

2003



**THE ARMENIAN INSTITUTE & THE  
CENTRE OF CONTEMPORARY CENTRAL  
ASIA AND THE CAUCASUS**

**PRESENT**

***Armenians in Abkhazia***

A lecture by  
**Hratch Tchilingirian**  
University of Cambridge

**Tuesday November 25, 7.30pm**  
**G51, Main Building, SOAS**

*This is a free lecture and open to all*

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Armenian Institute and The Centre of Contemporary Central Asia & the Caucasus, SOAS present

## Armenians in Abkhazia

A lecture by

**Hratch Tchilingirian**  
University of Cambridge

**Tuesday 25 November 2003 | 7.30 pm**  
Room G51 (ground floor) SOAS (Russell Square campus)  
(nearest tube, Russell Square)

This talk will present the story of a "forgotten" community based on Dr. Tchilingirian's recent fieldwork in Abkhazia, a former Soviet Autonomous Republic within Georgia, used to be known as the Soviet Union's "Riviera" on the Black Sea. Following an inter-ethnic war in the early 1990s, Abkhazia declared independence from Georgia in 1999, which is not recognised by any state. Tchilingirian will present a general background about the Abkhaz-Georgian conflict and fieldtrip observations, focusing on the large Armenian community in Abkhazia. The talk will conclude with a discussion of some of the political and socio-economic challenges facing the Armenians in particular and the Abkhazians in general.

Hratch Tchilingirian is Research Fellow and Associate Director of Projects, Eurasia Programme, Judge Institute of Management, University of Cambridge. He received his PhD from the London School of Economics and Political Science. His research interests include political and territorial disputes in the Caucasus and Central Asia and their impact on economic and geostrategic developments. His numerous analytical articles and reports on the region and various aspects of diaspora life have appeared in journals and publications in Europe, North America and the Middle East.

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