

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

June 2019, Issue 5



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Welcome Note

By Elena Korosteleva



I am delighted to welcome you to the fifth issue of our COMPASS Newsletter especially that it comes at the anniversary moment of our project – a year since its official inauguration in Minsk, at the Belarusian State University, organised in tandem with the launch of the Minsk Dialogue Forum! Browsing through the many pages of this newsletter, you will see that there is so much to celebrate here – from the achievements of individual scholars, to the valorization of our partnership within and beyond the consortium – WELL DONE and **Happy 1st year Anniversary** to ALL, and many more successful years ahead!

Coming to this date, in the past four months, we have seen further consolidation of our IMPACT strategy manifest in the success of our B.BEST policy training programme (Brussels), the LONDON policy forum and the FCO training initiative at the end of January 2019. Since then we engaged in a series of other collective initiatives including our landmark events - the launch of the **International Student Forum** at the BSU attended by young scholars from across the Consortium (April); a joint Kent-Cambridge **research workshop** on 'BRI @Five' region' (March), and Cambridge-led 'Research in Action' **training school** in Bukhara (April).

We are now coming close to another important undertaking of the project – the GCRF COMPASS
<https://research.kent.ac.uk/gcrf-compass/>

establishment of our **COMPASS signature Conference on Governance and Resilience at Kent** (1-2 July 2019) immediately followed by the 1st GCRF **International Training School** for the Early Career Researchers (2-6 July 2019).

Looking back – we have done some massive work together – so, a debt of gratitude to you ALL. Looking ahead however, is even more exciting: with so many joint research-cum-publication initiatives soon coming to fruition and academic conferences, surveys and policy events in the region.

Wishing you all many productive months ahead,

Professor Elena A. Korosteleva, Principal Investigator, University of Kent

Past Events

Annual Academic Council, Tajikistan, 30 May 2019



Prof Shahidi gave a talk at the Annual Academic Council. The presentation was based on results of her participation in Brussels/European Parliament and the London Forum organised within the GCRF COMPASS Project. She discussed the importance of the project and the benefits of cooperation with the UK. The need for capacity-building and exchanging knowledge and ideas with UK academics and partner countries was highlighted during the forums, and Prof Shahidi commented on organising an event of the similar significance in Tajikistan as part of the project.

10-year anniversary of the Eastern Partnership Initiative, Brussels, 14 May 2019

Prof Korosteleva was invited to a high-level ministerial meeting in Brussels for the celebration of the 10-year anniversary of the Eastern Partnership Initiative (#EaP10) and discussions of its future for

the neighbourhood. The meeting was opened by President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker, who noted the EaP's strategic importance and many achievements. HRVP Federica Mogherini underscored the people's factor, which she was sure would drive the policy success forward. Ideas for greater EaP visibility, AA+, transport and energy connectivity, and tailored partnerships will be defining the EaP's future direction. Resilience governance will stay firmly on the agenda of the EU strategy towards the Eastern region and Central Asia.



Weekly meetings of Tajik team in TNU in the framework of the COMPASS project, 13 May 2019

Prof Shahidi presented her report on the GCRF COMPASS Cambridge organised 'Research in Action' workshop in Bukhara 8-11 April 2019 to the Academic Council of the Faculty of International Relations of TNU. In addition presentations by participants on their knowledge and impressions from the trip were discussed, as an example of how to proceed in Tajikistan. At the end of the meeting, the role of each member of the team in the implementation of further plans within the framework of the COMPASS project was defined.

Visit of His Excellency Khalifzoda, Ambassador of Tajikistan to the UK, at the University of Cambridge, 10 May 2019



GCRF COMPASS Cambridge hosted HE Khalifzoda in the University of Cambridge on 10 May. Dr Saxena hosted the Ambassador in the Centre of Development Studies where His Excellency met COMPASS affiliates and

heard about the research and plans for collaborative work with COMPASS partners Tajik National University. The Ambassador expressed the Embassy's full support for COMPASS activities in and with Tajikistan for the duration of the project.



GCRF COMPASS LANDMARK EVENT - International Student Convention held in the BSU on 25-27 April, 2019



GCRF COMPASS Student Convention titled "Integration of integrations: status quo, challenges and perspectives" was held in Minsk as part of the 76th BSU Annual Students Scientific Conference. Forum gathered over 800 participants including 30 representatives (students and junior researchers) from all COMPASS partner universities – Kent, Cambridge, UWED, TNU, BSU, and Giessen (Germany) separately. At the opening session on April 25th, participants were welcomed by HE Ms Fionna Gibb, British Ambassador to Belarus, Prof Korosteleva, Prof Shadurski, Dean of the BSU Faculty of International Relations and Dr Nazaranka. The plenary session included report by UWED students S. Yodgorov and O. Akromov on Uzbekistan's New Foreign & Regional Policy. Young researchers presented and discussed their research findings in three panels – Integration initiatives in wider Eurasia, European Integration Project, Conceptualizing "Integration of Integrations"; followed by intense Q&A. Students launched their 1st Student Forum (with a blog to follow), WhatsApp communication page, and visited many historic and cultural places in Minsk, including the National Library, WWII Museum, and the Bolshoi Theatre.

GCRF COMPASS

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

Dr Saxena met with HE Chris Allan, Ambassador of the UK to Uzbekistan, 15 April 2019

HE Allan invited Dr Saxena to the Embassy of the United Kingdom in Tashkent to offer his congratulations on the successful workshop organised by GCRF COMPASS Cambridge together with The Coordination and Methodological Centre on contemporary history under the Uzbekistan Academy of Sciences on 8-11 April 2019. He highlighted the importance of academic and high level exchanges between UK and Uzbekistan and discussed further support for COMPASS events with and in Uzbekistan to help build links, capacity and increase the international presence of the UK.



