

GCRF COMPASS NEWSLETTER

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

Issue 2, July 2018



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Welcome Note

By Siddharth S. Saxena (Montu)



Dear Colleagues,

COMPASS is now marching ahead from its fabulous official launch in Minsk, and its notable inaugurations in Cambridge, London and Kent, to deliver an unprecedented menu of impactful research, policy outcomes and community engagements.

As the Azerbaijani, Belarusian, Tajik and Uzbek team members demonstrated in Minsk, they are brimming not only with potential and promise as researchers, but are the key intellectual actors in their countries, who continuously make significant contributions of exceptional quality on the global stage as well. The strength and plurality of this diverse grouping became apparent when it came together as a consortium to engage with a wide range of matters of concern to business, government and academic sectors. The COMPASS consortium provides a coherent and integrated platform for collaboration, poised to catalyse cooperation between government, industry and civil society.

Looking to the future we are gearing towards a step change in our internationalisation and global relevance. Indeed with a constant gaze towards the UK and Europe, it is essential that we are attuned to the needs and realities in the local context of each of the partner countries. We also have exciting challenges and opportunities growing in the broader Eurasia region, BRICS countries, South Asia and the countries of the Silk Road, both by land and sea which we need to be cognizant of moving forward.

We are now in the process of launching several new initiatives which rely on the keen participation of our partners. In particular we are planning to launch COMPASS Cambridge seminars and COMPASS Cambridge policy video links in collaboration with our in-country partners and Embassies in the UK.

We would like to invite you to propose special COMPASS focused issues for Cambridge Central Asia Reviews and the online journal: Cambridge Journal of Eurasian Studies.

We look forward to your contributions and proposals. And most importantly to working together to advance intellectual and research aims of our project and collaborative interests globally!



Dr Siddharth Saxena
COMPASS Co-I
University of Cambridge &
Director, Cambridge Central Asia
Forum, Jesus College, University of
Cambridge

Project Launch in Minsk, 22-23 May 2018



The University of Kent, along with its partners – University of Cambridge, Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy University (ADA), Belarusian State University (BSU), Tajik National University (TNU), and University of World Economy and Diplomacy in Uzbekistan (UWED) launched the

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prestigious Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) “COMPASS” Project (ES/P010849/1; 2017-21), on 22-23 May 2018, Minsk, Belarus as part of the larger Minsk Dialogue Policy Forum Initiative.



The official launch of the GCRF-COMPASS project took place in the BSU Registry on the 22nd of May and hosted more than 60 delegates including members of all partner institutions, Advisory Board members, the GCRF Project Officer, representative from the Belarus Ministry of Education, Parliament, Presidential Administration, EU and Embassies of Azerbaijan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, and ERASMUS+ students and staff of the Belarusian State University. The project received a warm welcome from the PVC Internationalisation, Professor Sergey Khodin, and interviews with project consortium members were featured on channel One National TV.

(https://www.tvr.by/news/obshchestvo/intervyu_s_professorom_mezhdunarodnoy_politiki_direktorom_tsentra_globalnoy_evropy/?sphrase_id=614980)

The day concluded with a key-note speech given by Professor Trine Flockhart (SDU) member of the Advisory Board (AB), on key challenges of a changing global order. The presentation generated a lively debate with Q&A which included remarks from Professor Alisher Faizullaev (AB member).

The project and AB members reassembled next day for a Steering Group (SG) meeting for a detailed overview and discussion of the project's aims and work packages (WPs), including work planning in the first year. The SG was organised as follows:

•WP1 ‘Project Management’ by Professor Elena Korosteleva (PI) & Dr Kornelia Jumel (Project Manager/PM)

•WP2 ‘Research Integration’ led by Dr Eske van Gil (Post-Doctoral Research Associate/PDRA)

•WP3 ‘Policy Impact’ led by Dr Oybek Madiyev (PDRA)

•WP4 ‘Community Engagement’ led by Professor Elena Korosteleva and Professor David Rotman

•WP5 ‘Dissemination & Communication’ led by Dr Siddharth Saxena (Co-I)

This 1st SG meeting will be followed by bilateral meetings in July, with partners to finalise their Action Plans and COMPASS Shared Calendar for the next academic year 2018/19.



