

GCRF COMPASS NEWSLETTER

Comprehensive Capacity-Building in the Eastern Neighbourhood and Central Asia:
research integration, impact governance & sustainable communities.

GCRF COMPASS Newsletter 11 April-November 2021



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Welcome Note



Dear Friends, and Colleagues,

Welcome back after the summer break, to our final year of the project. It feels a little sad opening this final chapter in our COMPASS life, but we do so in full confidence that we have already overachieved our intended goals, and will continue our capacity-building efforts, both in the UK and across Central Eurasia.

Since the last newsletter (April 2021), we seem to have weathered a lot of storms – from government's ODA funding cuts, and cancellation of successful projects due to the lack of funds, to the continued COVID-19 challenges, and changing geopolitics across the region. And yet, we can proudly report that through resilience, which we research conceptually, and practise empirically, we go on, expanding our network of talented Early Career Scholars and professional managers – warmest welcome to our new PDRAs, Dr Muzaffer Kutlay and Dr Asya Kudlenko and Rosalind Beeching! – and seeing our best minds successfully securing new positions in academia – congratulations to Dr Diana Kudaibergenova (Cambridge), Dr Irina Petrova (SSEES UCL) and Dr Akram Umarov (Pittsburgh)! For all of these, including our collective stamina and no doubt, unwavering commitment to the project, no wonder why we have been shortlisted

GCRF COMPASS

<https://research.kent.ac.uk/gcrf-compass/>

for **the Times Higher Education** award – ‘the Oscars of Higher Education’ – under the category of the **BEST Collaborative Project of the year**, in 2021.

This is clearly a recognition of everyone's effort and achievement, and with this, I wish you all another successful and productive year, under the banners of GCRF COMPASS!

Prof Elena Korosteleva,
GCRF COMPASS PI
University of Kent

Events

BSU International academic conference: ‘Picheta Conference 2021’, October 27-28, 2021



An International academic conference entitled, ‘Picheta Conference 2021: 100 years of the first university of Belarus’ was organised on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the BSU. The two-day event was held in a blended mode (in-person and distant formats). The key topic was the role of the university in the development of education and science. The conference welcomed over 120 participants from Belarus, Russia, Germany, France and Ukraine. The plenary session was held on October 27th (blended mode) and panels were

held online on October 28th. The Conference Proceeding will be published, including online, in due course. The conference was held with the support of the GCRF COMPASS project.

GCRF COMPASS - REES/OSGA Oxford partnership's first event, 21 October 2021

On 21 October 2021, Prof Chris Gerry, PI and Head of OSGA, and Prof Elena Korosteleva COI, launched a series of Oxford Belarus Observatory (OBO) webinars on Belarus. This auspicious event was opened with a talk by Franak Viachorka, Senior Advisor to Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, and non-residential Fellow at the Atlantic Council's Eurasia Centre.

Talks by Professor Samashev and Professor Toleubayev, 28 September 2021



As part of the opening events for the Gold of the Great Steppe exhibition at the Fitzwilliam Museum (<https://fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk/visits-us/exhibitions/gold-of-the-great-steppe>), we are delighted to announce that two leading Kazakh archaeologists, Professor Zainolla Samashev and Professor Abdesh Toleubayev, whose research underpins the exhibition, will be giving guest lectures in Cambridge on the archaeology of Iron Age Kazakhstan. This is a joint event hosted by the King's Silk Roads programme, Cambridge Central Asia Forum, and the Fitzwilliam Museum, with kind support from the Embassy of Kazakhstan in the UK and the Department of Culture of the East Kazakhstan region.

Meeting of the UWED leadership with the head of the UNESCO Representative Office, UWED, 22 September 2021



On September 22, 2021, the Rector of the University of World Economy and Diplomacy Sodyk Safoyev met with the acting head of the UNESCO Representative Office in Uzbekistan Alexandros Makarigakis. On the part of the UWED, the meeting was attended by the Vice-rector for Research and Innovation G. Ismailova, the head of the UNESCO Chair "International Law and Human Rights" O. Yusupjanov and doctoral student S. Ikramov.

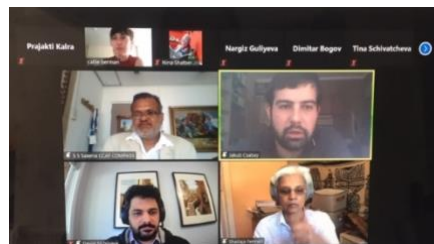
Cambridge Workshop on Critical Analyses of 30 years of Economic Reforms in Central Asia and Russia, Uni of Cambridge, 17 September 2021

Cambridge Central Asia Forum in collaboration with University of Kent's School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research hosted a one day workshop on the 'Critical analyses of 30 years in Central Asia and Russia'. The speakers included Kuat Akizhanov (KazGUU Uni), Ilya Matveev (Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration), Hasan H. Karrar (Lahore University of Management Sciences), Chokan Laumulin (Kazakh-British Technical University), ommaso Trevisani (University of Naples L'Orientale), Franco Galdini (University of Manchester), Lorena Lombardozi (The Open University), Balihar Sanghera and Elmira Satybaldieva

(University of Kent). The sessions were chaired by Dr Saxena (Uni of Cambridge, CO-I GCRF COMPASS). Recording is available here.