The Academy of the General Prosecutor's Office of Uzbekistan, Uzbekistan, 13 April 2019

Dr Saxena, Dr Yunusov and P. Kalra were invited by the Academy of the General Prosecutor's Office of Uzbekistan under Presidential Administration of Uzbekistan in Tashkent to give a talk on research methodology and research. The session was attended by students and researchers from the Academy. The session was introduced and opened by remarks by E. Kalenko, the head of the Academy of the General Prosecutor's Office of Uzbekistan on the importance of good governance and capacity building in terms of research and for research academies in Uzbekistan.



COMPASS Cambridge-led 'Research in Action' Training Workshop in Bukhara, Uzbekistan, 8-11 April 2019



GCRF COMPASS Cambridge together with the Coordination and Methodological Centre on contemporary history under the Uzbekistan Academy of Sciences organised a three day workshop entitled 'Research in Action' on 8-11 April 2019. It was designed to engage with varied research cultures, interdisciplinary research, and methodologies of research while considering the most current concerns in Central Asia, wider Eurasia and globally. It was organised with support from the Embassy of Uzbekistan in the UK, Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan, the Academy of the General Prosecutor's Office of Uzbekistan, and the Institute of Contemporary History under the Academy of Sciences in Uzbekistan, University of World Economy and Diplomacy. This workshop provided the basis for research capacity building, a core goal of the COMPASS project, in academia, government and media. The workshop focused research methodologies across development paradigms and encompassed sustainability, multilateralism, scientific and cultural diplomacy, international relations, political economy, industrial policy and technology, science and education amongst other areas.

Visit of Baroness Suttie to Belarusian State University, Minsk, 8 - 9 April 2019

Member of GCRF COMPASS Advisory Board Baroness Suttie visited the Belarusian State University on 8-9 April, 2019. Baroness Suttie met with BSU Rector Professor Andrei Karol and other members of the university leadership on the 8th of April to discuss the implementation of the COMPASS project at BSU and broader perspectives of Belarusian-British cooperation in education and science. She delivered a public lecture attended by over 150 BSU students and academic staff members on "Brexit and new global challenges" with an extremely intense session of Q&A. She ran a training session on British Parliamentary Debate for members of the

BSU Students Debating society, adjudicated a game on EU-related topics and shared valuable advice on preparing for public debating.



On April 9th, Baroness Suttie, accompanied by Belarus NTL Artsiom Nazaranka and Prof. Victor Shadurski visited the Upper House of the Belarusian Parliament where she met with Prof. Oleg Rummo, head of the working group of the Belarus National Assembly on cooperation with the British Parliament.



Regionalisms, Neighborhoods and the Contours of Post-Liberal International Order: Central Asia in the Limelight in Dushanbe on 3-4 April 2019

Dr Kudaibergenova (University of Cambridge) attended the World International Studies Conference, Johan Skytte Institute of Political Science, University of Tartu on Regionalisms, Neighborhoods and the Contours of Post-Liberal International Order: Central Asia in the Limelight in Dushanbe. She gave a talk on "Routes, Connections and Hubs in the Inter-Asian Context," which focused on interconnectivity in the Central Asian region.

The Eastern Partnership @10: In search of New Momentum, College of Europe Natolin, 29 March 2019



Prof Korosteleva was invited to speak at the conference 'The Eastern Partnership @10: In search of a New Momentum', at a joint panel with HE Ambassador Thomas Mayr-Harting (EEAS), HE Ambassador Piotr Switalski (EU Deleg to Armenia), and Mr Hofmokl, Polish MFA representative. The panel was moderated by ENP Chair Prof. Tobias Schumacher.

Regional Seminar for Heads of Delegations and the EEAS, College of Europe, Natolin, 28 March 2019



Prof Korosteleva was invited to speak about the current developments in wider Eurasia at the Regional Seminar for the Heads of EU Delegations and the EEAS at the College of Europe Natolin. The seminar was attended by all EU Delegation Ambassadors, EU Special Representatives to the region and senior representatives of the EEAS, Commission and EU Chief BREXIT Negotiator Michel Barnier.

GCRF COMPASS Workshop on BRI in Kent and Cambridge 13-15 March, 2019

On 13th March a one-day workshop took place at the University of Kent, Canterbury. The workshop entitled, 'The Belt and Road Initiative @ Five: Taking stock of global ambitions, regional response, and looking ahead,' brought together scholars working on recent developments regarding China's BRI and the regional responses from Eastern Europe and Central Asia to China's

growing investments. The workshop hosted three panels, on China's grand strategy and its visions for international order; and on regional responses to the BRI, focusing particularly on the Eastern neighbourhood and Central Asia. The workshop was followed by a Master Class on 14th March where postgraduate students at the University of Kent took the opportunity to ask questions about the BRI to the experts participating in the workshop: Prof Aleksandr Baichorov (BSU), Prof Kerry Brown (KCL), Dr Olivia Cheung (Warwick) and Dr Alice Ekman (IFRI). Students asked among others about the impact of the BRI on relations with Europe and the USA; the economic and security implications of the BRI; and the legal context of these developments.



Following the workshop in Kent, GCRF COMPASS Cambridge organised a one day workshop on 'BRI and the Silk Road' on 15 March in the Centre of Development Studies. This workshop was a continuation of the workshop on BRI organised in the University of Kent by our GCRF COMPASS partners in Kent. The workshop included presentations and talks by Prof Peter Nolan, Dr Sanghera (Kent), Dr Radivojevic (UCL), Dr Satybaldieva (Kent), Dr Kudaibergenova (Cambridge), Dr Safdar (Cambridge), Prof Baichorov (BSU) and P. Kalra (Cambridge). The workshop was moderated by Dr Saxena.



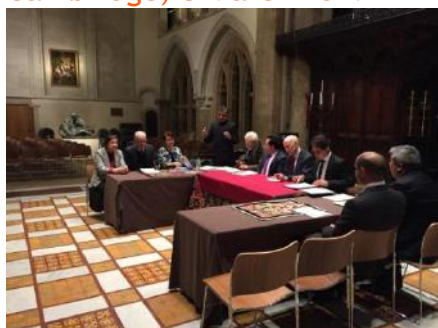
Certificate Programme on Combatting Human Trafficking, ADA University, 11-13 March 2019

On March 11-13, ADA University has conducted certificate program on

“Enhancement of National Capacities to Combat Human Trafficking in Azerbaijan (ENCT)” in partnership with European Union and international organization for Migration (IOM). In this 3-day long training for students of diplomacy and international relations program of ADA University have been encompassed capacity building of future diplomats in the field of combating human trafficking, key concepts and action procedures to take relevant actions to combat human trafficking and assist victims of trafficking (VoTs).