The official launch took place in tandem with the Minsk Dialogue Policy Forum (23-25 May 2018), which was attended by over 600 delegates from 50 countries. The Minsk Dialogue Policy Forum was inaugurated by the Belarus Minister of Foreign Affairs, Vladimir Makei, and featured an Address by President Lukashenko, ministers, and EU policy-makers.



GCRF COMPASS proudly supported the forum, seeing it as part of its core policy impact activities, which it would like to establish across the partner countries in the region. Baroness Suttie, House of Lords, UK, gave the key-note address on 24th May, highlighting key challenges for the region and how the project may usefully address them. This

was followed by a reception and networking opportunities.

Launch information and pictures available at:

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



BSU Post-launch Press Release

Vice-Rector of the Belarusian State University for Academic Affairs and Internationalization of Education, Professor Siarhei Khodzin, speaking on behalf of the Rector of the University, Andrei Karol, drew attention to the importance of the COMPASS project and expressed support for its implementation by the university leadership. He also noted that the BSU expects that "the COMPASS project will not only promote the BSU and the national education system of Belarus as a whole, but also promote mutually respectful, genuinely friendly relations with Great Britain, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and other countries."

Read the full press release here.

Past Events

ISA, San Francisco 2-7 April 2018

A group of GCRF COMPASS scholars attended this year's ISA conference in San Francisco, which hosted over 2000 participants. Professor Korosteleva convened a panel titled 'Resilience and Global Security: European Union and beyond,' which included international scholars, such as Philippe Bourbeau (Laval, Canada), Ana G. Juncos (Bristol), Ben Tonra (UCD), Rosanne Anholt (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam), Christian Lequesne (CERI, Chair) and

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David Chandler (Westminster, discussant and COMPASS AB member). The panel generated a lively discussion into the definitions and genealogy of the concept and difficulties of its application to practice.

Professor Korosteleva and Professor Flockhart (COMPASS AB member) also chaired/moderated a panel on 'Challenges to International Liberal Order' represented by Kent and Tartu Doctoral students, extending a H2020 UPTAKE network to GCRF COMPASS.



76th Annual MPSA Conference, Chicago 5-8 April 2018

Dr Oybek Madiyev attended the 76th Annual MPSA Conference in Chicago, USA. He presented a paper titled, 'Making Sense of China's Competitive Investment Strategy in Eurasia' in the panel- 'New Perspectives on Great Power Politics'. The panel included several scholars such as Roger Handberg (University of Central Florida), Martha Ross Dewitt (University of Wisconsin-Madison) and Kuan-Sheng Wu (Purdue University) and Junwoo Kim (University of Chicago).

BASEES Annual Conference, Cambridge 13-15 April 2018

From 13th to 15th of April, Dr Eske van Gils attended the BASEES conference in Cambridge. The main theme this year was human rights in Central and Eastern Europe. Dr van Gils presented a paper on 'Regime legitimacy and foreign policy in EU-Azerbaijan relations', in a panel together with Levan Kakhishvili (Tbilisi State University) and Gulshan Pashayeva (Centre for Strategic Studies in Baku).

Digital Dialogue for Central Asia, 23 April 2018

The Cambridge Central Asia Forum in conjunction with COMPASS interests in building Digital capacity and cooperation hosted a conference with Uzbek and Tajik government officials and academics in Astana, Kazakhstan. The meeting, 'Digital Dialogue for Central Asia', was chaired by Dr Saxena and was a vibrant and exciting opportunity to discuss technology, science and social issues in and about Central Asia. The conference attracted people from governments, civil society organisations, universities and business in Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, the UK, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, and India. This conference was funded by Facebook, Inc. and the Observer Research Foundation (India).



