

# GCRF COMPASS NEWSLETTER

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

March 2020, Newsletter 7



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# Welcome Note



In the previous Newsletter (October, 2019) Dr Saxena conveyed his hope that GCRF COMPASS was becoming 'an emerging brand name' for research on Central Eurasia, spanning Belarus in the west, Azerbaijan in the south, and Kazakhstan in the east. Four months on, I can authoritatively state that WE HAVE! We are now internationally recognized and respectfully referred to as the **COMPASS Consortium**, working co-jointly with GCRF Challenge Leaders to put the region and our growing partnership firmly on the map!

As usual, we've had a wide range of activities in the past four months, so much so that we had to postpone the issuance of this newsletter by a month, to fit them all in!

I am delighted to report that we continue with our **signature conferences** at our partner-HEIs, raising their international research profile. Following the COMPASS signature conference @Kent on Governance & Resilience in Central Eurasia (July 2019), two more were organized - in Tajikistan on Cultural Diplomacy (Sept 19), and in Uzbekistan on Regional Security & Uzbekistan (Nov 19). We are currently working on the one at ADA University on Connectivity in Central Eurasia (11-12 June 20) and at BSU on migration (26-27 Oct 20) – **SAVE the DATE!**

We also continue with our **International Training Schools**, including most recent ones at ADA University (17-21 Feb 20) and Cambridge (9-21 Feb 20); both attracted international & regional participants, spreading COMPASS excellence even to the shores of Australia!

Most exciting development relates to the first stage of the WP 'Community engagement' findings which were discussed in Almaty. The results will serve as a basis for future surveys and publications.

Speaking of which, we now have **149 published outputs** to be precise! Congratulations to all, and keep spreading GCRF COMPASS excellence! We are also proud to celebrate the release of the Special Issue '**Resilience in EU and International Institutions**', *Contemporary Security Policy*

(Feb 2020), which claims a new word in IR scholarship. Another Special Issue on '**Russia between east and west, and the future of Eurasia order**' is currently under review with *International Politics*. We are very excited about putting together our own COMPASS Special Issue on '**Hamsoya-united in shadows: the making of resilient communities in Central Eurasia**', for the *Journal of International Relations and Development*; with the 1<sup>st</sup> writing-up workshop scheduled for 24 April 2020!

So we continue, to make research impact and develop new partnerships! See you next time, with a newsletter in June 2020. For more info about what we do and our publications please visit <http://research.kent.ac.uk/gcrf-compass>.

Wishing you every success,

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

## Past Events

### Roundtable on Uzbekistan and the Eurasian Economic Union, Cambridge, 26 February 2020



GCRF COMPASS Cambridge and Cambridge Central Asia Forum hosted a delegation from the Republic of Uzbekistan headed by the Deputy Finance Minister, O. Isakov on 26 February in Jesus College. The delegation included Prof Valiev, Deputy Director of the Institute of Strategic and Regional Studies under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Mr Tilavov, First Consul, Embassy of Uzbekistan) and Dr Umarov (UWED). Prof Korosteleva (PI, COMPASS, Uni of Kent) and Dr Raina (UKRI-GCRF Challenge Lead for Conflict/Displacement) also participated in the meeting. Dr Saxena chaired the session, Prof Nolan gave the welcoming

remarks and N. Ray (Emeritus Fellow, Jesus College) participated in the panel discussion.

### Talk on 'The Making of the Silk Roads' by Dr Miljana Radivojević (UCL & CCAF), Uzbekistan Embassy, 20 February 2020



COMPASS Cambridge Affiliate Dr Miljana Radivojević (UCL Institute of Archaeology and Cambridge Central Asia Forum) was invited to give a talk in the Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan on 20 February 2020 on the 'Making of the Silk Roads'.

### ADA University Training School, 17-21 February 2020, Baku

ADA University ran its first GCRF COMPASS international Training School for Early Career Researchers. It included 16 participants from across the region, and the COMPASS consortium. They presented their research, participated in skills training sessions and discovered the country through organised tours to Atashgah and Yanardag. The skills workshops focused on how to publish an article in higher-impact journal and requirements for international publishing conducted by Dr Valiyev, ADA; how to raise an international profile & biometrics with G. Polglase, CCCU UK; how to write a book proposal with Prof Korosteleva, Uni of Kent; and how to apply for funding with Dr Petrova, PDRA, Uni of Kent UK, and A. Nazaranka, BSU Belarus. The school was a great success, thanks to the enormous effort of the local COMPASS team, led by Ms Ismayilova, ADA University.



