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Connecting the 3Bs: Brussels, Baku, Beijing The EU/UK & China cooperation initiatives for greater connectivity of Eurasia: the role of Azerbaijan

ADA University GCRF COMPASS Signature Conference

16-17 June 2021

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



ES/P010849/1



Connecting the 3Bs: Brussels, Baku, Beijing

The EU/UK & China cooperation initiatives for greater connectivity of Eurasia: the role of Azerbaijan

16-17 July 2021

ADA University GCRF COMPASS *signature* conference
BAKU, Azerbaijan (online)

CONCEPT: This international *signature* conference organised by the ADA University under the aegis of the GCRF COMPASS project brings together a range of top-level international academics, practitioners, policymakers and businesses to explore and discuss existing regional powers' strategic priorities, instruments and practices in regional connectivity for mutual benefit. A particular focus will be on the role of Azerbaijan as a natural geo-hub for connectivity initiatives, and a test-ground for their success and compatibility. The diverse and thought-provoking conference programme will make this ADA University's Signature Conference a platform for identifying major trends in cooperation and connectivity, and discussing their implications for the domestic, regional and international development opportunities and challenges. We will explore connectivity as a global mega-trend and extrapolate what it means for the Europe-Asia relationship, and particularly how it affects Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, as a geo-connectivity platform targeted by major international stakeholders. Connectivity will be examined through various aspects including geopolitics, social welfare, economics, business opportunities (start-ups) and finance.

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The [GCRF COMPASS project](#) (ES/P010849/1, 2017-21) is an ambitious UK government capacity-building funding initiative, aiming to extend UK research globally, to address the challenges of growth and sustainability in the developing countries. Notably, the COMPASS project at the University of Kent, together with Cambridge University as research partner, seeks to establish 'the hubs of excellence' at the top-level HEIs in Belarus, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, to enable them to become the centres for knowledge sharing and transfer for *research integration, impact governance, and sustainable communities*.

[The ADA University](#) was founded in 2006 as Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy, a training institute for young diplomats to meet the urgent needs of the expanding Foreign Service of the Republic of Azerbaijan. ADA was transformed into a full-fledged public university in 2014 and is accredited by the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan. ADA is home to an international community of approximately 2500 students and circa 200 faculty and staff from 46 countries around the world. ADA is a truly international University with more international students studying here than in any other university in the country. Through a curriculum built around a triad of rigorous major study, electives and general education, combined with experiential learning and exchange opportunities, western style of education, academic excellence, innovation and employability are in the heart of the education process. All courses at ADA are taught in English.

PROGRAMME

Connecting the 3 Bs: Brussels, Baku, Beijing The EU/UK & China cooperation initiatives for greater connectivity of Eurasia: the role of Azerbaijan

GCRF COMPASS ADA University Signature Conference

16-17 June 2021

[Online](#)

Please use [@GCRF-COMPASS](#) and [@ADAUniversity](#) for social media

DAY 1 WEDNESDAY 16 JUNE 2021

Please note, the time of the programme is local (Baku).

14.00-15:00 Official welcome

Moderator: Nargiz Ismayilova (Ada University, GCRF COMPASS National Team Lead)

Dr Anar Valiyev, Dean of School of Public and International Affairs and GCRF COMPASS partner, ADA University

Ambassador Kestutis Jankauskas, Head of the EU Delegation to Azerbaijan

Dr Taleh Ziyadov, Director-General, Baku International Sea Trade Port, Azerbaijan

Prof. Elena Korosteleva, University of Kent, Principal Investigator, GCRF COMPASS project

Dr Siddharth Saxena, University of Cambridge, Co-investigator, GCRF COMPASS project

*** **ADA VIRTUAL TOUR** ***

15:00-16.30 Plenary: Global connectivity agenda and regional priorities

Moderator: Professor Elena Korosteleva (University of Kent)

Emin Huseynov, Assistant to the First Vice President of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Prof. Peter Nolan, University of Cambridge & member of IAB GCRF COMPASS, UK