Training Course, Centre for Political Ethnography (CEP), University of Southampton 9-11 May 2018

Dr Eske van Gils attended a training course on interpretive methods at the Centre for Political Ethnography (University of Southampton). The training, organised through the NCRM, was led by Professor Rod Rhodes. One area of focus was interpretive theory, textual analysis, conducting fieldwork, and dissemination of findings. Dr van Gils also presented her own work on Azerbaijan's foreign policy. The training was funded by the University of Kent Graduate School's Post-Doctoral Research Fund.



Minsk Dialogue Forum, 23-25 May 2018



Under WP3 ('Policy Impact'), COMPASS supported the Minsk Dialogue Policy Forum including the reception, travel and participation of partner team members in a number of panels and break-out sessions, as well as a keynote address by Baroness Suttie, member of the House of Lords and member of the COMPASS Advisory Board. One of the core activities of the project is to maximise policy impact at regional and international levels. The forum attracted over 600 experts and policy-makers from 50 countries. It also served as an example of good practice for other partners to organize similar initiatives in the future.

GCRF COMPASS at the 3rd Annual Tartu Conference on Russian and East European Studies, Tartu University, Estonia 10-12 June 2018

Between 10th and 12th of June, researchers of the GCRF COMPASS project attended the 3rd Annual Tartu Conference on Russian and East European Studies, which was held at the University of Tartu (Estonia). The team presented their work in two panels organised by the project. The panels' aim was to discuss different challenges for regional security and capacity-building in the region – in line with the project's key themes.



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The panels built on Kent's partnership with the University of Tartu as part of the H2020 Twinning UPTAKE project.

The consortium's participation in the conference was the first collective event regarding Research Integration. We aim at regular joint participation in conferences from now on, and will also work on joint outputs as a result of partners' participation.

Researchers presenting their work were: Anar Valiyev (ADA University), Munira Shahidi and Nargis Nurulla-Khozhaeva (Tajik National University), Akram Umarov and Sherzod Abdullaev (UWED), Leonardo Pataccini (University of Tartu), Alisa Dekhtiarenko and Roza Turarbekova (Belarusian State University), and Eske van Gils (University of Kent). The panels were chaired by the project's PI Elena Korosteleva.

More information can be found on the conference's [website: https://sisu.ut.ee/tartuconference/avaleht](https://sisu.ut.ee/tartuconference/avaleht)



BISA Conference, Bath 13-15 June 2018

Professor Elena Korosteleva (PI, Kent), together with Professor Trine Flockhart (SDU; COMPASS AB member), participated at the joint roundtable titled 'Resilience as a New Security Strategy: Challenging the Foundations', at the British International Studies Association (BISA), Bath (13-15 June 2018). The panel focused on understanding change in global order, and the role of resilience as a new EU global security strategy, its multiple meanings and practices.



Dr Eske van Gils presented at King's College London 18-19 June 2018

Dr Eske van Gils participated in the workshop entitled, 'Narrating Russian and Eurasian Security' at King's College (University of London) on 18th and 19th June. The workshop was organised by the British International Studies Association (BISA) working groups on Russian and Eurasian Security and Interpretivism in International Relations.

Prague European Summit, 19-21 June 2018

Professor Korosteleva was invited to speak at a plenary session of the Prague European Summit, an initiative of EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy and the Institute of International Relations, under the patronage of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, Office of the Government of the Czech Republic, Representation of the European Commission in the Czech Republic and the City of Prague. She shared her views at the panel along with Petr Drulak (Czech Ambassador to France), Josef Janning (European Council on Foreign Affairs, Berlin), and Jeremy Cliffe (The Economist). The panel addressed the theme of 'The EU's Global Role: capacities, Credibility, and Coherence', especially with relevance to the neighbourhood, and Central Asia.

More information available at: <http://praguesummit.eu>

'The Interaction of Eurasian Integration with the EU and the Silk Road: International Politics and Political Economy', SSEES Conference 22 June 2018

Professor Korosteleva was invited to speak at a plenary session of the UCL SSEES conference 'The Interaction of Eurasian Integration with the EU and the Silk Road: International Politics and Political Economy', 22 June 2018. The title of her presentation was, 'The changing wider neighbourhood and the EU: challenges and opportunities', focusing on a changing global, and domestic environments, and the ensuing consequences for more effective and sustainable governance for the EU. Enhancing resilience as self-governance and developing critical infrastructures

for capacity-building in partner-countries to ensure sustainable relations, was argued, should be the key priorities for the EU's new modus operandi.



