

<p>“Elites”: Definitions, Identities, and Cultural Repertoires: An Anthropological Approach to Recent Transformations of Social Structure of the Armenian and Georgian Societies</p>	<p>Countries involved: Armenia and Georgia</p>
	<p>Institutions involved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yerevan State University http://www.y-su.am/main/en • Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University http://www.tsu.edu.ge/en/ • Iliia State University http://www.iliauni.edu.ge/index.php?lang_id=ENG
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<p>Short Description:</p> <p>The project is aimed at anthropological study of the concept of “elite” in contemporary Armenian and Georgian societies. The research will be focused on a number of issues such as (self-) definitions and (self-) representations of elites (proliferated discursive patterns of definitions and typologies of “elites”, social and cultural identities of elites); social routines (habitus, social and cultural practices of everyday life, cultural and social spaces of elites); and cultural repertoires (ways of legitimation of “elites”, systems of “elitist” values, markers/symbols/objects/practices of power and prestige, continuity or ruptures of “old” (soviet) and “new” (early post-soviet and current) elites, and patterns of reproduction of elites). The research project will try to answer to a number of questions, as follows. What makes an elite in post-soviet Armenia and Georgia? Who is considered to be the elite in the Armenian and Georgian societies and why? What kind of elites may be discerned and defined? What does it mean being and feeling as an Armenian and Georgian elite? How do elites maintain their position of dominance over subaltern groups? What and who legitimates the power and leadership of elites and how do they reproduce themselves? To narrow the methodological framework of the research, the teams will mainly focus on study of discursive fields, including publications in mass media, discussions in social networks and texts of qualitative interviews with representatives of different strata of the society.</p>	
<p>Main Objectives:</p> <p>The project’s objectives are 1) uncovering the existing social and cultural patterns for "elitist" values and behavior and their correspondence to changing realities 2) better understanding of the contemporary societal processes including those aimed at democracy and civil society building, market economy development and political orientation strategies.</p>	
<p>Expected Outputs:</p> <p>The main outputs of the project will be the series of publications on national languages, conference/faculty presentations and a joint edited volume on the studied issues in English.</p>	
<p>Duration: 24 months (1 March 2014 - 29 February 2016)</p>	<p>Value: 99'930 CHF</p>