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ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF NATIONALITIES

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# **NATIONALITIES PAPERS**

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**On the Cover.** Photo taken by Elena Denisova-Schmidt: The picture shows the entrance of the cafe "Ground Zero" on Saryan Street in the center of Yerevan, the Armenian capital, on November 6, 2023. The cafe is a popular meeting place for IT workers who have recently relocated from Russia. Just above the canopies, two flags fly proudly from the balcony: the national flag of Armenia and the flag of Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh) – the same tricolor, with dotted lines symbolizing the border between the two regions. In September 2023, Nagorno-Karabakh came under the full control of Azerbaijan. According to various estimates, 120,000 refugees fled to Armenia. Flags, posters, and slogans in support of the refugees were visible throughout the city. Moreover, Yerevan became a safe harbor for people fleeing three different wars. An anecdote told by one of the respondents in my fieldwork went, "A refugee from Russia is sitting in a restaurant, a refugee from Syria is serving him, and a refugee from Karabakh is cleaning after." Perhaps like no other country, Armenia, with its complicated past and experience of war and genocide, is ready to understand, host, and help people in need. My research in Armenia was conducted with financial support provided by the Center for Governance and Culture in Europe at the University of St. Gallen in Switzerland.