

University of Kent



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

July 2020, Newsletter 8



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Welcome Note

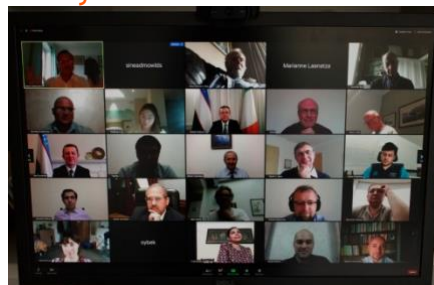


Welcome to the 8th edition of the newsletter reporting our endeavours which came head-to-head with a world which rapidly slowed down and eventually came to a standstill due to the global pandemic brought on by the rapid spread of the Covid-19 or the Coronoavirus. This is particularly poignant as the overarching theme of this quarter was meant to be connectivity and consolidation. Amazingly however, a simple glance at these pages does not recount a story of disconnected dissonance! On the contrary describes resilience, capacity and comradery. It shows how local order and vibrancy often generates more ingenious and innovative forms of connection. In these moments of Zoom meetings, I am able to witness the agile capacity and intrinsic resilience of our project team and wider communities we all represent and serve. The fruits of the COMPASS project's key efforts could not have become more obvious in any other way. It is apparent that we must continue and find routes to make sustainable what we have grown here!

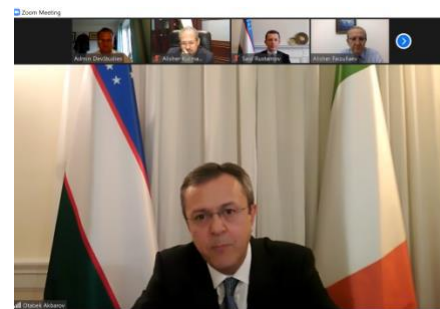
Yours Sincerely,
Dr Siddharth S. Saxena
Co-I GCRF COMPASS
University of Cambridge

Past Events

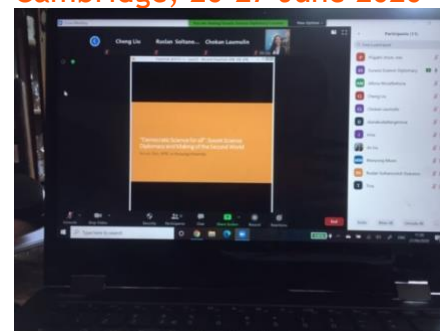
Panel discussion on 'London Calling! Representing the Heart of Eurasia in the Global City of London', Virtual Discussion, Uni of Cambridge, 1 July 2020



GCRF COMPASS Cambridge organised a panel discussion on 'London Calling! Representing the Heart of Eurasia in London' with the current Ambassador and former Ambassadors of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the United Kingdom to discuss their epoch of representing different stages of development, priorities and signs of times. The panellists were His Excellency Faizullaev (1999-2003); His Excellency Akbarov (2007-2015; and now serving as Ambassador to Italy); His Excellency Kurmanov (2015-2017, currently Ambassador to Ukraine); His Excellency Rustamov (2019-Current). The discussion was moderated by Dr Saxena. The event was co-organised with the Cambridge Central Asia Forum, Jesus College, Cambridge, and attracted over a 100 people including the Committee of the Cambridge Central Asia Forum, namely Sir B. Ponder, Prof Nolan. Emeritus Fellow N. Ray, Emeritus Prof Skaer and many other senior scholars from the Uni of Cambridge. GCRF COMPASS PI Prof Korosteleva (Kent), NTL Mr. Nazaranka (BSU), Dr Umarov (UWED), COMPASS PDRAs Dr Kudaibergenova, Dr van Gils, Dr Madiev and Dr Petrova also attended the panel discussion.



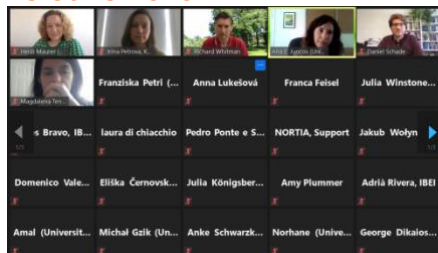
Third GRN Workshop, Cambridge, 26-27 June 2020



GCRF COMPASS in collaboration with Hanyang Uni, S. Korea organised the 3rd GRN Workshop on 'Cooperation in Eurasia: Science and Politics' on 26-27 June. This workshop is part of the Global Research Network (GRN) Project funded by the National Research Foundation of South Korea. It consists of researchers from Plekhanov Uni of Economics (Russia), Cambridge Central Asia Forum, Jesus College, Uni of Cambridge (UK), Eurasian Research Institute (Kazakhstan), Korean Research Institute of Science, Technology and Civilization, Chonbuk National Uni (South Korea), and Asia-Pacific Research Centre, Hanyang Uni (South Korea). The workshop elaborated moving away from the idea of a zero-sum game in understanding relations where Eurasia can help inform the ways in which science can guide policy not only in content but in action. The collaborative frameworks that science requires, anything from peer review processes to working on aspects of the same problem in different parts of the world, was considered. Dr Saxena and P. Kalra gave talks, and Dr Kudaibergenova participated in the discussions.



