

GCRF COMPASS NEWSLETTER

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

GCRF COMPASS NEWSLETTER 10, April 2021



Contents

Welcome Note	1
Training Programme on 'Management of international projects in higher education institutions', BSU, 22–26 March, 2021	1
Cambridge Central Asian New Year Navroz Celebrations, University of Cambridge, 19 March 2021	1
International academic conference 'The Riga Peace Treaty of 1921 in Destinies of the Peoples of Eastern and Central Europe', BSU, 18 March 2021	2
UWED hosted an online lecture by Prof Asadu, Saitama University (Japan), 17 March 2021.....	2
Talk by Prof Petra Wayland, George Marshall European Center for Security Center, UWED, 10 March 2021	2
UWED hosted an online lecture by Prof Kuniyiko Miyake, Adviser to Japanese Cabinet, UWED, 5 March 2021	2
Conference on 'Possibilities of implementation of international experience in the development of ecotourism in Uzbekistan', UWED, 27 February 2021.....	2
Talk by His Excellency Masud Khalifazoda, Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan to the UK, Uni of Cambridge, 26 February 2021	3
Meeting at UWED with the Ambassador of Bangladesh to Uzbekistan.....	3
Talk on American International Relations, UWED, 19 February 2021	3
Talk on 'Good Governance', UWED, 18 February 2021.....	3
COMPASS Training School at ADA University, 15-19 February 2021	3
Talk by Dr Taleh Ziyadov on 'Regional Development and Prospects of Cooperation in the Caucasus: Economic Connectivity', Uni of Cambridge, 10 February 2021.....	4
Conference on "International relations: history, theory, practice", BSU, 4 February 2021.....	4
Masterclass by Suma Chakrabarti, Former head of EBRD, UWED, 2 February 2021.....	4
Distinguished Foreign Guest Lecture, BSU, 26 January 2021	4
Work in Progress Seminars, University of Kent, January-April 2021.....	5
Cambridge Central Asia Forum Lent Term Seminar Series, Uni of Cambridge, January-March 2021	5

Civil Societies Conversations Webinar Series with Eurasian Civil Society Leaders, University of Cambridge, January-December 2021	5
GCRF COMPASS Cambridge Series on Regional Development and Prospects of Cooperation in the Caucasus, Uni of Cambridge, February-April 2021	5
GCRF COMPASS Distinguished Guest Lecture by His Excellency Dr Piotr Kravhchenko, first Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus, BSU, 23 December 2020.....	5
Virtual Workshop 'Shifting geopolitics of the South caucasus after the Nagorno-Karabakh War', ADA University, 22-23 December 2020	6
Talk on 'Uzbekistan's Current Development Policy and Priorities', Uni of Cambridge, 4 December 2020	6
Lecture by Prof Weyland, George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies, UWED, 4 December 2020.....	6
GCRF COMPASS Work in Progress Seminar, Uni of Kent, 3 December 2020 6	
Panel Discussion on the Neutrality of Turkmenistan, Uni of Cambridge, 3 December 2020	6
Talk by Professor Gregory Gleason, George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies, UWED, 18 November 2020.....	7
UWED Workshop: The role of public control in building a fair civil society, UWED, 31 October 2020	7
Invited Talks.....	7
Conference dedicated to the 580th Anniversary of the birth of Alisher Navoi, Moscow State University, 30 March 2021	7
Public commitments: working with talented school graduates, BSU, 29 March-2 April 2021	7
Conference on "Independence and Scientific Integration", which is planned to be held on March 24, 2021	7
Central Asia Society Adelaide Navroz Celebrations, Australia, 18-19 March 2020	7
Belarus National Erasmus+ Information Day 2021	7
Workshop by P. Kalra on Research Methodology, Satbayev University, Kazakhstan 10 March 2021	7
Pakistan-Uzbekistan Relations on Positive Trajectory: ECI-CIRS Webinar, 9-10 March 2021	8
Talk by Dr Nurulla Khojaeva at the Baraza-URI Webinar, 26 February 2021. 8	
Conference on 'Russian-Mongolia Relations: From the Origins to the	

Contemporary', Lomonosov Moscow State University, 19 February 2021	8
CAREC Institute invited Dr Saxena to join the Planning Committee for the International Conference on Interconnectivity and Cooperation between Central Asia and South Asia, 16 February 2021	8
Konrad Adenauer Stiftung webinar 'Belarus at the beginning of 2021', 25 January 2021	8
COMPASS project strategic partnership with the Minsk Dialogue Policy Forum, 25-27 November 2020	8
'New Trends in Uzbekistan's Foreign Policy: State & Prospects in Relations with the countries of Central Asia and Afghanistan', Uzbekistan, 21 January 2021.....	9
Talk on 'Precarity, populism and prospects for a green democratic transformation' 18 January 2021.....	9
Webinar on 'From Crisis to Catastrophe in Belarus? How International Relations and International Justice can resolve the emergency', 17 December 2020	9
Silk Roads Welcome Event, King's College Silk Roads Programme, University of Cambridge, 15 January 2021	9
European Neighbourhood Council Webinar, 11 December 2020	9
Chatham House Discussion: Moldova's Presidential Election Results, 17 November 2020.....	9
Critical Theory Round Table, 14-15 November 2020.....	9
Workshop 'Belarus in the Contemporary Geopolitical Processes, 12-13 November 2020.....	10
Other Events.....	10
Webinar on 'The State of Civil Society in Central Asia: Kazakhstan', 29 March 2021	10
Conference on 'Alien species of animals, fungi and plants in Belarus and neighbouring countries', BSU, 23 March 2021	10
Meeting with the University of Northumbria, UWED, 12 March 2021 ...	10
Talk by Prof Marsden, Uni of Sussex on 'Inter-Asia through Inland Eyes: Afghan Trading Networks across Land and Sea', 11 March 2021	10
Conversation with Minister of Trade and Integration Strategy, British Kazakh Society, 19 January 2021	10
China Centre Seminar Series January-March 2021	11

Round table on 'Protecting the rights of people with disabilities: towards inclusive education', UWED, 26 December 2020	11
Panel Discussion: Interacting with China in a Complex World, 17 November 2020	11
UWED invited to the Eurasian Creative Guild – Open Central Asia, United Kingdom, 17 November 2020	11
Conference on 'The role of science in the development of public diplomacy', Uzbekistan, 13 November 2020	11
Conference on 'Transformation of international systems and new aspects of regional security and development in Central Asia', UWED, 5 November 2020	12
Save the Date: Forthcoming Events	12
4 th Global Research Network International Workshop 'Science in Diplomacy and Diplomacy in Science', Uni of Cambridge, 8-9 April 2021	12
Roundtable on Eurasian Economic Union and SCO', BSU, 20 April 2021	12
An Institute for Historical Research Partnership Seminar: 'Applied History & Contemporary Geopolitics' Seminar Series, Uni of Cambridge, 12 May 2021	12
5 th Annual Tartu Conference on Russian and East European Studies, Post-Socialist (dis)Orders, Estonia 6-8 June 2021	12
ADA University GCRF COMPASS Signature Conference, Baku, 16-18 June 2021	12
Eurasian Insights Conference in Ghent: Past, current and upcoming dynamics in the Central Asian region, and their (possible) impacts for Europe, 22-24 September 2021	13
In other news	13
Publications	13
GCRF COMPASS Policy Outputs	13
Silk Roads Programme, King's College, Cambridge	14
PhD Completion	14
British Council announces winners of the third year of the 'Creative Spark' call in Azerbaijan	14
Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy	14
Social Media	14
AB Member Fabienne Bossuyt's interview on the National Television and Radio Company of Uzbekistan, 26 March 2021	14

Prof Elena Korosteleva interviewed by Jon Snow, ITN Channel 4, 8 February 2021	14
Interview with Dr Kudaibergenova, PDRA, Uni of Cambridge, 1 December 2020	14
CCAF YouTube Channel	14

Welcome Note



If the global pandemic had failed to derail the momentum and productivity of the COMPASS teams across all our partnerships and beyond, our resilience had another shock to contend with. The UK Government sent incredible shockwaves by reneging on this project and nearly all of the nine hundred projects under GCRF and similar initiatives, putting partnerships, reputations and livelihoods at risk. These are the very attributes we have made massive progress on with our partnerships with countries in the region. This attempt to re-profile and/or cancel projects has had the opposite effect: it has actually drawn us closer together. The research community in the UK and abroad, along with our advisory board members, has mounted a monumental challenge to this unjust assault. From the list of our academic and capacity building events, past and forthcoming, you will notice that COMPASS is continuing to sail ahead and we hope that we will continue to get the support and recognition we have garnered thus far.

