The first boom in the late 19th century brought the rise of a multiethnic city, the fastest growing in the Russian empire. Baku became a world to itself, different from the rest of Azerbaijan, seen as a foreign enclave on the pattern of the Levantine cities of the Middle East. By contrast, the second oil boom under way in the post-Soviet period, began when the non-Azeri inhabitants had left the city. With the boom-time influx of immigrants from the countryside, the city has become fully integrated with Azerbaijan.

Tadeusz Swietochowski is Professor Emeritus of Russian and Middle Eastern History at Monmouth University, New Jersey, and a member of the Columbia University Caspian Project.

Thurs, Apr 9 - 12:30-2 pm - IAB 1118