



Fifth Annual Conference

Contesting Nature in Central Asia

PARTICIPANTS

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Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Departments of the American University of Central Asia. Damira Umetbaeva has publications in peer-reviewed international academic journals, one of them winning Best Graduate Paper Award in 2014 from the Central Asia Program at the George Washington University, USA. She has also published research reports, several articles and essays. Umetbaeva is currently conducting research on informal lending and Russian – Kyrgyz relations in the post-Soviet Kyrgyzstan.

publication of scientific papers in international journals and conference proceedings as well as holding international scientific events in and out of university.

Eldiir Mirlanov is a graduate student at the Master's program in Central Asian Studies (MACAS). He holds a Bachelor's degree in international studies from University Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS). He is interested on ways social web platforms affect the education processes and possibilities to light up the interest to education in young students, as well as the interests in the sustainable management and development sphere.

Xeniya Prilutskaya holds a Master degree in Eurasian Studies (Nazarbayev University, Kazakhstan). Her master research was focusing on environmental risk perception in a Soviet built steelworkers town. Currently Xeniya is involved as research assistant in projects of the University of Tuebingen and of the Center for the Study of the Russian World, the Caucasus and Central Europe (CERCEC). She is developing her future research project for seeking a PhD position and her research interests include Environmental history, Social Anthropology and Central Asian/Eurasian studies.

Asel Doolotkeldieva holds a Doctor degree in Politics (University of Exeter, UK) and M.A. in Comparative Politics (Sciences Po, France). Asel's doctoral research was centered on the study of social mobilizations in the field of labor and extractive resources. Her recent paper on the topic of extractive industry includes 'State as resource, mediator and performer: understanding the local and global politics of gold mining in Kyrgyzstan', *Central Asian Survey* (2015), 34:1, 93-109. She holds a position of a senior lecturer at the Department of Politics and International Relations of Manas University in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. She is largely interested in collective action, mobilization, patronage politics and the state.

Damira Umetbaeva has defended her PhD dissertation entitled: "Negotiating Kyrgyz Nationhood: Of History Textbooks" and History Teachers' Attitudes towards the Soviet Past" at the Social Anthropology Department of the European University Viadrina in Frankfurt/Oder, Germany in 2015. From 2008 until 2012 she was a research fellow at the Georg-Eckert-Institute for International Textbook Research in Brunswick, Germany. From October 2015 to August 2016 she has worked as a research consultant – anthropologist – within the IOM's research project that studied interactions between the environment, climate change and migration in the Kyrgyz Republic. Additionally, she taught at the Anthropology and Journalism and Mass Communications

Amanda E. Wooden is an Associate Professor and Director of the Environmental Studies Program, at Bucknell University in Pennsylvania and the 2015-2020 David and Patricia Ekedahl Professor in Environmental Studies. In 2001, she was a visiting faculty member in the ICP department at American University of Central Asia (AUCA). She is a transdisciplinary, critical political scientist with an MA in International Studies and PhD in International Relations and Public (Environmental) Policy from Claremont Graduate University, and a BA in Russian and Political Science from Syracuse University. Her research explores environmental policy and water politics, protests, extractive industries, and narratives about environmentalism, waterways, nature/s and nationalism, and climate change. Along with a co-edited volume and various book chapters, she has published articles in journals such as *Political Geography*, *Post-Soviet Affairs*, *Central Asian Survey*, and *PS: Political Science & Politics*. Professor Wooden's long-term field work, most recent and forthcoming publications are about environmental concern and protests, gold mining, glaciers, and hydroenergy disputes in Kyrgyzstan and hydrofracking and frackivism in Pennsylvania, US. Professor Wooden created and edited TheCESSBlog as a member of the Central Eurasian Studies Society (CESS) executive board and will be the next president of CESS, 2017-2018.

Elena Popa is Assistant Professor in the General Education Department, American University of Central Asia. She holds a PhD in philosophy from Central European University, Budapest. While her specialization is philosophy of science, she works in the fields of philosophy of cognitive science, philosophy of biology, and metaphysics. Forthcoming publications concern historical views of causation, and the relationship between pragmatism and the philosophy of science.

James Plumtree is Assistant Professor in the General Education Department, American University of Central Asia, following completion of a PhD in Medieval Studies at Central European University, Budapest, and previous studies at the University of Bristol and the University of Oxford. Interdisciplinary publications on a variety of subjects have dealt with a reoccurrent issue: the methods in which a cultural group comprehends its surroundings and articulates such a viewpoint.

