

The Azerbaijani Press (1875-1920) as an Ideology-Forming Field of Research in Soviet and Post-Soviet Times

Volker Adam (Martin-Luther-University Halle – Wittenberg)

Abstract

The lecture presents the development of the Azerbaijani-Turkish press from the late Tsarist period until its incorporation into the USSR on the basis of the most important press organs and their intellectual orientation. After hesitant beginnings in the 1870s, native-language periodicals experienced a major boom in the wake of the Russian Revolution of 1905. They reflected political, cultural and religious currents beyond the Caucasus and can be understood as part of an emerging Turkic-speaking intellectual space that, on the eve of the founding of the Soviet Union, included the Russia's Muslims, the Ottoman Empire and Iran.

After 1920, these important sources on Azerbaijani intellectual history were researched very selectively, interpreted according to Soviet ideology, and in parts republished from the 1980s onwards. In the course of the national movement and independence in 1991, a new interpretation took place, which, however, follows the Soviet patterns in many respects (albeit now in the sense of the new nation building). Since the end of the 1990s, efforts have been made to make these important sources of the country's cultural history accessible to a broader public through new editions in Latin alphabet of selected periodicals.

The lecture will also look at the source situation and show how research in Europe can access the new editions or originals.

Biography

1999 PhD in Islamic Studies at the University of Freiburg on the topic of Pan-Islamism and Panturkism in the late Ottoman Empire on the basis of Turkic and Ottoman periodicals.

2001-2010 Publications on national consciousness among Azerbaijanis and Crimean Tatars in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

From 2000, subject specialist for Turkology and Caucasian Studies at the University and State Library of Saxony-Anhalt within the framework of the Subject Information service Middle Eastern, North African and Islamic Studies (FID Nahost)