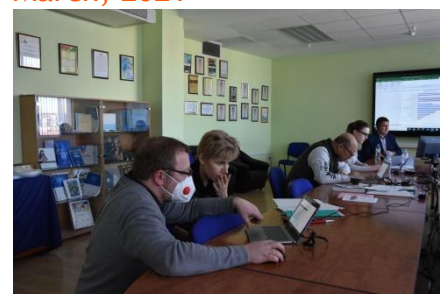
As this is the spring edition and we are celebrating Navroz, Easter, Maslenitsa and Passover, our focus is on renewal, connectivity and the collective good. Through our forthcoming special issues in reputed journals, books and conference proceedings, we hope to continue to bring to you key and impactful understandings of the

communities we work with, and to inform sound policy making.

Yours Sincerely,
By Dr Siddharth S. Saxena,
GCRF COMPASS Co-I
University of Cambridge

COMPASS Events

Training Programme on 'Management of international projects in higher education institutions', BSU, 22-26 March, 2021



GCRF COMPASS BSU organised a new edition of the training programme for university professionals. Training was organized in blended mode – with people being physically in the classroom but also joining the programme via online-tools. The training programme was organized at the initiative of the BSU Department of International Relations. Belarus COMPASS NTL Artsiom Nazaranka who ran training modules in project development.

Cambridge Central Asian New Year Navroz Celebrations, University of Cambridge, 19 March 2021



Cambridge Central Asia Forum in collaboration with GCRF COMPASS and the Centre of Development Studies organised the annual Navroz (Spring Festival) celebrations on 19 March

2021. This year the programme was virtual. The Embassies of Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan along with Krygyz Republic, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan and representatives from the Nursultan Nazarbayev Foundation, Kazakhstan participated in the event. The Ambassadors of the countries gave a short address, followed by a recitation of poetry and a video of a national dance, music and song was shown.



International academic conference ‘The Riga Peace Treaty of 1921 in Destinies of the Peoples of Eastern and Central Europe’, BSU, 18 March 2021



GCRF COMPASS BSU organised a conference on ‘The Riga Peace Treaty of 1921 in Destinies of the Peoples of Eastern and Central Europe’ dedicated to the 100th anniversary of conclusion of the Treaty. About 60 researchers from Belarus, Poland and Russia presented and discussed their research in three thematic panels dedicated to the Riga peace treaty and European diplomacy in 1918-1921; social, economic and political processes in Central and Eastern Europe in the late

XIX – early XX century and in 1921–1941. Programme can be found [here](#).

UWED hosted an online lecture by Prof Asadu, Saitama University (Japan), 17 March 2021

Prof Hidekatsu Asada, Saitama University, Japan, gave a lecture for the students of the faculty of International economics and management of UWED. His talk was entitled, "Outlook for the Global Economy under the Covid-19 pandemic". A workshop for UWED students to analyze the prospects of the global economy in a pandemic situation first addressed issues such as the impact of Covid-19 on GDP, global economic indicators, pandemic-induced unemployment and rising debt. After that, aspects such as the restoration of international prices and the provision of vaccines to the population of the countries were also analyzed.

Talk by Prof Petra Wayland, George Marshall European Center for Security Center, UWED, 10 March 2021

Prof Petra Wayland was invited to give a talk on “The Arab Rebellion 10 years on” to the second-year students of the faculty of International relations in UWED. Prof Wayland briefed the students on the causes and consequences of the Arab Spring, which began in 2011. She also highlighted the impact of the uprisings in the Arab world, governance, economy and international relations. The lecture aroused great interest among the students, and at the end of the lecture there was a Q&A session.

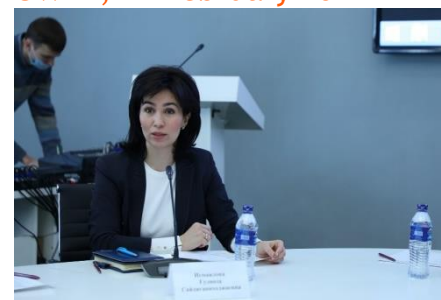
UWED hosted an online lecture by Prof Kunihiro Miyake, Adviser to Japanese Cabinet, UWED, 5 March 2021



On March 5, Prof Kunihiro Miyake, adviser to the Japanese Cabinet of Ministers gave a talk at UWED.

Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Japan H.E. Yoshinori Fujiyama also visited UWED for this meeting. The event was joined by members of the Tashkent state institute of oriental studies and the Uzbek state university of world languages. The main part of the event began after the opening remarks of the rector of the university Komiljon Karimov and the state ambassador. Kunihiro Miyake's report "The situation in East Asia and its impact on Central Asia" is based on the author's many years of activity and his personal experience in geopolitics.

Conference on ‘Possibilities of implementation of international experience in the development of ecotourism in Uzbekistan’, UWED, 27 February 2021



UWED organized a round table on the topic ‘Possibilities of implementation of international experience in the development of ecotourism in Uzbekistan’. Researchers at the State Committee for Tourism Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Institute for the development of tourism, professors and teachers of the International University of Tourism "Silk Road", representatives of the State Committee on Ecology and Environment, media workers, bloggers, professors UWED and students attended the conference. During the round table, issues of the development of ecological tourism, environmental protection and the positive impact of ecotourism on the country's economy were discussed. The event was part of a joint grant project of the Jean Monnet Center for Advanced Experience dealing with the European Studies in Tashkent.

Talk by His Excellency Masud Khalifazoda, Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan to the UK, Uni of Cambridge, 26 February 2021

On 26 February 2021, GCRF COMPASS Cambridge organised a talk by His Excellency Masud Khalifazoda, Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan to the UK. The ambassador spoke about the priorities of Tajikistan's development, the impact of Covid-19 on the country, British-Tajik relations in the aftermath of Brexit and the importance of urgently addressing global challenges.



Meeting at UWED with the Ambassador of Bangladesh to Uzbekistan



On February 25, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to Uzbekistan, Mr. Mohammad Zahangir Alam met with students of the faculty of International Relations of the UWED. At the beginning of the event, students participated with presentations about the history, culture, economic performance of Bangladesh and its cooperation with Uzbekistan. HE Mr Alam shared important recommendations for students for their future activities based on his experience and noted that he was impressed with the activities of UWED. At the end of the conversation, the Ambassador of Bangladesh answered questions from the participants.

Talk on American International Relations, UWED, 19 February 2021

On February 19, a well-known US expert on Central Asia Victoria Clement, as well as Doctor of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Honorary Associate Prof of the Merston Center at Ohio State University, Brian M. Pollins gave online lectures about the new American concept of international relations.

At the beginning of the meeting, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Uzbekistan Javlon Vakhobov discussed the positive dynamics of the development of cooperation between Uzbekistan and the United States. He outlined the main provisions of his article "The US must remain engaged with Central Asia", recently published in Newsweek.



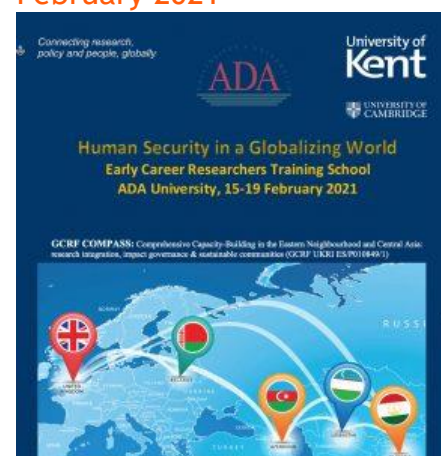
Talk on 'Good Governance', UWED, 18 February 2021



UWED welcomed Prof Polly Segelski who gave lectures in the second semester of the 2020-2021 academic year on the subject of "Global Governance". She was accompanied by the Public Relations Counselor of the US Embassy in Tashkent, Alexis Sullivan, as well as the Public Relations Specialist of this Embassy, S. Musakhanova. Rector K. Karimov informed the guests in detail about the structure, educational and research activities of UWED, with the prospects

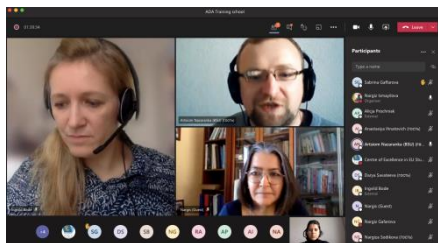
for its development. During the meeting, Ms. Alexis Sullivan highly appreciated the large-scale reforms carried out by President Sh. Mirziyoyev in Uzbekistan in recent years, including in the field of education and science, and also spoke about various American educational and professional exchange programs for students and researchers, including the Fulbright program, within which P. Siegelski arrived at UWED for teaching.

