

Perceptions Among Armenian and Azerbaijani Youth

Capstone Project by Marina Babayan

Research Question

How do Armenian and Azerbaijani youth perceive each other?

- **Sub-question 1:** What influences those perceptions?
- **Sub-question 2:** In what way are the perceptions and influence of both sides different? Why?

Conducted Research

1. **Surveys** for Armenian and Azerbaijani youth ages 16 – 25
2. **Interviews** with 2 Armenian and 2 Azerbaijani peace-building project participants

Survey Questions

1. Your age
2. Gender
3. Are you serving/have you served in military?
4. If you met an Armenian person at a conference/regional event, you would most likely...
 - Start a fight
 - Ignore him/her
 - Try to engage in a political debate
 - Start a conversation and try to be friendly

Survey Questions

5. Which of these aspects do you think influence your perceptions about Armenians/Azerbaijanis?

- History of Conflicts
- Family and/or military discipline
- Media
- Society/Culture

6. Would you agree that some of your perceptions are a result of propaganda?/Bazı algılarınızın propaganda?

Survey Questions

7. In your opinion, are these current perceptions leading to further conflicts or possible peacemaking?

Survey Analysis - Armenia

Data from Armenian youth

Your age	Count	Percentage
16-20	47	42.3%
21-25	64	57.7%

Your Gender	Count	Percentage
Male	27	24.5%
Female	83	75.5%

Are you serving/have you served in military?	Count	Percentage
Yes	9	8.2%
No	101	91.8%

Survey Analysis - Armenia

If you met an Azerbaijani person at a conference/regional event, you would most likely...	Count	Percentage
Start a fight	1	0.9%
Ignore him/her	47	42.7%
Try to engage in political debate	8	7.3%
Start a conversation and try to be friendly	42	38.2%
Other	12	10.9%

Which of these aspects do you think influence your perceptions about Azerbaijanis?	Count	Percentage
History of conflicts	57	51.8%

Survey Analysis - Armenia

Family and/or military discipline	2	1.8%
Media	14	12.7%
Society/Culture	15	13.6%
Other	22	20.1%

Would you agree that some of your perceptions are a result of propaganda?	Count	Percentage
Yes	61	55.5%
No	49	44.5%

In your opinion, are these current perceptions leading to further conflicts or possible peacemaking?	Count	Percentage
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Survey Analysis -Armenia

Conflicts	90	81.8%
Peacemaking	20	18.2%

Survey Analysis - Azerbaijan

Data from Azerbaijani youth

Your age	Count	Percentage
16-20	46	46.9%
21-25	52	53.1%

Your Gender	Count	Percentage
Male	66	67.3%
Female	32	32.7%

Are you serving/have you served in military?	Count	Percentage
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Survey Analysis - Azerbaijan

Yes	16	16.3%
No	82	83.7%

If you met an Armenian person at a conference/regional event, you would most likely...	Count	Percentage
Start a fight	9	9.2%
Ignore him/her	49	50.0%
Try to engage in political debate	12	12.2%
Start a conversation and try to be friendly	22	22.4%
Other	6	6.1%

Survey Analysis - Azerbaijan

Which of these aspects do you think influence your perceptions about Armenians?	Count	Percentage
History of conflicts	71	72.5%
Family and/or military discipline	1	1%
Media	6	9.2%
Society/Culture	14	14.3%
Other	6	3%

Would you agree that some of your perceptions are a result of propaganda?	Count	Percentage
Yes	50	51.0%

Survey Analysis - Azerbaijan

No	48	49.0%
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In your opinion, are these current perceptions leading to further conflicts or possible peacemaking?	Count	Percentage
Conflicts	75	76.5%
Peacemaking	23	23.5%

Interview Questions

- 1). Please, introduce yourself - name, age, education, work
- 2). When did you participate in a peace building project and what was it about? (its name, activities etc.)
- 3). What were your perceptions about Azerbaijani people before the project?
- 4). Did your perceptions change? If yes, how?
- 5). What challenges did you face with Azerbaijani participants, if any?
- 6). Do you think your previous perceptions were shaped by propaganda? If not, what do you think was the main influence of your perceptions?
- 7). Are you still in touch with Azerbaijani participants?

Interviews 1 - Armenia

- **Ani Tovmasyan** - I am 29 years old. I hold a Master's Degree in Linguistics and Cross-cultural Communication. My formal educational is mostly linguistics, English Language and Literature, cultural and area studies but I have also been active in the non-formal educational modalities, particularly focusing on conflict studies, EU studies and politics. I am currently as a program associate at Eurasia Partnership Foundation (EPF), mainly involved in the peacebuilding, cross-border and human rights programs. Concurrently, I am also working at Hrant Dink Foundation in the capacity of Project Coordinator for Armenia-Turkey Dialogue Programme within the scope of overall Beyond Borders Programme.

Interview 2 - Armenia

- **Irina Safaryan** - Political scientist (YSU, master degree), wikipedian, translator, co-founder and coordinator of Stepankert wikiclub (Wikipedia Club).

Interview 1 - Azerbaijan

1. **Hamida Giyasbayli** - 26, MA Candidate in Peace, Development, Security and International Conflict Transformation, Peacebuilding and Human Rights practitioner.
2. **Ruslan Aliyev** - 30, LLB jurisprudence bachelor, human rights lawyer, over 9 years