the EU).

So far, my impression is that offering summer / winter schools is an important groundwork but that we as a consortium should increase the amount of scholarly publications from the ranks of our own doctoral students and young lecturers.

Events and processes occurring today in Russia and abroad are a case in point. As part of a consortium of co-operation, we will try to raise the most important topics, for example the migration crisis. The modern world is characterised by the movement of huge masses of people which in turn leads to a rapidly increasing globalisation. We also have to watch the constant clash of representatives of various ethnic groups and cultures, which increasingly leads to conflicts. The reasons for these conflicts are rooted in a complex set of causes, including the absence or lack of experience of close

and continuous communication between different civilisations, as well as the necessary mutual tolerance among native and alien populations, etc. The Caucasus as a multinational region is a prime example of this, and it is most clearly demonstrated by the returning boomerang of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict. How can we enhance our research capacities and work towards the first DESCnet Convention in the summer of 2017 in order to be the drivers of research, not the passengers on the back seat?

For the successive rounds of capacity building that we are engaged in, I think it will be important to strengthen the „network effects“ in our work. Back in Tartu, we assigned responsibilities and budgets. This was a necessary first step, but it cannot mean that we now focus entirely on the tasks that each of us has committed him- or herself to. Helping each other, drawing on each other's lecturers and inviting each other should become the rule in our work.

Yours sincerely,



*Dmitrii A. Smirnov
Director, Legal Institute
North Caucasus Federal University*

2 – Upcoming DESCnet events

Summer School Batumi

„Unpacking Europeanisation in the South Caucasus and the Black Sea Region: Economic, Legal, and Social Contexts“ (6 ECTS)

15 – 24 July 2016

DESCnet will hold its first Summer School at Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University in Georgia. The School is open to international students from target countries interested in law, political science, international relations, public administration, cultural studies and related fields in their BA or early MA years. The language of instruction is English.

Aims of the School

- to unpack the various dimensions of Europeanisation for the South Caucasus and the Black Sea region, and explain how it affects – or might affect in future – the state of relations in such spheres as legislation, political institutions, security strategies, and social and cultural practices;
- to develop a transferable model of analysing post-Soviet transitory countries on their ways towards Europeanisation.

Conceptual approaches

The School programme offers a critical approach to Europeanisation as a complex process that contains both EU-promoted policies and local responses to them, which often creates zones of tension and conflicts. Thus, we deploy Europeanisation in a variety of contexts defined by adaptation and contestation, acceptance and resistance.

The School contains a strong comparative dimension of analysis, placing the three countries of the South Caucasus in a wider regional perspective that includes the Black Sea region and Ukraine. It focuses more on human dimensions of the Europeanisation process and its hurdles, than on the state level of analysis. Therefore, we intend to discuss issues relevant from a societal perspective – internally displaced people, citizenship policies, border / boundary construction, etc.

Clusters

Judicial aspects of Europeanisation for the South Caucasus. The key questions are what do Association Agreements bring to economic and social actors in terms of legal changes? And what can they mean for neighbouring countries that didn't (intend to) sign AAs?

The political economy of Europeanisation. This cluster emphasises the economic core of the Europeanisation process and its implications for financial and industrial policies in countries of the South Caucasus.

Transnational political elites. How do European-level parties and national and supra-national political groups react to and frame the recent developments in the South Caucasus? How important is the South Caucasus for the European Parliament (and other representative EU institutions) and what degree of politicisation does their involvement imply?

Security policies and arrangements. This cluster discusses the impact of the EU and its individual Member States on the widely understood security situation in the South Caucasus, to include energy, environmental security, migration flows, terrorism, conflict resolution, as well as military/hard security aspects.

Socio-cultural content of Europeanisation. The main points to discuss are implications of Europeanisation for a wide range of cultural relations and institutions, including the Church, ethnic minority groups, NGOs dealing with issues of gender equality, tolerance and anti-discriminations, etc.

*Prof. Andrey Makarychev
University of Tartu, Johan Skytte Institute of
Political Studies*



3 – Recent DESCnet events

„The Future of Civil Society in the Caucasus“ 13 – 19 March 2016, Winter School Pyatigorsk, Russian Federation

"The Future of Civil Society in the Caucasus" was the topic of the DESCnet Winter School, held in Pyatigorsk (Russia) as the first DESCnet event in the region. Perhaps it was not by chance that in the month when the School was in session, a number of influential policy analyses appeared that pointed to a worldwide rolling back of civil society in a great number of countries. Participants were thus challenged not only to consider the Caucasus as a region, but also to reflect on the state of civil society in a wider global context.

The host, North Caucasus Federal University (NCFU), provided the majority of lecturers, thus debates naturally gravitated towards the question of civil society in Russia in general while specifics of the North Caucasus, and especially its non-Russian parts, were covered to a lesser extent. Participants from Armenia and Azerbaijan provided critical perspectives on their own countries. Against this background, it was a pity that the handling of visa procedures by Russian authorities de facto prevented Turkish and Georgian citizens from attending the school. Participants were selected on a competitive basis. The geographical breadth of participants was very wide and included not only a number of European countries, but also the United States and Central Asia. Students enjoyed this variety and engaged in numerous discussions; much learning also took place outside the formal lectures. One of the highlights was surely a visit to the Terskii Cossacks and a spectacular introduction to local folk traditions.

From an academic coordinator's point of view, the challenge of this School was to bring a scientifically grounded idea of what different models of civil society can achieve to the very complex local conditions that exist in particular in the North Caucasus. It was one of the strengths of the School to be able to discuss such ideological positions in a very open and non-confrontational way. It was also important to discuss the consequences of the heavy-handed clampdown on civil society particularly in connection with the fear of jihadism and extremist violence. Enabling such debates and providing an organisational framework that helped participants to engage and debate in an authentic and open way was a major achievement of NCFU.

Overall, the school served as a venue for vibrant debate and offered a promising start to DESCnet's further activities in the region.

*Thomas Kruessmann,
academic supervisor of the winter school*

Young Researchers Seminar 18-22 April 2016 University of Graz, Austria

Sixteen young researchers from the South Caucasus, Estonia, Turkey, Austria, and the United States, most of them PhD-students, attended the young researchers' seminar in Graz. Subject-wise, the students represented different scientific backgrounds, from legal studies, international relations, to economics and other disciplines.