COMPASS Training School at ADA University, 15-19 February 2021



On 15-19 February 2021 ADA University, under the auspices of GCRF COMPASS project, organised an International Training School for the early career researchers. The focus of the School was on Human Security in a Globalising World, involving international speakers such as Prof Mary Kaldor (LSE IDEAS), Dr Mary Martin (UN Business and Human Security Initiative LSE), Dr Bruno Martins (PRIO Norway), Dr Ingvid Bode (SDU Denmark), Dr Ayca Ergun (METU Turkey), Dr Farid Shafiyev, Ambassador and Chairman of the Centre of Analysis of International Relations.





The early career researchers presented their individual work and engaged in skills training sessions. Their papers will be published as part of the GCRF COMPASS proceedings. The programme is available here, further information about the participants can be accessed here.

Talk by Dr Taleh Ziyadov on 'Regional Development and Prospects of Cooperation in the Caucasus: Economic Connectivity', Uni of Cambridge, 10 February 2021

On 10 February 2021, the Cambridge Central Asian Forum, under the auspices of GCRF COMPASS project, has organised a talk by Dr Taleh Ziyadov, on Economic Connectivity in the Caucasus. Dr Ziyadov is Director-General of Baku International Sea Trade Port in Azerbaijan. He spoke about the history of the Silk Roads connecting Azerbaijan with ancient Eurasia, and the current challenges and opportunities presented to the country aiming to become a global hub (and a free zone) for the wider Eurasia connectivity in the future.



Conference on "International relations: history, theory, practice", BSU, 4 February 2021

Academic conference of young researchers of the Faculty of International Relations (FIR) "International Relations: History, Theory, Practice" was held on February 4, 2021 at the BSU (Minsk). The conference was organized by the BSU FIR with the support of the GCRF

COMPASS. Among the co-organizers are the International Public Association for Research and Information and Educational Programs "Evolutio", the public association "Center for Foreign Policy and Security Studies", the public association for European Studies, the public association "Society of International Law". About 90 Belarusian and Russian young researchers and specialists in International Relations, Law and Tourism, World Economy, Customs, Diplomatic and Consular Services and Intercultural Communication had a good possibility to discuss the achievements and challenges of the modernity.

Discussions were organized in eight sections: (1) Actual aspects of foreign policy, diplomatic and consular practice in modern international relations; (2) International law: theory and practice of application in modern conditions; (3) Theoretical and practical problems of international private and integration law; (4) Modern trends in the development of the world economy and international economic relations; (5) Topical issues of customs; (6) Management of mass events; (7) Modern directions of research in the paradigm of intercultural communication; (8) Linguistic and regional studies.



Masterclass by Suma Chakrabarti, Former head of EBRD, UWED, 2 February 2021



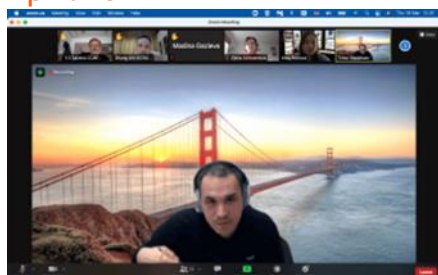
On February 2 2021, UWED took part in the first master class run by the Adviser to the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on economic development, effective management and international cooperation, Suma Chakrabarti. The topic of the master class was 'Leadership Skills'. Suma Chakrabarti laid out 10 lessons for leaders based on his 4 leadership skills and experiences. At the end of the lecture, the audience asked interesting questions, and the conversation ended meaningfully. Suma Chakrabarti is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, Honorary Doctorate of the Universities of Sussex and East Anglia, and the Bucharest Academy of Economic Research. From 2002 to 2007, he was Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of International Development, and then until 2012, he held a similar position in the Ministry of Justice. During this period, one of his main achievements was recognized as the development and implementation of a new model of the ministry's activities. This saved over £ 1 billion. From 2012 to 2020, Chakrabarti served as President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Distinguished Foreign Guest Lecture, BSU, 26 January 2021

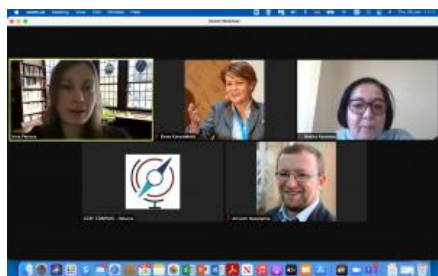


On January 26, 2021 GCRF COMPASS Co-I Dr S. Saxena delivered the Distinguished Foreign Guest Lecture in the Framework of the 'Belarusian State University – Winter School 2021'. Dr Saxena spoke on 'Greening Development: A Scientific Understanding of Supply and Value Chain' and answered a number of questions from the audience that included BSU students from various disciplines.

Work in Progress Seminars, University of Kent, January-April 2021



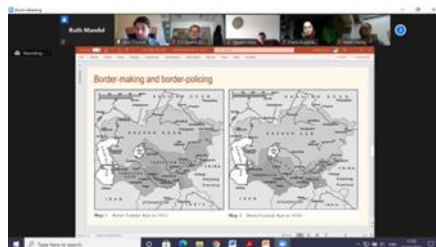
28 January 2021 Dr Nodira Azimova from the Institute of History of the Academy of Sciences, Republic of Uzbekistan delivered a talk on 'Functions of the Uzbek community (mahalla) after independence'; 18 February 2021 Dr Anar Valiyev, 'COVID-19 and its Impact on Azerbaijan: Is the System Resilient Enough?'; 11 March 2021 Dr Emil Nasritdinov, 'Is There Room for More Engagement with Muslim Civil Society in Central Asia? Disaggregating Its Multipole Components, Approaches and Goals'; and Prof Timur Dadabaev (University of Tsukuba, Japan) on 'The Nationhood through Neighbourhood? Post-coloniality and Emerging Features of Central Asian International Relations'.



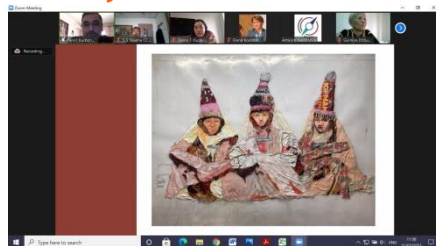
Cambridge Central Asia Forum Lent Term Seminar Series, Uni of Cambridge, January-March 2021

29 January C. Berman, Uni of Cambridge, 'Knowing fish: a sustainability case study in the Caspian and portrait of resource understandings

across knowledge systems.'; 5 February A. Umarov, UWED, 'Central Asia: the construction of a new regional security complex and the role of Afghanistan'; 12 February E. Satybaldieva, Uni of Kent, 'Grassroots Social Movements in Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic'; 19 February B. Shin, Jeonbuk Uni (South Korea) 'Uzbek Identity Building in the early Soviet period'; 5 March A. Thomas, Staffordshire University, 'Nomads in Early Soviet Central Asia'.



Civil Societies Conversations Webinar Series with Eurasian Civil Society Leaders, University of Cambridge, January-December 2021



As part of the project's community engagement events GCRF COMPASS Cambridge and Cambridge Central Asia Forum, Jesus College, University organised the Civil Societies Conversations Webinar Series with Eurasian Civil Society Leaders. In the Civil Societies Conversations Webinar Series with the Eurasian Civil Society Leaders engaged in a dialogue with local actors and discussed the development of civic initiatives, local community needs and structures. All talks were in Russian. The talks were: 20 January, Matluba Salikhova, Chairwoman of Peshraft Charity Organisation from Dushanbe, Tajikistan; 3 February Dr Anar Valiyev, ADA University, Baku, Azerbaijan; 17 February Andrey Selivanov, CEO of the Evolutio International NGO for Scientific Research Information, and Educational Programs, Minsk, Belarus; 3 March Nazgul Esengulova, President of the "Ak Terek" Foundation, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan; 17 March Kirill Osin, Director of the "Eco Mangystau" NGO

from Aktau, Kazakhstan and 29 March Parviz Kurbonmammadov, Tashkent, Uzbekistan.