## Leadership Programme on Solving Global Challenges, GCRF COMPASS Cambridge Winter School, University of Cambridge, 9-19 February 2020



GCRF COMPASS Cambridge ran a successful training school for participants from across the partner countries and globally from 9-19 February 2020. The ten days programme focused on global challenges of climate change, health and the economy. Senior faculty from across the University of Cambridge along with GCRF COMPASS PI Prof Korosteleva (Uni of Kent), COMPASS Affiliate lecturers Dr Radivojevic (UCL), Dr Lombardozzi (Open University, UK), COMPASS PDRAs Dr Petrova and Dr Kudaibergenova, Mr Honma (Former Head of EBRD Central Asia), S. Mowlds (UNDP, GATES Foundation and Brookings Institute) among others gave insightful talks and led discussions on energy consumption, SDGs, IFIs, science and its role in development, material culture and history, food security and the Green Revolution. The participants completed four exercises including a project presentation which showcased original research. It was a great opportunity for capacity building and engaging with global challenges head on with young and mid-level researchers and practitioners from Central Asia and the wider Eurasian region.



## Xth Scientific and Practical Conference of Young Researchers of the Faculty of International Relations (FIR) "International Relations: History, Theory, Practice, Belarus, 5 February 2020



Prof Shadursky (Dean) opened the conference with a welcoming speech and emphasizing the importance of the contribution of young researchers to the development of Belarusian science and raising the prestige of BSU in the international scientific arena. The Dean also noted that this is the 10th conference which indicated that this conference is now institutionalised in BSU. The plenary report on the GCRF COMPASS project and the possibilities of this project for young researchers was made by the Belarusian team leader A. Nazaranka. The conference was attended by more than 70 researchers and specialists in international relations, diplomatic and consular practice, international and private law, the world economy, international tourism, customs, intercultural communication and linguistic studies.

## COMPASS Work Package Meeting, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 18 - 19 January 2020

On 18-19 January, the GCRF COMPASS team gathered at the Eurasian Research Institute in Almaty to discuss findings from the focus groups conducted in 2019. The meeting also focused on planning nation-wide surveys as part of the research strategy for the COMPASS project. The teams discussed plans for the dissemination of results at international conferences and through joint publications, as well as in the form of policy recommendations to reveal emergent patterns of resilience, identity and self-governance. Special thanks go to Dr Kudaibergenova for leading WP4, and to the local supporters – Dr Muratbekova (ERI) and Dr Laumulin (CCAF Cambridge).

## Delegation of the BSU in the UK, 8-15 December 2019



A delegation from BSU visited the UK between the 8-15 December. They were hosted by University of Kent and University of Cambridge. The delegation included I. Yanushevich (Vice-Rector for Educational Work and Social Issues); D. Dzianisau (Advisor to Rector); T. Kovshevich (Head of Finance-Chief Accountant); A. Nazaranka (Senior Lecturer & Researcher, Faculty of History, Erasmus+, GCRF COMPASS Belarus National Team Leader); M. Hutouskaya (Head, Department of English, Faculty of Philology); Y. Kharuk (Head, Analytics and Forecasting Department); A. Kondral (Associate Professor, Department of Modern and Contemporary History, Faculty of History); A. Kuzminava (Head, Department of Television and Radio Broadcasting, Faculty of Journalism); M. Patapovich (Head, Biotechnology Lab, Faculty of Biology); D. Samoilenka (Counselor, Youth Affairs Department); Z. Tsabkala (Senior Lecturer and Deputy Dean, Faculty of Chemistry); K. Zuyeva (Deputy Dean for Education, Faculty of Philosophy and Social Sciences). The visit was organized within the framework of Erasmus+ KA1 ICM project of Kent and BSU, GCRF COMPASS, and the MOST programme.



## Strengthening Teaching and Research capacity at the ADA University, 12 December 2019

The closing ceremony of the EU-funded project "Strengthening Teaching and Research capacity at the ADA University"



was held on 12 December, 2019 at ADA University. The project started from April of 2017, was implemented in the consortium of GOPA Consultancy, German Academic Exchange Service (Germany), Maastricht School of Management (Netherlands) and Bologna University (Italy). The 30 months-long project that received 2,2-million-euro fund achieved outstanding outputs.



### Roundtable on Parliamentary Discussion, Jesus College, Uni of Cambridge, 5 December 2019



GCRF COMPASS Cambridge in collaboration with Centre of Development Studies and Cambridge Central Asia Forum hosted Senator Safoev and H.E. Rustamov, Republic of Uzbekistan for a Roundtable on Parliamentary Discussion in Jesus College, University of Cambridge. Prof Parker (Head of Cavendish Labs), Prof Nolan, Dr Lane, Dr Chang (Director, Centre of Dev Studies) and Prof Korosteleva (PI, Uni of Kent) attended the event. Dr Saxena Chaired the Roundtable.

### International symposium 'Turning 'brain drain' into 'brain circulation', Dushanbe, Tajikistan, 25 - 27 November 2019

Tajik National University is hosting an international symposium 'Turning "brain drain" into "brain circulation" in Central Asia'. The symposium is jointly organised by the Faculty of International Relations TNU and Dialogue of Civilisations (DOC) Research Institute, a COMPASS partner, with the support of VW Foundation. Main

speakers included DOC senior researchers, regional scholars and Dr Jan-Peter Olters, World Bank Country Manager for Tajikistan. The conference attracted a large number of speakers, and will be followed by published proceedings.



