

# **South Caucasus Expedition: report on first results and field insights**

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# Topics of the expedition

- Local survey companies in the CIS: cartography of national fields
- Migration to Russia: image, experience, networks
- Refugees and IDP's of local conflicts: nationalism, support of the government, migration pathways

# Temporal and spatial structure of the expedition



# Migration to Russia: image, experience, networks

- Migration, though embedded in a sending society context, is rarely studied from there (exception – transnational studies by Portes, Massey, etc.)
- Trip to Tajikistan of 2011 – first interviews, basic idea to undertake a “survey tour” around a country, get a sample of “experience of Russia” in the post-soviet migration system.

# Research questions

- Who are those people that have never been to Russia or have been, but came back? What were the reasons of return?
- Do all Azerbaijanese have a Russian resident in one handshake?
- What are those groups of population that are strongly connected to Russia?
- What are the ways of “practicing” Russia by the Azerbaijanese?

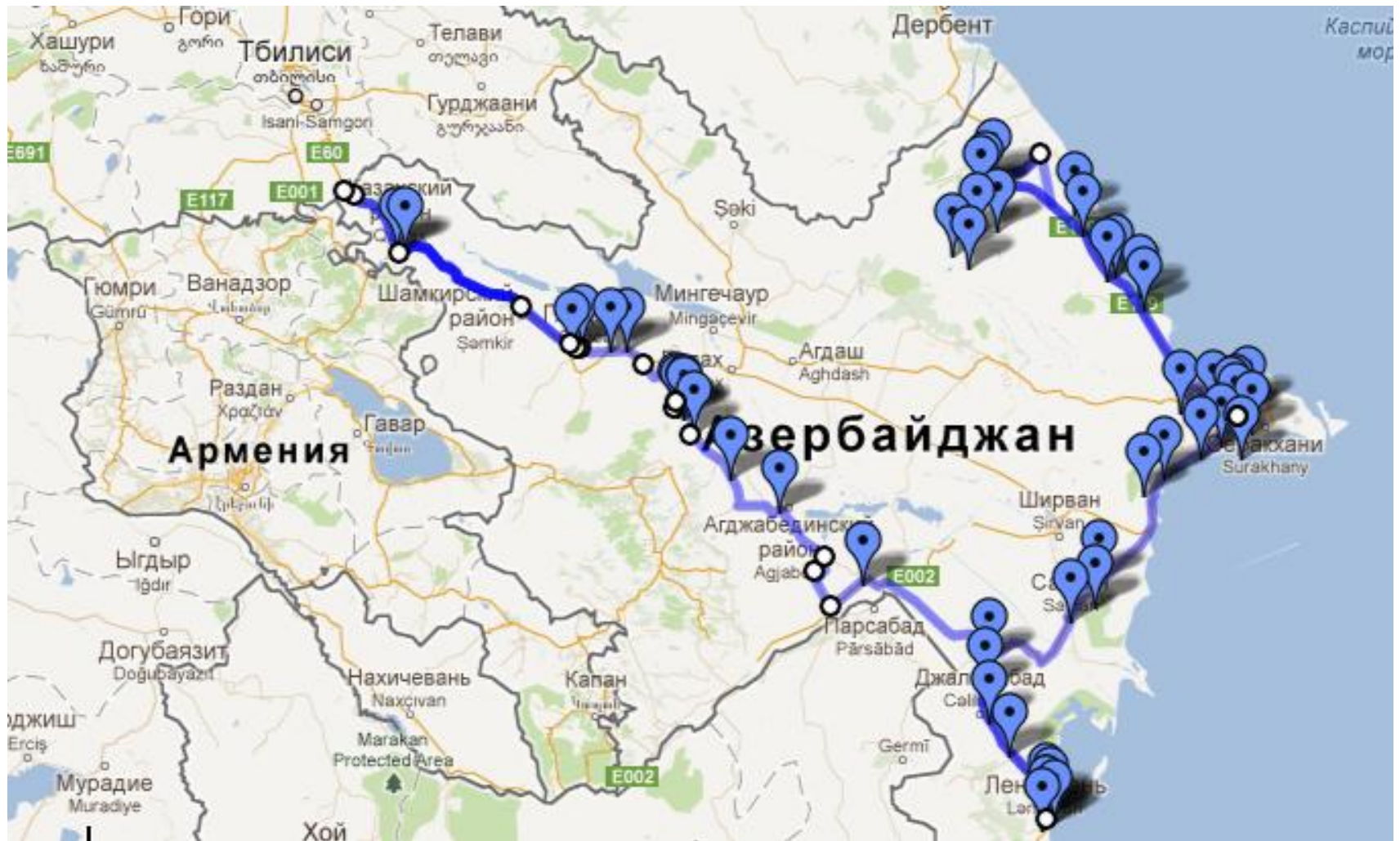
# Methodology

- Hitch-hiking trip
- 25 of 64 country regions (different in terms of culture and economic situation)
- A card to record main facts, no sound-recorder
- Enter all conversations possible along the way, leave the situation of communication and fill the card in.
- Not more than 1 interview in a car, not more than 1 interview in a family
- 59 interviews (lasting from 5 minutes up to several hours)
- SPSS data file was created