Roundtable on Dynamics and Dynamisms of the Emerging Global Order, University of Cambridge, 8 March 2019



GCRF COMPASS in collaboration with Centre of Development Studies, Cambridge Central Asia Forum and Jesus College organised a Strategic Ambassadorial meeting on 8 March 2019. The panel consisted of HE Jawad (Ambassador of Afghanistan), HE Khalifzoda (Ambassador of Tajikistan), HE Shaykhov (Ambassador of Uzbekistan), Mr Annayev (Embassy of Turkmenistan), and Mr Sydykov (Embassy of Kyrgyz Republic). Senior Cambridge academics like Prof Lord Mair, Prof Nolan and Mr Ray were also part of the panel with Prof Shahidi (TNU) and Prof Korosteleva (Kent). The meeting was chaired by Dr Saxena and attended by students, early career researchers and colleagues from University of Cambridge. The roundtable was followed by a cultural evening to celebrate Navroz (New Year). This momentous occasion was especially

important since it coincided with International Women's Day. The evening showcased the wonderful varieties of dance, music and cultural experiences that Central Asia and wider Eurasia has to offer. The audience (200+) was enthralled with the beauty and grace of children, men and women representing their countries in the oldest chapel in Cambridge.

International academic conference on ‘The role of university education and science in modern society’, Minsk, February 26-27, 2019

The conference was timed to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the adoption of the Soviet Belarus Government Decree of February 25, 1919 to open a University in Minsk. The opening speech was delivered by the BSU Rector Professor Karol. The plenary session talks by leading BSU academics (Prof O. Yanovski, Prof G. Vasilevich, and Prof V. Shadurski). Prof Marzalyuk, Chair of the Standing Commission on Education, Culture and Science of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus also gave a talk. The event attracted over 170 researchers from Belarus, Russia, Poland, Germany, Slovakia and Turkey. During breakout sessions participants discussed the university achievements in research, educational and cultural fields, the role and place of the university in the global academic community, and future development strategies.



Early Career Researchers Training School, ADA University, 25 February -1 March, 2019



ADA University Center of Excellence in EU Studies conducted its 1st Early Career Researcher Training School on Research Methodology within the framework of the COMPASS. The main objective of the program was to offer an opportunity for further skills development on research methodology and exchange of ideas for Doctoral and Postdoctoral students and early career researchers from across major higher education institutions of Azerbaijan.

The training was conducted by Dr Larsen, University of Kent and Dr. Anar Valiyev, Dean of School of Public and International Affairs, ADA University. This year's the school focused on data collection methods and sources, challenges in accessing relevant data on Azerbaijan, basics of statistics, regression analysis, statistics with SPSS.

International Conference “Central Asian Connectivity: Challenges and New Opportunities”, Tashkent, 19-20 February 2019



Dr Saxena was invited to moderate a panel at the International Conference: “Central Asian Connectivity: Challenges and New Opportunities” in Tashkent, 19-20 February 2019. The conference featured the following speakers President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev. The high-level meeting brought together important officials from all five Central Asian countries, Special Representative of Afghanistan, the UN, US and EU. Among other notable people were Abdulaziz Kamilov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and Head of UNRCCA Natalia Gherman, Frederick Starr, Chairman of the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute of the American Foreign Policy Institute (USA), Sadyk Safayev, First deputy chairman of the Senate of Uzbekistan, Ilhomjon Ne'matov, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan, Kuvanchbek Shadybekov, Director, National Institute for Strategic Studies of Kyrgyzstan, Sanat Kushkumbayev, Deputy Director, Kazakhstan Institute for Strategic Studies under the President of

the Republic of Kazakhstan, Parviz Muhammadzoda, Deputy Director, Center for Strategic Studies under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, Isgender Orazov, Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan, Fouzai Arral Habibi, Specialist of the Office of the Special Representative of the President of Afghanistan for Central Asia.

More information:
<https://www.pv.uz/en/news/tashkent-is-to-held-conference-on-connectivity-in-central-asia>

University of Warwick's Central Asia Forum's 2nd annual conference, UK, 16 February 2019



Dr Saxena was invited to moderate a panel in Central Asia Forum's 2nd annual conference on the cultural, political and economic dynamism of this rapidly transforming region. Dr Saxena moderated the Ambassadors' Roundtable on 'The effects of the BRI and the future of Central Asia' with HE Erlan Idrissov (Ambassador of Kazakhstan to the UK), Mr Aliyor Tilavov (Councilor, Embassy of Uzbekistan) and Mr Shao Zheng (Counsellor, Embassy of China).

Talk by Dr Saxena on 'Local Knowledge and Environmental Sustainability in Central Asia', University of Cambridge, 15 February 2019

Under the framework of the Centre of Development Studies and GCRF COMPASS Cambridge Seminar Series Dr Saxena gave a talk on 'Local Knowledge and Environmental Sustainability in Central Asia'. He talked about the importance of doing interdisciplinary research and how local conditions and understandings determine the direction of research. As a trained anthropologist and physicist Dr Saxena gave an insightful talk about research methodology across disciplines.



Talks and Events

Talk by Akiko Yamanaka, Former Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, Cambridge, 31 May 2019



Prof Yamanaka, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, gave a talk on 'Social Resilience: From Humans to Infrastructure'. Her talk focused on aspects of social and human resilience especially when faced with natural disasters. With populated cities in Central Asia located along major earthquake faultlines and increased infrastructure development in the region, her talk was well received and integrated some of the pressing issues in terms of policy in the region. Building practices and institutional development must take into account disaster management and work towards providing social resilience for a 'good life' if the countries of Central Asia are serious about preparing for the future.