The seminar was guided by lecturers from the universities of Graz and Tartu, who presented research methodologies of political science and law with a focus on European integration and peace studies. Along with subject-specific lectures, several sessions were dedicated to transferable skills and practical experience, i.e. academic writing, proposal writing and European fundraising, focusing on the research programme and introduction to several funding and career opportunities from a practical point of view. The key event of the seminar was the "Academia-policy dialogue with Jean Monnet Professor *ad personam* and former Vice Chancellor of the Republic of Austria Dr. Erhard Busek. Having served also as the co-ordinator of the South-East European Co-operative Initiative (SECI), Dr. Busek shared his rich experience in politics and policy, including ENP and, thereby, provided a unique glimpse into the interplay between scholarly activities and science. He engaged in a lively dialogue with the young researchers as well as the lecturers.

The young researchers participated actively in the discussions and in the group work. Most importantly, they were and continue to be highly motivated to participate in follow-up activities. Contacts for future project proposals have been exchanged and several researchers made applications for lectures in the upcoming Batumi summer school (July 2016). A Moodle-website has been installed at the University of Graz which allows for a follow-up and exchanges among the participants.

The DESCnet team of the University of Graz

P.S. The next young researchers' seminar will take place at the University of Tartu in Spring 2017.

3 – Disseminating DESCnet

Eastern Platform Seminar „Post-Soviet Space between the EU and Russia: Winding Down or Going Global?“ University of Tartu, 18 – 19 March 2016

On behalf of the DESCnet consortium member Khazar University (Azerbaijan), Prof. Mukhtar Hajizada participated in the Eastern Platform Seminar with a talk on the topic „Challenges and Opportunities for Regional Cooperation in the Wider Black Sea Area“. In addition, he attended the roundtable „Perspectives and Dynamics: Making Sense of the Present to Understand the Future“.

21st Association of the Study of Nationalities World Convention Columbia University, 14 – 16 April 2016

On behalf of DESCnet consortium member University of Graz (Austria), Benedikt Harzl and Aiste Mickonyte attended this year's Association of the Study of Nationalities World Convention in New York. Benedikt Harzl participated in the panel „Abkhazia and South Ossetia“ with a presentation „Self-Determination as 'Opium of the Peoples': Engaging Abkhazia“. Aiste Mickonyte gave a presentation on „The European Union's Role in Transforming the Post-Soviet Ethnocentrism in Eastern Europe: The Case of the Polish Minority in Lithuania“ as a case study for the Caucasus.

3 – Related events

10th Annual European Union Law Summer School 20 June – 1 July 2016 Istanbul, Turkey

This year's 10th Annual EU Law Summer School organised in collaboration between Yeditepe University Faculty of Law, University of Amsterdam Faculty of Law, the Economic Development Foundation (İKV) and the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB).

The Summer School aims to present detailed knowledge of European Law. Courses will be conducted by leading experts from University of Amsterdam and key speakers from Yeditepe University Faculty of Law such as Prof. Dr. Vilenas Vadapalas, former judge at the European Court of Justice, and Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Rolf Gutmann, Co-Editor of *Informationsbrief Ausländerrecht*.

Additional information: Mustafa Okan Yağcı, okan.yagci@yeditepe.edu.tr.

3 — Related events (cont.)

II International Conference "Politics around Caucasus"

21 October 2016, Tbilisi, Georgia

The Institute for Georgia's Neighborhood Studies at TSU organizes the second international scientific conference "Politics around Caucasus" on October 21, 2016. The purpose of the conference is to study the most pressing issues of domestic and foreign policy, history, economics, religion, culture and art, language and literature of the South Caucasus countries and neighbouring political actors. Participation in the conference is possible for all researchers interested in the study of issues of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Russia, Iran and Turkey.

For more information, see www.tsu.ee

Conference „Public Religion, Ambient Faith: Religious Institutions and Socio-Political Change in the Black Sea Region“

29 September – 1 October 2016

Kyiv, Ukraine

This workshop is the third in a series of ongoing workshops on the anthropological study of religion in the Black Sea region. It aims to develop dialogue between established scholars and young researchers on the myriad ways in which religious institutions, communities and spiritual practices influence socio-political change using ethnographic methods. The workshop will feature a keynote address by Matthew Engelke, London School of Economics, a working session on qualitative methodologies, along with paper presentations and discussions.

The workshop is funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation in co-operation with the research programme „Region, Nation and Beyond: A Reconceptualization of Ukraine“.

For more information contact: Tetiana Kalenychenko, soc.injener@gmail.com

CASCADE Final Conference

“The Democracy-Security Nexus in and around the Caucasus”

20 – 21 October 2016, Brussels, Belgium

This international conference will be organised as part of the EU-FP7 CASCADE project (www.cascade-caucasus.eu). It will critically re-examine the link between security and democratisation in the Caucasus, in a context of growing authoritarianism and new protest movements, as well as conflict transformation resulting from broader political upheavals in the wider neighbourhood. This re-examination will be informed by a combination of macro- and micro-approaches. In recent years, two intertwined arguments have served as the underlying basis of the prevailing analyses of political and societal transformations in the Caucasus. First, the region is experiencing (or, if this is not the case, should experience) a democratisation process. Second, democratisation will play a key role in fostering security. The project critically appraises this dominant perspective. It scrutinises the interplay between democracy and security on the basis of 1) a criticism of the teleological prism that (despite being voiced in democratisation studies) still prevails in scholarly work on the Caucasus, and 2) a shift toward local societies' (and away from external actors') perceptions of security.

The conference will take place in Brussels (Université Libre de Bruxelles). Travel to, and accommodation in Brussels are funded for the authors of accepted papers.



