

## **Contact-induced restructuring in Tat**

**Gilles Authier**

École Pratique des Hautes Études

The Eastern part of the Caucasus is one of the most diverse and complex linguistic zones in the world. Three unrelated families are represented there and have interacted for a long time. The result of this prolonged contacts takes the form of convergence between genetically unrelated languages, and divergence between related languages or dialects. Our presentation will focus on Northern Azerbaijan, where no less than fifteen languages and dialects are still spoken, and show the effects of contact on Tat, an Indo-European (Iranian) group of dialects. Influences affect all domains of the lexicon and of the grammar, and can be related not only to Azeri (Turkic), which has been the dominant language of the region for centuries, but also to other, much less well-known languages, which belong to the Southern, so-called "Lezgi" branch of the East Caucasian family.