'Russia and the West: What future for the European Security Architecture and the OSCE?', Vienna 25 June 2018

Dr Nathalie Tocci, a member of the COMPASS Advisory Board, invited Professor Korosteleva to speak at the closed-door roundtable in Vienna to discuss the need for new institutional security arrangements in Europe and the world, with other European and Russian experts.



Stakeholders' meeting at the FCO, London 29 June 2018

The Stakeholder's meeting was organised with the support of Laurence Broyd (Senior Analyst, FCO and COMPASS AB member). The meeting brought together FCO departments, WFD, and partner Embassies, to discuss how to maximise policy impact of the GCRF COMPASS project. A particular focus was on the agenda of the forthcoming London Forum (27-29/01/2019) and how to make it relevant to all major stakeholders. This

discussion will be continued with partners and COMPASS AB.

Talks and Other Events

Centre for European Reform, 28 March 2018

Dr Oybek Madiyev attended a roundtable discussion on 'Modern Belarus and its place in Europe' with Vladimir Minister Makei, Foreign Minister of Belarus, held at the Centre for European Reform. Mr. Makei made some introductory comments on Belarus's strategic choices, including its relations with Russia, the EU and the UK.

Academy of Social Sciences and KAS, Belarus 28-30 March 2018

Professor Korosteleva attended a conference 'Belarus in the current geopolitical and -economic processes', organized by the Academy of Social Sciences and KAS in Minsk, on 28-30 March 2018. The conference discussed many challenges that the post-Soviet region, and Belarus in particular, are facing today, in the changing global order. Elena gave a talk on the EU Global Security Strategy, resilience and Belarus' new opportunities for capacity-building, as part of the GCRF Compass project.

Talk by Professor Peter Nolan, Advisory Board member, University of Cambridge at Goldsmiths, University of London on 25 April 2018

Professor Nolan gave a talk about 'China and the West' with a special emphasis on the historic Silk Road. The Industrial Revolution in Britain signaled the start of a second era of radical divergence, which lasted up until the late twentieth century. In the long sweep of world history this era is of short duration, a mere 200 years, compared with more than 4,000 years of complex civilisation that preceded it. Since the 1980s the world has entered an era of renewed economic convergence

between China and the West. However, there are still deep differences in the respective civilisations, which are inherited from the long sweep of history.

Talk by Bakhtiyar Aslanbayli, Adjunct Lecturer, ADA University and Azerbaijan, and Vice President, BP Azerbaijan, Turkey and Georgia, 27 April 2018

University of Cambridge hosted a talk by Bakhtiyar Aslanbayli, Vice President BP (Azerbaijan, Turkey and Georgia) and Adjunct Lecturer in ADA University, Azerbaijan (a COMPASS partner). He gave a talk on 'Energy resources of Azerbaijan and export of Caspian energy resources to Europe'. Mr. Aslanbayli was awarded with Progress Medal by the President of Azerbaijan (2017) for his contributions to the energy industry in Azerbaijan.

More information at <https://centralasia.group.cam.ac.uk/events/AslanbayliTalk>



Talk by Professor Peter Nolan, University of Cambridge in SOAS 9 May 2018

Professor Nolan gave a talk on 'China and the West: Crossroads of Civilizations' in SOAS, London. He talked about the ancient Silk Road and the new developments in Eurasia in the current climate of East vs West. He talked about urgent global challenges that need to be confronted, including destruction of the natural environment; climate change; inequality of income, wealth and life chances; industrial concentration and regulation of the financial system.