### Dr Saxena gave a talk in the China Centre's 2<sup>nd</sup> China Fellows Day, Cambridge, 21 November 2019

Dr Saxena was invited alongside B. Rider OBE and Dr Huppert to give a talk in the 2<sup>nd</sup> China Fellow's Day hosted by Prof Nolan in Jesus College, University of Cambridge. Dr Saxena provided an account of his extensive work linking Central Asia and China. As well as his anthropological research in Central Asia, a key aspect of this work concerns the Scientific Silk Road. Dr Saxena's research in theoretical physics involves close academic links with both Tsinghua University and the Chinese Academy of Sciences, as well as a major research laboratory in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Dr Saxena's presentation emphasised the way in which theoretical physics has proceeded across ideological divides. He drew particular attention to the role of Pyotr Kapitza, who linked research on theoretical physics in the USSR during the Cold War with that in the Cavendish Laboratory in Cambridge.

### International Signature Conference: Uzbekistan in the Context of Regional Security and Global Change, Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 7 - 8 November 2019

Under the aegis of the GCRF COMPASS project, UWED organised its first international signature conference titled 'Uzbekistan in the context of Regional Security and Global Change'. The conference gathered over 40 international and regional participants, including scholars from the UK (Kent, Cambridge, St Andrews, Oxford, and Newcastle Universities), COMPASS partner-institutions (ADA University, BSU, TNU and UWED), EU, US, China,

Afghanistan, and Russia. It also attracted interest from the Uzbek government, UK and EU Embassies, the House of Lords (UK) and many local independent researchers and think-tanks. The conference focused on the ongoing reforms in the country, Uzbekistan's role in the region, as well as its relations with the UK, European Union, Russia, US and China.



### XVIII International Scientific Conference, 'Belarus in the Modern World', BSU, Belarus, October 30, 2019

The XVIII International Scientific Conference on 'Belarus in the Modern World' took place on 30 October 2019 in BSU. The theme of the conference was 'Search for adequate answers to security challenges in Eurasia'. Conference brought together best scholars studying various aspects of international relations, foreign policy and diplomacy of the Republic of Belarus, current trends in the development of international law, as well as the priorities and perspectives of international economic cooperation of the country. HE Ambassador of Poland to Belarus Mr A. Michalski took part in the plenary session. Eleven panels covered topics ranging from migration, energy security or international law to Arabic studies were held. Separate independent round table 'Regional construction of Eurasia: institutionalization of projects' was organized the same day. See Programme here.

### ADA Training Series, ADA University, 29 October-9 November 2019



CEEUS conducted a training program series for Azerbaijani civil servants and private sector representatives on the range of topics including Cooperation between Public and Private Sectors, EU Project Cycle Management. The programs were conducted within EU funded project 'Strengthening Teaching and Learning at ADA University' and led by senior consultants and trainees from Brussels.

### International academic conference, 'Picheta Conference 2019', BSU, October 23-24, 2019



An International academic conference entitled, 'Picheta Conference 2019' on the university's historical place in science and education in Belarus in the 20-21st century has been organised on the occasion of the 85th anniversary of the BSU Faculty of History. Over 140 researchers from Belarus, Russia, Ukraine, Slovakia and Germany took part in the forum. Apart from plenary session, eight panels were held covering diverse issues (Development of the Belarusian State University in the context of European university traditions, Scientific heritage of Vladimir Picheta and the development of Slavic studies" and others). Selected reports will be published in Journal of History in the Belarusian State University.

### GCRF COMPASS WIPS @Kent

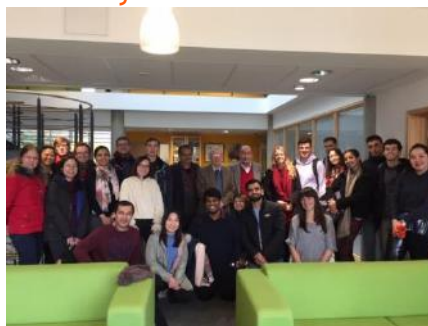
Between November and February, the University of Kent again hosted a number of Work in Progress Seminars (WIPS), where colleagues and affiliates of the project came to present their work. On 18/11/19 A. Khudaykulov (Centre of Development Studies, Cambridge) presented his work on the 'Nexus of regulation and economic growth in transition economies: an empirical assessment using Central Asian economies'. As part of this session we were also honoured to host A. Mullaev, a visiting scholar from Uzbekistan. A. Abdullayev (UWED) presented his research on 6/12/19 through zoom. His paper focused on 'Correlation of domestic and external factors to social movements

in weak states', making a strong case for inter-disciplinarity and more nuanced approaches to study social movements in Central Asia. On 7/2/20 Dr Nurulla-Khodzhaeva (TNU) presented her paper on the '«Shadow» of Ibn Arabi on global climate change through Bukharan history and its community: Reflections on the margins of the workshop programme in Bukhara', which generated much discussion and served as a strong motivator to develop a COMPASS SI as a result!



On 28/2/20 P. Bishenden presented her work on 'Problematising the global/local dichotomy: women's activism in Central Asia', reflecting on her recent TS experience in Cambridge and building on her research in Kazakhstan.