# Population and sample

- Population – all nationals that currently live in Azerbaijan on regular basis
- Limitations of the population (1) “successful” migration cases are excluded, (2) no younger ages
- Sample is not random – limited extrapolation of conclusions
- Sample skewness: (1) Russian language proficiency, (2) gender, (3) vehicle ownership

# The route with the places of interviews





# The card

Имя \_\_\_\_\_ Место \_\_\_\_\_ Дата \_\_\_\_\_  
Имя \_\_\_\_\_ Место рождения город/аул \_\_\_\_\_  
Место жительства \_\_\_\_\_ Занятие \_\_\_\_\_  
Возраст \_\_\_\_\_ Пол \_\_\_\_\_ Национальность \_\_\_\_\_  
Образование \_\_\_\_\_  
Был в России? да/нет Сколько раз? \_\_\_\_\_ Что делал каждый раз? \_\_\_\_\_  
Как, куда и к кому ездил? \_\_\_\_\_  
Почему ездил? \_\_\_\_\_  
Почему сейчас не в России? \_\_\_\_\_  
Собирается ли в ближайшем будущем ехать в Россию? Куда? К кому? На сколько? \_\_\_\_\_  
Есть ли кто-то из родственников и друзей России сейчас?  
Да/нет  
Человек 1 Кем приходится? \_\_\_\_\_  
Что делает в России? \_\_\_\_\_  
Где в России? \_\_\_\_\_ Как часто и каким образом общаются? \_\_\_\_\_  
Человек 2 Кем приходится? \_\_\_\_\_  
Что делает в России? \_\_\_\_\_  
Где в России? \_\_\_\_\_ Как часто и каким образом общаются? \_\_\_\_\_  
Человек 3 Кем приходится? \_\_\_\_\_  
Что делает в России? \_\_\_\_\_  
Где в России? \_\_\_\_\_ Как часто и каким образом общаются? \_\_\_\_\_

# Main finding

Transnational networks are strong, but the migration between Russia and Azerbaijan is static, so they are not used intensively

- Only 10 out of 58 have never been to Russia
- Only 2 out of 52 have no relatives in Russia: a jeweller from Baku, a person with all relatives in Ukraine(Gorlovka) but not in Russia

Does the Russian language proficiency predict “experience of Russia” or networks there?

# Language proficiency as a predictor

	Language proficiency evaluation (1 – no Russian, 2 – basic, 3 – intermediate, 4 – advanced)
Have been to Russia (1 – yes, 2 – no)	$r=.433, p=.001$
Has relatives or mates in Russia (1 – yes, 2 – no)	$r=.199, p=.162$

Language proficiency predicts «personal experience of Russia, but doesn't predict personal networks in Russia, as the Azerbaijani society is a society strongly bonded to Russia in terms of networks