Dr Taleh Ziyadov, Director-General Baku International Sea Trade Port

Rufat Bayramov, TRACECA National Secretary

Lord Teverson, House of Lords & member of IAB GCRF COMPASS, UK

16.30-16.45 Break

16.45-18.00 Panel I: From camels to trains: transportation, technology and economic connectivity

Moderator: Dr Siddharth Saxena (University of Cambridge)

Rufat Mammadov, Chief of Office of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Husniyye Mammadova, Head of Economic Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Aida Badalova, Advisor to the Minister of Transport, Communication and High Technologies
Syed Shakeel Shah, Director of CAREC Institute
Dr Olga Malashenkova, BSU & GCRF COMPASS affiliate
Prof. Gulshan Sachdeva, Jean Monnet Chair in European Economic Integration, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

DAY 2 THURSDAY 17 JUNE 2021

14.00- 15.30 **Panel II: Energy security & green connectivity, through the start-up lens**

Moderator: Dr Anar Valiyev, ADA University and GCRF COMPASS partner

Fariz Ismailzade, Executive Vice-Rector, and GCRF COMPASS partner, ADA University
Dr Elnur Soltanov, Deputy Minister of Energy, Azerbaijan
Elshad Nasirov, Vice-President for Investment and Marketing at the State Oil Company of the Republic of Azerbaijan
Valeh Aleskerov, Head of Alat Free Economic Zone, Azerbaijan
Prof. Xu Qinhua, Renmin University, 'Green China'
Dr Lifan Li, Deputy Director General, Center for the Belt and Road Initiative Studies, SASS

15.30-16.30 **Panel III. Critical connectivity: Promoting political stability and resilience in Eurasia**

Moderator: Dr Irina Petrova (University of Kent)

Dr Carlo Frappi, Ca Foscari University of Venice, Italy
Prof. Roza Turarbekova, BSU and GCRF COMPASS affiliate
Dr Akram Umarov UWED and GCRF COMPASS partner
Dr Kavus Abushov, ADA University and GCRF COMPASS partner
Dr Nargis Nurulla-Khodzhaeva, Centre for Eurasian Studies of IVRAN, Moscow State University, and GCRF COMPASS IAB
Eugene Chausovsky, Non-Resident Fellow with the Newlines Institute in Washington, D.C.

16.30 - 16.45 **Break**

16.45 - 18.00 **Panel IV. COMPASS panel: Connecting 'hearts and minds' - the relevance of inter-cultural connectivity**

Moderator: Shafag Mehraliyeva, ADA University, Azerbaijan

Prof. Victor Shadursky, GCRF COMPASS partner, Belarus
Ms Prajakti Kalra, University of Cambridge and GCRF COMPASS Researcher
Dr Anar Valiyev, Dean, and GCRF COMPASS partner, ADA University
Dr Farrukh Salimov, TNU and GCRF COMPASS partner

Concluding remarks: Fariz Ismailzade, Vice-Rector GCRF COMPASS partner, ADA University, Azerbaijan

Speaker Biographies (in order of appearance)

Dr Anar Valiyev, Dean and Associate Professor of School of Public and International Affairs, ADA University



Dr Anar Valiyev is Jean Monnet Chair in European Studies and COMPASS Project Associate from ADA University. He is a member of several professional organisations such as APSA, Urban Affairs Association. International teaching and research experience of Dr Valiev includes positions of post-doctoral researcher at Masaryk University in Brno (2007-2008), and Fulbright Scholar (2016-2017) at Johns Hopkins University. Dr Valiyev extensively publishes on political development, economics as well as EU affairs and their impact on Azerbaijan. As an acknowledged researcher, he has received the Web of Science Award 2018 as the most productive author for Humanitarian and Social Sciences in Azerbaijan.