### GCRF COMPASS Centre of Development Studies & Cambridge Central Asia Forum Seminar Series October-December 2019 & January-February 2020



Cambridge Central Asia Forum in collaboration with Centre OF Development Studies, University of Cambridge and GCRF COMPASS organised a series of talks on a wide variety of topics relating to Capacity Building, the Silk Road and Eurasia. The talks were as follows: Aziz Mullaev, COMPASS Affiliate, The Institute of History, Uzbekistan Academy of Sciences, on 'Silk Road Network: Case of Samarkand'; Adham Khudaykulov, Centre of Development Studies, University of Cambridge, on 'Regulatory State and Development: Central Asian case studies'; Prof Alexandr Buzgalin,

Moscow State University, on 'The End of the End of the History: Limits and Future of the Neoliberal Project'; Dr Kudaibergenova, Centre of Development Studies, University of Cambridge, on 'Communities Strike back: Findings from Tajikistan and Azerbaijan'; Dr Tunc Aybak, Senior Lecturer in Politics, Middlesex University, UK on 'Eurasianism: An Emerging Geopolitical Discourse in Turkish Foreign Policy'; Dustin Barter, Centre of Development Studies, University of Cambridge, on 'Contesting Development: Civil Society in Mongolia and Kazakhstan'; and Prof James Jackson, Department of Earth Sciences, University of Cambridge, on 'Modern earthquake hazard along the ancient Silk Road'.

### COMPASS Affiliate from Uzbekistan, Aziz Mullaev, was a Visiting Fellow in Centre of Development Studies, Cambridge, October-December 2019



Aziz Mullaev (Uzbekistan Academy of Sciences, Institute of History) was a Visiting Fellow at GCRF COMPASS, Centre of Development Studies for the period, October-December 2019. He was funded by the Ministry of Innovation of Uzbekistan. He conducted research, held discussions and gave a talk on the 'Silk Road Network: Case of Samarkand' on 25 October 2019.



# Talks and Events

**"Birthday Controversy" event, dedicated to the birthdays of Alisher Navoi and Zahiriddin M. Bobur, UWED, Tashkent, 19 February 2020**

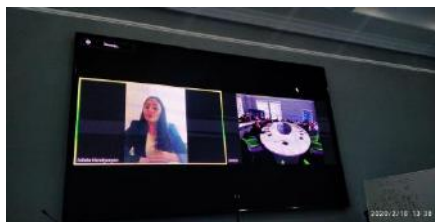


The Department of Uzbek and Russian languages in UWED organized the event dedicated to the birthdays of our great ancestors Mir Alisher Navoi and Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur on February 19. Organised an event to mark the birthdays of Navoi and Bobur, national figures in Uzbekistan to ensure the implementation of the tasks in the State Youth Policy Program to memorialise the great figures by younger generations, increasing their knowledge about the life and work of great Uzbek literary figures Alisher Navoi and Babur; and to increase their interest in literature, reading, as well as to broaden their outlook and thinking.

**UWED organised a webinar on EU laws, Tashkent, 18 February 2020**

On February 18, 2020, a webinar was organised with the participation of students of the Faculty of International Law with a foreign expert in the field of European Union law, J. Harutyunyan. During the webinar, detailed information was presented on the essence and function of law, norms and principles, general characteristics and issues of integration, the institutional system, as well as on the activities of the main bodies of the European Union, specialities in the field

of human rights and democracy, legal foundations of foreign policy.



**Teacher-training Seminar, UWED, 10-14 February 2020**

On February 10-14, 2020 intensive seminar trainings took place with the support of the British Council and the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Special Education. The trainings were conducted within the framework of the project *English as a Medium of Instruction*, which aims at developing teaching of different subjects and modules in English, working out strategies in this area and developing the skills of teachers to develop effective materials for teaching and assessment. Another focus of the project is to establish cooperation between subject teachers and ESP teachers to enhance the teaching process in English in Uzbekistan.



**Tenth Session of the World Urban Forum (WUF10), ADA University, 8-13 February 2020**



Dr Valiyev (WP 2, ADA University) participated in the Tenth Session of the World Urban Forum (WUF10) which was organized by the UN-Habitat. The World Urban Forum (WUF) was established in 2001 by the United Nations to address one of the most pressing issues facing the world today: rapid urbanization and its impact on communities, cities, economies, climate change and policies.

**Talk by Dr Safdar, Centre of Development Studies, on 'The China Pakistan economic corridor: progress, opportunities and perils', Cambridge, 7 February 2020**

Cambridge Central Asia in collaboration with the China Centre, Jesus College, University of Cambridge and GCRF COMPASS Centre of Development Studies, University of Cambridge organised a talk by Dr Safdar (PDR in the Centre of Development Studies) on *'The China Pakistan economic corridor: progress, opportunities and perils'*. The lecture unpacked the dynamics of the BRI in Pakistan through looking at the CPEC. Under the umbrella of the BRI, the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has been heralded as a significant 'pilot project' by Chinese as well as Pakistani policymakers. Of the five constituent Economic Corridors of the Belt, CPEC is the only bilateral corridor and is at an advanced stage of construction, with multiple projects in the energy and transport sectors either completed or in advanced stages of construction.