6 – News, opinions and comments

First issue of „Deutsch-Georgische Strafrechtszeitschrift“ (German-Georgian Journal on Criminal Law) published in April 2016

Online available in German <http://www.dgstz.de/de/> and in Georgian <http://www.dgstz.de/>

The editors' goal is to address the challenges posed in the area of criminal law in the era of approximation of Georgia's criminal law to German and EU legal standards and to foster the development and eventually the harmonisation of Georgian and German doctrinal approaches to developing criminal law. The ultimate goal is to support the idea of a Europeanisation of Georgian criminal law.

For this long-term process it is critical to foster exchanges between German and Georgian scholars on criminal law, criminal law practitioners, as well as students (esp. doctoral students). Joint efforts in the area of comparative criminal law need to be documented and made accessible in order to pursue the goal of a Europeanisation of Georgian criminal law. Thus, the Journal's foremost purpose is to create a joint forum for comparative research in the area of criminal law. An important element of this is legal writing, in particular giving correct quotations on literature. Finally, the Journal will serve as a source of information for all those who want to obtain a comprehensive picture about the developments in criminal law in both countries.

First issue of „Deutsch-Russische Rechtszeitschrift“ (German-Russian Law Review) published in May 2016

Available only through Berliner Wissenschafts-Verlag
bwv@bwv-verlag.de

The new Journal continues the tradition of the information bulletin of the German-Russian Lawyers' Association <info@drjv.org>. Its main emphasis is on scholarly papers, case reports and book reviews. In addition, it carries an overview of Russian legislation. Manuscripts are accepted in German, English and Russian.

New Journal of Caucasian Studies (JOCAS)

<http://www.jocas.net/>

Journal of Caucasian Studies (JOCAS) is a peer-reviewed bi-annual international academic journal published in March and September. Manuscripts in English, Turkish and Russian on history, geography, ethnology, anthropology, linguistics, and politics of the Caucasus region and its peoples are considered for publication.

New institutions for Caucasus Studies founded:



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EuCaSa is a non-profit, non-governmental and non-partisan organisation established in Brussels in 2015. EuCaSa is working towards achieving long-term and sustainable peaceful solutions to frozen, ongoing and potential conflicts in the Caucasus region. It aims to have an impact on the behaviours of individuals, especially young generations, as well as to help build the conditions needed for lasting peace and democracy. EuCaSa proximity to the EU institutions in Brussels provides with a first-hand opportunity to engage EU policymakers who share a common goal with us in ensuring sustainable peace throughout the Caucasus region.



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The Austrian Institute for Caucasus Studies (ICS) was founded in 2015 as a scientific institution by the Austrian Society for Caucasus Studies and scientists from the University of Vienna. One of the statutory goals of the Austrian Society for Caucasus Studies is the establishment of the ICS as an institutional component of the University of Vienna.

6 – News, opinions and comments

What's wrong? Publishing in international peer-reviewed law journals

Thomas Kruessmann
University of Tartu,
Johan Skytte Institute of Political Studies



In peer reviews there is increasingly a set of standards emerging that is applied to papers from vastly different scholarly traditions. Technically, the most common type of peer review is the double-blind peer review where the reviewer does not know the author and vice versa. This "blindness" of the peer review process is important because it objectifies the demands and does not leave room for personal sympathies or preferences for a particular cultural background.

The problem with peer reviews is that peer reviewers usually do their work as part of their professional position (most often university professors), and there is, as a rule, no separate payment for their efforts by the publisher. So, while peer reviews are generally accepted in a spirit of collegiality and a genuine desire to help, there is nevertheless an amount of time and effort that the reviewer expends. This is time that he or she could otherwise use for projects and publications and as such, at the end of the day, spending a lot of time on peer reviews may diminish his or her own output, as measured by university administrators. So despite all the goodwill that is brought to the review, somewhere in the process there is most likely a "tilting point" where frustration can turn into anger and adversariality.

Frustration can arise most quickly when the submitted paper is not proof-read by a native speaker, or, even better, a "deep reader" who is not merely a native speaker but also a specialist in the respective discipline. In some scholarly traditions a good scholarly analysis is tantamount to long complex sentences. For more on the linguistic side of the peer-review process, please see below. Here it suffices to say that an argument presented in weak language and convoluted sentences is certain to create frustration even in the most well-meaning peer reviewer and so the "tilting point" is quickly reached, whereby the reviewer is unable to assess an argument's strength due to the lack of linguistic clarity. As a result, he or she is more prone to express a negative vote and less willing to make constructive suggestions on how to improve the argument. Every reviewer brings a certain set of expectations to his or her task. Peer reviews in a formal sense have been practised for several decades now, and despite the fact that there is no formal catalogue of expectations, a certain standard approach can be detected.

In the remainder of this text, I would like to elaborate on this standard approach against the background of papers as they are still being produced in what may be called the post-Soviet scholarly tradition. With a premium placed by university administrators on publications in journals indexed in Scopus and Web of Science, this piece of advice can be almost life-saving for the aspiring scholar from the post-Soviet region.

1. Title

The title of the article is the first message that is being sent to potential readers when they scan library catalogues or publishers' newsletters. While in the post-Soviet tradition titles are sometimes dull and uninspiring (e.g. "On some problems of the law of bankruptcy"), titles in Western journals often consist of two parts. The first part is sometimes snappy and provocative, or, as some put it, "sexy" while the second part is more serious and pins down the problem to be covered in the paper.

Examples:

- "Trafficking Justice. How Russian Police Enforce New Laws, from Crime to Courtroom."
- "The Ties that Bind. Perspectives on Marriage and Cohabitation."
- "A Tale of two Cities. Municipal Policing in the Russian Cities of Krasnoyarsk and Irkutsk."

There is of course the danger of going over the top with the title. In a good title, the first part may contain a play on words or an allusion to some literary or other cultural product (e.g. a movie) that people understand and cherish. When seeing a familiar phrase suddenly placed in an unfamiliar context and used to characterise some scholarly problem, the reader's curiosity may be aroused. The choice of title can also signal a certain lightness of the prose. You may expect that the text is intriguing and cleverly written, giving pleasure and intellectual stimulation. In the post-Soviet tradition, a "serious" text is most often one that is heavy to read.

2. Abstract

The abstract is like your paper's business card. In every field of scholarship there is an increasing number of publications that needs to be considered, evaluated and, if useful, incorporated. This overflow of information becomes even more difficult to handle when authors pursue an interdisciplinary approach and have to familiarize themselves with the literature in a number of adjacent fields.