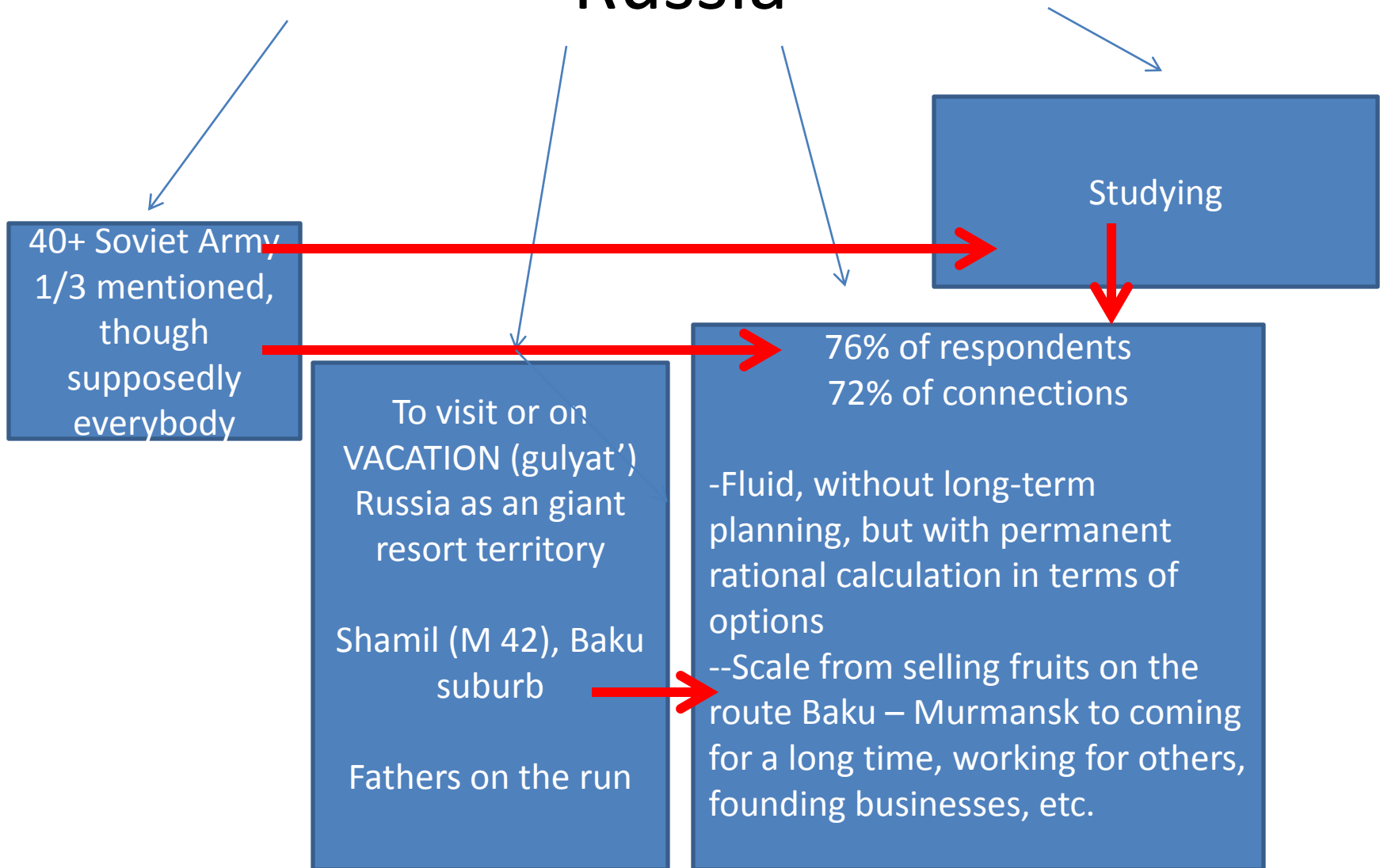
# Who stays? No groups were found

- M 26, Baku, private company driver
- M 42, village next to Ganja, refugee from Karabakh
- F 34, Baku, bread seller
- M 37, Jalalabad, military officer
- M 23, village next to Lankaran, works on customs
- M 41, Lankaran, school teacher

# “Inbetweenness”? Almost absent

- In Tajikistan, except people of “lucky” group, each male younger than 40, recently came back and is about to return
- In Azerbaijan
  - Most of mates and relatives that live in Russia left 10+ years ago
  - Respondents that were in Russia came back considerable time ago
  - Those who want to Russia are rather dreaming, than planning
  - The only “inbetween” person (M 50) came to bury his father and resolve some questions; he owns business in Moscow

# Modes of the Azerbaijanis visiting Russia



# Typical “discursive” reasons of return to Azerbaijan

- “Discursive” – vocalized, not a motivation, but explanation
  - Need to look after old parents (5 cases)
  - Illness – Azerbaijani air (3 cases)
  - Problems there (2 cases)
  - Were not planning to stay



# Case: Red Village

- Highland Jewish Village on the other bank from the Azerbaijani town of Quba
- The more “palace like” a house, the more probability that its owner lives in Moscow
- Moscow is the ONLY destination of migration in Russia (Israel is the other)
- Used either as a “dacha”, as a refuge in case of business troubles in Russia and as a cemetery.

# Destination of migration

Respondents: Moscow (15), Arkhangels, Kazan, Nizhnij, Novosibirsk, Penza, Perm, Rostov-on-Don, Samara, Saint-Petersburg, Tula, Tumen, Volgograd, Vologda, Saratov

Their relatives or mates: Moscow, Novosibirsk, Volkhov, Krasnoyarsk, Tumen, Tambov, Ekaterinburg, Surgut, Penza, Novorossiisk, Nizhnevartovsk, Volkhov, Vladivistok

In 23 cases of 31 relatives or mates lives in the same places, where respondents lived or worked.