Talk by Prof Rahilya Geybullayeva, Head of Azerbaijani Literature Department, Baku Slavic University in Cambridge, 24 May 2019



As part of the GCRF COMPASS and Cambridge Central Asia Forum Seminar Series, Prof Geybullayeva, Head of Azerbaijani Literature Department, Baku Slavic University gave a talk on 'Modern Interpretations of Nizami or moulds without moulds'. The talk touched on aspects of Azerbaijani identity from a historical perspective and touched on COMPASS core goals and aims of building a comprehensive understanding of the Modern Azerbaijani nation.

Conference on 'Improving quality of human capacity in law enforcement sphere', Uzbekistan, 18 May 2019



The Academy of Prosecutor General's office of Uzbekistan invited Dr Saxena to a meeting on good governance. Dr Yunusov, COMPASS Affiliate, went in his stead and gave a talk on approaches to integrating research in education. It was a great opportunity to offer research methodologies and ways of doing research to help build capacity in Uzbekistan. The conference was dedicated to the first year anniversary of the Academy of the Prosecutor's General's Office of the Republic of Uzbekistan. It was attended by academics and researchers from around Uzbekistan and abroad.

Panel Discussion on the Developments in the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic, University of Cambridge, 17 May 2019

As part of efforts towards capacity building and an exchange of

parliamentary dialogue, Cambridge hosted Parliamentarians from the Kyrgyz Republic, Kanybek Imanaliev, Vice-Chairman of Committee on the international affairs of Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic, and Sadyk Sher-Niyaz, Deputy of the Kyrgyz Parliament; Chairman of the Commission on Social, Cultural and Humanitarian Issues of the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-speaking States (TurkPA), accompanied by Her Excellency Iskakova, Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic. The discussion covered the Central Asian regional political landscape, regional dialogues, BRI and EAEU.



Talk by Anisa Heritage and Pak K. Lee on 'China's Belt and Road Initiative and Counter-hegemony', University of Kent, 10 May 2019

Anisa Heritage and Pak K. Lee (Kent) presented a paper titled 'China's Belt and Road Initiative and Counter-hegemon'. The paper focuses on the bilateral China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), portrayed as the flagship project of the BRI, and Italy's signing up to the BRI in March 2019. Using the neo-Gramscian perspective, the paper reflects on how far China is able to espouse its own norms, rules and practices as part of a strategy to reshape the normative contours of global trade and investment.



Talk by Dr O' Connor (UCL, UK) on 'Dushanbe: old or new? A city beyond its borders,' University of Cambridge, 3 May 2019



Dr O'Connor explored the lives of cultural producers, or intelligentsia, of Dushanbe, Tajikistan in the talk. By tracing the lives of multiple generations of artists and scholars, this project aims to reflect on how ideas and artistic/literary movements were produced, used, shared and transformed during Tajikistan's fast-changing history. The research focuses on the *longue durée* of knowledge production and social consciousness over the past century with the arrival and collapse of Communism and the following 25 years of national independence. The lives, ambitions and projects of Tajik cultural producers highlight the successes and failures of Soviet ideology, and the varied and conflicting frameworks of social change that different social groups and generations of people think and work within. By engaging with Dushanbe and its cultural elite Dr O'Connor provided a snapshot of the importance of an understanding of layered identity in the context of Central Asia.

Conference on Connecting Central Asia in the 21st Century', University of Oxford, 25-26 April 2019

GCRF COMPASS participated in a student-organised multidisciplinary conference 'Connecting Central Asia in the 21st Century' on 25-26 April 2019 organised by the Russian and East European Studies Programme of Oxford University's School of Global and Area Studies. C. Laumulin (University of Cambridge) and Dr Umarov (UWED) participated in the event which brought together leading scholars and researchers united by their interest in Central Asia's past, present and future. C. Laumulin presented a paper on science and technology and considered aspects of a development paradigm in Central Asia based on regional requirements. He

presented his work in the panel entitled, 'How Does Central Asia's Past Create Its Present?' chaired by acclaimed author and academic Prof Frankopan.



Dr Umarov presented his understanding of the Belt and Road Initiative's perception in Central Asia on the panel entitled, 'Belt and Road Initiative—Regional Boom or Bust?'. He shared his views on the transformative impact of the BRI projects for Central Asia, the influence of the BRI on economic growth strategies, possible opportunities and challenges, and the importance of the increased connectivity for more effective regionalism in Central Asia.

<https://www.rees-central-asia-conference.com/>

ANSO: China-Tajikistan Workshop, Dushanbe Research Center for Ecology and Environment in Tajikistan, 22 April 2019

Dushanbe Research Center for Ecology and Environment in Tajikistan hosted a Workshop on Scientific collaboration between China and Tajikistan. The meeting included a session on GCRF COMPASS goals and aims, following which Chen Xi, Vice President of the Xinjiang Branch of the Chinese Academy of Sciences invited COMPASS for further collaboration.

Book Launch of 'The Silk Road and the Political Economy of the Mongol Empire' in Uzbekistan, 15 April 2019

P. Kalra was invited by the Academy of Sciences Centre for Contemporary History to introduce her book, 'The Silk Road and the Political Economy of the Mongol Empire'. She had the opportunity to discuss regional initiatives like the EAEU and BRI with researchers and scholars of Uzbekistan's history. It was followed by a fruitful discussion on research methodologies especially in historical research.



KENT COMPASS Work-in-Progress series:

12 April 2019: Irina Petrova 'The Turn Towards Resilience and Local Ownership in the EU's External Governance in its Neighbourhood: A Sense of Deja Vu?', PhD Student (Leuven & Compass affiliate)

22 March 2019: Morvan Lallouet 'Beyond Nationalism and Liberalism, Locating Aleksey Navalny within the Russian Political Field', Kent PhD student

8 February 2019: Huawei Zheng 'Is the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) an Order-Making Regional Actor? An Internal-External Approach', Kent GCRF PhD student

18 January 2019: Susanne Szkola 'Power, Pride and Prejudice: Emotional Othering in Azerbaijan's Presidential Discourse', Kent (Brussels) PhD student

HE Szijjarto, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Hungary in ADA University, 29 March 2019

On March 29, 2019 ADA University hosted a talk by H.E. Peter Szijjarto, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary (since 2014) about the Future of EU.



