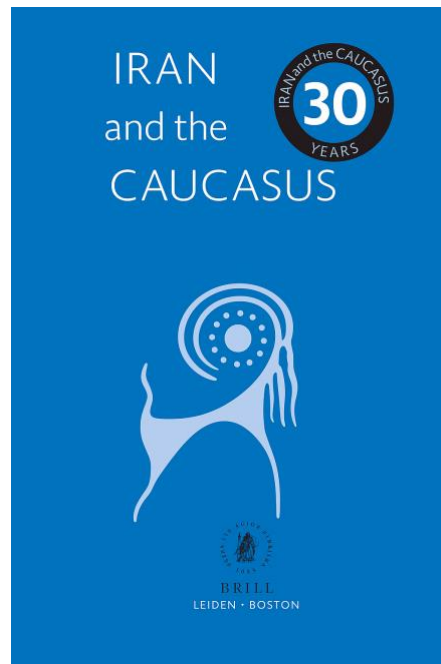




30 YEARS OF “IRAN AND THE CAUCASUS”: A PROUD MILESTONE

International Conference Dedicated to the 30th Anniversary of

Iran and the Caucasus

19-21 September, 2026

Yerevan, Armenia

	DAY 1	
Time	Session A Room 1	Session B Room 2
09:00– 10:00	Registration	
10:00– 11:00	Greetings - Room 1 Garnik S. Asatrian (Editor-in-chief, <i>Iran and the Caucasus</i>) Abdurraouf Oueslati (Editor and Publishing Manager for Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, De Gruyter Brill) KEYNOTE SPEECH — Garnik S. Asatrian <i>Three Decades at the Crossroads: The Journey of Iran and the Caucasus</i>	
11:00– 11:30	Coffee Break	
11:30– 13:00	1. Historical Linguistics: Iranian Languages in Contact Chair: Matteo de Chiara David B. Buyaner — <i>Etymology of Persian and Sanskrit ‘coconut’ revisited</i> Christopher Culver — <i>External light on the development of the Ossetic prothetic vowel</i> Jakob Halfmann — <i>On the origin of Bactrian n-extended (oblique) plurals</i>	2. Religion, Myth and Religious Traditions Chair: Victoria Arakelova Gad Barnea — <i>The Indo-Iranian Conception of the Divine and the Formulation of Monotheism</i> Pavel V. Basharin — <i>Sabean and Manichaean Impact on the Nuṣayrī Doctrine</i> Artur Rodziewicz — <i>Prophets and Messengers of God: Hermes, Mercury, and Sheikh Hasan</i>
13:00– 14:00	Lunch Break	

14:00– 15:30	3. Middle Iranian and Classical Textual Traditions Chair: Anna Krasnowolska Angelica Gaspari — <i>Question-Answer Literature in Middle Persian</i> Arman Kamal — <i>The Notable Features of Pāzand</i> Carlo Marchetti — <i>Speeches and Wisdom Sayings from the Pahlavi Manuscript MK</i>	4. Archaeology of Iran and the Caucasus Chair: Hermann Kreutzmann Anahide Kéfélian, Sébastien Gondet, Levon Aghikyan & Damien Martinez — <i>Rethinking the site of Beniamin (Shirak province, Armenia): From the “Achaemenid palace” to the “Roman enclosure”</i> Bérangère Perello, Ruben Badalyan & Lilit Ter-Minasyan — <i>Architecture and Regional Variation in the Kura-Araxes Oikumene: Comparative Analysis of Voskeblur (Armenia) and Yanik Tepe (Iran)</i> Garry Trompf — <i>Jiroft as the Earliest Civilization?</i>
15:30– 16:00	Coffee Break	
16:00– 17:30	5. Hindu Kush: Language, Culture and Field Research Chair: Matthias Weinreich Sviatoslav I. Kaverin — <i>Current field research on the Eastern Hindukush and its preliminary outcome</i> Sviatoslav I. Kaverin & Jakob Halfmann — <i>A Survey of Nuristani Pre-Islamic Personal Names</i> Robert Tegethoff — <i>Unexpected loan relations among Hindu Kush Indic languages</i>	6. Landscape, Environment and Sacred Space Chair: Gad Barnea Matteo Compareti — <i>Clay Sculptures from Penjikent Temple II: Proposals for the Identification of an Enigmatic Sogdian Deity</i> Leyli R. Dodykhudoeva — <i>Sacred sites in the Pamir mountain landscape: Symbolic worldview</i> Alexander Rudov — <i>Botanical trails across Southeastern Afghanistan: Ecosystem diversity and conservation challenges</i>
18:30	Opening banquet	