Cambridge Roundtable on Sustainable Development in the Caucasus, Uni of Cambridge, 28 July 2021

This policy roundtable brought together multiple stakeholders from the region and beyond to discuss these challenges, which equally constitute opportunities with prospects for prosperous sustainable development of the societies and states in the Caucasus. The panels were on Infrastructure Development and Sustainable Use of Resources in the Caucasus; Social and Economic Development in the Caucasus: What are the Common Priorities?; Capacities and Potential of Research and Human Capital Development Institutions in the Caucasus; and Need for Scientific and Regional Development Cooperation.



Eurasian Science Diplomacy Workshop, Uni of Cambridge, 23rd July

Cambridge co-organised a roundtable on Eurasian Science Diplomacy with School of International Studies at Jeonbuk National University (Republic of Korea) on 23 July. This was the last session as part of the two year collaboration project with Korea, Russia and Kazakhstan which was designed to further the understanding of scientific diplomacy in Eurasia. The main aim was to have a conversation with scientists who worked in the Soviet Era and post 1991 along with younger scientists who spoke about their experiences in more recent times. The goal was to

locate this discussion in a larger conversation of the project that delves into Science, particularly Eurasian science and how political diplomacy or the lack of can use the methods and tools of scientific collaborations towards diplomatic relations.

International Conference on Regional Connectivity of Central and South Asia, UWED, Uzbekistan 15-16 July 2021



Dr Saxena was invited to speak at the The International Conference "Central and South Asia: Regional Connectivity. Challenges and Opportunities" on 15-16 July 2021 at the initiative of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev. The forum aimed at strengthening historically close and friendly ties, trust and good-neighborliness between Central and South Asia in the interests of all peoples and countries of both regions. The conference was attended by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, foreign ministers and high representatives of the Central and South Asian countries, other foreign states, heads of authoritative international and regional organizations, global financial institutions and companies, leading research and analytical centers. During the plenary and breakout sessions, the forum participants discussed the possibilities of promoting initiatives aimed at developing trade, economic, transport, communication, cultural and humanitarian cooperation in the context of further deepening regional connectivity. The agenda included a comprehensive exchange of views

and joint development of proposals for enhancing cooperation in trade, investment, transport, energy and innovation, green technologies, implementation of specific projects and cooperation programs, enhancing interaction in tourism, education, healthcare, science and culture, ensuring the stability and security of the two regions.

EU-Central Asia relations: pragmatism, building resilience and connectivity, UWED, 14 July 2021



On July 14, 2021 Tashkent Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence for European Studies and the Center for International Economic and Political Studies under the University of world economy and diplomacy jointly organized the international conference “EU-Central Asia relations: pragmatism, building resilience and connectivity”. Experts and scholars representing 8 countries of the world actively contributed to this important and timely event. They have underlined that following the results of the first Strategy 2007-2013, the EU revised its role in Central Asia due to the new existing circumstances.



Opening ceremony of the European Research Center, UWED, 25 June 2021



On 25 June there was an official opening ceremony of the European Research Center in UWED. It discussed the issues of effective implementation of the project, clarifying the goals and objectives of the project, Organization of scientific research and educational process, Organization of the planned activities within the framework of the project. Important decisions were made during the meeting. Currently, the university is the first and leading university in Central Asia, successfully participating in the Erasmus+Jean Monnet program, which aims to develop education and research in this area of the European Union. In particular, having achieved successful results in the international grant competitions held in 2020, the project of the Tashkent European Research Center of the university was selected for funding by the European Commission from 1447 projects participating in the international competition.

GCRF COMPASS ADA Conference ‘Connecting the 3Bs: Brussels, Baku, Beijing. The EU/UK & China cooperation initiatives for greater connectivity of Eurasia: the role of Azerbaijan, ADA University 16-17 June 2021



On 16-17 June 2021, under the aegis of the GCRF COMPASS project,

ADA University organised its first 3B signature conference to focus on the issues of connectivity – from the global to the local – and the role of Azerbaijan. The online conference attracted over 100 attendees, and included academics, policy-makers and practitioners. It was opened by welcome speeches from Dr Anar Valiyev (Dean of SPIA), EU Ambassador Kestutis Jankauskas, Dr Taleh Ziyadov (Director-General Port of Baku), Prof Elena Korosteleva (COMPASS PI, Kent), and Dr Siddharth Saxena (COMPASS COI, Cambridge), and was followed by the plenary session which examined the global connectivity agenda and its challenges. The subsequent panels addressed the various dimensions of connectivity ranging from green and sustainable energy, transport and economic infrastructures to political and inter-cultural connections. A more detailed report and the full programme can be found here.

Policy workshop ‘Zangazur Corridor: The importance of connectivity for rebuilding the pax-Caucasian region’, ADA University, 15 June 2021



On 15 June 2021, the policy workshop ‘Zangazur Corridor’, organised by ADA University, under the aegis of the COMPASS project, brought together scholars from Azerbaijan, Armenia, Russia, Turkey and Uzbekistan. It focused on discussing opportunities and challenges of transport connectivity between Azerbaijan and Armenia

(via Zangazur), and normalisation of relations between the two neighbours.