Pakistan Culture Day, Tajikistan, 29 March 2019

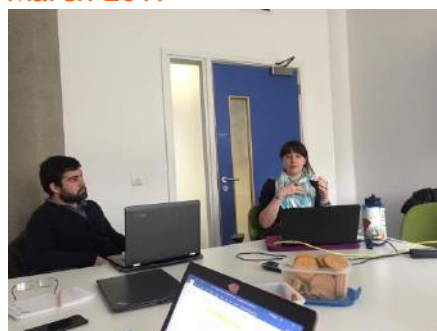


The Pakistan-Culture day was celebrated in Dushanbe. Under the rubric, there was a meeting with representatives of various embassies in Tajikistan, including the Ambassador of Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan. Discussions were held on the GCRF COMPASS project and on various other topics. There were fruitful discussions with Pakistan, Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan on furthering cooperation and building links.

ISA 60th Annual Convention, Toronto, Canada, 27- 30 March 2019

This year COMPASS supported a number of staff and PhD students to attend the 2019 International Studies Association (ISA) conference, through COMPASS mobility fund. The 2019 ISA was attended by Dr Muzaffer Kutlay, Zachary Paikin, Zhouchen Mao, Susanner Szkola and Dr Oybek Madiyev. The theme was 'Re-visioning International Studies: Innovation and Progress'. It fostered rigorous discussions on a broad range of themes within the international studies area.

Talk by Callie Berman, Centre of Development Studies, University of Cambridge, 22 March 2019



Callie Berman, GCRF COMPASS Cambridge affiliate and PhD student in Centre of Development Studies, University of Cambridge, gave a talk on 'Aquaculture and the Central Asian Agricultural Renaissance'. She talked about her latest fieldwork findings in Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan to showcase

the different practices in production and dissemination of caviar in the Caspian Sea region. She contextualised her findings with environmental sustainability and practices in the region which dated back to the Soviet times with the new developments in technology, knowledge production and exchanges since 1991..

Prof Sachs, Columbia University gave a talk on Sustainable Development, ADA University, 16 March 2019

On March 16, 2019, Dr Prof Sachs, economist and public policy analyst, Columbia University, and special envoy of the UN Secretary General on Sustainable Development received the an Honorary Doctorate from ADA University. Prof Sachs delivered a public lecture on Sustainable Development challenges.



Visit of the EU Delegation to UWED, 14 March 2019



UWED hosted a meeting of the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassadors of the European Union countries accredited in Tashkent and the head of the EU Delegation to Uzbekistan, dedicated to the accession of Romania to the EU Presidency. It was attended by students, undergraduates, as well as the faculty of the university.

HE Mr. Romeo Stancu, Ambassador of Romania, described in detail the main directions of the Romanian EU presidency, new trends in world and European regional politics, elaborated on the foreign policy of Romania, the state and prospects of Uzbek-Romanian

relations. He noted that the approach of the Romanian presidency of the EU Council is expressed on the basis of strengthening the unity of the EU under the motto: “Cohesion, common European value”.

The event was attended by Mr. Gunter Overfeld (Ambassador of Germany), Mr. Andrea Bertozzi (Ambassador of Italy), Mr. Jaroslav Siro (Ambassador of the Czech Republic), Ms. Violent de Wilmore (Ambassador of France), Ms. Eric Toot (Deputy Ambassador of Hungary), Mrs. Charmian Liver (1st Secretary of the British Embassy), Mr. Valeri Vasselinov (Charge d'affaires of the Bulgarian Embassy) and Mr. Harijs Batrags (Latvian Embassy representative).

<http://uwed.uz/en/news/fulltext/817>

Roundtable on Challenges and Transformation of NATO, ADA University, 12 March 2019

On March 12, 2019 ADA University hosted a Round-table Discussion with Ambassadors and Experts on celebration of 20 years of Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic joining NATO and discussion about challenges connected with the transformation of these countries' security architecture connected with the entry into the Alliance. On March 12, 1999, the first three countries of the former communist block – the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland – successfully completed their process of admission into NATO by becoming full members. For the first 20 years of their membership in the Alliance.



1st International Cyber Security Week, Azerbaijan, 11-15 March 2019

COMPASS Research Associate, Mr Ismailzade delivered a talk at the 1st International Cyber Security Week organised by Azerbaijan's Ministry of Transport, Communications and High Technologies. The event aimed to boost national cyber security capacity-building and increase awareness in the field of cyber security. The week featured a series

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of events, including a national research workshop, Regional Internet Governance Forum, Hackathon competition, and a cyber security solutions workshop.



Visit by British Embassy: Ms Strusers and Ms Leave, to UWED, Tashkent, 11 March 2019



The 2nd Secretary for Political Affairs of the British Embassy in Russia, Ms. Kathryn Strusers, and the 1st Secretary by the Head of the Political Affairs Section of the British Embassy in Uzbekistan, Ms. Charmian Leaver visited UWED. During the meeting in the Rector's Office, Ms. K. Strusers highly appreciated the fundamental changes in the foreign and domestic policy of Uzbekistan, initiated by President Mirziyoyev, interested in expert assessments of UWED scientists on various issues of regional policy of the republic. They emphasized the very positive diplomatic activity of Uzbekistan in solving the complex Afghan problem.

<http://uwed.uz/en/news/fulltext/814>

Talk by Dr Luquez (Spain) on BRI, ADA University, Baku, 4 March 2019

On 4 March, ADA University hosted a public discussion led by Prof. Dr. Fernando F. Cortinas Luquez from IR Business School, Spain on 'Global Competition in a Multipolar World: Rediscovering the Spirit of The Silk Road from Marco Polo to the OBOR Initiative.' The talk was attended by researchers and students and attracted a lot of attention.