	DAY 2	
09:00-10:00	KEYNOTE LECTURE — Saloumeh Gholami Room 1 <i>Between Preservation and Adaptation: Zoroastrian Oral Songs in the Wider Iranian Cultural World</i>	
10:00-10:30	Coffee Break	
10:30-12:00	7. Dersim: Language, Armenian Memory and Historical Experience Chair: Mikhail Pelevin Mesut Asmên Keskin — <i>Verbal Prepositions in Zazaki and Some Etymological Notes</i> Annika Törne — <i>Voices of Survival, Records of the Empire: Armenian refugees and the Russian military in Erzincan 1916–1918</i> Mehtap Tosun — <i>Tracing the Existence of Armenians in Dersim Through Collective Memory and Narratives</i>	8. Minority, Conversion and Negotiated Identities Chair: Levon Yepiskoposyan Tomoko Morikawa — <i>Living as a Minority Everywhere: The Autobiography of an Armenian Convert from New Julfa in Safavid Iran</i> Tsovinar Kirakosian — <i>State, Media, and Minority: The Formation Zaza Identity in Turkey's Socio-Political Context</i> Çakır Ceyhan Suvvari — <i>Conflict, Interaction, and Boundary-Making in a Multi-Ethnic Village: A Transactionalist Analysis of Ivanovka (Azerbaijan)</i>
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch	
13:00–15:00	9. Persian and Iranian Linguistics: Grammar and Semantics Chair: Behrooz Mahmoodi-Bakhtiari	10. Iran and the Caucasus: Historical Encounters Chair: Anahide Kéfélian Marco Ferrario — <i>And on Earth Peace, Good Will Toward Me—Anthropologies of Achaemenid Kingship: Hybris and Cosmocracy in Early Persia</i>

	Mahbod Ghaffari — <i>Beyond Pronominality: Exceptional Behaviours of the Persian Enclitic -eš in Colloquial Spoken Persian</i> Gohar G. Hakobian — <i>Existential Negation and Related Constructions in Zazaki, Harzani, Kurdish, and Neo-Aramaic: A Comparative Analysis</i> Dariush Borbor — <i>A Textual-Based Semantic Study of the New Persian lexeme bōr</i>	Hisashi Yakou — <i>Medieval Armenia and Italy: The Iconography of Franciscan Martyrdom in an Irano-Caucasian Context</i> Nils Purwins — <i>400–500: A pivotal century for the Caucasus and World and Mihr-Narseh's role in it</i> Cédrik Michel — <i>Protecting the Garden from Within and from Without: Internal and External Conflicts in the Sasanian Empire</i>
15:00-15:30	Coffee Break	
15:30–17:30	11. Zoroastrian and Iranian Religious Narratives Chair: Peter Nicolaus Matthias Weinreich — <i>Seeing the Present in the End: Reinterpreting and Actualising a Celebrated Myth</i> Anna Krasnowolska — <i>The Magic of Fruit Trees – Iran and Europe</i> Davide Procaccino — <i>Light-bringing tears: specialized lexicon and ritual praxis in the Ossetic lamentation ritual</i> Massimiliano Vassalli — <i>History and Story of Gulistān Banu: The Zoroastrian Community at the Turn of the Nineteenth Century</i>	12. Historical Legacies, Political Transformations, and Geopolitical Perspectives Chair: Dariush Borbor Kristine Kostikyan — <i>On Some Unpublished Persian documents in the Central Historical Archive of Georgia referring to the Armenian Maliks of Transcaucasia</i> Hassan Zandiye — <i>Yeprem Khan, The Challenge of War or Concession to Despotism?</i> Anton Evstratov — <i>Clerical and Leftist Religious Opposition to the Shah's Regime on the Eve of the Islamic Revolution in Iran: Mutually Exclusive Paradigms or a Common Liberation Theology”?</i> Mahmoud Joneydi-Jafari — <i>Syunik as Geopolitical Future of the Caucasus: Perspectives of Iran-Armenia Cooperation</i>

	DAY 3	
09:00-10:00	KEYNOTE LECTURE — Hermann Kreutzmann <i>Road conditions and exchange patterns in charas and opium trade in the Xinjiang Triangle</i> Room 1	
10:00-10:30	Coffee Break	
10:30-12:00	13. Oral Tradition, Folklore and Literary Worlds Chair: Massimiliano Vassalli Matteo De Chiara — <i>Types and motifs of the Pashto folktales</i> Audrey Vermillard — <i>Trials of Love, trials of Space: Geopoetics of Separation in 'Aṣṣār Tabrīzī's Mehr-o Moštārī</i> Mikhail Pelevin — <i>Waterways in the Daily Records of the Khatak Chieftains</i>	14. Language, Religion and Cultural Continuity Chair: David B. Buyaner Alen Hayrapetiants — <i>On the Ossetic Deity of Beekeeping</i> Tamerlan K. Salbiev — <i>Naf-žijak: Alanic half-calque in Balkar toponymy</i> Siranush Garnik Hovhannisyan — <i>Etymological Figures in the Texts of Yeznik Koghbatsi</i>
12:00-13:00	Lunch	
13:00-14:30	15. Religion and Society Chair: Annika Törne	16. Language and Education Chair: Mahbod Ghaffari

	Victoria Arakelova — <i>What is the Yezidi Hereafter?</i> Peter Nicolaus — <i>Kocheks – the Shamanic Dimensions of Yezidism</i> Levon Yepiskoposyan — <i>Ethnic vs. Genetic Identity: Boundaries and Bridges</i>	Behrooz Mahmoodi-Bakhtiari — <i>A Versified Arabic-Kurdish Glossary from the 19th Century</i> Mehrdad Amiri — <i>The Effect of Teaching Reading through Critical Pedagogy Principles on the Reading Comprehension of Persian as a Foreign Language (PFL) Learners</i>
14:30-15:00	Coffee Break	
15:00	Cultural Trip	
19:00	Closing banquet	