Talk by Professor Rahilya Geybullayeva (Adjunct Faculty, ADA and Head of Azerbaijani Literature Department, Baku State University), Cambridge 18 May 2018

Professor Rahilya Geybullayeva (Head of Azerbaijani Literature Department, Baku State University) gave a talk on 'Rules to follow in contemporary Azerbaijani society as a mirror of medieval behavioural patterns (in Kitabi Dede Gorgud)' in Cambridge. Professor Geybullayeva is the Head of Azerbaijani Literature Department Baku Slavic University (since 2005) and founded Azerbaijan Comparative Literature Association in 2005. R. Geybullayeva is the lecturer on Azerbaijani Literature; Comparative Literature and Comparative Culture; Lecturer on Azerbaijani Culture for expats. She is Adjunct Faculty at ADA University, Baku since 2012.

The talk was insightful and dealt with various issues of identity formation through the analysis of religious and medieval texts. The talk touched on the cultural and social dimension of the GCRF COMPASS project and the ways in which engagement with Azerbaijan's youth and other members of civil society, along with the government and policy makers can be organized. The foundations of Azerbaijani society and the wider region is key to the aims of the project.

Read more at: <https://centralasia.group.cam.ac.uk/events/Rahilya>



Visit of Professor Thomas Kruessmann (JM Network coordinator for Caucasus) and Dr Stefano Braghiroli (Tartu H2020 UPTAKE), expert on MOOC and Digital learning

The GCRF team was delighted to welcome Professor Kruessmann and Dr Braghiroli in May at the project launch in Minsk. We hope to work together towards developing capacity building of the GCRF COMPASS partners within the JM and ERASMUS+ frameworks in the future.

CRASSH Politics of Economic Research Group, Cambridge 30 May 2018

Dr Saxena was invited to be discussant for a paper entitled, 'Before Trump: The Neoliberal-Illiberal Alliance of the WTO & IMF and SCO' authored by S.M Amadae (MIT) on 30 May 2018. The talk focused on Western commentators pondering the phenomenon of illiberalism that has recently gained ground in Europe and North America. They traditionally identified illiberalism as a particular feature of developmental progress of states without sufficient constitutional safeguards to offer institutional defenses against illiberal tendencies. Yet we now can see that even fully developed constitutional democracies, most prominently the US, have taken this turn. This paper hypothesizes that neoliberalism, specifically in the form promoted by the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization, forms an ideological and practical alliance with developmental trends in Eurasia.

Talk by Professor Yamanaka, Former vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan (Caucasus region), on 'North East Asia: Toward the End of the Cold War', 4 June 2018

Professor Yamanaka is Visiting Fellow at the Cambridge Central Asia Forum and Churchill College, University of Cambridge. She is Visiting Professor at Tenjin Foreign Studies University. She served as the Member of the House of Representatives of Japan and was the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs with remit over the Caucasus region, Director of the Committee of Foreign

Affairs, and Director General of the Women's Bureau of Liberal Democratic Party. She is an expert on international peacebuilding and preventive state theory, international negotiation and strategic studies, and intercultural studies. She has been a visiting Professor at the United Nations University in Tokyo and Hokkaido University Graduate School and a senior researcher at St. Antony's College, Oxford University and CSIS in Washington D.C.

Her talk covered diplomatic and closed door discussions and conversations with regards to North and Central Asia, Russia, China and Japan. In the discussion that followed her talk, global engagement, the new world order, and resilience in the Eurasian space was elaborated. Good global governance as a product of diplomacy is essential to our partner countries: Azerbaijan, Belarus, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, and Professor Yamanaka provided a strong basis of how these relationships are maintained in the global arena. See <https://centralasia.group.cam.ac.uk/events/YamanakaTalk8June> for more information.



Conference on 'Strategic priorities of the Union State Security', BSU 6 June 2018

The conference was attended by Sergei Rakhmanov, Chairman of the Permanent Commission of the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus on International Affairs and National Security, Alexei Gromyko, Director of the Institute of Europe of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Victor Shadurski, Dean of the Faculty of International Relations of Belarusian State University, and heads of a number of analytical structures, leading Russian and Belarusian experts.