Cooperation with UWED and the University of Northumbria, Great Britain, UWED, 9 June 2021



Cooperation with UWED and the University of Northumbria, Great Britain was established. The sides agreed to organize an online lecture for UWED Masters and researchers of British professors on the scientific research of the University of Northumbria, on the educational process, as well as on international trade, the situation in the world economy. On June 9, the first of such lectures was on the topic “Global Britain: Contemporary Issues in Post-Brexit International Trade”. As a speaker performed the Head of the UoN Leadership and Strategy Center Joyce Liddle, Professor of Public Policy and Management at Newcastle Business School (NBS) John Shutt.

‘Achieving SDGs in Central Asia in the wake of COVID-19: Opportunities and threats’ - UWED and GCRF COMPASS Conference, 21st May 2021

The UWED team, together with the COMPASS project partners, the Senate of the Uzbek Parliament and UNDP, organised a conference on ‘Achieving SDGs in Central Asia in the wake of COVID-19: Opportunities and threats’. The online conference hosted over 100 participants, and included a welcoming word from His Excellency Sodyk Safoev, First Deputy Chairman of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis, Mr Komiljon Karimov, Rector of UWED, Ms Matilda Dimowska, UNDP

Representative in Uzbekistan, Prof Korosteleva, PI COMPASS, and Dr Saxena, COI COMPASS. The conference discussed many issues relating to the implementation of SDGs and international aid, and involved members of COMPASS – Dr Khasanov, Prof Shadurski (Belarus), Dr Barotzoda (TNU), Prof Turarbekova (BSU), Prof Shahidi (TNU), Fariz Ismailzade (ADA) – and its Advisory Board members – Lord Teverson (House of Lords UK); Prof Fabienne Bossuyt (Ghent), and Prof Nargis Nurulla-khodjaeva (MGU).



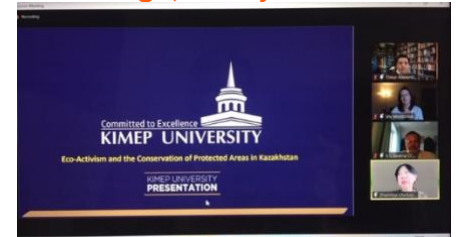
International conference on ‘Priorities of the foreign policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in modern conditions: economics, law, politics’, UWED, 8 May 2021



The University of World Economy and Diplomacy hosted a scientific and practical international conference on the topic: "Priorities of the foreign policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in modern conditions: economics, law, politics". The conference was attended by deputies of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, representatives of international organizations, foreign scientists and experts, and the teaching staff of the UWED. The scientific conference discussed issues of strengthening friendly

relations with strategic partners of Uzbekistan, trends in the development of tourism in the modern world, the impact of international ratings and indices on the image of the country and other issues on topical issues of modern international relations, international economics and law.

Panel Discussion on 'Kazakhstan and Environmental Policy', Uni of Cambridge, 6 May 2021



Cambridge co-organized a roundtable with KIMEP, Kazakhstan on Kazakhstan and Environmental Policy with reverberations for the rest of Central Asia. Speakers included Dr. Kris White, KIMEP University, “Ecological and Economic Recovery in Kazakhstan's Northern Aral Sea Region”; Dr. Zhamilya Utarbayeva, KIMEP University, “Eco-activism and the Conservation of Protected Areas in Kazakhstan”; Dr. JeongWon Bourdais Park, KIMEP University, "Europe's Policy Towards the Central Asian Environment in the Era of the Renewed Great Game" and Dr. Maria Baideldinova, KIMEP University, "Wildlife Protection Legislation in Kazakhstan".

Regional Development and Prospects of Cooperation in the Caucasus, Uni of Cambridge, 14 April 2021

Cambridge invited Dr. Philip Gamaghelyan, Assistant Professor, Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies, University of San Diego & Co-Founder, Imagine Center for Conflict Transformation to give a talk on Regional Development and Prospects of Cooperation in the Caucasus: Community Engagement in Armenia. This talk was part of a series of talks on Caucasus organized

by Dr Saxena and J. Csabay (COMPASS Affiliate).

Work in Progress Seminars (WiPs), Uni of Kent, Oct-Dec 2021

28 October 2021: Professor Senem Aydın-Düzgıt, Sabanci University, 'Contesting the International through the Local: Unpacking Turkey's Contestation of the EU and the Liberal International Order'; 3 November 2021: Dr Ignasi Torrent, University of Hertfordshire, 'Entangled Peace and its Limits'; 17 November 2021: Dr Nargis Nurulla-Khodzhaeva, Lomonosov Moscow State University and the Institute of Oriental Studies in Moscow, Russia, 'My Sufi-hamsoya and Michel Foucault's 'temptation' all over Central Asian states'; 1 December 2021: Professor Roger Mac Ginty, Durham University, 'Disrupting Conflict: How so-called everyday people can disrupt violent conflict'; 15 December 2021 Dr Muzaffer Kutlay, University of Kent, 'Political Leadership and Local Ownership of EU Reforms: The Case of Minority Rights in Bulgaria'