**Roundtable on "Foreign policy in the context of the Message of the President of Uzbekistan to the Oliy Majlis", UWED, Tashkent, 6 February 2020**

On February 6, 2020, a roundtable was held at the University of World Economy and Diplomacy on the topic: 'Priorities of Uzbekistan's foreign policy in the context of the Message of the President of Uzbekistan to the Oliy Majlis'. The event was organized by the University of World Economy and Diplomacy together with the Information and Analytical Centre for International Relations.



## Roundtable with Prof Kashshay, UWED, 3 February 2020

A roundtable on the 'Prospects of the EU after Brexit and features of economic development in Eastern Europe' was organised in UWED on 3 February 2020. The meeting was attended by Mr Khakimov (Deputy Adviser to the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan - Director of the Center for Economic Research and Reforms under the Administration of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan), representatives of the diplomatic corps – E. Stiprais (Head of the EU Mission in Uzbekistan), J. Bory (Ambassador of Slovakia to Uzbekistan), D.A. Ataev, (Head of the Department of Europe Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs RUz), A. Tadzhiev (Attaché, Directorate of Europe of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan), chief scientific staff of the Institute among others. UWED was represented by G.S. Ismailova (Vice-Rector for Science and Innovation), and A. E. Shaikhov (Advisor to the Rector).



## Guest Lecture by Ignacio Garcia Bercero, University of Kent, 30 January 2020

The COMPASS team at Kent and postgraduate students of the EU in the Global World, welcomed Mr Garcia Bercero, Director General, DG Trade of the European Commission as their guest speaker. Mr Bercero, currently a fellow-in-residence at Oxford University, shared his experience of negotiations with partners in the eastern Neighbourhood and Central Asia, and more recently – with the Eurasian Economic Union. The issues of geopolitics, and strategic priorities of the new Commission, especially towards the Central Eurasian region, were also discussed.



## Mr Khudaykulov (COMPASS Affiliate) gave a talk on 'Nexus of State Regulation and Economic Development in Transition Economies', Cambridge, 30 January 2020

A. Khudaykulov gave a talk on Nexus of State Regulation and Economic Development in Transition Economies. He discussed the role of the state in the market affairs has been one of the most discussed, yet highly controversial topics of discussion in the fields of politics, law, and economics throughout recent history. Particularly, the question of state regulatory intervention evokes a spirited debate. These Centre of Development Studies

## Pre-Launch UKRI/GCRF Conflict Intersections Funding Call Event, Bishkek, 28-29 January 2020

The COMPASS team represented by scholars from Kent, Cambridge, and regional partner-institutions – ADA University, BSU, TNU, UWED and ERI from Kazakhstan – were invited by the GCRF challenge leader, Dr Raina, and her team, to participate in the pre-launch of the new GCRF Global Partnership Call, to develop new proposals on conflict intersections for Central Asia and wider Eurasian region. The workshop involved about 40 regional scholars, DFID, FCO and GCRF representatives, brainstorming on research issues relevant for the region and developing them into concrete proposals as part of the GCRF UKRI capacity-building initiative.



## Workshop on 'Institutions, infrastructure and geopolitics in Eurasian connectivity: a global trade hub Yiwu', University of Cambridge, 27 January 2020

On 27 January the China Centre, Jesus College, and Cambridge Central Asia Forum held a joint seminar in collaboration with the University of Sussex Asia Centre and the School of Business and Management, Royal Holloway, University of London. The seminar was devoted to an analysis of Yiwu in China's Zhejiang province. Yiwu has become world-famous as a source of low-priced consumer goods, including toys, decorations, jewellery, bags, footwear and garments. The seminar consisted of presentations from three scholars, Prof Marsden, University of Sussex, Prof Rui, Royal Holloway, and Dr Anderson, University of Cambridge. Their research is based on in-depth fieldwork both in Yiwu itself and along the Silk Road. The session was chaired by Prof Nolan (AB Member) and Dr Saxena (Uni of Cambridge).



## GROW Conference, University of Kent, 21 January 2020



On 21 January, Prof Korosteleva presented the COMPASS project findings to the GROW conference at Kent University. The conference hosted current grant holders and future applicants, as well as funders' representatives to discuss opportunities for further growth.



## II GRN workshop: 'Institutions and Science in Eurasian Development', Almaty, Kazakhstan, 20 December 2019



The second GRN team for History of Eurasian Science and Knowledge Network focused on locating the ways and means through which science and policy have interacted institutionally through the ages with a special focus on the 13th century under the Mongols who were the forerunners of creating a coherent Eurasian space and the nomads who succeeded them; the Russian and Tsarist institutional framework for science; the Soviet Academy of Sciences and its place in Soviet policy making; the scientific exchange and collaborative programs which Central Asian countries already have outside of Eurasia and the ways in which the South Korean government has engaged with the western world and with Central Asia in the 20th century. Dr Saxena gave a talk in the panel entitled, Institutions and Development; and P. Kalra gave a talk on History of Science and Knowledge in Central Asia and Eurasia.