GCRF COMPASS Cambridge Series on Regional Development and Prospects of Cooperation in the Caucasus, Uni of Cambridge, February-April 2021

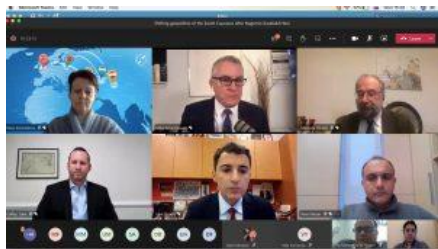
All the talks in the series aimed to bring together both academic and policy expertise from the region to discuss shared regional challenges and developmental priorities as well as potential areas of cooperation. On 10 February 2021 Dr Taleh Ziyadov, Director-General of Baku International Sea Trade Port CJSC, Azerbaijan on 'Regional Development and Prospects of Cooperation in the Caucasus: Economic Connectivity'; 24 February 2021 H.E. Tedo Japaridze, Vice-Chairman for International Relations, Anaklia Development Consortium (ADC), Georgia on 'Regional Development and Prospects of Cooperation in the Caucasus: Political Dialogue'.



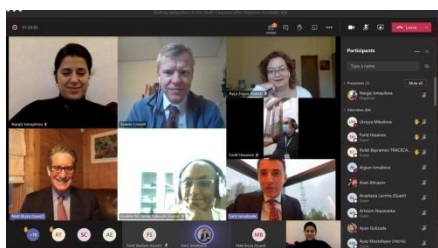
GCRF COMPASS Distinguished Guest Lecture by His Excellency Dr Piotr Kravhchenko, first Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus, BSU, 23 December 2020

As part of the GCRF Distinguished lecture series His Excellency Dr Piotr Kravhchenko, first Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus delivered a talk on 'Belaviezhskie Agreements (December 1991): Myths and Reality'. The webinar was convened by Dr Nazaranka and was well attended.

Virtual Workshop 'Shifting geopolitics of the South caucasus after the Nagorno-Karabakh War', ADA University, 22-23 December 2020



On 22 December 2020 ADA University has organised a virtual workshop 'Shifting geopolitics of the South caucasus after the Nagorno-Karabakh War'. In late September 2020, three decades long Nagorno-Karabakh conflict went into the most violent phase since 1994. Azerbaijan and Armenia were able to reach a new cease-fire agreement through the unilateral mediation of Russia. How long will the peace agreement last, and what are the consequences of the new geopolitics? What is the role for the EU and other international players? The workshop included presentations from local and international experts, policy-makers and practitioners. The full programme is available here. The video recording of the session can be found here.



Talk on 'Uzbekistan's Current Development Policy and Priorities', Uni of Cambridge, 4 December 2020



GCRF COMPASS Cambridge hosted Uzbekistan's Ambassador His

GCRF COMPASS

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

Excellency Said Rustamov on 4 December 2020. His talk on 'Uzbekistan's Current Development Policy and Priorities' was engaging, wide ranging and a forthright address. The talk was chaired by Dr Saxena, University of Cambridge. It was followed by a lively Q&A session with Cambridge students and Academics. His Excellency Said Rustamov discussed development, trade, security, environment, international and regional relations, civil society and labour issues. A recording of the talk is now available on Youtube. (<https://youtu.be/w58n76qXGfc>)

Lecture by Prof Weyland, George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies, UWED, 4 December 2020



UWED organised a lecture series with Prof Weyland on international relations. The webinar was organized by the Department of Applied analysis of international problems of the faculty of International relations of University of World Economy and Diplomacy. The webinar was attended by more than 50 students of the faculty of international relations and teachers. Prof Wayland spoke in detail about modern theories of international relations and the relationship with modern trends in world politics and international relations, the ongoing transformation processes in international relations. The lecture aroused great interest among students and teachers. At the end of the lecture, Prof Wayland gave answers to students' questions.

GCRF COMPASS Work in Progress Seminar, Uni of Kent, 3 December 2020

On 3 December 2020 the University of Kent held the final Work-in-Progress Seminar (WiPS) of the Autumn term.

Ihar Kurs, doctoral researcher from the Belarusian State University, presented his ongoing research "Public Attitudes towards Scotland's Constitutional Future in 1999-2011: Main Alternatives, Reasons for Support and Dynamics of Their Popularity". Ihar argued that since the beginning of the Scottish devolution and the resumption of the regional parliament in 1999, Scotland has entered into a new phase of political development. He discussed the options for the potential constitutional status of the region and examined the factors that influenced political preferences in Scotland.



Panel Discussion on the Neutrality of Turkmenistan, Uni of Cambridge, 3 December 2020

Cambridge Central Asia Forum in collaboration with the Centre of Development Studies and GCRF COMPASS Project, University of Cambridge and Embassy of Turkmenistan in the UK invites you to a Panel Discussion on the Neutrality of Turkmenistan on the 3rd December 2020. Welcome notes were given by Mr. N. Shihliyev, Vice Rector, International University for the Humanities and Development and Dr Saxena, Uni of Cambridge. The speakers were Mr. Nazar Mammedov, Lecturer, International University for the Humanities and Development, Turkmenistan Mr. V. Vekilov, Lecturer, International University for the Humanities and Development, Turkmenistan and Prof David Lane, Emeritus Fellow of Emmanuel College of the Cambridge University, Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences.



Talk by Professor Gregory Gleason, George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies, UWED, 18 November 2020



On November 18, 2020, the first online lecture by Prof Gregory Gleason on 'International Relations and Global Politics' was held. The webinar was organized by the Department of Applied analysis of international problems of the faculty of International relations of UWED. The webinar was attended by more than 80 students, doctoral students and teachers. Prof Gleason analyzed the current trends in world politics, the ongoing transformation processes in international relations, and also spoke about the current theoretical foundations of research on international problems. The lecture aroused great interest among students and teachers. At the end of the lecture, Prof Gleason gave answers to students' questions.

UWED Workshop: The role of public control in building a fair civil society, UWED, 31 October 2020

On October 31, the deputy of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis, doctor of political sciences Qodir Asadovich Jurayev held an online meeting with students of UWED in order to inform students about information awareness and familiarize themselves with new regulatory documents. The meeting was held within the framework of the "Information and Coaching hour". At the online meeting, lecturer explained the importance of public control in the process from the stages of the formation of civil society and the importance of the process of public control.

Invited Talks

Conference dedicated to the 580th Anniversary of the birth of Alisher Navoi, Moscow State University, 30 March 2021

Dr Nargis Nurulla Khojaeva (TNU) and P. Kalra (Uni of Cambridge) were invited to give a talk at the conference dedicated to the 580th Anniversary of the birth of Alisher Navoi, the national poet of Uzbekistan and a literary figure celebrated in Central Asia. The cultural significance of the figure of Alisher Navoi and the importance of his writings, especially in Turki language were discussed in the context of the broader region and history, along with his significance in Uzbekistan's national identity.

Public commitments: working with talented school graduates, BSU, 29 March-2 April 2021

Belarus COMPASS NTL Artsiom Nazaranka served as Jury member for Belarus National Competition in History for School graduates, held in Zlobin (Gomel oblast) in March 29 – April 2, 2021. National competitions (respublikanskaja olimpiada) in different subjects are held yearly by Belarus Ministry of Education and aimed for selection and support of most talented and motivated young people.

Conference on "Independence and Scientific Integration", which is planned to be held on March 24, 2021

Prof Munira Shahidi (TNU) and Dr Nargis Nurulla Khojaeva (TNU) were invited speakers at the conference on Independence and Scientific Integration. The meeting was organised by Moscow State University and was attended by COMPASS researchers and affiliates. Prof Shahidi and Dr Nurulla Khojaeva discussed issues of regional integration especially in academic and cultural spheres.

