

Transformation of public space in post-Soviet Armenia: the example of border settlements

Cmpendium
cultural policies & trends



RIGHT TO CULTURE


PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

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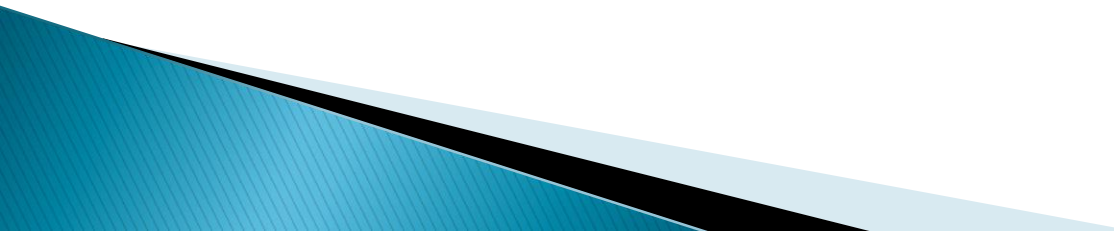
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Research questions

- ▶ State Cultural Policy of Armenia after the collapse of Soviet Union: 4 stages and current situation
 - ▶ Transformations of public space in border settlements of Armenia since the collapse of the Soviet Union
 - ▶ Post-Soviet developments and cultural image of border settlements
 - ▶ The War and the border settlements: preliminary observations
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Methododology

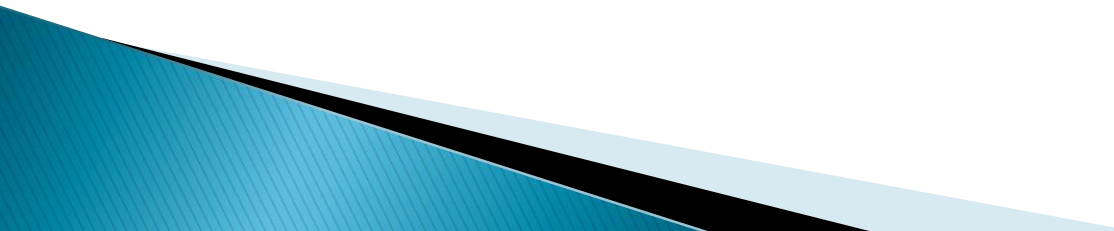
- ▶ Interviews
 - ▶ Observations
 - ▶ Study of archival materials, documents
 - ▶ Study of the Soviet press
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Fieldwork in Syunik and Tavush regions

- ▶ a. activities of regional and community museums, memorial museums, forms of community outreach in the post-Soviet period.
 - ▶ b. the “afterlife” of Soviet houses of culture and palaces of culture (including their neglect, reuse, and reinterpretation) and their role in shaping current cultural landscapes.
 - ▶ c. Analysis of the post-Soviet perceptions? of Soviet industrial cities (factories, clubs attached to factories, residential houses, etc.).
 - ▶ d. The influence of post-Soviet cultural processes on the formation of the cultural landscape, particularly its “sacralization” (e.g., the spread of metal crosses in the rural places, khachkar making processes).
 - ▶ e. The impact of the Artsakh wars on public space (e.g. “commemoration”, installation of memorials, war graffiti).
 - ▶ f. Comparisons of the effects of archaeological monuments, sanctuaries, Soviet and post-Soviet cultural objects on the cultural area of the community.
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Sovietization of the city:

Creating soviet typical infrastructure

- ▶ Factories
 - ▶ Cultural institutions:
 - ❑ House of Culture/Palace of Culture
 - ❑ Local Lore museum
 - ❑ House museums
 - ❑ Dramatic theatre
 - ❑ Local library
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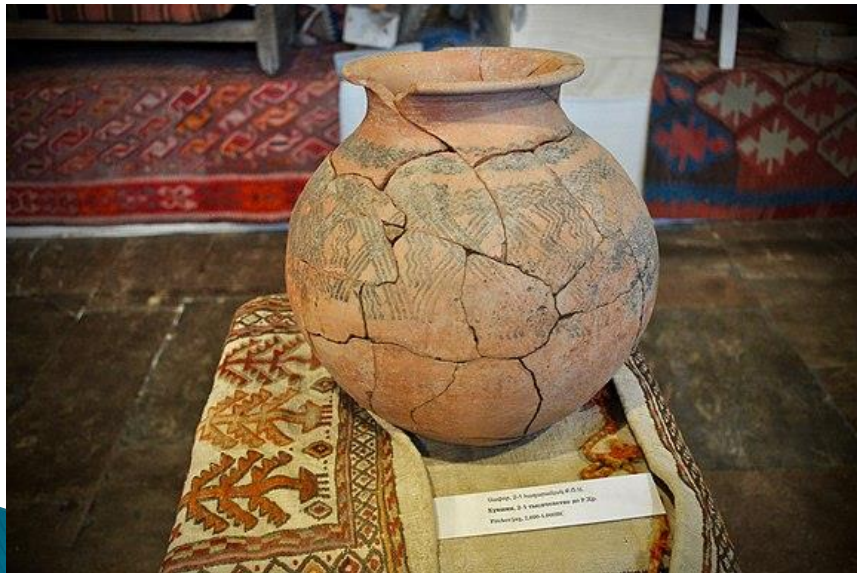