The participants examined the approaches of Belarus and Russia for ensuring economic security, import

substitution processes. Also within the framework of the conference, issues of technological safety were discussed. An important topic for discussion was the problem of ensuring stability and security in the Eurasian and European regions, governance and building capacity in Eurasia. Professor Shadruski noted the importance of society in Belarus, especially its aspirations with regard to regional integration and security. Professor Gromyko talked of the importance of global efforts in governance and the changing world order. The discussions at the conference are important for the broader aims of the COMPASS project which consider the Eurasian region.



Alexei Gromyko, Director of the Institute of Europe of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Corresponding Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences visited BSU 7 June 2018

Professor A. Gromyko gave a brief analysis of the current system of international relations. He remarked on the “era of transition”, the transition from one model of international relations to another, from bipolarity to multi-polarity. He went on to say that the world has become unique, but not unified. In particular, he noted cooperation with the University of Kent and Professor Elena Korosteleva and the potential of the opportunities presented by the COMPASS project.



Dr Nargis Nurulla (TNU) at the Moscow State University (Institute of Asia and Africa), 15 June 2018

Dr Nargis Nurulla participated in the discussions in the working group organizing committee meeting to lay the groundwork for an International Symposium on the legacy of Chingiz Aitmatov in October 2018. She reported that the symposium will cover philosophical, philological, cultural and social aspects of Eurasian identity through literature and the writings of the famous Central Asian author, Chingiz Aitmatov. This conference has the potential to contribute to one of the main aims of COMPASS project which will consider social, cultural and philosophical underpinnings of Azerbaijan, Belarus, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan in order to best inform the regional dialogue and interaction with the UK and EU.

Representatives of Moscow State University (Department of Central Asia and Caucasus), Russian State Humanitarian University and Institute of Oriental Studies (scholars of Central Asian origin) were present and discussed the importance of highlighting regionalism, internationalism and the shared legacy of the region to build further cooperation and understanding between the countries and more globally.

Central Asia, Mongolia, the Caucasus and Afghanistan (CAMCA) Network Conference, ADA University, Azerbaijan 20 June 2018



ADA University hosted 5th annual CAMCA Conference on 20th June. CAMCA Conference covers the regions of Caucasus, Central Asia, Mongolia and Afghanistan. More than 250 participants attended from 10 countries.

They were engaged in interesting and lively discussions on energy security, regional trade and commerce, IT and innovations, education reforms, business climate, security and warfare, and many other topics. Rector of ADA University Ambassador Hafiz Pashayev welcomed the participants. Prime Minister of Azerbaijan Dr Novruz Mammadov delivered key note speech. Among others speakers were analysts, journalists, ambassadors and university professors. The event was attended by the Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan, Elmar Mammadyarov, the Minister of Tax, Mikayil Jabbarov, along with the Minister of Education, Jeyhun Bayramov, and met with the forum participants and discussed regional security and foreign policy priorities of Azerbaijan.

ADA UNIVERSITY 4th EU Summer School: European Union and Foreign Policy in Geopolitical Context, Azerbaijan 25 June-6 July 2018

ADA University in partnership with the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the University of Bologna (Italy) conducted the 4th ADA-EU Summer School, “The EU and Foreign policy in a geopolitical context” which began on 25th June 2018. During this joint two-week long program 35 local and international graduate and undergraduate students, young researchers and professionals will gain insight into the main fields of action of the EU and the EU Foreign Policy. Special emphasis is given to the geopolitical aspects of EU relations with neighboring countries and regional powers such as Turkey, Russia. The EU’s strategic processes and challenges of both widening and deepening links with the Eurasian region will be reflected by addressing economic, energy, social, political and cultural dimensions and their interlinkages. The programme offers an interactive environment including via lectures, workshops and intensive debates.

ADA-EU Summer School has been running since 2013 on a yearly basis at ADA University by the Center of Excellence in EU Studies. The Center aims to support research in EU matters and to enhance the overall knowledge of

the EU in Azerbaijan offering education and training opportunities on EU related topics to the wider community.

