

## **An Introduction to the Araxes-Iran Linguistic Area**

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The *Atlas* presented at this talk is projected to cover a multitude of shared phonological, grammatical and lexical features in the languages within a wide expanse of 'the Outer Fertile Crescent'. The *Atlas* will include the following families of the area: Kartvelian (Georgian, Mingrelian, Laz), Armenian and dialects, Turkic (Azerbaijani of Azerbaijan, Iran and Iraq; Turkish dialects of eastern Turkey), Semitic (Neo-Aramaic and Arabic dialects of northern Iraq and Turkey), the Udi language (Northeast Caucasian) of Azerbaijan, and a wide variety of Iranian languages extending southwards to approximately the Esfahan area of central Iran.

The goal of this project is an atlas of linguistic isoglosses drawn onto geographic maps of the area. To date, I have isolated some 286 features to include in the *Atlas*. All data come from published sources but may be supplemented by additional fieldwork. The projected date of completion is 2011.

The Powerpoint presentation will include a discussion of the proposed structure of the *Atlas*: The hard-copy *Atlas* will show each linguistic feature on a separate map along with an accompanying descriptive text explaining the more general issues of the given feature. The accompanying CD-ROM provided with the *Atlas* will include a link of each point on each map to the database of examples. The CD-ROM will also provide additional discussion and multiple examples of each feature for each individual dialect included on the map.