Talk by Dr Kudaibergenova at the Central Asian Gender Equality Festival Femagora, Kazakhstan, 2-4 March 2019



Dr Kudaibergenova (University of Cambridge) gave two talks at the Central Asian Equality Festival Femagora in Almaty in celebration of Women's Day on the 8th of March. She spoke about the obstacles for Central Asian female researchers in academia and on empirical data she has collected through surveys on Central Asian Women's Representation in Western academia.

Talk by K. Makhmudova, EBRD, Senior Banker, Financial Institution, in University of Cambridge, 1 March 2019

K. Makhmudova gave a talk on 'From Central Asia to Central London - Adventures of the Uzbek professional in the city'. She is a Senior Banker at the EBRD, working in the Financial Institutions department's TFP team. Here she leads the TFP's policy dialogue on the development of trade finance and compliance, access to trade finance for small and medium size businesses, as well as a number of capacity development projects, including the internationally accredited EBRD Trade Finance e-Learning Programme. Kamola is also founder and editor of the EBRD magazine Trade Exchange. Kamola came to the TFP from the EBRD's Transport, Power and Energy Utilities departments, and has broad experience in emerging market economies, working on debt, equity and complex project finance transactions in both the private and public sectors. The talk was insightful and engaged with capacity building, private and public finance, research projects funded by EBRD in Central Asia and wider Eurasia.



USAID conducted a seminar at UWED on 'Methods of Legal Analysis,' UWED, Tashkent, 27-28 February 2019



On February 27-28 USAID conducted a seminar at the UWED on "Methods of Legal Analysis". The seminar was held by an expert from the University of New Mexico - Professor Ted Parnal, who was the dean for over 30 years and had international experience. At the seminar, teachers familiarized themselves with the IRAC and FIRAC methods of analysis, and also learned how to apply it in practice. The practical part was carried out in small groups.

<http://uwed.uz/en/news/fulltext/807>

Visit of Principal Deputy Secretary for South and Central Asia Alice Wells, USA, to UWED, Tashkent, 27 February 2019

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asian Affairs Alice Wells visited University of World Economy and Diplomacy. She focused on the importance of the relationship between United States and Uzbekistan and the broader Central Asian region. U.S. policy towards Uzbekistan rests on five key pillars, which are closely aligned with the priorities President Mirziyoyev has established for Uzbekistan.

<https://uz.usembassy.gov/remarks-by-ambassador-alice-wells/>



Visit of Dr Buranelli, St Andrews University, UK, to UWED, Uzbekistan, 26 February 2019



On February 26, a meeting with a lecturer at St. Andrews University, Dr. Buranelli was held in UWED. At the meeting the possibilities of broad cooperation between the two universities, including the further exchange of professors for giving lectures, academic and scientific delegations, holding joint conferences and seminars, student exchanges, etc was held. Prof Filippo Costa Buranelli stressed that online lectures and the opening of an online library are planned for the near future.

<http://uwed.uz/en/news/fulltext/804>

II Global Perspective Analytical Forum Diplomatic Assembly Model United Nations 2019

The II Global Perspective Analytical Forum Club (GPAF) of the UWED organized the II Global Perspective Analytical Forum Diplomatic Assembly Model United Nations 2019. The conference was held in two directions: 1) Simulation of the UN Security Council; 2) Simulation of the Crisis committee. The event was attended by over 100 students. In both areas of the conference, for several hours, delegates and members of the committee maintained an active discussion on the topics of their conference directions.

<http://uwed.uz/en/news/fulltext/822>



Talk by Dr Lombardozzi in University of Cambridge, 22 February 2019



Dr Lombardozzi (Open University) gave a talk on 'Untangling the reproduction of gender inequalities in the Uzbek economic transition' as part of the CCAF, Centre of Development Studies and GCRF COMPASS Seminar Series. The talk touched on the economic realities in Uzbekistan how it ties in with gender inequalities. The talk was attended by students and early career researchers from Cambridge and led to a vibrant discussion about gender, history and economics in wider Eurasia.

Higher School of Diplomacy under UWED, Tashkent, 19 February 2019

The Higher School of Diplomacy of the University of World Economy and Diplomacy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs started its operation in accordance with the Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated June 21, 2018 "On measures to fundamentally improve the activities of UWED. The main aim of the Higher School of Diplomacy is to provide the retraining and advanced training courses for the personnel of the Ministries and Offices of the Republic of Uzbekistan involved in foreign economic and foreign policy activities by short-term and long-term training courses on a contractual basis.

<http://uwed.uz/en/news/fulltext/796>



Buyuk Kelajak, Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 5-7 February 2019

Dr Yunusov, GCRF COMPAS affiliate, University of Cambridge was invited to the "Uzbekistan 2035" Forum. Buyuk Kelajak is a NGO under the patronage of the Presidential Administration of Uzbekistan aiming to consolidate Uzbeks living abroad to help Uzbekistan's government develop a strategy for Uzbekistan until 2035. This is a special initiative aimed at provisioning for good governance. Dr Yunusov addressed the main panel on Climate Change and co-chaired and presented on a session on Environment. His plenary session address was titled: "Global trends influencing the development of the Republic of Uzbekistan: Environmental Challenges." He also gave a talk in the "Research and Innovation" session.



Talk by Dr H.F. Jahn, Faculty of History, University of Cambridge, 1 February 2019



GCRF COMPASS Cambridge and CCAF, Centre of Development Studies invited Dr Jahn to give a talk on 'Royalty in the Mountains: Russian Tsars Visiting the Caucasus'. The talk was attended by students and researchers from Cambridge and was a very interesting talk touching on the history of the Russian Empire and the

Caucasus, especially Azerbaijan. COMPASS goals and aims encapsulate a deeper understanding of the history of Eurasia which is required to engage with the development of identity in the region. This talk provided the historical background to the processes which are still exercising influence in Azerbaijan.

British Council "Big Idea Challenge", UWED, 19 January 2019

The British Council Uzbekistan in partnership with London Metropolitan University and Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialised Education in Uzbekistan organised the **Big Idea Challenge** project which engaged students from Uzbekistan in an established British innovation and enterprise competition. The seminar was conducted by Natasha Tray, London Metropolitan University, as well as Indira Ikhlasova, British Council, and Murad Ismailov, Victoria Levinskaya and Dilafruz Normuratova.