Ambassador Kestutis Jankauskas, Head of the EU Delegation to Azerbaijan



H.E. Jankauskas is Head of EU Delegation to Azerbaijan since 2017. Prior to this position he was head of mission of European Union Monitoring Mission in Georgia, Ambassador of Lithuania to NATO, and has held various diplomatic positions.

Dr Taleh Ziyadov, Director-General, Baku International Sea Trade Port, Azerbaijan



Dr Taleh Ziyadov is Director-General of Baku International Sea Trade Port in Azerbaijan. He holds a Ph.D. degree from the University of Cambridge (UK) and Master's degree from the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University (Washington, DC). He specializes in transport, logistics and energy issues in the Caspian region. Since 2008, he has advised a number of private and public companies as well as international organizations on the matter of transport and logistics in Azerbaijan and the Greater Central Asian region. He is the author of the book, *Azerbaijan as a Regional Hub in Central Eurasia* (Baku: ADA, 2012), which provides a strategic analysis of the Euro-Asian trade and transportation networks through Central Eurasia, outlining the vision for developing Azerbaijan into a "regional hub" by 2030.

Professor Elena Korosteleva, Principal Investigator (Kent), GCRF COMPASS



Elena Korosteleva is Professor of International Politics and Jean Monnet Chair of European Politics, at the School of Politics and International Relations, University of Kent. Elena is also LSE IDEAS Visiting Professor; and co-founder/ co-director of the Global Europe Centre at Kent. She is the Principal Investigator of the GCRF UKRI COMPASS project (2017-21). Elena's research presently focuses on the concepts of capacity - building; resilience; order formation and multi-order governance. Most recent monographs include *Resilience in EU and International Institutions (2020)*; *The Politics and The Political of the*

Eastern Partnership Initiative: re-shaping the agenda (2018); The European Union and its Eastern Neighbours: towards a more ambitious partnership? (2014); and EU Policies in the Eastern Neighbourhood: the practices perspective (2014) – all with Routledge.

Dr Siddharth Saxena, Col (Cambridge), GCRF COMPASS



Siddharth Shanker Saxena is Director of the Cambridge Central Asia Programme. He holds PhD degrees in Experimental Physics and Social Anthropology. His research interests are in the areas of religion and identity, knowledge systems, social and political development and institutional history in Central Asia and the Middle East. Dr Saxena has been involved in field-based research in Central Asia, the Caucasus, Russia and China. His work focuses on the creation of scientific and industrial technology platforms, and studying social and economic developments in Central Asia and neighbouring regions.

He was awarded a medal for service to education in Kazakhstan; Presidential Medals by Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan; the Magnetism Medal of International Union of Pure and Applied Physics; and was made Honorary Professor by several institutions in Eurasia. He serves on science review committees of European, American and Asian bodies and has created a number of technology start-ups. Dr Saxena is editor in chief of Cambridge Journal of Eurasian Studies and editor of Cambridge Central Asia Reviews.

Dr Emin Huseynov, Assistant to the First Vice President of the Republic of Azerbaijan



Emin Huseynov is holding a master degree in Economics from Florida State University, and in Public Administration from Harvard Kennedy School (USA), PhD in Economics by the Supreme Attestation Commission under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Emin Huseynov served as economist at the World Bank and International Monetary Fund office in Azerbaijan; Director of Studies and Statistics at the National Bank of the Republic of Azerbaijan; Director of Studies Department and Senior Economist at the Central Bank of the Republic of Azerbaijan. In 2016-2018, Dr Huseynov was an Acting Deputy Minister of Finance.

