Akram Aylisli’s *Stone Dreams*: Literature, Genocide, and the Azerbaijani-Armenian Conflict

with

Mikail Mamedov, Georgetown University

Mikail Mamedov analyzes the implications of *Stone Dreams* (*Das Yuxullar* or *Kamennyj Sny*), a novel by noted Azerbaijani author, Akram Aylisli. Published in the Russian literary journal *Druzhba narodov* (Friendship of Peoples) in 2012, the novel condemns anti-Armenian pogroms that took place in the cities of Baku and Sumgait at the end of the 1980s. In addition, it addresses a massacre by Turkish troops during Christmas 1919 of almost the entire Armenian population of Aylisli’s native village (at that time town), Aylis/Aguli. The alleged one-sidedness of Aylisli’s novel led to mass outrage in Azerbaijan, including mass demonstrations in front of the author’s house, as well as the public burning of his books and accusations of treason. In March 2016, Aylisli was detained at the airport and prevented from traveling abroad to a literary conference.

Mikail Mamedov was born in Baku, Azerbaijan, where he began his academic career at Azerbaijan (today Baku) State University. He received his diploma in history (cum laude) from Moscow State Lomonosov University (1994), an MA in history from the George Washington University (2001), and a Ph.D. in History from Georgetown University (2010). His dissertation was titled “Imagining the Caucasus in the Russian Imperial Consciousness, 1801–1864”. His research in Moscow, St. Petersburg, and Tbilisi, Georgia, was sponsored by a Fulbright-Hays Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship and an SSRC International Dissertation Research Fellowship. He was a Davis fellow and is currently an Associate Adjunct Professor at the Department of History, Georgetown University. His articles have been published in journals including *Russian Review, Russian History, Caucasus Survey*, and *Tsentr'al'naia Az'ii i Kavkaz*.

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4:00 pm – 5:15 pm
Voesar Conference Room
1957 E St. NW, Suite 412
Please RSVP at go.gwu.edu/mamedov