Jean Monnet NORTIA Network Professionalisation Session, 23 June 2020



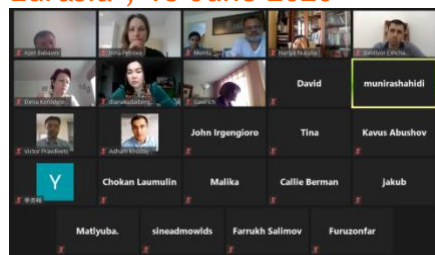
On 23 June 2020, Dr Petrova contributed to the Jean Monnet NORTIA Network [http://www.eufp.eu/activities] professionalisation session on 'How to organise your PhD and think about publishing'. Organised by Dr Maurer (Uni of Bristol), the panel also featured Prof Whitman (Kent), Prof. Juncos (Uni of Bristol) and Dr Schade (Uni of Magdeburg). The discussion focused on advising doctoral students on how to develop a publication strategy, select a journal and overcome the challenges of the publication process. The session attracted more than 50 early-career researchers and was supported by the academic association for Contemporary European Studies (UACES).

GCRF Cluster Project virtual launch meeting, 22 June 2020

A new 1st phase GCRF cluster AGRE project was launched virtually by Durham University (Prof. Crang & Dr Hussain), together with Kent (Prof Korosteleva & Dr Petrova), Oxford (Dr Ahearn & Dr Stenberg), BSU (Dr Nazaranka) and ISRC (Dr Umarov & Mr Akhmedov). AGRE aims to synergise the findings of three GCRF projects and develop a phase 2 large grant application to

expand the network of partners across wider Eurasia with a focus on resilience and the effects of connectivity.

The 2nd COMPASS Special Issue Workshop 'Hamsoya - united in shadows: the making of resilient communities in Wider Eurasia', 18 June 2020



The 2nd COMPASS Special Issue Workshop 'Hamsoya - united in shadow: The making of resilient communities in wider Eurasia' took place on 18 June 2020. Following the 1st workshop in April, contributors to the SI presented their elaborated draft articles, followed by feedback from external discussants – top-level experts in their respective fields of knowledge: Prof Chandler (Westminster Uni); Prof Gawrich (JLU Giessen); Prof Marsden (Uni of Sussex); Prof Bossuyt (Ghent Uni) and Prof Ioffe (Radford Uni). The workshop aimed to explore the making of resilient communities in wider Eurasia, both conceptually – by looking anew at the meanings of resilience, *hamsoya*, identity, 'good life', and 'peoplehood'; and empirically – by drawing on unique first-hand evidence from focus groups across the region.

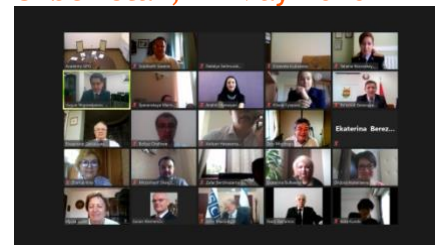
High-level meeting on the future of the Eastern Partnership (EaP) Initiative, 19 June 2020

Prof Korosteleva and Dr Petrova were invited to participate in the high-level EaP meeting to discuss strategic ways for improving EU relations with the eastern neighbours. The speakers included L. Linkevicius (MFA) Lithuania; A. Kubilius (Euronest); A. Eichhorst

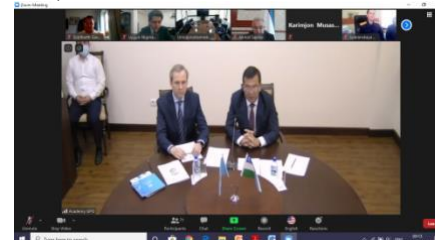
(Managing Director for CA EEAS); K. Mathernova (Deputy DG NEAR European commission); N. Popescu (former MFA minister); R. Giragosian (Director Regionao Studies Centre Armenia); and C. Gherasimov (Research Fellow, Robert Bosch Centre).