Since 2018, has been working as Assistant to First Vice President of the Republic of Azerbaijan. By the Order of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan of January 23, 2021 was appointed Member of the Supervisory Board of the State Oil Company of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Peter Nolan CBE, University of Cambridge



Professor Peter Nolan is the Founding Director of the University's Centre of Development Studies and the Director of Jesus College's China Centre. He is the Director of the Chinese Executive Leadership Programme (CELP), which each year brings Chief Executives from China's largest firms to the University of Cambridge for a three week training programme, taught by academics and the leaders of international firms. The Financial Times commented: "Nolan knows more about Chinese companies and their international competition than anyone else on earth, including in China". Peter Nolan has spoken at the Chinese Government's annual China Development Forum since its inception in 2000. He has testified at the US-China Economic and Security Review Commission of the US Congress and lectured to the Board of the US-China Business Council. He is a member of the UK Government's Asia Task Force and the China Council of the World

Economic Forum. He holds an honorary doctorate from the Copenhagen Business School. In 2009 he was awarded the CBE (Commander of the British Empire) "for services supporting China's integration into the global economy".

Rufat Bayramov, TRACECA National Secretary



Rufat Bayramov is national secretary of the Intergovernmental Commission on Azerbaijan of the Transport Corridor Europe-Caucasus-Asia (TRACECA). Previously, he was the secretary of the Coordination Council for Transit Cargo Transportation under the Ministry of Economy.

Lord Robin Teverson, House of Lords, UK Parliament



Robin Teverson was Member of the European Parliament for Cornwall and West Plymouth between 1994 and 1999, becoming one of the first two Liberal Democrats to be elected to the European Parliament. Before entering the European Parliament Robin spent 16 years in the freight industry, and continues to take an interest in transport policy in Europe and the UK. In 1994 he was elected as Member of the European Parliament for Cornwall and West Plymouth. Robin was appointed Chief Whip of the European Liberal Democrat Group in the European Parliament from 1997 to 1999. Following his period as MEP, he was chief executive of a regional business finance fund in the south west, and is a fellow of the Chartered Institute of Securities and Investment. He joined the Liberal Democrat group in the House of Lords in 2006, and his main focus in the Chamber is climate change and energy issues. Robin has previously sat on the Liberal Democrat Federal Executive and has also chaired the Party's national finance committee. From 2009 to 2013 he was a member of Cornwall Council. He is currently a board member of the Marine Management Organisation, and chairs a regional commercial development company.

Mr Rufat Mammadov, Chief of Office, Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan



Rufat Mammadov graduated from Baku State University with a degree in International Law and holds a Master's in European Integration Law from the Dresden University of Technology (Germany). Prior to joining the Cabinet of Minister as a Chief of Office, he was a Director of Azerbaijan Export and Investment Promotion Foundation (AZPROMO) and held various positions in the private and public sectors in Azerbaijan, primarily in the fields of legal and business consultancy, corporate and project management, business development, as well as trade and investment.

Ms Husniyye Mammadova, Head of Economic Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Azerbaijan



Ms. Husniyya Mammadova is a career diplomat with 22 years of experience. She held different positions in the economic wing of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was posted twice to the Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan to the United Nations in New York. During the first assignment, 2003-2007, she served as a delegate of Azerbaijan to the Second Committee and the Economic and Social Council responsible for economic and

development issues. In 2014, Ms. Mammadova returned to New York for four years as a Political Counsellor responsible for the agenda of the General Assembly, Security Council and human rights and related issues. In current capacity of Department Director she supervises economic cooperation with the partner countries, global and regional economic organizations and initiatives.

Ms Aida Badalova, Advisor to the Minister of Transport, Communication and High Technology

Aida Badalova is an advisor to the Minister of Transport, Communication and High Technologies in transportation policy and regulation. She previously acted as the advisor to the Director General of the Baku International Sea Trade Port in investments. Her previous experience includes advising international private and public companies in structuring transactions and investments in Azerbaijan and Central Asia. Ms. Badalova holds LLM from the University of Cambridge (UK), MA in International Relations and European Studies from CEU (Hungary), both bachelor’s and master’s degrees in International Law from the Baku State University (Azerbaijan).

Syed Shakeel Shah, Director of CAREC Institute



Mr. Syed Shah is a career civil servant under Pakistan's Customs Service with extensive experience in public policy, international trade, and regional cooperation, spanning over two decades. Mr. Shah holds MA in International Trade Law and Economics from the World Trade Institute, Switzerland, and M.Sc. in International Relations from Quaid-e-Azam University, Pakistan.