CCAF and Centre of Development Studies Seminar Series, October-December 2021

15 October Rustamjon Urinboyev, Lund University, 'Ethnic and Religious Identities in Russian Penal Institutions: A Case Study of Uzbek Transnational Prisoners'; 22 October Ayse Zarakol, University of Cambridge, 'Before the West, The rise and Fall of World Orders in the East'; 29 October Rahilya Geybullayeva, Baku Slavic University, 'Modern criteria for shared cultural past: Azerbaijani literature and beyond'; 5 November Hyunhee Park, Associate Professor of History at the City University of New York, John Jay College of Criminal Justice and the CUNY, 'The Story of Soju: Distillation in Mongol Korea, its Eurasian Roots, and Global Context'; 12 November Jacqueline Armijo, NYU-Shanghai,

'How a Muslim from Bukhara Serving in the Yuan Dynasty Came to Have a Major Impact on Southwest China'; 19 November Zalmi Nishat, Sussex Asia Centre, 'Current Developments in Afghanistan'; 26 November Katie Campbell, King's Silk Roads Programme, University of Cambridge, 'Archaeological Exploration of 'Silk Road Cities' in Central Asia'. These seminars are organized jointly with UKRI GCRF COMPASS & School of International Studies at Jeonbuk National University (Republic of Korea).

Talks

International Forum On Innovating and Modernizing Energy and Water in Central Asia, 1-3 November 2021



Dr Saxena was invited to the International Forum on 1-3 November in Kazakhstan. KBTU in collaboration with UNECE, UNESCAP, National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Kazakh-British Technical University, International Green Technologies and Investment Projects Center, CIS Electric Power Council organized a conference on Innovating and Modernizing Energy and Water in Central Asia. He about

innovation and science in Central Asia and the need for finding local solutions through cooperation at the International Forum on 2 November. Dr Laumulin, COMPASS Affiliated, also gave a talk at the conference. More information available here.

Roundtable on UK Policy in Afghanistan, 2 November 2021

Dr Saxena moderated a roundtable on UK policy in Afghanistan on 2nd November. The event was organized by The Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies (AISS) and the Sussex Asia Centre. The speakers included Ambassador Sir Nicholas Kay, Dr Mehran, Prof Marsden (COMPASS AB member), Dr Ashraf, Mr Zalmi and Mr Yaqin. The roundtable was organized by the AISS and the Sussex Asia Centre. The event was recorded and can be viewed on the AISS Facebook page here.

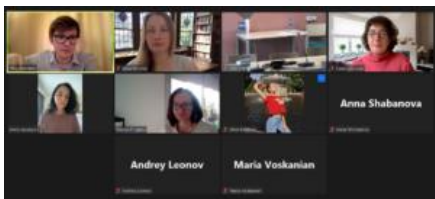
BKS Webinar: Universities Contributing to Societal Development: The Role of Institutional Autonomy and Academic Freedom, 27 October 2021

Dr Saxena moderated a talk on 'Universities Contributing to Societal Development: The Role of Institutional Autonomy and Academic Freedom'. The speaker, Dr Chankesliani (Uni of Oxford) talked about how higher education can support global, national, and local development, leading to the outcomes enshrined in the Sustainable Development Goals and going beyond those outcomes. The talk reported on national manifestations of the developmental role of universities in post-Soviet countries, with a focus on Kazakhstan. The talk argued that limited academic freedom and institutional autonomy impede the full realisation of the potential of higher education. The assumptions underpinning academics' views on how higher education supported development were discussed in light of an innovative framework of essentialist and anti-essentialist

approaches. Juxtaposing the national with the global development missions of universities, the talk raised questions on the possibility of delinking higher education from the immediate human capital and modernisation needs of the nation-state and becoming concerned with the global; on promoting freedom to cultivate intellectual curiosity through education and research, and stimulating a more holistic imaginary of the developmental purposes of higher education.

Round table “EU policy transfer in the post-Soviet space”, 23 October 2021

On 23 October 2021, Dr Irina Petrova participated in the round table “EU policy transfer in the post-Soviet space” organised by the National Research University Higher School of Economics – St. Petersburg, Russian Association of Political Science, Interregional center STRATEGY, with the support of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation branch in Russia. The panel also featured Oleg Korneev, Farhad Mukhtarov, Laure Delcour, Anna Ayvazyan and Rodica Plugaru. The discussion focused on bridging the rationalist-constructivist divide in the EU policy transfer studies and going beyond by employing complex International Relations.



Millennium conference 22-24 October 2021

On 23 October 2021, Professor Elena Korosteleva and Dr Irina Petrova presented their ongoing research at the Millennium conference ‘(Re)Writing the International: Interrogating. Histories, Imagining Futurities’ (22-24 October 2021). The presentation ‘Rethinking ‘the International’ in Complex International Relations’ problematized the notions of ‘the

local’, ‘the global’, and ‘the international’. Instead of simplified and reductionist binary thinking, the presentation argued, we should rethink international engagement from the perspective of a relational universe where positionality in a dynamic entanglement of relations plays a more significant role.



Cambridge IR and History Conference, Uni of Cambridge. 17 September 2021

Prajakti Kalra gave a talk on world orders in the Conference organized by POLIS, Cambridge on 17 September. The conference was moderated by Prof Ayse Zarakol and introductory remarks were made by Prof Sharman. Ms Kalra’s talk was on the Mongol World Order in medieval Eurasia. The Mongol World Order was used as a point of departure to decolonize IR which is western and Euro-centric by definition. The other themes in the conference included hierarchy and agency in the International Order today.