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What's wrong? Publishing in international peer-reviewed law journals (cont.)

Unlike even an executive summary, the abstract is the piece of text that a hurried reader will scan before deciding whether to expend time on the reading. Therefore, it is of utmost importance that the abstract is concisely written and presents exactly your research question, outline of methodology or steps undertaken, and the result of your work. The abstract must not be confused with the introduction to your paper. It should contain, on average, no more than 10 lines. It should be free of technical language or jargon and give every reader, including those not familiar with the specific field of research, an understanding whether the argument presented is relevant to his or her research. The general idea is KISS: keep it short and simple.

Given all these requirements, an abstract can as a rule only be written at the very end of the writing process when the entire argument is crystal-clear in your mind. It is also very important that, unlike the title which can act as a kind of teaser, the abstract needs to explain the paper's result. Do not feel that you should keep the result secret only to be unveiled in the conclusion. The abstract needs to give it away at once, otherwise it cannot fulfil its function.

3. Introduction

In the post-Soviet scholarly tradition, the introduction is sometimes seen as the place where the author presents his or her credentials. A lot of authors love to show off their erudition, explaining the ideational, historical or even metaphysical origin of their topic. The more there are such "learned" explanations, the more likely the author will be missing the central points of the introduction: the formulation of the research question and / or hypothesis and the presentation of a gap analysis, i.e. why is this particular research question new and how does it distinguish itself from questions asked in other work available? This is truly a "must" for every introduction. And while a few lines of general background do not hurt, the explanation of the research question should really take center stage. In social science research, this is also the moment to explain methodology, especially when there is a quantitative approach to the research.

The mistakes described above point towards a more fundamental problem. Authors from the post-Soviet scholarly tradition assume that they are writing on a "topic", but they are often unwilling to identify a research question. In fact, avoiding a research question and instead "covering" a much more broadly defined topic is intimately linked to how authors see

themselves in the production of knowledge. A lot of scholars in the post-Soviet tradition share an understanding of science that is in essence encyclopaedic. They have often read a large amount of literature and, in order to be "deemed worthy" to add to this library of knowledge, feel the need to connect their work with all foregoing major writing in the field. This approach is in essence reverential, and it serves to underscore the importance of the author's own research.

While there is nothing fundamentally wrong with this, it misses an important element of knowledge creation in the Western world. By focussing strictly on research questions and evaluating the entire existing literature in the light of newness and originality, the Western approach is essentially disrespectful. It sees the paper's or book's approach as part of a big global process of knowledge production, and by refining existing research it aspires to nothing more than adding another stone to the mosaic of the depiction of the world, as we see it.

As if sensing their overly broad approach, authors from the post-Soviet scholarly tradition often feel inclined to add another dimension to the introduction: the notion of timeliness, i.e. underscoring the research's importance by relating it to some current event. Especially when the work is directed at lawmakers, timeliness is often considered a major point in the introduction.

Again, while there is nothing wrong with timeliness, it creates a surrogate for what the research question should deliver: novelty in the development of the analytical perspective. Novelty is defined by the community of scholars as a result of a gap analysis. To choose one example, the quality of a legal approach that asks whether the protection of cultural heritage abroad can be effected by national criminal law or whether there are arguments in favour of adopting universal jurisdiction is in principle unrelated to the historical event of Syrian-Russian troops liberating Palmyra from the Islamic State. Even if Palmyra had not been liberated, the question would be as valid and relevant from a scholarly perspective as it could be. If the liberation of Palmyra coincides with the publication of this paper, it will be a fortunate coincidence. But nothing more. Finally, it is not uncommon and can be quite useful to conclude the introduction with a short forecast how the argument will unfold in the main body of the article. Authors from the post-Soviet scholarly tradition sometimes tend to credit their readers with a great deal of intelligence and perseverance, leaving them alone to plough through dozens of densely written and loosely structured pages without any guidance.

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What's wrong? Publishing in international peer-reviewed law journals (cont.)

In the U.S., the opposite is true: readers are often assumed to be „dummies“ with short attention spans, needing detailed guidance to make their way through the paper. The result is often a style of writing where at every step an argument is first announced, then developed, and finally summarized. From a European perspective, this approach of "taking the reader by the hand" is sometimes seen as patronizing, but it does have its merits.

Finding a good balance is the author's task, but it is always a good idea to conclude the introduction with a basic "road map" that illustrates how the text will develop.

4. Main text

Before discussing some contents-related observations, let me first look at a few formal aspects of writing.

4.1. Formalities

As discussed with regard to the "road map"-approach in the introduction, the main part of the writing should be structured in 3 or 4 parts (for papers). 3 or 4 parts is also a good measure when writing a book with 200+ pages and a significant number of chapters. The main goal is to keep the structure simple and to be able to connect every part back to the overarching research question. Arriving at such a "simple" structure is actually quite difficult because every author tends to move towards increasing complexity when developing his or her arguments. So taking a step back and framing the entire research into some "biblical" measure of simplicity is quite a daunting task. Very often, upon first writing, the structure of the argument may be okay, but when new layers of writing are added the argument gets confused and loses its connection to the research question. Hence, developing the structure of your main part is not a matter of piling chapter upon chapter, but of going back and forth between the research question and the simple structure that you should be arriving at in the end.

Contrary to most of the scholarly traditions in Continental Europe, international journals do not support structures with more than two levels (let's call them „section“ and „subsection“). Very often when it comes to subsections, publishers do not even assign a numerical value. Rather, the title of the subsection is simply placed in italics. While books are sometimes divided in a number of levels, using either 1., 1.1, 1.1.1 or A.I.1.a), journals never use such a high degree of complexity. The main part should consist of only a few sections, designated as 1., 2., 3., and 4., each with two or three subsections, if needed.

As discussed before, every section should conclude with a summary of the argument so far. Whether pre-announced in the U.S. fashion or not, the summaries are critically important to enable the quick reader to skim through the text. The point is that even if you have managed to spark the interest of a potential reader, he or she may not be willing to read the entire paper. Instead, he or she may just read the introduction, the various section conclusions, and the overall conclusion.