Olga Malashenkova, Belarusian State University



Dr Olga Malashenkova has PhD in Economics, is a post-doctoral researcher under the GCRF COMPASS project. She is also Associate Professor in the Department of International Economic Relations, Faculty of International Relations, Belarusian State University.

Gulshan Sachdeva, Jawaharlal Nehru University



Professor Gulshan Sachdeva is Jean Monnet Chair; Coordinator, Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence; and Chairperson, Centre for European Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University. He is also Editor-in-Chief, *International Studies* (SAGE) and Book Series Editor, *Europe-Asia Connectivity* (Palgrave Macmillan). His research is focused on Europe, Eurasia, development cooperation and connectivity. He has contributed more than 100 research papers in academic journals and edited books. Some of his recent publications include *Challenges in Europe: Indian Perspectives* (Palgrave Macmillan) and *India in a Reconnecting Eurasia* (Washington: CSIS). He holds

PhD in Economics from the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest.

Fariz Ismailzade, Vice-Rector, ADA University, Azerbaijan



Fariz Ismailzade is Vice Rector for External, Government and Student affairs at the ADA University (since 2011). He joined ADA in 2006 and worked in the positions of Director of Executive Education (2006-2010) and Executive Dean (2010-2011). Mr. Ismailzade is currently pursuing a Doctoral Degree at the Maastricht School of Management. He holds an Executive MBA from IE Business School (Spain), and a Master’s Degree in Social and Economic Development from Washington University in St. Louis, and a BA in Political Science from Western University in Baku with one-year interim studies at Wesleyan University in Connecticut. Mr. Ismailzade has done research at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Washington, D.C and the Embassy of Azerbaijan in the US. His research interests include political affairs in the Caucasus and Central Asia, energy security, and development.

Dr Elnur Soltanov, Deputy Minister of Energy, Azerbaijan



Dr Elnur Soltanov holds a master’s degree in international Relations at the Middle East Technical University and a PhD degree in Political Sciences from Texas Tech University, USA. He has been working as a researcher at the Center for Eurasian Strategic Studies in Turkey and engaged in pedagogical activities at Texas Tech University, Slippery Rock University and Thurman State University, ADA University, where he was leading Caspian Energy and Environment Center and School of Public and International Relations. He has been serving as Deputy Minister of Energy of the Republic of Azerbaijan since 2018.

Elshad Nasirov, Vice-President for Investment and Marketing at the State Oil Company of the Republic of Azerbaijan (SOCAR)



Elshad Nassirov, SOCAR vice-president of investments and marketing, has rich experience of diplomatic service in Afghanistan, India, United Nations, Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the USSR and independent Azerbaijan. Since 2005, he has been serving as vice-president of SOCAR on investments and marketing. He was awarded the Glory order, under the Decree of the President of Azerbaijan. He is fluent in Russian, English, Persian, and Indian.

Valeh Aleskerov, Head of Alat Free Economic Zone, Azerbaijan



Since 1992 Valeh Alekberov took the position of vice president of the Azneft state concern and was an advisor to the president of the company. He also has been serving as Chairman of the Foreign Investments Department of SOCAR; since 2005 as Deputy and Deputy Speaker of the Milli Mejlis, Chairman of the Committee for Natural Resources, Energy and Environment. Since 2019 Mr Aleskerov chairs Board of Directors of the Alat Free Economic Zone.

Xu Qinhua, Remnin University of China



Professor XU Qinhua is a Professor at School of International Studies, Vice Dean at National Academy of Development and Strategy, and director at Center for International Energy and Environment Strategy Studies, Renmin University of China.