## Study visit of ADA Staff and Faculty to University of Kent, 15-16 December 2019



On 15-16 December, 2019 ADA University faculty, Ms Nagiyeva, School of Business and Mr Alasgarov, School of Information Technologies and Engineering accompanied by Director of the Center of Excellence, Ms Ismayilova and CEEUS staff member, Ms Yagubova, have undertaken a study visit to Canterbury, UK. They also visited University of Kent Business School ASPIRE Center (Accelerator Space for GCRF COMPASS

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

Innovation and Responsible Enterprise) and had meetings with Mr Williamson, Director of External Services at Kent Business School, University of Kent, Mr Smith, business start-up expert and ASPIRE's Entrepreneur in Residence.

## Dr Saxena at the Caspian Innovation Forum, Baku, 4 December 2019



Dr Saxena was invited to speak at the Caspian Innovation Forum in Baku on 4 December 2019. The Ministry of Transport, Communications and High Technologies of the Republic of Azerbaijan organised the Caspian Innovation Conference which is an annual event. The conference focused on sectoral challenges and effective partnership opportunities between the stakeholders of innovation and high-tech sector. The speakers included H.E. Mr Guluzade, Minister of Transport, Communications and High Technologies of the Republic of Azerbaijan; H.E. Mr Shulhan, Minister of Communications and Informatization of the Republic of Belarus; Mr Pomoshchnikov, Officer-in-Charge of the Sub-regional Office for North and Central Asia at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) among other notable guests. For a full list see here.

## Prof Korosteleva gave a Keynote Lecture on 'Resilience: another buzzword or an opportunity for more adaptable (EU) governance?', European Studies Centre, St. Antony's College Oxford, 3 December 2019

Prof Korosteleva gave a keynote lecture titled 'Resilience: another buzzword or an opportunity for more adaptable (EU) governance?', at the European Studies Centre, St Antony's College, Oxford University. The session was chaired by Prof Nicolaidis, with Dr Maurer as discussant. Her talk attracted over 40 students, scholars and practitioners,

including from the IMF, EU trade and humanitarian policies divisions. Elena focused on unpacking the term 'resilience' to give it a more unifying meaning as 'self-governance', and its application by the EU. The talk was premised on her contribution to the Special Issue: Korosteleva, E. and Flockhart, T. (eds) 'The EU and Resilience: redefining the role of "the local" and "the person" in a new global governance agenda', Contemporary Security Policy (in press), 28 February 2020.



## Roundtable on 'Edges of Science: Digital Transformation in BSU', BSU, 26 November 2019

On November 26, 2019 Belarus NTL A. Nazaranka took part in Roundtable 'Edges of Science: Digital Transformation in BSU' where a report 'Belarusian State University: sustainable development agenda 2030 or shapes of future' was presented.

## First EBRD Eastern Partnership Investment Summit, London, 22 November 2019



Prof Korosteleva was invited to attend the first EBRD Eastern Partnership Investment Summit organised in London to mark the 10-year anniversary of the Eastern Partnership Initiative in the neighbourhood, and discuss further cooperation and investment in the region. The participants were welcomed by Sir Chakrabarti, EBRD President, and EU Commissioner Mr Hahn, followed by a plenary panel of Heads of State and Prime Ministers from the region presenting their

visions for future development. Notably, the panel included the President of Armenia HE Armen Mr Sarkissian; Prime Minister of Azerbaijan HE Mr Asadov; Prime Minister of Belarus HE Mr Roumas; Prime Minister of Moldova HE Mr Chicu; Prime Minister of Ukraine HE Mr Honcharuk, and Deputy Prime Minister of Georgia HE Ms Tskitishvili, and was moderated by Mr Javorcik, EBRD chief economist. The focus was on continuing reforms against corruption to ensure political and economic stability, and citizens' greater involvement in the governance of the region.

### Meeting with AIG Senior Partners, London, 18 November 2019

Following the AIG/Chatham House event in October in Vienna where Prof Korosteleva presented the COMPASS project and its research, she was subsequently invited by the AIG senior partners to a meeting in London to discuss prospects for developing synergies between the AIG and the COMPASS project over the Central Eurasian region. The region is generating a lot of attention owing to its unique position and understudied potential, as well as the EU and China's interest and ongoing investment in the region.

### SEnECA Final Conference 'What Future for EU-Central Asia Relations?', Brussels, Belgium, 14 - 15 November 2019

On 14-15 November 2019, Dr Petrova (Uni of Kent) represented GCRF COMPASS at the final conference of the H2020 Consortium 'Strengthening and Energizing EU Central Asia Relations' (SEnECA). Beside SEnECA members and external researchers, the conference featured HE Mr Burian, EU Special Representative for Central Asia, EEAS; HE Ms Vlahutin, Ambassador at large for connectivity, EEAS; Ms Atzori, International Aid & Cooperation Officer—Cultural Sector, DG DEVCO, as well as H.E. Dr Rahmatullozoda, Ambassador of Tajikistan to the Kingdom of Belgium and H. E. Ms Kuspan, Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Belgium. SEnECA policy recommendations for strengthening the EU-Central Asia relations were discussed over two days with a particular focus on connectivity, culture and communication.