<http://www.ada.edu.az/en-US/Pages/4th-EU-Summer-Camp.aspx>



Research Activities

Interviews on the Chinese Economy, OBOR and SOEs, Chicago 9-12 April 2018

Dr Oybek Madiyev conducted several semi-structured interviews with experts on Chinese political economy in Chicago. He discussed about the role of the domestic drivers of China's Belt & Road Initiative, in particular the provinces, the private companies/SOEs, and the academic community.

PhD Report on economic capacity of Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, Adham Khudaykulov, University of Cambridge 6 June 2018

As part of the COMPASS project's broader remit, Mr Khudaykulov (PhD student, University of Cambridge) has written a report analyzing the economic growth of Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. The main purpose of the current research was to investigate how and to what extent the state regulatory policies of the transition economies have contributed to the economic growth and social wellbeing of the country by correcting, facilitating and promoting market transactions. In doing so, the effectiveness of state regulatory policies of the five Central Asian economies (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) between 1996 and 2008

was analysed and an assessment of their contribution to the steady economic growth and social progress was studied.



Save the Date: Forthcoming Events

Uppsala Early Careers Training School, 27-31 August 2018

On 27th August 2018 the 4th UPTAKE Training School will take place at Uppsala University. The Training School aims to bring together young researchers working in the field of Eastern European and Russian Studies to present their work on the theme "Straight talk about Russia: Internal developments, external conflicts and outside perceptions". The Training School will include paper presentations, guest lectures, round table discussions as well as networking activities and social programme.

It has been confirmed that several people from the consortium will be attending and presenting their work at the training school: Anar Valiyev (ADA), Liubou Kravets (BSU), Nargiss Nurulla (TNU), Akram Umarov (UWED), Oybek Madiyev and Eske van Gils (Kent).

For more information see <http://www.uptake.ut.ee/cfp-fourth-uptake-training-school-straight-talk-about-russia/>

GCRF - Global Collaborative Conference, University of Kent 2-6 July 2018

The University of Kent is holding an International Development conference on 2nd-6th July 2018, which aims to bring together practitioners, academics, funders and policy-makers, to develop practical research based solutions to real problems faced in developing countries. National Team Leaders of the GCRF COMPASS are all invited. The principal purpose is to plan current and future projects. For more information please visit:

<https://www.kent.ac.uk/researchservices/news.html?view=522>

UACES, Bath, 2-5 September 2018

The Universities Association for European Studies (UACES) will host the panel, 'Democracy promotion vs Capacity-building as a new EU Strategy in the Neighbourhood: How to Make Use of Resilience?' in September. The roundtable discussion will draw on the current debates revolving around the highly politicised practices of democracy promotion vis-à-vis capacity-building as a new strategic framework to facilitate reform and transformation in the neighbourhood. It will offer conceptual and practical insights by way of: *theorizing* 'capacity-building', 'democracy promotion' and 'regime stability vs regime change' in the context of 'resilience-building', as a new EU security strategy in the neighbourhood, and their practical *application*- by way of looking at EU and Russia's resilience for the wider region; regimes' legitimation and practical difficulties for major international donors in the region. Participants will include Professor Elena Korosteleva (Kent), Professor Richard Youngs (Carnegie Europe/Warwick University), Professor Tatiana Romanova (St Petersburg State University and AB member); Dr Eske van Gils; Dr. Igor Merheim-Eyre and Miriam Lexmann (IRI, Brussels, and AB member).

EISA panel on capacity-building and multi-order world 12-15 September 2018

A panel entitled, 'Interrogating The Complexity of a Changing Global Order: Building Resilience And Cooperative Orders in an Increasingly Multi-Order World' has been accepted by the European International Studies Association (EISA). This roundtable seeks to engage with the notion of a 'changing global order', from ontological, conceptual, and empirical perspectives. With reference to the EU, it will take stock of 'the present' state of affairs (Professor Trine Flockhart, SDU, and AB member) mapping them against the past and future scenarios (Dr Monika Sus, Hertie School of Governance, Berlin). It will then drill into 'the local' level of ordering to understand the shifts in identity as a drive for order formation (Dr Tobias Bunde, Munich Security Conference); and how 'resilience' and 'capacity-building' could facilitate desirable sustainability and cooperation (Professor Elena Korosteleva, Kent). This conceptual discussion will be underpinned by references to Azerbaijan/the Caucasus (Dr Eske van Gils, Kent) and Uzbekistan/Central Asia (Dr Oybek Madiyev, Kent) to understand the scale of change and its implications for a changing international order. The overall question which will be addressed is how the EU and its partners could achieve more effective global governance and sustainability, within the context of an emerging multi-order world system.