Irina Petrova, GCRF Compass (Kent)



Dr Irina Petrova is a Post-Doctoral Research Associate leading on funding and publications initiatives, as part of the GCRF COMPASS project at the School of Politics and International Relations (University of Kent). She joined the School in 2019 after completing her doctoral dissertation at the University of Leuven. Irina's research interests focus on the interaction of global and local actors in international relations, particularly, the development of the novel approach of resilience-based governance anchored in local preferences and perceptions. Geographically, Irina's research

focuses on the European Union, Russia, Eastern Partnership and Central Asian states. Prior to joining Kent, Irina worked as an assistant at the 'Master of European Studies' programme at the University of Leuven teaching courses on Transnational and global perspectives on Europe and Research methods. She also worked as an adjunct lecturer at Vesalius College (Vrije Universiteit Brussel) and research associate for the H-2020 UPTAKE project and Jean Monnet Network 'Crisis, Conflict and Critical Diplomacy: EU Perceptions in Ukraine and Israel/Palestine (C3EU)'.

Carlo Frappi, Ca' Foscari University and ISPI



Carlo Frappi, PhD, is full-time Researcher at Ca' Foscari University (Venice) and Associate Researcher at the Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI, Milan). Historian by training, Dr. Frappi's expertise include Energy security policies and competition in the Eurasian area as well as International Politics in the Black Sea/Caspian area. Over the last fifteen years he has been dealing with the above-mentioned topics in cooperation with both private think tanks and public institutions. He has authored three monographs on contemporary Azerbaijan and Southern

Caucasus as well as several articles published in academic journals. Moreover, since 2010 he is co-editing a quarterly monitoring on Energy Security policies for Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Parliament.

Roza Turarbekava, GCRF Compass Affiliate



Dr Roza Turarbekava is Associate Professor and Director of the Center for Eurasian and European Studies. Her areas of expertise include the Eurasian Economic Union; political transition in Central Asia and regional policy; and the Islamic factor in politics in Central Asia and the Middle East.

Dr Kavus Abushov, Associate Professor in Political Science, ADA University



Dr Kavus Abushov received his PhD in political science from the University of Muenster in Germany and his MA in politics and economics from the Catholic University of Eichstaett-Ingostadt in Germany. He later completed his postdoc at the Center of international Studies at MIT. He has had teaching and research stays at the universities of Glasgow, Muenster, Freiburg, IFSH Hamburg. His research interests include security studies, ethnic civil wars, state-building and political economy with a geographic focus on the post-Soviet space.

Akram Umarov, UWED, GCRF Compass



Dr Akram Umarov is Senior Research Fellow at the University of World Economy and Diplomacy. Previously he worked as a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. He received a Master's Degree in International Relations at the University of World Economy and Diplomacy. He has great interest in security studies, conflict management, public diplomacy, Afghanistan, Central Asian studies, CIS countries, public administration, global security, peace and development. Akram Umarov is the author of monograph "Afghanistan and regional security of Central Asia: the beginning of XXI century" (in Russian) (UWED, 2017) and book chapter "Donald Trump's Presidency and the Implementation of OBOR in Central Asia" (in "Changing Regional Alliances for China and West", eds. D.Lane, G.Zhu, Lexington Books, 2017). His articles have appeared in "Central Asian Affairs", "Asia and Africa", "National Strategy Issues", "Comparative Politics", "Defence Journal" and other peer reviewed journals.

Nargis T. Nurulla-Khodzhaeva, Moscow State University



A culturologist, an Orientalist and a philosopher, Dr. Nargis T. Nurulla-Khodzhaeva was born and raised in the capital of Tajikistan - Dushanbe, in a family of celebrated cultural figures. Circumstances had it that Nargis obtained a very international background, speaking fluently in different languages, and working in places such as Yemen and Sweden. Nargis studied History and Philosophy in the Tajik State University named after V.I. Lenin, and her PhD thesis was devoted to gender issues. After well received initial success and noteworthy findings, Nargis moved to Moscow and began work on her monographs and doctoral thesis: "Communities in Central Asia", successfully defending it 2013. Her current research interest is Postcolonial development of the Central Asian/Middle Eastern region. Nargis is Associate Professor at Lomonosov Moscow State University (Russia). She is Vice-President at the International Cultural Z. Shahidi Foundation (Tajikistan).