‘International Relations and Diplomacy in the Post-Pandemic World’, Jagiellonian University (Krakow), 13-15 September 2021

At the invitation of Jagiellonian University (Krakow), Professor Elena Korosteleva virtually participated at the conference ‘International Relations and Diplomacy in the Post-Pandemic World’ 13-15 September. Elena spoke about what makes communities resilient in a post-pandemic world, in the context of Complex IR, and introduced the forthcoming Special Issue in Cambridge Review of International Affairs, with a similar title. The panel

included NAWA Prof Emilian Kavalski, Prof Maximilian Mayer, Prof Pawel Laider and other. The conference also discussed joint project initiatives and funding opportunities to support them.

Talk on ‘The Mongol Empire and the Making of European communities in Eurasia’, by P. Kalra, Uni of Cambridge, 9 September 2021

Prajakti Kalra gave a talk on ‘The Mongol Empire and the Making of European Communities in Eurasia’ in a conference entitled in ‘Communities and Networks in Late Medieval Europe (1500-1800)’ organized by the Faculty of History in the University of Cambridge. Communities and Networks in Late Medieval Europe aims to build on and contribute to this expanding field of research by exploring how the descriptive, conceptual, and methodological tools provided by the study of networks can deepen our understanding of the complex sets of relationships between and within different types of communities in the specific context of the last two centuries of the European Middle Ages. The fourteenth and fifteenth centuries were a time of great political, socio-economic, and cultural change in Europe: the period in question, therefore, offers numerous exciting opportunities (and challenges) for the application of network-based approaches to the study of community dynamics.

38th International Symposium on Economic Crime, Uni of Cambridge, 5-12 September 2021

Dr Saxena was invited to the 38th International Symposium on Economic Crime from 5-12 September. He gave a talk in the panel entitled: Legal issues along the Belt and Road Initiative outside of China, chaired by Mr Theodore Huckle QC, Barrister, Doughty Street Chambers and former HM Counsel General for Wales and Master of the Bench of Lincoln’s Inn,

UK. More information available here.

International Conference 'The New Era and the Development Prospects for Uzbekistan', 30 August 2021

Prof Korosteleva was invited to speak at the International Conference 'The New Era and the Development Prospects for Uzbekistan'. The conference was dedicated to the 30th anniversary of Independence of Uzbekistan, organised by the Academy of Sciences and the Ministries of Foreign Affairs; Higher Education and Culture of Uzbekistan.

Oxford Desert Conference, 1-2 July 2021

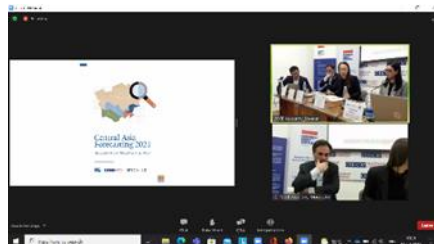
University of Kent PDRA Dr Irina Petrova and GCRF Doctoral fellow Ms Polina Bishenden attended the Oxford Desert Conference. The conference was organised by Dr Troy Sternberg and Dr Ariell Ahearn, School of Geography and the Environment (University of Oxford) and brought together scholars focusing on environmental, social and political aspects of drylands. Two-day discussions covered deliberation for unrepresented, indigenous and mobile peoples, pastoralism, natural hazards, desert representations, governance challenges and the impact of Covid-19.

The British-Kazakh Society Panel Discussion, 30 June 2021

The British-Kazakh Society hosted a webinar on the theme 'Dynamic Degrees: Unpacking Advanced Qualifications and Skills Pathways for Scientific and Industrial Development'. This webinar was a conversation with Dr. Ainur Seitkan from Astana International University on dynamic degrees, advanced qualifications, and potential pathways for scientific and industrial development in Central Asia, Kazakhstan. The moderator was Dr S S Saxena, University of Cambridge.

Other Events

Report Launch: Central Asia Forecasting 2021 - Results from Expert Survey, 2 November 2021



Dr Saxena contributed to the Central Asia Forecasting report. The "Central Asia Forecasting 2021-Results from an Expert Survey" study, jointly implemented by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES), the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, and the SPCE Hub, aims to help strengthen EU-Central Asia relations. The study results are intended to stimulate the debate on the region, foster understanding of the common challenges and opportunities, and encourage data-driven policymaking. It is a pilot project that will be followed by an annual or biennial study to analyze regional trends over time. The audience that we aim to address with this report comprises the broader public in Europe and Central Asia, civil society representatives, regional experts, researchers, and especially EU foreign-policy makers.

China Centre Seminar on 'Xinjiang: Pivot of Asia', 27 October 2021

Prof Nolan (AB member), Director of China Centre, Jesus College, Uni of Cambridge organized a seminar on 'Xinjiang: Pivot of Asia'. The speakers were Professor Michael Dillon (Professor of History and Affiliate of the Lau China Institute, King's College London), Dr Ildikó Bellér-Hann (Associate Professor, Department of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies, University of Copenhagen) and Tim Clissold (Senior Research Associate, China Centre Jesus College, and author of three books on China, including Mr

China). The panel was moderated by Prof Nolan. Prajakti Kalra and Dr Saxena participated and asked questions of the panel.