Perhaps for reasons of purism, journals will not allow you to highlight key words by making them bold or underlined. While this is very common in other types of documents (e.g. policy papers), journals will not let you do this. And perhaps for a reason. A well-written paper in English can be a model of simplicity. The average sentence length can sometimes be as little as five words. Long, convoluted structures, are common in languages such as German and Russian, are completely absent. Therefore, if the argument is written in plain and simple English, there is no need to highlight key words.

Another feature typical of the post-Soviet scholarly tradition is the extensive use of footnotes. It is perhaps due to German scholars that footnotes sometimes carry a second level of text (or narrative, if you will). You frequently find „capsules“ of text in the footnotes in which the author discusses some aspect related to the main argument, but obviously not sufficiently interesting to be discussed in the main text. In the Russian scholarly tradition, footnotes are less lavishly used than in the German tradition, but depending on the author's preference they can still represent a second level of analysis. To say it clearly, this approach is completely unacceptable for an English-language international journal! Footnotes are used sparingly, with all references contained in the text (as a rule, by putting the name of the author and year / page number in parenthesis). The reason is simple: by not allowing a second level of narration, the author is forced to decide whether what he or she thinks is interesting is really necessary for the argument. If it is just „by the way“, it has no place in the text.

4.2. Contents

Once you come to the analytical part of the paper, you think that nothing can go wrong. Unfortunately, in most cases this is a mistake. Just like the norms and expectations concerning the abstract, introduction and structure, there is also a very distinct style of reasoning that should be used in the analytical part. It is often said that the common law emerged according to the logic of

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inductive thinking, by developing precedents and extracting some larger rules from them. This style of thinking is similar to the reasoning expected in an international peer-reviewed law journal. It starts from the research question (or hypothesis) and broadens to the extent necessary to answer the question. Put most simply, the way of thinking is like a triangle, with the top representing the research question, and the direction of the argument is top to bottom. „Bottom“ in this case means that the material basis of the analysis may get broader and broader, e.g. by including historical analyses, comparative materials, philosophical principles, etc. There is only one condition: the breadth of treatment is dictated by the research question. So if it is necessary to branch out into some more fundamental fields or into some first principles, that is fine, but only to the extent that it is needed to answer the research question.

The problem with this approach is that for many authors from the post-Soviet scholarly tradition, it is simply counter-intuitive. Like all scholars in continental Europe, they are trained in deductive thinking, deducing practical applications from first principles. In their academic training they have been told to start every paper rather broadly. This includes not just establishing the scholarly credentials in the introduction, but first and foremost starting the analytical part of the paper by outlining the guiding principles or major schools of thought relevant to a certain question. Even if authors have a particular novelty in mind, they will address it only towards the end of their paper. Therefore, the overall way of thinking is like a triangle turned upside down. Again, the overall direction of the argument is top to bottom. But this time, the beginnings are fairly broad, and only towards the end of the analysis will the author address the core point that he or she had in mind when elaborating on the topic. Mind you, this core point is usually not announced in terms of a research question, and it is up to the reader to understand what a paper like "On some problems of the law on bankruptcy" is really arguing.

In light of this, it becomes clear why it is often downright impossible to "translate" a scholarly analysis written in the post-Soviet tradition into a paper for an international law journal. It is often difficult enough to break up the convoluted sentence structure (not only in Russian, but also in German) and rephrase the argument in short and concise sentences. Even if this task can be managed, it would still be necessary to reverse the entire flow of the argument or, figuratively speaking, to turn the triangle around and start the argument from the research question.

A second observation relates to the quality of the scholarly argument. In Western legal thinking any given problem is discussed in an "upward movement". If a question cannot be solved on the level of "horizontal analysis", including grammatical and systematic interpretation, the researcher will

What's wrong? Publishing in international peer-reviewed law journals (cont.)

invariably adopt a functional approach in light of higher principles, i.e. constitutional norms, fundamental rights and freedoms, and human rights. In the post-Soviet scholarly tradition, researchers will build their argument in a "downward movement". If a given question cannot be solved by "horizontal analysis", researchers will look for the answer in the Resolutions of the Plenary of the Supreme Court or in some ministerial circular or other executive-type normative document that is below the formal law in status. This tendency to neglect higher-ranking law and in particular the Constitution is part of a tradition that is steeped in legal positivism. When a problem is "solved" by a Resolution of the Plenary of the Supreme Court, a presidential decree or a ministerial order, the practical weight of the argument is so strong that any attempt to deduct innovative solutions based on higher-ranking law becomes practically pointless. Positivism is thus stifling legal creativity and produces largely uninteresting and unimaginative arguments. Consequently, it is very difficult to translate such arguments into the open and inquisitive framework of an international law journal.

5. Conclusion

Authors in the post-Soviet tradition have a tendency to finish with broad conclusions, sometimes even returning to the issue of timeliness. The novelty that in most cases had been presented towards the end of the analytical part is already forgotten. Instead, authors are glad to place themselves in the great scholarly traditions of their particular school of thought. For the hurried reader who expects to find the gist of the argument, the conclusion often reads like an extended version of the introduction. There is also often new material introduced, in which case the discussion turns to a different set of questions altogether. Needless to say, all these aforementioned practices are completely contrary to what a conclusion in an international law journal should look like. The conclusion is the place where the research question is answered in a summary way. It is the place that the hurried reader will start with when deciding whether or not to read the full paper. Therefore, there is a strict requirement of symmetry between introduction and conclusion. Anything that goes beyond the scope of the research question is strictly prohibited. Under no circumstances can new material be added or the "topic" be broadened. So, in terms of difficulty, writing a conclusion is really simple. It just needs to echo what has been elaborated and connect it back to the research question in the introduction.

6 – News, opinions and comments

Visa liberation for Turkish citizens

Turkey and the EU commenced negotiations on visa liberalisation after the situation in Syria deteriorated. The two parties already signed a Readmission Agreement on December 16, 2013. Visa liberalisation was not included in this Agreement, however. The EU offered it unilaterally only as an incentive to immediately enforce the Agreement. Should Turkey fulfill 72 requirements, the EU has proposed to allow Turkish citizens to be exempted from visas for short stays in the Schengen Area.