### Institutional Change and Social Practice. Research on Political Systems, Economy and Society in Central Asia and the Caucasus, Frankfurt, Germany, 12 - 14 November 2019

Prof Korosteleva was invited to participate at the conference titled 'Institutional Change and Social Practice. Research on Political Systems, Economy and Society in Central Asia and the Caucasus', and be part of the evaluation panel organised by the Volkswagen Foundation, in Frankfurt. The conference attracted scholars from the Bielefeld, TU Dortmund, Giessen and Halle-Wittenberg Universities in Germany, PRIO in Norway, Vienna, Ghent and Cambridge Universities, and involved early career researchers from the region, presenting their post-doctoral projects for the VW fellowships. Prof Korosteleva discussed opportunities for developing cooperation under the GCRF project with the VW staff.

### Public Lecture by H.E. Pierre Andrieu, ADA University, 28 October 2019

On 28 October, 2019 Mr Andrieu, former Ambassador of France to Moldova and Tajikistan and also former co-chair of Minsk Group on Nagorno-Karabakh conflict met ADA University students and gave a talk on *'The North-South and East-West divides. The regional disparities in Europe'*.

### Info Sessions of Creating Enterprise: Business Start-Up Journey-Azerbaijan/UK at ADA University, 6-8 November 2019



On 6 and 8 November, 2019 have been conducted Info Sessions of Creating Enterprise: Business Start-Up Journey-Azerbaijan/UK at ADA and Azerbaijan State University of Arts and Culture. The Info sessions have introduced students the Project, Entrepreneurship Skills Course, Free English Learning Platform and Creative Spark Big Idea Challenge International Start up competition.

### Open Lectures at UWED, Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 5 November 2019

Senior Members of the COMPASS Consortium gave open lectures to the UWED students: Prof Shadurski, Dean of the Faculty of International Relations, Belarusian State University, spoke about the success and challenges for the Eurasian Economic Union, and Prof Korosteleva, Principal Investigator of the GCRF COMPASS project and Director of the Global Europe Centre, discussed the challenges of the EU Global Security Strategy and the shift to resilience-thinking.

### Public Lecture by H.E. Mr David Fernandez Puyana, ADA University, 4 November 2019

On 4 November 2019, H.E. Mr David Fernandez Puyana, Ambassador and Permanent Observer of the University for Peace to the United Nations in Geneva (UPEACE) have delivered lecture on peace, settlement of disputes and multilateralism to young diplomats and students at the ADA University. The visit was conducted within GCRF Compass project.

### Tbilisi Silk Road Forum, 22-23 October 2019



Dr Saxena was invited to the Silk Road Knowledge Dialogue session organised by CAREC in the framework of the Tbilisi Silk Road Forum which was held under the patronage of the Prime Minister of Georgia, H.E. Giorgi Gakharia, on 22-23 October 2019 in Tbilisi, Georgia. The session generated a dialogue on the role of knowledge corridors in strengthening economic corridors along the Silk Road. The high-level panel from Governments, think tanks, private sector, and academia will discuss importance and role of knowledge cooperation; roles of each of the players in making knowledge a valuable commodity; and necessary steps to strengthen regional economic cooperation. The speakers were: Mr Chen (ADB Vice President), Mr Akaki Saghirashvili (Deputy Minister of



Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia), Mr Mirzozoda (First Deputy Minister of Transport of Republic of Tajikistan), Dr Ziyadov (Director-General of Port of Baku), Dr Sulukhia (Director of ISET Policy Institute of Georgia), Dr Sohail H. Naqvi (Rector of the University of Central Asia).

### Eastern Partnership (EaP) Reflection Forum, Chisinau, Moldova, 21 - 23 October 2019

GCRF COMPASS PDRA Irina Petrova attended the EaP Reflection Forum 'The Eastern Partnership in the next ten years – What Strategy for the European Union's Eastern neighbourhood?'. Organised by the Institute for European Policies and Reforms (IPRE) in cooperation with a number of European think tanks, the Forum aimed to facilitate the dialogue among policy-making, expert and academic communities of the EU and EaP states. The Forum reflected on the progress of the Eastern Partnership policy and outlined policy recommendations for the EU and Moldova.