<http://uwed.uz/en/news/fulltext/764>



Regional Director of Elsevier (Netherlands) held a seminar at UWED, Tashkent, 19 January 2019



The faculty of International Economic Relations organized a scientific and methodological seminar to inform the faculty, PhD students and young researchers about the international requirements of the design of scientific research results how to write articles for publication in international journals. The session was led by Aliya Ospanova

(Regional Director of Elsevier for Central Asia and Azerbaijan).

<http://uwed.uz/en/news/fulltext/763>



Save the Date: Forthcoming Events

5th ADA University Summer School, ADA University, 10-21 June 2019

ADA University Center of Excellence in EU Studies opens its doors to bright students, recent university graduates and young professionals for an intensive short-term summer school program organized in partnership with DAAD (Germany) and University of Bologna (Italy). The participants will have a unique opportunity to gain insights into EU's Foreign and Security Policy and perspectives of development of ENP and EaP from lectures and interactive sessions.

To get more information and apply online, please visit:
<https://www.ada.edu.az/en/news/70-5th-ada-university-eu-summer-school-2019>

4th International Education Conference 2019, ADA University, 19-20 June 2019

The conference entitled, 'Towards Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education: Opportunities for Action' will be held 19-20 June. Recognizing and addressing key development challenges facing the world today, the global community has been committed to set out the fundamental strategies and actions to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. This universal aspiration reflected in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development makes all countries and relevant stakeholders act globally, nationally and locally in collaborative partnership to contribute to the attainment of the transformative, far-reaching goals in areas of vital significance for humanity over the next fifteen years. Translating these global goals and targets into measurable actions to progress toward common vision, the national governments acknowledge their responsibility for localizing and taking ownership over this development platform.

<https://www.ada.edu.az/en/news/60-call-for-papers-ada-4th-international-education-conference-2019>

ESCAS, 16th Biennial Conference in Exeter, UK, 27-29 June 2019

GCRF COMPASS will participate in the ESCAS, 16th conference, on 'The Globality of Central Asia.' There are several COMPASS panels accepted. They focus on EAEU, BRI, Resilience and developments in Central Asia and wider Eurasia. The European Society for Central Asian Studies (ESCAS) seeks to support the study of Central Asia — Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and adjacent regions of the Caucasus, Russia, China, Afghanistan and Iran; and encourages cross-regional or comparative analyses of Central Asia with its neighbouring regions of Asia and Eurasia.

In addition Dr Saxena has been invited to be on a panel entitled, 'Industries, economic planning, and development paths in the Central Asian Republics (1970-1990s)'.

Latest Program can be found here.

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GCRF COMPASS SIGNATURE CONFERENCE @Kent: Governance and Resilience in Wider Eurasia: are cooperative orders possible? 30 June -2 July 2019

The University of Kent is holding a Global Challenge Research Fund (GCRF) Conference from 30 June – 2 July 2019 entitled, 'Building Resilience'. 'Governance and Resilience in wider Eurasia' is going to be part of the wider conference. The two plenaries will focus on discussing Uncertainty, Changing Order and whether Cooperation is possible; while the panels focus on the details of the EU, China and Russia's governance approaches to the region. The workshop will be attended by internationally renowned academics, EU, UK and regional policy-makers, and practitioners. For more information see:

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

GCRF GCDC Early Career Researcher Training School "Governance, resilience and order: Eurasia and beyond, under the pressure of global and regional change", University of Kent, Canterbury, 2 - 6 July 2019

Within the framework of the GCRF Kent Global Challenges Doctoral Centre and the GCRF COMPASS project we are delighted to announce a Call for Applications for the first GCRF GCDC Early Career Researcher Training School (ECR TS), to be held on 2 – 6 July 2019 at the University of Kent, Canterbury (UK). Its main objective is to offer an opportunity for further skills development and exchange of ideas for PhD and Postdoctoral Researchers working on capacity-building and political, economic, societal and environmental developments in ODA countries. The Training School will include time for paper presentations, research skills training sessions, and social and networking events including a day trip to London.

13th Annual Baku Summer Energy School, ADA University, 6-20 July 2019

ADA University has organized the 13th Annual Baku Summer Energy School (BSES). BSES is an annual two-week certificate program for energy professionals organized in partnership

with the State Oil Company of the Azerbaijan Republic (SOCAR) and BP in Azerbaijan. It brings together world-renowned scholars, academicians, and policymakers to examine and gain a better understanding of global energy and environment issues and their practical application. The program will take place on July 6-20, 2019.

To get more information and apply online, please visit:
<http://www.ccee.ada.edu.az/apply-now>

Book Launch: Banking in Central Asia and Mongolia since 1875, University of Cambridge, 10 July 2019

M. Honma, the former head of EBRD for Central Asia has written a book on 'Banking in Central Asia and Mongolia since 1875' which will have its official launch on 10 July in the Centre of Development Studies, University of Cambridge. The event will be attended by senior bankers from EBRD from around the world and the Ambassadors of all five Central Asian countries in the UK and Mongolia. There will also be senior academics and researchers from Cambridge and across the UK. Mr Honma will give a short introductory talk and the event will be followed by a reception. The book has been published by Cambridge Scientific Publisher and edited by P. Kalra and J. Wardle.

11th International Convention of Asia Scholars (ICAS 11), Leiden, 16-19 July

Dr Saxena has been invited to be panelist on a roundtable entitled, "The History of Industry in Central Asia: Economic Models and Ideas of Progress", organized by Dr Morozova (Uni of Regensburg) and Dr Vogelsang, Deputy Director of IIAS (International Institute for Asian Studies, Leiden University). This roundtable aims to develop connections and interfaces between academic research on the history, anthropology, and present condition of industrial projects in Central Asia and their practical economic and political implementation and impact. ICAS (International Convention of Asia Scholars) attracts participants from over 75 countries to engage in global dialogues on Asia that transcend boundaries between academic disciplines and geographic areas.