“The Agreement” radically changes Turkey’s immigration policy. Illegal immigrants which have been transiting through Turkey to EU countries will be sent back to Turkey for temporary stay and then be repatriated to their home countries. Syrians however cannot be sent back to Syria, as the European Court of Human Rights (*L.M. and others v. Russia*) found that due to the ongoing war in the region expulsion to Syria constitutes a violation of the right to life. The main concern of the Turkish citizens is the uncontrolled migrant inflow and its dismal socio-economic consequences. In order to deal with this economic burden, the EU promised to provide 6 billion Euros to Turkey. Could only monetary relief provide a sustainable solution for 3 million incoming refugees?

Other examples of visa liberalisation have been concluded successfully. Moldova’s visa liberalisation process started in 2011, and within three years Moldovans were able to travel visa-free. Turkey is the 17th largest economy in the world, providing a great opportunity of a win-win situation in a visa-free system.

The current debate is on Turkey’s anti-terrorism laws. The EU pressures Turkey to change these laws immediately while Volkan Bozkır, Turkish Minister for EU Affairs, has recently stated that “due to the terror attacks in Turkey, the change in the relevant law is completely impossible”. EU officials have accused the Turkish government of abusing the anti-terrorism laws to stifle the opposition and the EU insists on that Turkey narrows its legal definition of terrorism. The EU is allegedly working on a “plan B” with Greece without the future help of Turkey.

If the EU does not provide visa-free travel, Turkey will not comply with the Agreement. The annulment of the Agreement is possible for both parties provided that a legal notice is made. Without this Agreement, the EU will definitely need another solution. There are currently 3 million Syrian refugees in Turkey according to officials. Member States of the EU constantly announce that they cannot support any incoming refugees in the future. Governments of the Member States fear a possible failure in the national elections as more refugees means less votes. Turkey is the most viable option for the EU, and the EU does need to co-operate for a collective solution. Only providing financial support and expecting all immigrants to end up in Turkey is against the principle of burden sharing.

There is also another crucial point to be mentioned which is the legal background of visa-free travel of the Turks. The Ankara Agreement (1963) and the Additional Protocol (1970) signed between the EEC and Turkey provided a “Standstill Clause” that did not allow the European countries to impose visa on the Turkish citizens. The European Court of Justice came to this conclusion in the *Soysal* case. Therefore, Turkish lawyers do need to battle for their rights in the legal arena of Europe.

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7 – New publications

Ahmadov, Ingilab, Mammadov, Jeyhun, Aslanli, Kenan and Guliyev, Farid
Low Oil Prices. Economic and Social Implications for Azerbaijan
Caucasus Analytical Digest no. 83, 21 April 2016

Abstract:

This issue features four articles that examine the economic and social consequences of low oil prices on Azerbaijan. The first article argues that the anti-crisis measures Baku is taking to buttress up its hard-hit economy should also be accompanied by institutional and administrative reforms. The second piece then explores the country's transition from a fixed to a managed floating exchange regime and discusses the potentially stabilising effects of certain monetary policy instruments on the Azerbaijani economy. The third article examines the central government's fiscal policies and their relationship to the severe cuts now occurring in government spending. Finally, the last piece discusses the impact of lost oil rents on the government's social-assistance policies and how the shortfalls might impact Azerbaijan's social cohesion.

Aliyev, Huseyn
Assessing the European Union's Assistance to Civil Society in Its Eastern Neighbourhood: Lessons from the South Caucasus
Journal of Contemporary European Studies Volume 24, Issue 1, 2016

Since the fall of the Soviet Union, assistance to civil society has been at the forefront of the European Union's (EU) strategy in its post-Soviet Eastern neighbourhood. The literature on the EU support to civil society in post-Soviet countries has so far primarily focused on democratisation and the research assessing the effects of EU assistance to civil society has been limited. This study builds on existing literature about the EU cooperation with civil society in the South Caucasus by focusing on the following question. How successful were the EU's efforts in supporting civil society in the South Caucasus so far? By relying on a combination of qualitative elite interviews and secondary sources, this article assesses the impact of the key EU initiatives and programmes implemented in the South Caucasus during the past two decades. It is concluded here that despite steady improvements of EU policies and approaches of empowering civil actors in the region, the European Union's assistance to civil society in the South Caucasus region remains inconsistent and limited.

Bagheri, Saeed
Self-Defence in Karabakh Conflict?
Russian Law Journal 2015 Vol. 3 No. 4 pp. 150-164

Abstract:

Use of force is one of the principles of international law that has been banned by the UN Charter and modern constitutions. However, since the enforcement of the UN Charter, self-defence has become the preferred excuse for states to justify their use of force. Applying self-defence, however, requires some conditions. Immediacy is one of the important conditions of self-defence. This is defined as the timeframe between armed attacks and reaction to it. This situation requires self-defence immediately after the armed conflict or during a reasonable timeframe since its occurrence. In this respect, emerging Karabakh Conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan in the 1990s is important. In this article, by comparing two different approaches (strict and broad interpretation) of the temporal link between the measures of self-defence and the armed attacks (immediacy), the temporal link between the self-defence countermeasures of Azerbaijan and attacks by Armenia in Karabakh Conflict will be examined.

Broers, Laurence
From "Frozen Conflict" to Enduring Rivalry: Reassessing the Nagorny Karabakh Conflict
Nationalities Papers 2015 Vol. 43 No. 4 pp. 556-576

Abstract:

This article draws on international relations theory to attempt a reframing of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict in Nagorny Karabakh as an enduring rivalry (ER): a particular kind of interstate conflict known for its longevity and stability. The article begins by identifying a number of conceptual deficits circulating around this conflict, notably the notion that it is a "frozen conflict," before introducing the ER framework and its analytical dividends for this case. Different layers of the ER between Armenia and Azerbaijan are then explored at systemic, interstate, domestic, decision-maker, and temporal levels, with a view more toward identifying directions for future research than conclusive findings. Among the article's tentative conclusions are the primacy of endogenous over exogenous factors in explaining the durability of the rivalry between Armenia and Azerbaijan, the impacts of the passage of time on the human and physical geography of the territory under dispute, and the convergence of conflict dynamics across disparate levels.

