



KAUKASUSSTUDIEN/  
CAUCASUS STUDIES

FRIEDRICH-SCHILLER-UNIVERSITY  
JENA



Bundesministerium  
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## **Coping with the Reverberations of a Failed Experiment? Some Remarks on the Policing of Talyshness in Contemporary Azerbaijan**

Talk by

**Dr Karli-Jo Storm-Närväinen (Ph.D., Human Geography)**

University of Eastern Finland

Email: karli.storm-narvainen@uef.fi

*The event is part of the project Resilience in the South Caucasus: prospects and challenges of a new EU foreign policy concept – JENA-CAUC<sup>1</sup>*  
(<https://www.kaukasiologie.uni-jena.de/jena-cauc/about>)

30 June 2022, 4pm  
Online Event in English

As a Human Geographer, Karli's work has tended to focus upon the roles of space and place in negotiations of individual and collective identity in the South Caucasus. Her work as a doctoral student at the University of Eastern Finland interrogated these issues among Georgia's Azeri-Turk population in Kvemo Kartli. Now, as a postdoc, Karli's work aims to unpack the relationships between the Azerbaijani state and members of its self-ascribed Talysh minority, both 'at home' and in the diaspora.

Karli will open the ensuing discussion of center-periphery, majority-minority, powerful-powerless relations in contemporary Azerbaijan by providing a brief overview of events of the summer of 1993. It was then that members of the emergent Talysh intelligentsia attempted to establish the Talysh-Mughan Autonomous Republic within newly independent Azerbaijan, a country that, at the time, was simultaneously enmeshed in warfare over the status of Nagorno-Karabagh and poised on the brink of civil war. Karli will speak about how the events of 1993 have shaped the relationship between the Azerbaijani state and its Talysh minority from the 'post-independence' into the 'post-post-independence period'.

Lastly, Karli will discuss some of the emergent findings from recent interviews with Talysh activists residing within as well as outside of the country. Remarks regarding said interviews will focus upon descriptions of the activist sphere at present (i.e., key actors, internal frictions, fissures, areas of cohesion, etc.) and will also touch upon perceptions of the short-lived Talysh-Mughan Autonomous Republic in activists' memories. The latter perceptions and memories will briefly be compared to those commonly articulated within dominant social and political circles in Azerbaijan.

### **Registration and more information:**

[https://uni-jena-de.zoom.us/meeting/register/u5ctdO6oqTwrEtZty-kW786-v\\_zfE8hC6aRC](https://uni-jena-de.zoom.us/meeting/register/u5ctdO6oqTwrEtZty-kW786-v_zfE8hC6aRC)

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**Bio:** Dr. Karli Storm successfully defended her doctoral dissertation in Human Geography at the University of Eastern Finland in 2019. Prior to doctoral studies, Karli received her Master's degree in Russian and East European Studies from Indiana University, Bloomington (USA) in 2013 and a dual Bachelor's degree in International Relations and Politics from Drake University (USA) in 2009. Karli is a two-time Fulbright grantee, having spent the 2009-10 academic year as a Fulbright Student Grantee in Baku, Azerbaijan, and as a Fulbright Finland and Centre for International Mobility (CIMO) Grantee to Finland from 2013-14. Other awards include a Lois Roth Endowment Award in 2014, a Saastamoinen Foundation grant in 2016, and numerous short-term Title VIII (US Dept. of State) grants from 2011-19 for intensive study of the Azerbaijani, Georgian, Kazakh, and Russian languages.