Central Asia Society Adelaide Navroz Celebrations, Australia, 18-19 March 2020



P. Kalra and Dr M. Radivojevic (COMPASS Affiliate & UCL) were invited to give talks at the first ever Navroz event in the University of Adelaide, Australia on 18-19 March 2020. Other speakers included Emeritus Prof Richard Pomfret, Prof Uli Schmaliloglu and others. The event included an academic component accompanied by cultural events like dance, felt making, music etc.

Belarus National Erasmus+ Information Day 2021



GCRF COMPASS BSU NTL Artsiom Nazaranka was invited to present on the best practices of participation in the Erasmus+ Jean Monnet Programme during Belarus National Erasmus+ Information Day 2021. The event was organized by the Belarus Erasmus+ National Office and held at the Belarusian State University in Minsk. Information Day gathered national experts as well as representative of the EACEA and was attended by over 50 professionals from Belarusian universities.

Workshop by P. Kalra on Research Methodology, Satbayev University, Kazakhstan 10 March 2021

P. Kalra was invited to give a talk on Research Methodology to MPhil and Phd students in Satybaev University, Kazakhstan on 10 March 2021. The talk covered how to do research, research

methods with a focus on history and international relations, publishing and related topics. The Q&A session was lively and informative.

Pakistan-Uzbekistan Relations on Positive Trajectory: ECI-CIRS Webinar, 9-10 March 2021



COMPASS UWED team member Dr Umarov took part in ECI-CIRS Webinar 'Pakistan-Uzbekistan Relations on Positive Trajectory'. Speakers included Ambassador Kurbanov Doniyor Javdatovic, head of CIRS, Dr Talat Shabbir, Director of China Pakistan Study Centre, ISSI; Khasan Majidov, CERR; Dr Sheharyar Khan, Iqra University; Akram Umarov, senior researcher; Dr Sarwat Rauf, National University of Modern Languages; Yunusova Zilola Bakhodirovna, CIRS and Irfan Shahzad Takalvi, founding head of ECI.

Talk by Dr Nurulla Khojaeva at the Baraza-URI Webinar, 26 February 2021



Dr Nargia Nurulla Khojaeva gave a talk on 'Hearing the other with the 'ears of the heart': Resilience in our pandemic times and my Humsoya' on the occasion of UN World Interfaith GCRF COMPASS

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

Harmony Week, also commemorating the UN Year of Peace and Trust 2021.

The meeting focused on the importance of dialogue between religious communities and locating common spaces of interaction and understanding with a view towards communal harmony and community-making in a cosmopolitan, multi-ethnic and multi-religious world.

Conference on 'Russian-Mongolia Relations: From the Origins to the Contemporary', Lomonosov Moscow State University, 19 February 2021

Prof Munira Shahidi, Dr Nurulla-Khojaeva and P. Kalra were invited to a conference entitled, 'Russian-Mongolia Relations: From the Origins to the Contemporary' on 19 February 2021. The conference was organised by Lomonosov Moscow State University, Institute of Asian and African Studies, Department of Central Asian and Caucasian Countries jointly with The Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration Department of "International Cooperation". The papers will be published in the periodical of Institute of Oriental Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences, Mongolica (<http://www.orientalstudies.ru/rus/index.php?option=content&task=view&id=588>).

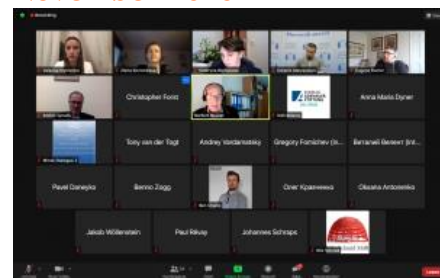
CAREC Institute invited Dr Saxena to join the Planning Committee for the International Conference on Interconnectivity and Cooperation between Central Asia and South Asia, 16 February 2021

Dr Saxena was invited by the Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies (ISRS) under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Central Asian Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Institute to join the planning committee for the upcoming international conference which is tentatively scheduled for May 2021. The conveners of the meeting were ISRS Deputy Director -Mr Sanjar Valiev and CAREC Institute Deputy Director- Dr Iskandar Abdullaev

Konrad Adenauer Stiftung webinar 'Belarus at the beginning of 2021', 25 January 2021

On 25 January 2021, Prof Korosteleva and Dr Petrova attended a timely webinar 'Belarus at the beginning of 2021' organised by Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS), Belarus Office. The programme included Dr Jakob Wöllenstein, Director KAS (moderator); Miriam Lexmann MEP; Artsiom Shraibman, Political Analyst, Sense Analytics, Belarus; Valery Karbalevich, Political Analyst; Dzmitry Kruk, Research Associate, BERO; and Valeryja Kastsugova, Political Analyst, Nashe Mnenie. This is part of a series of webinars, organised by KAS to continue discussions about growing tensions in Belarus.

COMPASS project strategic partnership with the Minsk Dialogue Policy Forum, 25-27 November 2020

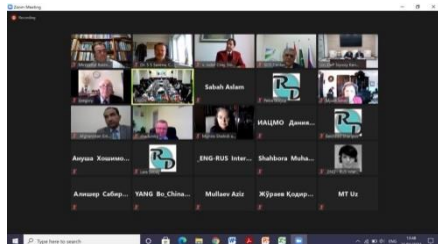


The organisers of the Minsk Dialogue Policy Forum, in strategic partnership with the GCRF COMPASS project and Konrad Adenauer Foundation organised a virtual form. The fourth forum of the Minsk Dialogue brought together over 200 participants from around the globe. It also hosted an enviable and esteemed range of speakers who explored the implications of Belarus Crisis for the region and the world. It also explored the crisis implications for Central Eurasia, which included members of the GCRF COMPASS and GCRF GOOD-Neighbour consortia: Prof Victor Shadursky (BSU); Dr Siddharth Saxena (University of Cambridge); Dr Anar Valiyev (ADA University); Prof Cholpon Turdalieva (AUCA); Dr Farrukh Salimov (TNU) and Prof Ulugbeck Khasanov (UWED), with Prof Elena Korosteleva acting as moderator. For more information please see the programme here, and the links to the event here.

'New Trends in Uzbekistan's Foreign Policy: State & Prospects in Relations with the countries of Central Asia and Afghanistan', Uzbekistan, 21 January 2021



GCRF COMPASS consortium attended the conference 'New Trends in Uzbekistan's Foreign Policy: State & Prospects in Relations with the countries of Central Asia and Afghanistan' organised by Ministry of Higher & Secondary Special Education of the Republic of Uzbekistan and Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies Regional Dialogue. Dr Saxena, Dr Khojaeva, Dr Valiyev, Dr Nazaranka and others from COMPASS presented their views.



Talk on 'Precarity, populism and prospects for a green democratic transformation' 18 January 2021

Dr Albenaz Azmanova, GCRF COMPASS affiliate from Kent (Brussels), gave a talk on 'Precarity, populism, and prospects for a green democratic transformation', on 18 January 2021. This talk was part of a new series 'Rethinking Populism', which began in response to Chantal Mouffe's articulation of 'left populism'.

Webinar on 'From Crisis to Catastrophe in Belarus? How International Relations and International Justice can resolve the emergency', 17 December 2020

On 17 December 2020 at 17.00 Prof Elena Korosteleva participated in the webinar 'From Crisis to Catastrophe in Belarus? How International Relations and International Justice can resolve the emergency', 17 December 2020

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

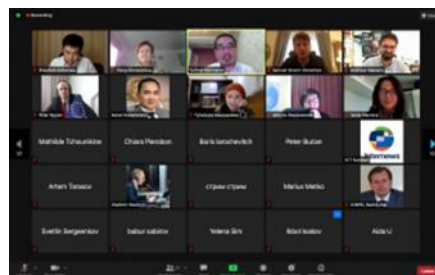
and International Justice can resolve the emergency', organised the Doughty Street Chambers, London. Chaired by Baroness Helena Kennedy QC, speakers included key players from the UN, EU, OSCE and the Council of Europe, as well as diplomats, practitioners and academics immersed in Belarus. International law experts ask whether the international community is up to the job of delivering justice.

Silk Roads Welcome Event, King's College Silk Roads Programme, University of Cambridge, 15 January 2021

P. Kalra gave a talk on Central Asia in world history and its relevance to development processes in the making of modern Eurasia and introduced the Cambridge Central Asia Forum at an event organised by the newly launched Silk Roads Programme in King's College, Cambridge under the directorship of Prof Peter Frankopan. Other speakers included Dame Prof Caroline Humphrey, Prof Jason Sharman and Prof Clive Oppenheimer.