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7 – New publications (cont.)

Bruns, Bettina, Happ, Dorit and Zichner, Helga (eds.)
European Neighbourhood Policy. Geopolitics between Integration and Security
Palgrave Macmillan: London 2016

Abstract:

This book assesses the instruments and measures geared towards determining the EU's relations with its neighbours. These are channelled on the one hand by the enlargement policy focusing on the Western Balkans and on the other hand by the neighbourhood policy which will enable the integration of Central and Eastern European neighbouring countries without offering membership

Both of these policies have strong local and regional effects in the EU's neighbouring countries. However, little attention has been paid to the perceptions of and impact of these policies in the neighbouring countries themselves.

By presenting theoretical contributions and empirical case studies drawing on qualitative and ethnographic fieldwork, this book provides new insights that will be of great interest for students, researchers and practitioners in the fields of Geography, Sociology, Political Science and European Studies.

Coene, Frederik
Euro-Atlantic Discourse in Georgia. The Making of Georgian Foreign and Domestic Policy after the Rose Revolution
Routledge 2016

Abstract:

How have discourses of Euro-Atlanticism been used in domestic and international affairs by the political elite in Georgia? After the 2003 Rose Revolution, as relations with Russia soured, a Euro-Atlantic orientation portrayed as a single and coherent strategy became the cornerstone of Georgian foreign policy as well as a model for domestic reforms. This promise of a prosperous future offered new hope to the Georgian population. Scepticism or critical thinking towards President Saakashvili and his government were equated to pro-Russian treason and pro-western orientation and impressive reforms, promoted as being modelled along 'European standards', emerged simultaneously with an outspoken rhetoric and active symbolism. References to Europe and the Euro-Atlantic structures became ubiquitous as European flags were brandished throughout the country. Addressing a gap in the existing literature the author examines a large volume of data extracted from news items from 20 different Georgian and international media channels over a ten-year period. Through this he identifies patterns in the discourse to explain the intentions of the Georgian elite and examines the effectiveness of the rhetoric.

Gromadski, Grzegorz and Sendhardt, Bastian
Eastern Partnership Revisited. Associated Countries in Focus
Fundacja im. Stefana Batorego and Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Warsaw 2015

Abstract:

The joint project „The Eastern Partnership Revisited“ aims at being a voice in the discussion about the future relations between the EU and the countries in its eastern neighbourhood. Today, six years after the introduction of the EaP, a re-evaluation of this EU policy is required. As a result, the Stefan Batory Foundation and the Warsaw office of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung have initiated a debate with leading experts from the associated countries of the Eastern Partnership and the EU, to try to find answers to the principle question of whether the coming years will decide the future of the EaP countries seeking closer relations, and eventually integration, with the European Union, namely Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.

Marzpanyan, Harutyun, Astvatsaturov, Sedrak and Markosyan, Ruben
The Interrelation between Migration and Human Capital Reproduction in Armenia
Academic Swiss Caucasus Net Study, Yerevan 2015

Abstract:

On the basis of human capital theory's critical analysis, this study investigates the interrelation between migration and human capital reproduction in Armenia in a multilevel and multilateral approach.

Guliyev, Farid, Braux, Adeline, Bedford, Sofie and Shirinov, Rashad
Parliamentary Elections in Azerbaijan
Caucasus Analytical Digest no. 79, 3 December 2015

Abstract:

This issue features four articles that look at different facets of Azerbaijan's parliamentary elections in November 2015. The first article confirms that unaffiliated independents in the country's parliament do indeed fall into one of three categories – public figure independents, "fake" independents, and independents who are muscling for public visibility. The second article then analyses the specific campaign of a non-partisan female candidate who wasn't part of the country's dominant party. The second article then analyses the specific campaign of a non-partisan female candidate who wasn't part of the country's dominant party. The third article explores the dilemmas democratic oppositions face in elections-based authoritarian states. Finally, the last article explores the question of democratic legitimacy and stresses the important role transnationally recognised elections play in newly independent states.

7 – New publications (cont.)

Halbach, Uwe and Isaeva, Manarsha
Dagestan: Russia's Most Troublesome Republic. Political and Religious Developments on the „Mountain of Tongues“
 SWP Research Paper No. 7, August 2015

Abstract:

As the most complex republic in ethno-demographic, cultural and religious terms, Dagestan deserves special attention in the analysis of the Russian Federation. The present study sets out to address the specific questions that arise. How does its ethnic diversity, which sets Dagestan apart from all Russia's other federal subjects, affect its politics and society? How is the development of the armed insurgency connected to socio-economic problems such as high youth unemployment, poor governance, and systematic corruption? How do political leaders in Moscow and the Dagestani capital Makhachkala respond to these problems and challenges? What impact did the wars in Chechnya have on neighbouring Dagestan? The trajectory of the Islamic "rebirth" in this part of Russia is of particular importance. Throughout the Soviet Era Islamic tradition continued to play a role, while the post-Soviet period has witnessed the emergence of tensions between traditional (especially Sufi) and fundamentalist (Salafist, "Wahhabi") variants of Islam.

Samokhvalov, Vsevolod
The New Eurasia: Post-Soviet Space between Russia, Europe and China
 European Politics and Society, published online 27 April 2016
 (Vol. 17 No. 3 of the printed version)

Abstract:

The research of Eurasian regionalism mostly focuses on the Eurasian core, for example, Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, which have been pursuing a more exclusive and closer form of integration – Customs Union/Eurasian Economic Union. Other countries of the post-Soviet space are often described as post-Soviet 'escapists' or 'isolationists' and mostly discounted in the analyses of the Eurasian regionalism. The paper looks at six post-Soviet states, who opted out from the Eurasian Economic Union, and analyse their interaction with the EEU. The paper argues that despite tensions in relations with Russia, most of these countries are reluctant to entirely disrupt their economic relations with the post-Soviet Eurasia. The paper argues that six countries of the post-Soviet Eurasian periphery effectively pursue policies of a looser form association with the Eurasian core. This finding allows to argue that Eurasian regionalism, similarly to its European model, consists of the core and outer circle. The outer circle is featured by overlapping regional arrangements and growing presence of external powers and growing number of transit and trade flows linking this Eurasian periphery with the West and Asia.