House of Culture/ Palace of Culture (1940)



Goris Local Lore Museum (1948)





House-museum of Aksel Bakunts

The image of “Bakuntsian” city



Axel Bakunts (1899–1937)



A distinguished writer. Bakunts was a member of the former's Armenian Association of Proletarian Writers. Bakunts fell victim to the Stalinist terror and was accused of various crimes including alienation from socialist society. He was arrested in 1936 and is believed to have been shot after a twenty-five-minute trial in 1937.







Բակունցի մայրը՝ Բոխչաղյուլ Թևոսյան, 1936
Bakunts's mother, Bokhchagyuł Tevosyan
Мать Бакунца – Бохчаголь Тевосян



Բակունցի հայրը՝ Ստեփան Թևոսյան, 1929
Bakunts's father, Stepan Tevosyan
Օրեն Бакунца – Степан Тевосян



Բակունցը կնոջ՝ Վարյա Չալիյանի և որդու հետ, 1927
Bakunts with his wife Vary: Chalviyan and son
Бакунца с женой Варей Чалвижан и сыном



Բակունցը եղբոր՝ Վահանի հետ, 1931
Bakunts with his brother Vahan
Бакунца с братом Ваганом



Բակունցը որդու հետ, 1935
Bakunts with his son
Бакунца с сыном

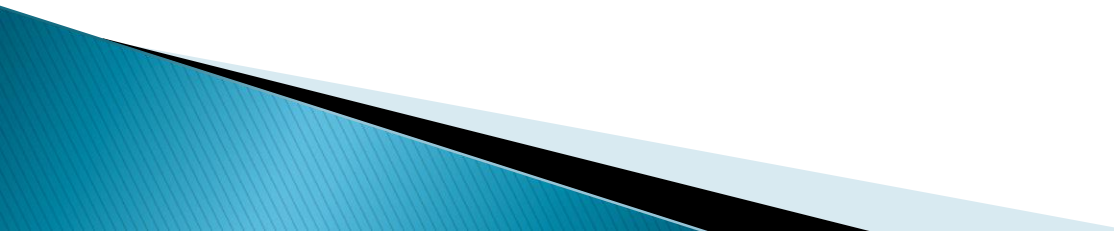


Բակունցի մայրը՝ Բոխչաղյուլի և դստեր՝
Աստղիկի հետ, 1936
Bakunts's mother with her grandchildren, daughter-in-law
Anahit and daughter Astghik
Мать Бакунца с внуками, невесткой Анаит и дочерью Астгик





Post-Soviet transformations of the city

- ▶ Religious context of the city
 - ▶ The seat of Diocese of Syunik of the Armenian Apostolic church
 - ▶ New monuments: khachkars (cross-stones), statues of heroic figures (Nzhdeh, Andranik)
 - ▶ New cultural Institutions: Goris cultural center of francophone; art gallery, cultural NGOs, etc.
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St. Gregory the Illuminator Church and surroundings: formation of a new landscape

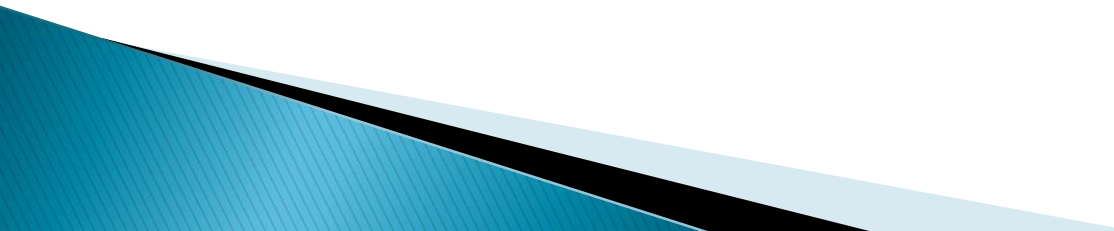








Conclusions

- ▶ Cultural policy of the Republic of Armenia has undergone changes since the collapse of Soviet Union.
 - ▶ Legal framework
 - ▶ Cooperation with international organizations: UNESCO, British Council, UN, etc.
 - ▶ Cultural policy after “Velvet” revolution (2018): cultural democracy and cultural education as a priority issues.
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Thank you

