Governance and Resilience in wider Eurasia: Are cooperative orders possible?

GCRF COMPASS *signature* conference stream
GCRF CONFERENCE @KENT
30 June - 2 July 2019

COMPASS: Comprehensive Capacity-Building in the Eastern Neighbourhood and Central Asia: research integration, impact governance & sustainable communities (GCRF UKRI ES/P010849/1)
Governance and Resilience in Wider Eurasia: Are cooperative orders possible?

GCRF University of Kent signature conference
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Concept: 2019 celebrates ten years since the establishment of the Eastern Partnership (EaP) initiative by the European Union (EU) to foster closer relations with its Eastern neighbours. The same year also features a fifth anniversary of the Russia-led Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) as well as of China’s Belt and Road Initiative. All three projects curiously target the same former Soviet space – wider Eurasia – aiming to translate their good governance intentions into sustainable and prosperous development opportunities for the region and its peoples. And yet, each initiative comes with differing normative visions, premised on the fundamentals of a socially sanctioned idea of what constitutes ‘the good life’ for each governing domain, and involving differing notions of authority, collective identity and formal/informal institutions to underpin it.

The 2016 EU Global Security Strategy emphasised growing complexity, inter-connectivity and contestation of the established international liberal order, positing the need to reform the post-WWII governing architecture by way of facilitating cooperative orders across the globe. This vision however does not easily apply to the wider Eurasia, currently under confluence of several regional orders, and often-exclusive dialogical platforms. While the document proposes to develop bilateral connectivity relations with China; Russia, by the same token, remains ‘a key strategic challenge’ for the EU; whereas governance for the region is being framed through the lens of resilience ‘to withstand and recover from internal and external crises’, and security.1

It is therefore, timely and opportune to take stock of the celebrated governance initiatives and their practices in building resilience, to examine their success/challenges in reforming the region for the benefit of its peoples. Moreover, given their often-incompatible strategies and exclusive platforms for negotiation, it is crucial to understand if cooperation between them is feasible, and if yes, then how.2

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The ‘Governance and Resilience in wider Eurasia’ stream is part of the wider GCRF Conference ‘Building Resilience’, organised by the University of Kent on 30 June-2 July 2019. This theme is supported by the GCRF COMPASS project (ES/P010849/1, 2017-21), an ambitious UK government capacity-building initiative, aiming to extend UK research globally, to address the challenges of growth and sustainability in the developing countries. Notably, the COMPASS project, together with Cambridge University as its research partner, seeks to establish ‘the hubs of excellence’ at the top-level HEIs in Belarus, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, to enable them to act as nodes for knowledge sharing and transfer along the following three dimensions, namely research integration, impact governance, and sustainable communities.

2 For background reading see an op-ed by Zachary Paikin (Kent GCRF research affiliate); and a scholarly piece on a multi-order world by Trine Flockhart (SDU, and COMPASS AB member).
Sunday 30 June
18:00  Arrival/Registration
19:00  Drinks Reception and Buffet

Monday 1 July

09.00 – 09.30  Registration and coffee, followed by welcome from Professor Elena Korosteleva, Principal Investigator, GCRF COMPASS project, Kent

09.45 - 11.15  PLENARY I: ‘Uncertainty and a Changing Order’, Trine Flockhart in conversation with Alexander Lukin (HSE) and Kerry Brown (KCL)

Moderator: Elena Korosteleva

11.15 – 11.30  Coffee break

11.30 - 13.00  Panel I: The EU and wider Eurasia: challenges and opportunities

Moderator: Zachary Paikin (Kent)

Dirk Schuebel (EEAS) – Title TBC
Mark Entin (MGIMO) - Title TBC
Irina Petrova (Leuven) – ‘Resilience-building in the EaP policy: ‘the local’s’ perspective’
Anar Valiyev (ADA University) - ‘EU-Azerbaijan Relations: What is the future and challenges?’
Yauheny Preiherman (Minsk Dialogue Track II, and Warwick University) – ‘The EU and Wider Eurasia: an in-between perspective’

13.00 – 14.00  Lunch break

14.30 - 16.30  Panel II: The EEU and wider Eurasia: challenges and opportunities

Moderator: Irina Petrova (Leuven/Kent)

Peter Burian (EEAS) – Title TBC
Marcin Kaczmarski (Glasgow) – ‘The Eurasian Economic Union – between patron-client networks and regionalism’
Huawei Zheng (Kent) – ‘Cooperative Orders from the Perspective of Institutionalisation: Comparing Russia’s and China’s Approaches’
Roza Turarbekova (BSU) – ‘Institutionalization of the Eurasian Economic Union: Belarusian-Russian disputes’
Diana T. Kudaibergenova (Cambridge) – ‘Eurasian Economic Union and European Union Power in Kazakhstan and Latvia’
Nilufar Rakhmatullaeva (UWED) – ‘New wave of reform in Uzbekistan and prospects for regional cooperation’

15.30 – 16.00  Coffee break
### Panel III: The BRI and wider Eurasia: challenges and opportunities

**Moderator: Anisa Heritage (Kent)**

- **Boris Iarochevitch** (EEAS) – Title TBC
- **Alexander Lukin** (HSE) – ‘Sino-Russian Strategic Partnership and the Emerging of Greater Eurasia’
- **Oleg Makarov** (BISS) – Title TBC
- **Akram Umarov** (UWED) – ‘Iran’s participation in the stabilization of Afghanistan after 2001’
- **Gulmira Rzayeva** (OIES) – ‘The Southern Gas Corridor: Are Turkey and the European Union ready?’
- **Xu Qinhua** (Renmin) – ‘China-Russia Oil and Natural Gas Cooperation: the Geopolitical Impact’

**17.30 – 17.45**  Concluding remarks

**19.30**  GALA Dinner

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**Tuesday 2 July**

- **09:30 – 10.00**  Coffee
- **10.00 – 12.00**  PLENARY II: Are cooperative orders possible in the wider Eurasian region?

  **Moderator: Adrian Pabst (Kent)**

- **Nicholas Cendrowicz** (European Commission)
- **Richard Sakwa** (UK Kent/HSE WONR)
- **Dirk Schuebel** (EEAS)
- **Peter Burian** (EEAS)
- **Xu Qinhua** (Renmin)
- **Mark Entin** (MGIMO)
- **Ulugbeck Khasanov** (UWED)

**12.00**  Closing remarks by GCRF COMPASS PI Elena Korosteleva (Kent), and Co-I Siddharth Saxena (Cambridge)

**12.00 – 14.00**  Lunch and departure