

Peter M. Arkadiev (Institute of Slavic Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow)

“Typologically outstanding aspects of the morphology of the languages of the Caucasus”

I will offer an overview of the typologically outstanding morphological phenomena of the indigenous languages of the Caucasus, covering selected topics from all three language families. These include, e.g. multi-layered nominal inflection in Nakh-Dagestanian (with some non-trivial parallels in the other languages of the area), multiple expression of gender in Nakh-Dagestanian and of number in Ubykh, highly intricate distributed exponence in the tense-aspect paradigms of Kartvelian languages, and the challenges of polysynthetic verbal and nominal complexes in West Caucasian. I will also discuss the implications of these phenomena for typology and morphological theory.