Natalya Khokholova, Associate Professor of Russian Cultural Studies at American University in Central Asia (The General Education Department). Natalya received her PhD from University of Illinois at

Urbana-Champaign in 2015. Her dissertation *Imagined Wealth and the Real Misfortune* represents a study of the digressive interplay of money and gossip in the 19th century Russian prose. Dr. Khokholova's research interests encompass the socio-economic aspects in the late 19th century Russian prose fiction writing, and the subject of sustainability in the cultural discourses of the Norwegian institution *allemansretten* and the Soviet collectivization. She teaches a variety of courses at AUCA, such as FYS, Reading Short Stories of Chekhov, and Russia's Orient.

Jeanne Fèaux de la Croix is an environmental anthropologist based at Tübingen University, Germany. She directs a number of research projects on the cultural history of water in Central Asia and is co-director of a comparative anthropology of the Naryn and Syr Darya river, supported by the Volkswagen Foundation. Her research interests include dam and irrigation projects, climate change, material culture, commemoration and ageing as well as collaborative approaches in anthropology. Her monograph 'Iconic Places in Central Asia: the moral geography of dams, pastures and holy sites' is forthcoming November 2016.

Mohira Suyarkulova is an associate professor at the Department of International and Comparative Politics. She holds a PhD in international relations (2011) from the University of St. Andrews, UK. In her research she explores various aspects of the politics of nationhood. Most recently she has been engaged as a postdoctoral fellow in an international project on environmental and social history of Naryn/ Syr Darya River. At CASI Mohira takes part in planning the Institute's events, in fostering "home-made" research and in increasing the local and international outreach of the Institute.

Adham Ashirov, Institute of History, Uzbekistan

Gulzat Baialieva is a Doctoral student in Social Anthropology (University of Tuebingen, Germany) and M.A. in Political Science (Central European University, Hungary). She also holds a graduate Diploma with Honors in European Civilizations (Bishkek Humanities University, Kyrgyzstan). She has been teaching different courses in the same university since 2002. Her current research is focused on studying how the downstream Naryn and harnessed technology has affected environment and society, the life of dam workers of the Uch-Kurgan hydropower plant. Research interests include social changes in Central Asia, religion and politics.

Aibek Samakov is a PhD student at the University of Tübingen. He holds a Master's Degree in Natural Resources Management from the University of Manitoba (Canada) and Specialist Diploma in International Relations from the Kyrgyz-Russian Slavic University. For several years, Aibek has been working for Aigine Cultural Research Center (Bishkek) and has participated in extensive research of sacred sites and traditional knowledge in Kyrgyzstan. His current research focuses on the common pool resources in the Syrdarya river delta.

Karina Iwe holds a Doctor degree in Pre- and Proto History (Kiel University) and M.A. in Pre- and Proto History, Classical Archaeology and Ancient History (Leipzig, Berlin, Dublin). Karina's doctoral research was centered on the study of the Scytho-Siberian Animal Style in the Eurasian Steppe belt. She is an associated postdoc at Tübingen University. She is largely interested in Archaeology of Central Asia, Archaeology of Nomadic Societies, Human – Environment Interaction, World Cultural Heritage and Looted Art.

Emil Nasritdinov, AUCA, Kyrgyzstan

Ruslan Rakhimov, AUCA, Kyrgyzstan

Anne Gry Sturød holds a Master in Human Geography from the University of Oslo, Norway. She currently holds a position as a lecturer at the University of South East Norway where she is also conducting her doctoral research on changed perception of nature in Post-Soviet Kyrgyzstan. Sturød has been engaged in research and project work in the Central Asian region for more than ten years. She has also research experience from West Africa.

Zheenbek Kulenbekov holds a Doctor degree in Natural Sciences (Freiberg University of Mining and Technology, Germany) and Certified GIS expert (Microsoft Center, Uzbekistan). Zheenbek's doctoral research was centered on the environmental impact assessment study of radioactive site and lake in the field of hydrogeology and environmental geology. His recent paper on the topic of hydrogeology and environmental geology includes 'Impact of radioactive pollution on the environment in Kyrgyzstan, which were harmful heritage of former Soviet Union', *Mineralogical Magazine* (2011) and *Freiberg Online Geosciences* (2012). He holds a position of a Program Coordinator at the Department of Environmental Management and Sustainable Development, American University of Central Asia in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. He is largely interested in developing project proposals and implementation of them,