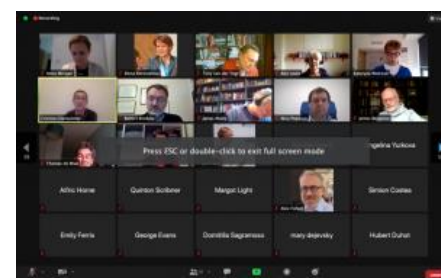
European Neighbourhood Council Webinar, 11 December 2020

On 11 December 2020 Prof Elena Korosteleva was invited to participate, along with Prof Fabienne Bossuyt and HE Ambassador Peter Burian, at the webinar organised by the European Neighbourhood Council (ENC), where the launch of the report on "Socio-economic Impact of COVID-19 and Media Consumption among Vulnerable Communities in Central Asia" was announced, as a part of "Strengthening Resilience to Radicalisation and Disinformation in Central Asia" project funded by the European Union and implemented by Internews. The event was attended by 85 participants.



Chatham House Discussion: Moldova's Presidential Election Results, 17 November 2020

On 17 November Prof Elena Korosteleva participated in the discussion of Moldova's presidential election results, organised by Chatham House, with Cristina Gherasimov, Research Fellow from Robert Bosch Centre of the German Council on Foreign Relations; and Nicu Popescu, Director, Wider Europe Programme, European Council on Foreign Relations as speakers. The discussion was moderated by Katarina Wolczuk, Associate Fellow, Chatham House, and addressed the pitfalls and challenges of the electoral campaign and its results; and touched upon Moldova's future foreign policy trajectory and its domestic political landscape.



Critical Theory Round Table, 14-15 November 2020

A. Azmanova (COMPASS Affiliate) gave a talk at the Critical Theory Round Table. Her talk was entitled "From Metacrisis of Capitalism to Transformative Radicalism: Has the Covid Pandemic Cleared the Way?" on 14-15 November 2020. The workshop had a range of exciting and prominent speakers, including Robert Engelman, "Propaganda's Soft Power"; Antonio Pele, "'Necro-Counterrevolution' in Brazil"; John Min, "Power and Reason"; Jessica Cristianetti, "Nancy Fraser's Theory of Justice"; Matthew Shafer, "Matter, History, Critique"; Teddy Harrison, "Burdened Virtues and the Lifeworlds of Law"; Wayne Wapeemukwa, "Immanent or Indigenous?"; Rochelle DuFord, "It's a Racket!"; Albenaz Azmanova, "From Metacrisis of Capitalism to Transformative Radicalism"; and Andrew Burnside, "Critical Commodities".

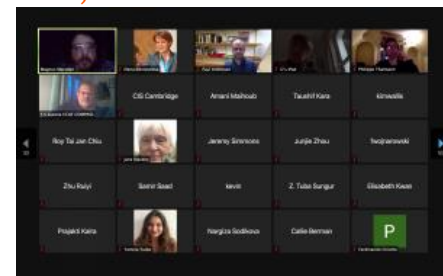
Workshop 'Belarus in the Contemporary Geopolitical Processes, 12-13 November 2020

On 12-13 November 2020, Prof Elena Korosteleva participated in a two-day workshop 'Belarus in the contemporary geopolitical processes', organised jointly by Konrad Adenauer Stiftung and the History Institute of the Belarusian Academy of Sciences. The speakers included Prof Roza Turarbekova (BSU, and COMPASS affiliate), Alexey Ivantsov (EAEU Commission), Dmitry Stratievsky (Director, Osteuropa-Zentrum Berlin), Prof Elena Babkina (Head of Law School BSU), Dr Denis Bukonkin (Director, Centre for Foreign Policy Research, Belarus), Yauheni Preiherman (Minsk Dialogue Initiative and COMPASS member), Prof Alexey Gromyko (Director, Europe Institute RAS, Russia), and many more. The full programme is available [here](#).

Conference on 'Alien species of animals, fungi and plants in Belarus and neighbouring countries', BSU, 23 March 2021

The conference gathered researchers from Belarus and neighbouring countries to discuss current environmental problems and explore further opportunities for cross-border regional cooperation in research and development domains. The conference supported by the GCRF COMPASS was organized by the Belarusian State University in cooperation with State Research and Production Association "Scientific Research Center of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus for Bioresources", A.N. Severtsov Institute of Ecology and Evolution of the Russian Academy of Sciences. Proceedings are to be published in the current academic year 2020/2021, several submissions made to the Russian Journal of Biological Invasions.

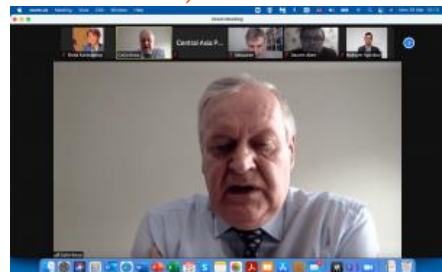
Talk by Prof Marsden, Uni of Sussex on 'Inter-Asia through Inland Eyes: Afghan Trading Networks across Land and Sea', 11 March 2021



On 11 March 2021, COMPASS Advisory Board Member, Prof Magnus Marsden from the University of Sussex gave an insightful lecture on 'Inter-Asia through Inland Eyes: Afghan Trading Networks across Land and Sea'. The talk was organised by the Centre of Islamic Studies, Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, Uni of Cambridge. His talk demonstrated the significance of long-distance networks formed by traders from Afghanistan and Central Asia to the forging of present-day transregional connections within Asia. He focused on two specific corridors of connectivity authored by these traders: a 'Eurasian corridor' connecting East Asia to post-Soviet Eurasia and extending into Western Europe and a 'West Asian corridor' involving traders originally from Central Asia linking East Asia to Turkey and the Arabian Peninsula, thus exposing the ancient connectivity of the region with the world. Magnus Marsden is Professor of Social Anthropology and Director of the Asia Centre at the University of Sussex. He has conducted fieldwork in Muslim Asia, especially Pakistan and Afghanistan for over twenty years. His publications include *Living Islam* (Cambridge, 2005), *Fragments of the Afghan Frontier* (Hurst/Oxford, 2012), *Trading Worlds* (Hurst/Oxford, 2016), and *Beyond the Silk Road* (Cambridge, 2021).

Other Events

Webinar on 'The State of Civil Society in Central Asia: Kazakhstan', 29 March 2021



On 29 March Prof Elena Korosteleva and Dr Irina Petrova attended the webinar 'The State of Civil Society in Central Asia: Kazakhstan'. Organised by the George Washington University Central Asia Programme, the webinar featured Colin Knox, Dauren Aben and Maksym Sytnikov who spoke about the civil society landscape in Kazakhstan. The session addressed broader developmental trends and civil society challenges in Kazakhstan, recent developments and legislative changes and Kazakhstani civil society's expectations of Western supporters.

Meeting with the University of Northumbria, UWED, 12 March 2021



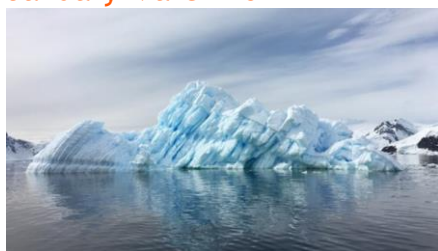
On March 12 a videoconference meeting between the University of World Economy and Diplomacy on cooperation with the University of Northumbria in the UK took place. The University of Northumbria is one of the largest research universities in the UK and will be listed in the Top 20 UK universities in this area. The meeting was attended by Vice-Rector for International relations of the University of Northumbria John Rist and Global academic cooperation development Manager Trista Huang, Advisor to the Embassy of Uzbekistan in London Aliyor Tilavov and attache Shohruz Samadov, UWED Vice-Rector for International relations, Prof Saidmukhtor Saidkasimov.

Conversation with Minister of Trade and Integration Strategy, British Kazakh Society, 19 January 2021

Dr Saxena, Advisory Board Member British Kazakh Society, organised a conversation with Vice Minister - Assel Zhanassova, Kazakhstan's Trade and Integration Strategy in the Era of Global Challenges: A Conversation with Vice

Minister Assel Zhanassova. She is responsible for the development and management of digital strategy and digital trade initiatives in Kazakhstan as well as building partnerships with international players in the digital trade area. She has graduated from Cambridge University and before her appointment as the Vice Minister, she was the Chief Digital Officer at Astana International Financial Centre (AIFC). She is a University of Cambridge alumnus.