Mr Eugheni Chausovski, Non-Resident Fellow with the Newlines Institute in Washington, D.C.



Eugene Chausovsky is a Non-Resident Fellow with the Newlines Institute in Washington, D.C. Previously, he served as Senior Eurasia Analyst at Stratfor for more than 10 years. His work focuses on political, economic, and security issues pertaining to Russia, Eurasia, and the Middle East

Victor Shadurski, BSU, GCRF Compass



Prof. V. Shadurski is formerly Dean of the Faculty of International Relations of the Belarusian State University. His professional profile includes being Head of the BSU Department of International Relations for five years (1992-1997), he has participated in numerous educational and research cooperation projects. The sphere of academic interests includes current issues of foreign policy of the Republic of Belarus, its relations with European states, internal and foreign policy of France, place and role of the Baltic states in contemporary world politics, global development challenges and their impact on Belarus. Professor Shadurski authored numerous academic papers on these topics, including those published abroad, monographs and manuals. He is member of the BSU Council, serves as the Head of “Journal of International Law and International Relations” editorial board. Some most important recent publications include: Shadurski, Victor (co-author). Lithuanian and Belarusian national identity in the context of European integration / Steven M. Hoffman and Renee Buhr editors. Kaunas: Vytautas Magnus University, 2013; Thomas M. Bohn, Victor Shadurski (Hg.). Ein weisser Fleck in Europa. Die imagination der Belarus als Kontaktzone zwischen Ost und West. – Transcript Verlag. – 2011. – 270 s. (Editor and co-author).

Prajakti Kalra, Research Associate (Cambridge), GCRF Compass



Prajakti Kalra is a Research Associate with the Cambridge Central Asia Forum. She is an affiliated lecturer in the Centre of Development Studies, University of Cambridge. She works on the RCUK funded GCRF COMPASS grant as an Events and Communications Officer in the Centre of Development Studies, University of Cambridge. She has trained as a historian, political scientist and a psychologist. Her interests are in the areas of the history of the Mongol Empire and Central Asia. She has worked extensively on regional and international organisations (OSCE, OIC, SCO, Eurasian Economic Union and the OBOR). Her focus is building avenues of communication and exchanges based on historical precedents and bringing local narratives into global speech in order to best facilitate interaction and knowledge production. Her book, ‘The Silk Road and the Political Economy of the Mongol Empire’ came out in 2018 (Routledge). Other publications include ‘Asiatic Roots and the Rootedness of the Eurasian Project’ (in ‘The Eurasian project and Europe: Regional Discontinuities and Geopolitics’, Palgrave Macmillan, 2015) and ‘Uzbek Relations with the Countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council in modern and pre-modern times,’ (in Russia and CIS Relations with the Gulf Region Current Trends in Political and Economic Dynamics, Gulf Research Centre, 2009). She is the research, administrative and social coordinator for the Cambridge Central Asia Forum.

Farrukh Nasimovich Salimov, TNU, GCRF Compass



Dr Farrukh Nasimovich Salimov is the Head of the Department of Diplomacy and Foreign Policy of the Tajik National University, member of the PF 'Eurasian Association of International Studies' (EAMI) (Kazakhstan) (2017) and a member of the Union of Journalists of Tajikistan (2018). Currently, in the framework of the educational and methodological activities of the new department is focused on the development of textbooks in such areas as "military diplomacy", "cultural diplomacy", "economic diplomacy", "methods and technologies of international negotiations", "analysis and forecasting in international relations". Farrukh's research focuses on such areas as the geopolitical and geo-economic situation in Central Asia, Central Asian stability, problems of ensuring regional security, politics and interests (political, economic and geopolitical) of the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China in Central Asia. Monograph "Regional Stability in the Context of the Central Asian Strategy of Russia and China".

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