Opening Ceremony and Private view of the Gold of the Great Steppe Exhibition, Fitzwilliam Museum, Uni of Cambridge, 27 September 2021



Prajakti Kalra and Dr Saxena were invited to the opening ceremony and private view of the Gold of the Great Steppe Exhibition on 27 September 2021. Recent excavations and analyses led by archaeologists from Kazakhstan have revealed a new narrative of the Saka people as a distinctive, advanced society, with immense technological skill which is still being uncovered as modern archaeological methods enable scientists at the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, University of Cambridge, to uncover new secrets held by these wonderful artefacts using the latest non-invasive technology. COMPASS affiliates Dr Kudaibergenova and Dr Radivojevic were also there along with Prof Frankopan, Nick Ray and Prof Lord Robert Mair. The event was hosted by the Embassy of Kazakhstan, UK and the Fitzwilliam Museum, Uni of Cambridge.

Ghent International Conference September 2021

“EURASIAN INSIGHTS: Past, current and upcoming dynamics in the Central Asian region, and their (possible) impacts for Europe”, 22-24 September 2021



This three-day international conference was organized from 22 to 24 September 2021 by the University of Ghent, which took place in the city of Ghent (Belgium). This event was funded by the European Union Erasmus+ program, through the EISCAS project. This conference was the main EISCAS information dissemination event. The main goal of the event was aimed at gathering scientists and experts from all over Europe and beyond to discuss future developments in Central Asia, to study in which direction the field of research is developing. Nargiza Sodikova, PhD student at the University of World Economy and Diplomacy, GCRF COMPASS Research Affiliate, took part in this conference with a paper on the topic: EU-CA: development of relations, including the period of a pandemic. In her speech, she shared with the participants about the GCRF Compass project activity.

International Tartu Conference, 7th-8th June 2021



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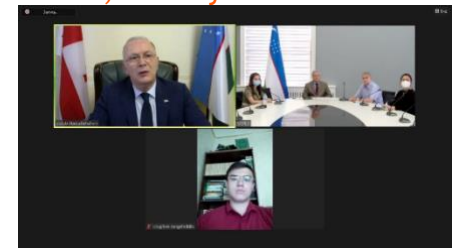
GCRF COMPASS consortium participated in the International Tartu Conference. Panel 1 was premised on a Special Issue ‘The Making of Resilient Communities in Central Eurasia’ currently under review with Cambridge Review of International Affairs and included presentations from Timur Dadabaev (Tsukuba University, Japan), Nargis Nurulla-Khodjaeva (MGU, Russia), Artsiom Nazaranka (BSU, Belarus), Azer Babayev (ADA University, Azerbaijan), Akram Umarov and Nargiza Sodikova (UWED, Uzbekistan) to discuss the salience of ‘the local’ in rethinking theory, the human community, security and order across Central Eurasian locality. Panel 2 was based on a Special Issue ‘Are we fragile? Eurasian Perspectives’ currently under review with the Journal of Eurasian Studies, and included presentations from Yulia Darmenova (Karaganda University, Kazakhstan) /Eunjoo Koo (McGill, Canada), Irina Petrova/Elena Korosteleva (Kent UK), Boram Shin (Jeonbuk University, South Korea), Serik Orazagaliev (Nazarbayev University, Kazakhstan), Prajakti Kalra/Siddharth Saxena (Cambridge UK) to focus on understanding fragilities in a post-neoliberal context. For more information please see the programme or refer to the conference website here. The 1st International Tartu Conference was launched by the UPTAKE project, which the University of Kent was part of.

VII International Conference “Primakov Readings”, held in Moscow on June 8-10, 2021



June 8-10, 2021, the VII Primakov Readings were held in Moscow and were devoted to the analysis of modern challenges to the world order. Primakov Readings is an international forum of experts, diplomats and politicians dedicated to the memory of the scientist and statesman, Academician E. M. Primakov. The purpose of the forum is to create a regular international discussion platform for public discussion of the most pressing problems of the world economy, politics and international security with the participation of leading representatives of international research and expert-analytical centres. The 7th session of the current Forum, held on June 9, 2021, was dedicated to the theme ‘Central Asia at the crossroads: Competition or partnership?’

Georgian Ambassador at UWED, 25 May 2021



On the Independence Day of Georgia, UWED hosted an online lecture by Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Georgia to Uzbekistan Zurab Abdushelishvili to students, researchers and teachers. The high guest was welcomed and congratulated on this historic date by the Vice-Rector for International Relations of the UWED, Professor S. Saidkasimov.

Save the Date:

Cambridge Conference: Connectivity in Central Asia and the Caucasus, 6-9 December 2021

GCRF COMPASS Cambridge and Cambridge Central Asia Forum have organized a conference on 'Connectivity in Central Asia and the Caucasus' on 6-9 December. Connectivity has long been associated with the region of Eurasia whether in the guise of the historic Silk Road(s) or the transport, communications and energy corridors that now in the modern era are synonymous with the countries of Central Asia and the Caucasus. The conference wants to explore and highlight the shared legacy of Eurasia which is far more reverberating than its separateness.

Caspian Basin Studies Program for Foreign Think-Tanks, ADA University, 13-20 November 2021

Caspian Basin Studies is a certificate program that offers a unique opportunity for foreign diplomats and other civil servants to explore and study the Caspian Basin region in-depth. CBS provides participants with knowledge of the region's diverse and rich history and culture, demographic makeup, ethnic and territorial conflicts, trade and economic affairs, and issues of geopolitics and regional security. Beside the knowledge-based courses, museum visits, field trips to Think-Tank, MFA and other government agencies and visit to the liberated Karabakh Region will be organized within the program.