Conference on 'Marx in a High Technology Era: Globalisation, Capital and Class', University of Cambridge 26 October 2018

Cambridge Central Asia Forum in collaboration with the Department of Sociology and Centre of Development, University of Cambridge is organising a meeting titled, 'Marx in High Technology Era: Globalisation, Capital and Class', to reflect upon the importance of the relationship between capitalism, the changing global order and the knowledge economy.

Discussions will include how the Eurasian and Central Asian worldview is evolving in the context of its history and how successor states are grappling

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with questions of 'capacity' transition at an institutional and individual level. Azerbaijan, Belarus, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan share a Marxist legacy. In the UK, Jeremy Corbyn and the Labour Party have revived the ideas of socialism and Marxism in post-Brexit Britain. This is directly linked with capacity building and promoting good governance practice which are the core ideals of COMPASS.

In other news

Great British Festival in Minsk 14-17 June 2018



BSU participated in the UK HEI education fair as part of the Great British Festival in Minsk (14-17/06), organised by the British Embassy to celebrate the Queen's birthday. It was great a pleasure and honor that the BSU was invited to present BSU-Kent cooperation of the prestigious Kent-led GCRF COMPASS project.

COMPASS project was presented by Professor Victor Shadurski, Dean of the BSU Faculty of International Relations, Artsiom Nazaranka, COMPASS National Team Leader in Belarus, Senior Lecturer at the BSU Faculty of History, as well as mobility participants Elena Pilgun, Daria Khranchenko, Daria Daria Stepanenko, Lizaveta Seliuta. COMPASS stand enjoyed visitors' attention (including Deputy Head of Mission, UK embassy in Minsk Ian Fox).

More information available here:
<http://fir.bsu.by/index.php/ru/news/10543-news-2018-06-22.html>



Publications

Korosteleva, E. 'Paradigmatic or Critical? Resilience as a New Turn in EU Governance for the Neighbourhood' has been accepted for publication in the Journal of International Relations and Development (JIRD, Forthcoming).

Honoma, M. (Director of Central Asia and Mongolia, EBRD), 'Banking in Central Asia and Mongolia since 1875', Prajakti Kalra, Editor, Cambridge Central Asia Forum Book Series, Cambridge Scientific Publishers (Forthcoming October 2018)

Planned visits

Dr Saxena is invited to Uzbekistan from 30 June to 5 July to attend a number of meetings with Senators Safoyev and Kurmanov to discuss cooperation especially within the parameters of the COMPASS project. The meetings have been organized by the Embassy of Uzbekistan to the UK. Within the framework of wider cooperation with the Cambridge Central Asia Forum Dr Saxena is also set to meet with the team in UWED especially Professor Abdullaev, the Deputy Minister of Innovation, the President of the Academy of Sciences and make a return visit to the Centre for Islamic Civilization. The focus of the meetings will be to strengthen and develop relations to best facilitate research and objectives of the COMPASS project.



Social Media

Video Links

Professor Nolan's talk on 'China and the West' at SOAS, London (9 May 2018):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MT6uJni993A>

Interview with Professor Korosteleva at the Minsk Dialogue (22-25 May 2018):

https://www.tvr.by/news/obshchestvo/intervyu_s_professorom_mezhdunarodnoy_politiki_direktorom_tsentra_globalnoy_evropy/?sphrase_id=614980

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

Useful

<https://centralasia.group.cam.ac.uk/>

Links:

Thank you for your attention!

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