

<p>In Search of a Foundation Myth: State-building and Representations of the Events 1988-1991 in the Political Discourse of the Republic of Armenia</p>	<p>Countries involved:</p> <p>Armenia</p>
	<p>Institutions involved:</p> <p>Regional Studies Center, Yerevan</p>
	<p>Project Coordinator: Mikayel Zolyan</p> <p>Contact: mikayelzolyan@gmail.com</p> <p>Web: http://regional-studies.org/, http://www.ascn.ch/en/research/Current-Projects/Armenia.html</p>
<p>Short Description:</p> <p>The subject of the research will be politics of memory in post-Soviet Armenia, more specifically the representations of the period of 1988-1991 in the political discourse of modern Armenia. This study will offer a new perspective on the issue of history and memory in the Armenian context as it will focus on representations of the recent past.</p> <p>This study is innovative in a sense that rather than focus on narratives of trauma (as has some of previous research had done), it will focus on the narrative of nation-building promoted by political elites in an effort to create ideological legitimacy for the state.</p> <p>The project will combine constructivist/instrumentalist approach to such phenomena as memory and identity, with methodology of analyzing political discourse, focusing on discursive practices implemented by political elites and counter-elites. Thus, it will highlight the functions that historical narratives serve in post-Soviet context and the ways they are instrumentalised by political elites and counter-elites.</p>	
<p>Main Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identifying the main narrative models of representation of events of 1988-1991 in modern Armenian political discourse; • describing the position of ruling elites and counter-elites and how the dynamics of its transformations; • explaining the role that these narratives are playing in contemporary Armenian society and comparing it with other cases in post-Soviet space. 	
<p>Expected Outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research paper, to be published in a peer-reviewed academic journal • Conference presentations • Monograph in English (up to 40'000 words) 	
<p>Duration:</p> <p>24 months (October 2014 - September 2016)</p>	<p>Value:</p> <p>49'940 CHF</p>