More information:
<https://eu.eventscloud.com/ehome/icas11>

Conference on 'Uzbekistan in the context of Regional Security and Global Change', UWED, Tashkent, 6-7 October 2019

UWED is hosting its signature conference on Regional Security and Global Changes on 6-7 October 2019. The meeting aims to bring together experts from the region, the UK and beyond with an interest in discussing global issues at the heart of COMPASS goals.

20th Annual Conference of the Central Eurasian Studies Society (CESS), George Washington University, Washington DC, USA, 10-13 October 2019

COMPASS affiliates will present CESS. The accepted panel is entitled, 'Back to Centrality of Central Asia: challenges and opportunities?'. The mission of the Central Eurasian Studies Society is to: facilitate communication and interaction among scholars of the Central Eurasia region, and in doing so to promote high standards of scholarship and instruction about the Central Eurasia region; to promote cooperation among persons and organizations concerned with the scholarly study of Central Eurasia; and to promote general knowledge of and public interest in Central Eurasia. This year's conference will be hosted by the Central Asia Program, at the Institute for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies (IERES), George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs.

<https://www.centreurasia.org/conferences/annual/>

'Cultural Diplomacy in Central Asia', Workshop in TNU, dates TBC

COMPASS-TNU team in collaboration with the Republic of Tajikistan Centre of Strategic Studies, Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan and Shahidi International Foundation focuses on the development and discussion on what is the nature of cultural diplomacy in the region, how research integration of the near past has been highlighting the common regional interconnection in the wider world historically and in present day through the means of local/regional/global cultures. Through the followers of that interconnection are widespread to-day, we aim to unpack the notion of "culture" – the

binding and meaning-making, value-producing part of every society and study how cultural diplomacy influences the development of networks, relationships and inter-state institutions and agreements.

In other news

Awarded Grants

Dr Saxena and P. Kalra (University of Cambridge) in collaboration with Prof Shin (Hanyang University, South Korea), Prof Dzarasov (Central Institute of Economics and Mathematics of the Russian Academy of Sciences) and Dr Muratbekova (Eurasian Research Institute, Almaty, Kazakhstan) won the prestigious Global Research Network Grant from the Korean National Research Foundation for 2019-2021 for research on 'History of Eurasian Knowledge and Science Network in Evolution of Eurasian and Regional Integration'. The research aims at finding a constructive and mutually-beneficial way for using science-technology diplomacy for South Korea and Eurasia that would maximize both the potential of Eurasia and its cooperation with South Korea.

Research Trips

Focus Groups in ADA University, 7-14 June 2019

ADA University has planned to have its first round of focus groups for research for the COMPASS project. Particularly, the discussions aim to locate and map issues of identity, national feelings, good governance, good life, gender participation, feelings towards regional integration and organisations and other issues concerning the main goals of the COMPASS project. Researchers from ADA University with Dr Kudaibergenova will initiate the first phase of the research design.

Fieldwork Trips, March-April 2019

A.Khudaykulov, PhD student and COMPASS Affiliate, University of Cambridge has conducted his fieldwork successfully in Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyz Republic. His PhD work research maps modes of economic regulation and effective governance relevant for growth and prosperity.

Publications

LSE IDEAS Dahrendorf Forum, London, 17 April 2019

Korosteleva, E., Paikin, Z., and Paduano, S. (eds) 'Five Years after Maidan: Toward a Greater Eurasia?' LSE IDEAS COMPASS UPTAKE report, May 2019 available here <http://www.lse.ac.uk/ideas/research/reports/greater-eurasia>

Errichiello, E. et al (2019) 'Kent Political Almanac 'Europe in the World'', Special Issue, Student Forum edition, 26 April

Korosteleva & Samokhvalov (2019) 'A Comedian, a President, and a Prime Minister: the 2019 presidential election in Ukraine', LSE IDEAS Dahrendorf Forum on the 2019 Presidential election in Ukraine. It can be downloaded at <https://www.dahrendorf-forum.eu/a-comedian-a-president-and-a-prime-minister-the-2019-presidential-election-in-ukraine/>

GCRF COMPASS Proceedings, COMPASS/UPTAKE/IAI Workshop proceedings 'The EU and resilience: interrogating theory, policies and practice', 9 November 2018, Eds. E. Van Gils, P. Kalra and S.S. Saxena, <https://research.kent.ac.uk/gcrf-compass/wp-content/uploads/sites/169/2019/05/COMPASS-Rome-working-proceedings-2019-April-2019-Final-rev-3.pdf>

Kudaibergenova, D.T. Religion, Power, and Contemporary Art in Central Asia: Visualizing and Performing Islam in the Special Issue on The Islamic Mediascape in Central Asia in the Central Asian Affairs, Vol.6, issue 2-3, pp. 224-252.

Paikin, Z. 'Russia's Pivot to the East: Where does it leave the EU?' Commentary, ECFR, 21 February 2019

Umarov, A. Radicalization: Reasons and contemporary threats in Uzbekistan. // European Eye on Radicalization, January 16, 2019. <https://eeradicalization.com/radicalization-reasons-and-contemporary-threats-in-uzbekistan/>

Umarov, A. The Rise of Terrorist Attacks and Radicalization in Iran: Factors and Drivers. // European Eye on Radicalization, February 19, 2019. <https://eeradicalization.com/the-rise-of-terrorist-attacks-and-radicalization-in-iran-factors-and-drivers/>

Valiyev, A. Azerbaijan's foreign policy towards Russia since independence: compromise achieved, in Southeast European and Black Sea Studies <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14683857.2019.1578053?scroll=top&needAccess=true>

Social Media

Buyuk Kelajak NGO,
Conference on Uzbekistan
2035, 5-7 February 2019

Cambridge COMPASS Affiliate, Dr Yunusov was invited to the Preliminary Session of the Academy of the General Prosecutor's Office under the President of

Uzbekistan on 5-7 February 2019. You can hear the preliminary session here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mdD0mio2KfY>

Thank you for your attention!

Please send your questions and news to Prajakti Kalra (pk315@cam.ac.uk).