China Centre Seminar Series January-March 2021



Prof Nolan, AB Member, chaired a seminar series organised by the China Centre, Jesus College that included a number of talks relevant for Central Asia and wider Eurasia. The talks included: Can we avoid war with China? By Sir Oliver Letwin; A fresh look at climate change: climate risks and COP26 by Sir Prof David King; Ceramics and society in the Song dynasty by Dr Rose Kerr; The children of China's great migration by Prof Rachel Murphy. More information available here.

Round table on 'Protecting the rights of people with disabilities: towards inclusive education', UWED, 26 December 2020



On December 26, Rendez-Vous Inter-University Community, with the support and assistance of the University of World Economy and Diplomacy, organized the Conference on Advocacy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Towards Inclusive

Education. The event was attended by the vice-rectors of the University of World Economy and Diplomacy, associate professor of the National University of Uzbekistan, head of the Association of Disabled People of Uzbekistan, coach of the para-Olympic team in track and field athletics of Uzbekistan, representative of the Association of Volunteers of Uzbekistan, master's student of Seljuk University and students of UWED, TSUV and UzSUWL. During the conference, the topics of inclusion, the true concept of inclusive education, attitudes towards persons with disabilities in Uzbekistan and Turkey, the ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the importance of volunteering were mentioned.

Panel Discussion: Interacting with China in a Complex World, 17 November 2020

Prof Nolan, AB Member, chaired a panel on Interacting with China in a Complex World. The panelists included Rt Hon Sir Oliver Letwin (Director, Project for Peaceful Comp Ltd, formerly Project for Peaceful Coexistence Ltd; former Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and former Minister for Government Policy, HMG), Prof Peter Littlewood (Founding Executive Chair, The Faraday Institution; Former Director, Argonne National Laboratory; Prof of Physics, University of Chicago), Lord Jim O'Neill (Chair, Chatham House; Vice Chair, The Northern Powerhouse Partnership; former Commercial Secretary to the Treasury, HMG), Lord Adair Turner (Chair, Energy Transitions Committee; Senior Fellow and former Chair, Institute for New Economic Thinking; former Chair, UK Financial Services Authority) and Dr Jin Zhang (Deputy Director, China Centre, Jesus College Cambridge, Senior Research Fellow, Cambridge China Development Trust).

UWED invited to the Eurasian Creative Guild - Open Central Asia, United Kingdom, 17 November 2020

Prof Ulugbek Khasanov participated in the Eurasian Creative Guild – Open Central Asia - OCA Magazine's 5th zoom-meeting: The impact of Covid-19 on politics in Central Asia. The 5th

Zoom meeting of the OCA Magazine was devoted to the topic about how Covid-19 influenced on politics of Central Asian countries. The meeting was moderated by Sveltana Orlova, political analyst. Ulugbek Khasanov presented his report on issues of interdependence between countries of Central Asia and importance of reviving economical and financial collaborations between countries.

Conference on 'The role of science in the development of public diplomacy', Uzbekistan, 13 November 2020

UWED scholars, Prof E.S. Sultanova and Prof F.I. Muminova were invited to speak at the SCO Public Diplomacy Center in Uzbekistan on 'The Role of Science in the Development of Public Diplomacy in the 21st Century.' It was timed to coincide with the significant date of the World Science Day for Peace and Development, which has been celebrated by UNESCO since 2002. Scientists, political scientists, historians, philologists, teachers, specialists in international relations and intercultural civilization were the participants of this forum. Head of the Science and Education Department of the SCO Public Diplomacy Center in the republic F.M. Otbasarov spoke about the importance of science in the modern world, in the development and strengthening of international and intercultural cooperation. Speakers included speeches of representatives of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan - director of the Institute of Botany K. Sh. Tojibaev, head of the department of the Center for Contemporary History M. A. Rakhimov, chief specialist of the Union of Writers of Uzbekistan R.T. Khaidarova, candidate of philological sciences, translator Z.N. Isomiddinov, heads of departments of the Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies K.S. Nikolaeva and U. U. Mukhibova and others.



Conference on 'Transformation of international systems and new aspects of regional security and development in Central Asia', UWED, 5 November 2020



The main subject of discussion at the conference was new trends in regional development and relations among Central Asian countries, their activities in international organizations, and cooperation with leading countries of the world. Representatives and leading experts of the Ministry of foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Institute for strategic and interregional studies under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Academy of the Armed forces of the Republic of Uzbekistan, information and analytical centers, higher educational institutions, research institutes attended the conference. The participants emphasized the importance of promoting interdisciplinary cooperation between scientists and specialists of various scientific fields and analytical centers of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Save the Date: Forthcoming Events

4th Global Research Network International Workshop 'Science in Diplomacy and Diplomacy in Science', Uni of Cambridge, 8-9 April 2021

As part of the Korean government funded GRN project on the history of GCRF COMPASS

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

science diplomacy in Eurasia, Cambridge, Hanyang Uni, Plekhanov Institute and Eurasian Research Institute have organised a two day workshop on 'Science in Diplomacy and Diplomacy in Science'. The workshop intends to invite senior scientists and agencies involved with diplomacy in South Korea to evaluate how best to develop Eurasian Science Diplomacy programmes especially with regards to Central Asia.

Roundtable on Eurasian Economic Union and SCO', BSU, 20 April 2021

IX International Round Table on Innovation in International Research "Eurasian Economic Union and Shanghai Cooperation Organization: on the path of mutually beneficial cooperation" will be organized at the BSU with the support of the GCRF COMPASS. More information available [here](#).

An Institute for Historical Research Partnership Seminar: 'Applied History & Contemporary Geopolitics' Seminar Series, Uni of Cambridge, 12 May 2021

As part of the Applied Seminar Series, P. Kalra will give a talk on 12 May 2021 on 'Globalisation 2.0: Mongol Eurasia to Modern Eurasia (EAEU and BRI)'. This Institute for Historical Research Partnership Seminar Series is convened by the Engelsberg Applied History Programme; the Centre for Grand Strategy at King's College London; the Centre for Geopolitics at the University of Cambridge; and the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office Historians. This online seminar series represents a unique opportunity for historians interested in applying historical insight to contemporary questions in international affairs. The seminar series will run from 18 March to 23 June.

5th Annual Tartu Conference on Russian and East European Studies, Post-Socialist (dis)Orders, Estonia 6-8 June 2021

The Tartu Conference is a venue for academic discussion of the fundamental cultural, social, economic and political trends affecting all aspects of people's

life in Russia and Eastern Europe. Inaugurated in June 2016 as the flagship event of the Horizon 2020 UPTAKE consortium, this forum brings together scholars from across multiple disciplines, from the region and beyond. The 2021 Tartu Conference is organized by the UT's Centre for Eurasian and Russian Studies (CEURUS) in cooperation with the PONARS Eurasia research network. GCRF COMPASS consortium members submitted two panels, both of which were accepted. The panels accepted are, Panel 1: The Eurasian Post Socialist Order and Panel 2: The relevance of 'local' in order formation: resilience as self-governance in Central Eurasia. More information available [here](#).

ADA University GCRF COMPASS Signature Conference, Baku, 16-17 June 2021

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 megatrend and extrapolate what it means for the Europe-Asia relationship and particularly how it affects Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, as a geo-connectivity platform targeted by major international stakeholders. In particular, connectivity will be examined through various aspects including geopolitics, social welfare and economics to business opportunities (start-ups) and finance.

Eurasian Insights Conference in Ghent: Past, current and upcoming dynamics in the Central Asian region, and their (possible) impacts for Europe, 22-24 September 2021

The conference brings together insights into the wider Central Asian region. The purposes of the event are threefold: Firstly, to bring together scholars, students, interested members of the public and policymakers working on or interested in the Central Asian region to interact and, as such, strengthen a network of Central Asia-related research and -education in Europe. Secondly, to show, by examining its identities and historical roots, societal and political dynamics, external interactions, and economy and environment, that the Central Asian region is not merely a passive object in abstract geopolitics, but that it also has histories, societies, identities and aspirations of its own. Thirdly, examine what (potential) effects and impacts of developments in Central Asia, a region situated right beyond Europe's eastern rim, have on the EU and Europe in general (and vice-versa). GCRF COMPASS Consortium panel was accepted. Details to follow. More information available here.