Forthcoming Events

WiPs, Uni of Kent January-March 2021

19 January 2022: Dr Felix Berenskoetter, SOAS University of London, 'International friendship as a relationship in the future'; 2 February 2022: Dr Maria Mälksoo, University of Copenhagen, Denmark, 'Where is Eastern Europe in 'Global IR''?'; 16 February 2022: Professor Milja Kurki, Aberystwyth University, 'Communities, relationality and democratic politics'; 2 March 2022: Dr Asya Kudlenko, University of Kent, 'Many faces of local ownership: the EU and Security Sector Reform in Ukraine'; 16 March 2022 Dr Filip Ejdus, University of Belgrade and Belgrade Centre for Security Policy, Serbia, 'Routines of local ownership in international interventions'.

Sixth Annual Tartu Conference on Russian and East European Studies, 12-14 June 2022 in Tartu, Estonia

The Tartu Conference is organized by the Centre for Eurasian and Russian Studies (CEURUS) at the University of Tartu. Please find more information on the conference website www.tartuconference.ut.ee. The deadline for submissions is 20 January 2022.

GCRF COMPASS-Oxford Belarus Observatory (OBO), Michealmas term events

This new initiative supported by the OSF, inaugurates a new partnership between GCRF COMPASS and REES/OSGA of the University of Oxford. For more information visit: <https://obo.web.ox.ac.uk/events#/> and join us for webinars on 18/11 and 2/12 at 16.00 UK time!

In other news

The Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) COMPASS project has been shortlisted for the International Collaboration of the Year at the Times Higher Education (THE) Awards 2021, widely known as 'the Oscars of Higher Education'

The Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) COMPASS project, hosted by the University of Kent in partnership with the University of Cambridge (UK), ADA University (Azerbaijan), Belarusian State University (Belarus), TNU (Tajikistan) and the University of World Economy and Diplomacy (Uzbekistan), has been shortlisted for the International Collaboration of the Year at the Times Higher Education (THE) Awards 2021.

The GCRF COMPASS project works with higher education institutions (HEIs) from former Soviet Republics to develop global partnerships and more sustainable learning capacities through resilience in the face of adversity and crisis. Led by Professor Elena Korosteleva, in partnership with Dr Siddharth Saxena (COI, Cambridge), Rosalind Beeching (Project Manager, Kent) and Prajakti Kalra (Research & Communication Officer, Cambridge), the GCRF COMPASS consortium involves six Research Institutions, 24 members of staff and 100 affiliates. For its success it owes especially to the younger generation of scholars including but not limited to Dr Irina Petrova, Dr Muzaffer Kutlay, Dr Diana Kudaibergenova and Dr Anastassia Kudlenko for their incredible enthusiasm, dedication and scholarship.

Dr Saxena on the CAREC Advisory Board

Dr Saxena has been invited to join the CAREC Advisory Board. The Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Program is a partnership of 11 countries and development partners working together to promote development through cooperation, leading to accelerated economic growth and poverty reduction. It is guided by the overarching vision of “Good Neighbors, Good Partners, and Good Prospects.”

The program is a proactive facilitator of practical, results-based regional projects, and policy initiatives critical to sustainable economic growth and shared prosperity in the region. Since its inception in 2001 and as of December 2020, CAREC has mobilized \$39.34 billion in investments that have helped establish multimodal transportation networks, increased energy trade and security, facilitated free movement of people and freight, and laid the groundwork for economic corridor development.

Graduate and Researcher College Prizes 2021: Early Career Research Staff Prize, 17 June 2021

Dr Irina Petrova, GCRF Compass Project was awarded the Early Career Research Staff prize from University of Kent. Petrova said, “Being part of the exiting GCRF COMPASS project alongside its Principal Investigator and the best mentor I could wish for, Prof Elena Korosteleva, has been a tremendous learning experience for me.” More information available here.

Prof Elena Korosteleva: Honorary Non-residential Fellow of the European Institute for International Law and International Relations

The EIIR is a Policy institute based and registered in Brussels and Paris, producing knowledge and opinions on the effects of politics, economy,

international law, human rights on Europe as well as on international relations. The Institute is independent, owing no allegiance to any governments or any political or other organisations. The EIIR stresses rigorous strategic research with a forward-looking policy orientation and places particular emphasis on bringing new perspectives to legal strategic discussions and their framing of socio-political consequences across Europe and beyond.

Prof. Elena Korosteleva has become a Visiting Professor at the REES/Oxford School for Global Studies (OSGA).

OSGA boasts the largest community of Area Studies scholars anywhere in the world, and hosts many research centres, including the Russian and East European Studies (REES). Recently Oxford Belarus Observatory was set up there to consolidate research on changing Belarus, including COVID-19 situation there. It is led by Profs. Christopher Gerry (Head of OSGA) and Elena Korosteleva.

Uzbek Embassy Reception: Official Delegation of Uzbekistan with the House of Lords, to celebrate 30 years of Independence of Uzbekistan, 9 September 2021



On 9 September 2021, Professor Elena Korosteleva and Dr Montu Saxena were invited to attend a reception organised jointly by the Uzbek Embassy and the Official Delegation of Uzbekistan with the House of Lords, to celebrate 30 years of Independence of Uzbekistan. The event included Members of Parliament, both chambers led by Uzbekistan AGGP, EBRD members, friends of the Uzbek Society, experts and other officials.