Harzl, Benedikt
Der Georgisch-Abchasische Konflikt
 Nomos: Baden-Baden 2016

Abstract:

No other dispute impedes the development of the whole Caucasus region as vehemently as the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict, going far beyond the clash of two extreme positions – self-determination v. territorial integrity. Addressing the roots of the conflict, the author offers a contextual analysis, steering the reader's attention to the soviet nationalities policies. They not only radically narrowed the room for manoeuvre for those involved in the conflict, but also acted as a catalyst of the cycles of ethnic mobilization in the late 1980s. The author puts the tragic events in Abkhazia under scrutiny, examining them from the legal point of view, and appraising the problematic role Russia has played in them. In particular, the author not only examines, but also advocates an increased role of the EU in addressing the conflict.

Hovhanesian, Hasmik, Manasyan, Heghine, Meissner, Hannes, Leitner, Johannes and Guruli, Irina
Foreign Direct Investment
 Caucasus Analytical Digest no. 82, 20 March 2016

Abstract:

The three articles in this issue focus on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the South Caucasus region. The first article analyses FDI in Armenia and concludes that it has yet to yield tangible results in the country, largely because of external factors. The second piece then agrees that there are few opportunities for international investment in Azerbaijan, primarily because of the government's clientelist approach to business. In the case of the last article, the author believes that FDI has not enabled Georgia to reach its full economic and employment potential. Inadequate institution-building and the absence of a predictable and stable domestic business environment are two reasons why.

Shagoyan, Gayane, Gispert, Jürgen and Javakhishvili, Jana
Monuments of Memory
 Caucasus Analytical Digest no. 80, 16 February 2016

Abstract:

This issue features three articles on the "monuments of memory" in the South Caucasus region. The first piece analyses Armenia's testy public debate over its Soviet-era history, which was reignited by the attempt to raise a monument in 2014 to the Soviet political figure Anastas Mikoyan in central Yerevan. The second article then uses the findings of the French sociologist of memory, Maurice Halbwachs, to describe how the Armenian traditional *khachkar* (cross stone) became inextricably linked to the Mother Armenia monument and the commemoration of World War II. The last article posits that urban environments and the monuments that dot them say a lot about a society and its political and cultural values, as illustrated by contemporary Georgia.

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7 – New publications (cont.)

Kopeček, Vincenc, Hoch, Tomáš and Baar, Vladimír
De Facto States and Democracy: The Case of Abkhazia
Bulletin of Geography. Socio-economic Series 2016 Vol. 32 pp.
85-104

Abstract:

De-facto states constitute an interesting and important anomaly in the international system of sovereign states. No matter how successful and efficient in the administration of their territories they are, they fail to achieve international recognition. In the past, their claims for independence were based primarily on the right to national self-determination, historical continuity and claim for a remedial right to secession, based on alleged human-rights violations. Since 2005, official representatives of several de facto states have repeatedly emphasised the importance of democracy promotion in their political entities. A possible explanation of this phenomenon dwells in the belief that those states which have demonstrated their economic viability and promote the organization of a democratic state should gain their sovereignty. This article demonstrates the so called "democracy-for-recognition strategy" in the case study of Abkhazia. On the basis of the field research in Abkhazia we identify factors that promote, as well as those that obstruct the democratisation process in the country.

Macharashvili, Nana, Basilaia, Ekaterine and Tangiashvili, Nodar

Policy Advocacy Success in Georgia: The Role and Limitations of NGOs in Influencing Public Policy
Academic Swiss Caucasus Net Study, Tbilisi 2015

Abstract:

The research is based on 8 case studies from different policy fields on events that occurred during the presidency of Mikheil Saakashvili in 2003-2012. The authors examine whether the current political system in Georgia is open to the involvement of external, non-state actors in the policy process and the incorporation of their preferences in policy. An investigation of the impact of non-state actors on policy change in different policy areas (e.g., human rights, media, justice, minority policy, political rights and freedoms) can reflect how pluralistic the policy system is in Georgia. As a result of the interdisciplinary focus, the book also facilitates measuring how actors such as the media affect social change.

Pokalova, Elena

Conflict Resolution in Frozen Conflicts: Timing in Nagorno-Karabakh
Journal of Balkan and Near Eastern Studies 2015 Vol. 17 No.
1 pp. 68-85

Abstract:

Frozen conflicts have become a persistent phenomenon in the international arena. At the same time, very little research has focused on the factors that have prevented conflict resolution in such cases. This paper focuses on the case of Nagorno-Karabakh and analyses the role of timing for peace initiatives in frozen conflicts. The paper investigates how political, economic and foreign policy institutions that have emerged in Nagorno-Karabakh have consolidated its features of a de facto state and how that in turn has affected the peace process. The findings from the Nagorno-Karabakh case demonstrate that as a de facto state consolidates, the pool of acceptable peace alternatives becomes increasingly limited, eventually leaving the only option for conflict resolution—the recognition of de facto independence.

Punsman, Burcu Gültekin

EU-Azerbaijani Relations: Thinking of a Culture of Human Rights in a Partnership Relation
APM Policy Brief via ISSICEU, January 2016

Abstract:

The situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Azerbaijan has been deteriorating as the country raised its profile in the energy sector. The EU has been criticized for not sufficiently applying the principle of conditionality to Azerbaijan. This brief challenges the narrative that the EU is dependent on Azerbaijan in terms of energy supply, questions the relevance of conditionality in energy relations in a context when the EU's leverage has decreased with Azerbaijan's emancipation as an independent player in the energy world where market liberalisation and move towards de-politicization has become key for enhancing the energy security of consumers. It further elaborates on how to support democracy for stability by disentangling interests from human rights policies with a long-term engagement on the societal level supported by enhanced political dialogue that reconciles at both levels respect for sovereignty and human rights culture.