In other news

Publications

Azamano, A. (2021) 'Battlegrounds of Justice: The Pandemic and What Really Grieves the 99%' in *Pandemics, Politics, and Society: Critical Perspectives on the COVID-19 Crisis*, edited by Gerard Delanty. De Gruyter 2021. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1515/9783110713350>.

Azmanova, A. (2021) 'Here's why US political dysfunction has reached its breaking point', (with M. Auerback), *Alternet*, 16 January.

Azmanova, A. (2020) 'Viral Insurgencies: Can Capitalism Survive Covid?', *Theory and Event* (special issue, December).

Bossuyt, F and P. Van Elsuwege (eds) 2021 'Principled Pragmatism in Practice: The EU's Policy towards Russia after Crimea' Brill. Series: Studies in EU External Relations, Volume: 19. Available here.

Kalra, P. (2020) "Pax Mongolica: Trade and Traders in the Mongol Empire." In *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Asian History*. Oxford University Press, 2016—. Article published November 19, 2020. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780190277272.013.493>.

Kalra, P. (2020) 'Is Central Asian History Peripheral?', *Reflective Piece on Peripheral Histories* <https://www.peripheralhistories.co.uk/post/is-central-asian-history-peripheral>.

Khasanov, U. (2021) 'Uzbekistan counts on deepening industrial cooperation in EAEU', *Eurasia Expert International Research Magazine*. Read here.

Khasanov, U. (2021) 'The Key to Achievements and Progress is Timely Investment in Human Capital', *Newspaper "Yangi Uzbekiston"*. More information here.

Kondral, A. (2020) *Palestinian Refugees in Jordan: Status and Identity*.

Mammadova, L. and Valiyev, A. (2020) 'Azerbaijan and European Higher Education Area: Students' Involvement in Bologna Reforms', *Research in Educational Administration and Leadership* 5 (4), pp 1083-1121, available here.

Nazaranka, A. (2020) 'Migration, refugees, statelessness issues and cross-cultural relations', *Special Issue, Journal of International Law and International Relations*, N3-4(94-95), full text available in English and in Russian.

Nazaranka, A. (2020) *International Project of the Global Challenges Research Fund COMPASS: Experience of Cooperation in the Wider Eurasia Region*.

Paikin, Z. (2020) 'When Revanchism does not Equate to Revisionism: Taking Stock of the new US-Russian Great Power Rivalry', *Ponars Policy Memo No. 674*, November, available here.

Umarov, A. (2021) *Modern Policy of Decentralization of Public Administration in Uzbekistan*. Cabar. <https://cabar.asia/en/modern-policy-of-decentralization-of-public-administration-in-uzbekistan?fbclid=IwAR3Eugh4vff-T7CaFMZjpk7ZFvoTTHaCPsZdsnEI0BvchqiClyDdkeiMVQ>

Umarov, A. (2020) 'Third Central Asian leaders' meeting postponed to 2021: Why it matters?' *The Diplomat*, 14 December, available here.

Valiyev, A. (2020) 'The Myth of Syrian Mercenaries in Karabakh Debunked in Eight Parts', *Ponars Policy Memo*, 6 November, available here.

Valiyev, A and Gafarova, N. "New big war in the South Caucasus and prospects for peace in Karabakh". Article at *Pathways to Peace and Security*, 2020, vol. 2(59): 167-180 DOI: 10.20542/2307-1494-2020-2-167-180 Article can be accessed here.

Valiyev, A. and Ergun, A. Analysis "An Account on Karabakh War: Why Now and Then What?", DOI: 10.13140/RG.2.2.30777.60006 The piece can be accessed here.

Valiyev, A. and Mammadova, L. Article at *Research in Educational Administration and Leadership (REAL) journal* 2020 Volume 5 , Issue 4, Pages 1083 - 1121 "Azerbaijan and European Higher Education Area: Students' Involvement in Bologna Reforms" DOI: <https://doi.org/10.30828/real/2020.4.4> Accessible here.

GCRF COMPASS Policy Outputs

Babayev, B. and I. Yagubova (2021) 'Azerbaijan-EAEU Cooperation: The Current State of Affairs and Future Prospects', *GCRF COMPASS Policy Paper*, 1 February, available here.

Gafarova, N. and A. Valiyev (2020) 'How Does COVID-19 Impact on the EAEU? The View from Azerbaijan', *GCRF COMPASS Policy Paper*, 24 November, available here.

Minsk Dialogue Virtual Forum – 2020: The Belarus Crisis: Mapping Uncertainty in Regional Security, *Non-Paper*, 10 December 2020, available here.

Mowlds, S. (2021) Cambridge Affiliate. GCRF COMPASS Policy Paper on Evidence-Informed Decision-Making for Sustainable Development in Uzbekistan: Spatial Data. The paper can be accessed [here](#).

Rakhimov, A., Khasanov, U. and A. Umarov (2020) 'New Foreign Policy of Uzbekistan: Central Asia, the EAEU and the BRI', GCRF COMPASS Policy paper, 18 November, available [here](#).

Silk Roads Programme, King's College, Cambridge

P. Kalra has been appointed Silk Roads Research Affiliate in the newly launched Silk Roads Programme in King's College. The Director of the Programme is Prof Frankopan. More information can be found [here](#).

PhD Completion

Congratulations to A. Khudaykulov, Uni of Cambridge and COMPASS Affiliate, on successfully defending his PhD thesis viva in December 2020. He is now appointed in the Ministry of Education in Uzbekistan.

British Council announces winners of the third year of the 'Creative Spark' call in Azerbaijan

Following the successful first year of the implementation of Creating Enterprise: Business Start-Up Journey - Azerbaijan/UK project in 2019/2020, an international team led by University of Kent (UK) and ADA University and Azerbaijan State University of Culture and Arts (Azerbaijan) won the right to continue work on the project for the second consecutive year. As a result of this collaboration the project and the resulting platform will seek to improve the low rate of entrepreneurial education among Azerbaijani students studying in creative fields. The first year of the project has been finalized in May 2020, with finalization of the 8 weeks long Creating Enterprise: The Business Start-Up Journey Entrepreneurship Skills Course organized by ADA University in

partnership with University of Kent Business School (UK).

Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy

On 16 March 2021 Prof Korosteleva received a thank-you letter from the Cabinet Office, for her contribution to the recently published Government Integrated Review. The report is available [here](#).

Social Media

AB Member Fabienne Bossuyt's interview on the National Television and Radio Company of Uzbekistan, 26 March 2021



COMPASS Advisory Board member Prof Bossuyt gave an interview to the National Television and Radio Company of Uzbekistan (O'zMETRK O'zbekiston milliy teleradiokompaniyasi) on 26 March 2021. The interview was devoted to Prof Bossuyt's study of mahallas and how the EU should engage with them. The full version can be viewed [here](#).

Prof Elena Korosteleva interviewed by Jon Snow, ITN Channel 4, 8 February 2021



On 8 February 2021, Prof Elena Korosteleva was interviewed by Jon Snow on a 6pm ITN Channel 4 News to speak about the continued protests in Belarus. Six months on since the fraudulent presidential election of 9 August 2020, the protests have now acquired a new format – more localised, neighbourhood based (supol'nast'), mobilising local people, getting to know the neighbours, and coming together, to make change sustainable and future – more tangible, through resilience-building. Prof Korosteleva reflected this in her interview, drawing on her work with COMPASS PDRA Dr Petrova about the rise of 'peoplehood' in Belarus and wider Eurasia, as part of the GCRF COMPASS project.

Interview with Dr Kudaibergenova, PDRA, Uni of Cambridge, 1 December 2020

Dr Kudaibergenova was interviewed about her book 'Power and Identity in the post-Soviet realm' (Pittsburg 2020) by Loyal Niazzy, MECACS intern and fourth year International Relations student at the University of St Andrews. The interview was published on 1 December and can be found [here](#).

CCAF YouTube Channel

A series of talks organised by Cambridge Central Asia Forum and GCRF COMPASS can be found on our youtube channel. Follow the link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9253cdjGLsG51nDgZA1alw>

Thank you for your attention!

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