### International Scientific and Practical Conference on 'Actual problems of road construction', Almaty 2-4 October 2019



Dr Saxena was invited by the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure Development, Kazakhstan, JSC Kazakhstan Highway Research Institute, Kazakhstan Academy of Sciences and National Engineering Academy of Kazakhstan to speak at the conference on 'Actual Problems of Road Construction'. The conference was celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

## Save the Date: Forthcoming Events

### GCRF COMPASS 6th ADA-EU Summer School, 8-19 June 2020

Within the aegis of GCRF COMPASS Signature Conference will be organised 6th ADA-EU Summer School – a two week long intensive training course for young researchers, PhD candidates and professionals. The topic of this year's Summer School corresponds with the Signature Conference in ADA University (details below) and provides an in-depth study. **The Call for applications for the conference will be announced in early March 2020 at: [ceus.ada.edu.az](http://ceus.ada.edu.az).**

### GCRF COMPASS SIGNATURE CONFERENCE @ADA University, Baku, Azerbaijan, 11-13 June 2020

ADA COMPASS Signature Conference will take place on the 11-13 June 2020 in Baku. The conference's title is 'Connecting the 3 Bs: Brussels, Baku, Beijing: The EU and China cooperation initiatives towards greater connectivity of Eurasia: the role of Azerbaijan'. The conference will bring together policy-makers, practitioners, business, and academics to discuss existing regional powers' strategic priorities, instruments and practices in regional connectivity for mutual benefit.

### CESS Regional Conference, Tashkent 25-28 June 2020

In 2020, the 7th CESS Regional Conference will be at the University of World Economy and Diplomacy, Tashkent, Uzbekistan from June 25-28 2020. Since 2008, CESS has held a number of Regional Conferences in the Central Eurasian region. The 2017 Regional Conference, held jointly with the European Society for Central Asian Studies, at the American University of Central Asia (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan), was the largest yet. GCRF COMPASS panels will be presented here. More information here.

### GCRF COMPASS Signature Conference @UWED, Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 29 June 2020

The University of World Economy and Diplomacy will organise a one-day Signature Conference on 29th June 2020. The conference's overarching theme will be "Uzbekistan's development". More information will be available soon. The event will take place in the margins of the annual CESS conference which will be hosted by UWED from 25-28 June.

### Upcoming WiPS presentations at Kent, March-July 2020

13/3 - Trine Flockhart (SDU): 'The Good Life and Resistance to Change'; 20/3 - Paul Hansbury (Oxford): 'The agency of small states: The foreign policies of Armenia and Belarus'; 3/4 - Yauheni Preiherman (Warwick University): 'Small In-Between States Overcoming Geostategic Asymmetries: Foreign policy hedging in Armenia and Belarus'; 8/5-Irina Petrova (Kent): 'Local ownership and resilience in the EU foreign policy'; 22/5- Munira Shahidi (TBC) (Tajik National University); 5/6- Eske van Gils (Kent): 'The BRI in Azerbaijan and implications for authoritarian regime resilience'; 19/6- Oybek Madiyev (Kent): 'The Japanese extended state and economic diplomacy in Central Asia'; 3/7- Huawei Zheng (Kent): 'How Do Actors Make Order? A Relational Theory of Order-making Actors'.

### Seminar Series, Centre of Development Studies, University of Cambridge, April-May 2020

Cambridge is looking forward to hosting Dr Abushov (ADA University; 24/05), Dr Dick (Middlesex University, UK; 15/06), Former Vice Foreign Minister Dr Yamanaka (Japan; 06/20) in April and May 2020. The Cambridge Advanced Research Seminars are on a broad range of topics related to Central Asia and wider Eurasia and are of an inter-disciplinary nature.

# In other news

## Parliamentary Election Monitoring, Uzbekistan, 23 December 2019

Dr Saxena was invited as Election Observer for the Parliamentary Elections of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the region of Tashkent.

## Policy Impact

GCRF COMPASS Policy Paper (January 2020) 'Facilitating Cooperation in a World of Uncertainty,' premised on the Minsk Dialogue Policy Forum: "European Security: Stepping back from the Brink", 7-9 October 2019, Minsk, Belarus. Read it [here](#).

ADA University Caspian Center for Energy and Environment Policy Brief: Wind Energy Potential of Azerbaijan. Read it [here](#).

## Publications

Abushov, K. 'Refining the Line of Distinction between Ethnic Conflict and Security Dilemma: Towards a Theory of Identity Driven Ethnic Conflict' in *Civil Wars Journal*; Russian foreign policy towards the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict: prudent geopolitics, incapacity or identity? In *East European Politics Journal*.

Kudaibergenova, D.T., 2019. Power, Knowledge, and the "Self" in Everyday Normalization of the Political Truth. Problems of Post-Communism, pp.1-12. forthcoming in a special issue "Power in Central Asia" co-edited by Kudaibergenova D.T. and Costa Buranelli, F.

Kudaibergenova, D.T., 2020. Ghosts, Mankurts and Alike: The "Postcolonial" Art of Central Asia. *Novoe Literature Obozrenie*, 161(1), pp. 175-198.

Valiyev, A. NYU Jourdan Center, '10 years of Eastern Partnership Time to Take Serious Steps', Access article [here](#).

## Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic Reception, 20 November 2019



Dr Saxena attended a reception in honour of H.E. Mr Edil Baisalov (Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic) after he presented his letters of credence to Her Majesty The Queen on Wednesday, November 20th.

## Thank you for your attention!

Please send your questions and news to [Prajakti Kalra \(pk315@cam.ac.uk\)](mailto:Prajakti.Kalra@cam.ac.uk)