Gold of the Great Steppe Exhibition at Fitzwilliam Museum, September 2021-January 2022

Cambridge Central Asia Forum in collaboration with Fitzwilliam Museum, Kings Silk Roads Programme and the Embassy of Kazakhstan are delighted to announce the opening of the exhibition. Five years ago, a large-scale and unique archaeological research programme was launched in the East Kazakhstan Region of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Identifying and excavating dozens of new archaeological sites to be studied. In 2019, the East Kazakhstan Regional Museum of Local History and the University of Cambridge began working together to arrange joint research projects and an exhibition drawing on material and studies from this important research programme. The exhibition is open to everyone and will be available to see until January 2022.

PDRA News

We would like to congratulate Dr Kudaibergenova and Dr Petrova for getting lectureships in Uni of Cambridge and UCL respectively.

COMPASS Affiliate News

Prof Albena Azmanova, from Kent Brussels and COMPASS project senior research affiliate has been awarded the International Studies Association's BEST BOOK prize under the International Political Economy section. The selection committee, chaired by Michael Breen, notes: "Capitalism on Edge is

a major contribution to thinking regarding some of the really big questions of our time, including the future of contemporary capitalism and the potential for revolutionary change. The book is based on thorough research and makes a powerful argument that is deep, provocative, accessible, and engaging."

Publications

Kalra, P and Saxena SS (eds) (2021) **Special Issue** on 'Globalizing Local Understanding of Fragility in Eurasia', *Journal of Eurasian Studies*. September 2021.

Kalra P, Saxena SS. (2021) Globalizing local understanding of fragility in Eurasia. *Journal of Eurasian Studies*. September 2021. doi:10.1177/18793665211044839

Prajakt Kalra. (2021). Park Hyunhee, Soju: A global history. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2021. 281 pp.. *Korean Journal of the History of Science*, 43(2), 505-509.

Kudaibergenova, D. and Buranelli, F.C. (2021) 'Theorizing the Nature of Power in Central Asia', *Special Issue, Problems of Post-Communism*, 68(2).

Korosteleva, E. and Petrova, I. (2021) 'Community Resilience in Belarus and the EU response', *Journal of Common Market Studies Annual Review*, 59 (4), Advanced online publication

Petrova I, Korosteleva E. (2021) Societal fragilities and resilience: The emergence of peoplehood in Belarus. *Journal of Eurasian Studies*. August 2021. doi:10.1177/18793665211037835

Valiyev, A. (2021) 'Karabakh After the 44-Day War: Russian Peacekeepers and Patterns', *PONARS Eurasia Policy Memo*, 23 August.

Valiyev, A., & Babayev, A. (2021). Azerbaijani youth in transition: Is the state youth policy effective enough? *Journal of Eurasian Studies*. GCRF COMPASS
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<https://doi.org/10.1177/18793665211046066>

Umarov, A. (2021) 'How Rising Great Power Tensions will Affect Central Asia', *Foreign Policy Research Institute and Oxus Society for Central Asian Affairs*, 8 April

Umarov, A. (2021) 'US-Central Asia: New Trilateral Dialogues Bring Regional Focus to Afghanistan', *The Diplomat* 6 April.

GCRF COMPASS Policy Outputs
COMPASS Country Policy Communique –News from Central Asia and the Eastern Neighbourhood. The content of our country policy communique (CPC) are taken from respective government news and other official channels and reports. Managing Editors: Dr Artsiom Nazaranka (Belarusian State University) *acknowledging his leadership of this initiative and Dr Muzaffer Kutlay (University of Kent). Access July-September report here.

Saidkhonov, S. (2021) 'Towards sustainable economic growth: evidence from Uzbekistan' *GCRF COMPASS Policy Brief*, 5 October.

Khasanov, U. (2021) 'Examining some aspects of Eurasian cooperation', *GCRF COMPASS Policy Brief*, 4 October.

Kutlay, M. (2021) 'Vaccine Diplomacy in the Eastern Partnership Countries: Where does the EU Stand?' *GCRF COMPASS Policy Brief*, 14 September.

Ismailzade, F. and Babayev, B. (2021) 'The Economic Importance of the South Caucasus' *Zangazur Corridor*, *GCRF COMPASS Policy Brief*, 25 May.

UWED Publications

Yunusov Kh. (2020) *The Higher Education System and Legal Education in USA*. Monograph. -T.: 2020. – 108 pp.

Khazanov, U. (2021) *Collective monograph "Modern Central Asia: Resilience & Capacity building"*

Proceedings of "Enhancing the role of women leaders in achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals" (2021) based on the materials of the Tashkent Forum of Women Leaders of the SCO countries

Social Media

Uni of Kent YouTube Channel

Please subscribe and follow our GCRF COMPASS channel here.

CCAF YouTube Channel

A series of talks organised by Cambridge Central Asia Forum and GCRF COMPASS can be found on our youtube channel. Follow the link here.

Thank you for your attention!

Please send any questions and comments to Prajakti Kalra (pk315@cam.ac.uk).