'Improving the Educational Potential in the Field of Law Enforcement: Modern Challenges and Solutions', Uzbekistan, 27 May 2020



Dr Saxena was invited to speak at the conference entitled 'Improving the Educational Potential in the Field of Law Enforcement: Modern Challenges and Solutions' organised by the Academy of the General Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The high-level ministerial meeting was a one-day online meeting and attended by Ministers and representatives of the Republic of Uzbekistan along with His Excellency Said Rustamov (Ambassador of Uzbekistan to the UK).



Talk by Dr Kudaibergenova on 'Cash economies and female entrepreneurs in fragile conditions of COVID-19 Pandemic', 14 May 2020

On 14th May, 2020 GCRF COMPASS PDRA Dr Kudaibergenova gave a talk at a meeting on 'Feminist Responses to COVID-19: What are the gendered impacts of the pandemic?' organised by an Azerbaijani initiative called FEMISKOP. The webinar featured activists, researchers and professionals from Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkey who spoke about the impact of Covid-19 on their countries. The webinar focused on issues such as why coronavirus policies are 'gender blind'; strengthening health and social systems; failure of neoliberal capitalism: why we need feminist global solidarity; unseen pandemics: why home is not a safe place for everyone; how the COVID-19 pandemic will affect the labour market and informal migrant workers. Dr Kudaibergenova presented on 'Cash economies and female entrepreneurs in fragile conditions of COVID-19 Pandemic'.

The 1st writing-up workshop on 'Hamsoya - united in shadows: The making of resilient communities in Central Eurasia', Special Issue, 23-24 April 2020

In preparation of a Special Issue (SI), the COMPASS team held a virtual workshop titled 'Hamsoya – united in shadows: The making of resilient communities in Central Eurasia'. The workshop aimed at developing an innovative approach to resilience as self-governance through an in-depth analysis of the local communities in wider Eurasia. The discussion benefited from presentations by all contributors to the SI from the GCRF COMPASS partner institutions, as well as some GCRF COMPASS

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

members of the Advisory Board including Prof Chandler and T. Flockhart. The 1st day was devoted to the discussion of the conceptual framework, examining the role and meaning of change, identity, 'good life' and 'peoplehood' in engendering communities' resilience. The 2nd day zoomed in to the empirical studies of the local resilient communities of Azerbaijan, Belarus, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. Building on the primary data collected through focus groups, partners presented their first analysis of the extensive COMPASS database. The programme can be found [here](#).



Seminar Series, Centre of Development Studies, Uni of Cambridge, May 2020



GCRF COMPASS Cambridge in collaboration with Cambridge Central Asia Forum as part of the ongoing Seminar Series running for over a decade hosted, Dr Morrison, New College, Uni of Oxford on 8 May 2020. His talk was entitled, 'An earthquake which took Turkestan from the seventeenth to the twentieth century: Reassessing the 1916 Central Asian Revolt' included a lively discussion on the 1916 revolt in Central Asia. More specifically it focused on its treatment in Soviet and post-Soviet historiography, and the political disputes surrounding its legacy today. On 22 May, Dr Ma Bin, Visiting Fellow, Uni of Oxford and

Centre for Russian and Central Asian Studies, Institute of International Studies, Fudan Uni, Shanghai, China presented his talk entitled, 'Rhetoric vs Reality in China's BRI: A Case Study of China Railway Express'. His talk went into great detail about the BRI, the state apparatus in China including the regional and local governments which are involved in the execution of BRI projects.



Democracy on Paper: CV19 in East-Central Europe, 29 April 2020

Prof Korosteleva was invited to speak at a zoom conference organised by Hamilton Lugar School of Global & International Studies, Indiana University.

CEEUS, ADA Uni Launched a Webinar Series, April 2020



In April 2020 CEEUS launched a series of Webinar Public Lectures CEEUS partners, international experts and academics share their expertise on selected topics and talk about their research, followed by a chance to ask questions. Webinars are open for everyone and conducted over Zoom. Convened by CEEUS Director Ms Ismayilova webinars have featured Prof Frappy, Ca' Foscari Uni of Venice (Italy). She is an internationally recognized expert in Turkish and South Caucasus studies, and Energy

Security studies on 'Nexus of critical infrastructure development and energy security'. Dr Sikharulidze, international trainer and mediator, gave a talk enriched with a role-play game on 'How to use mediation technics to resolve conflicts'.

COMPASS WIPS, Uni of Kent, March-June 2020

Between March and June 2020 several virtual WIPS were held at the Uni of Kent. They included presentations from Prof Flockhart (13 March, SDU and COMPASS Advisory Board) on 'Visions of the "Good Life" as motivation for institutional change'; Dr Petrova (15 April, Kent) on Local ownership in the EU's Eastern Partnership policy'; Y. Preiherman (22 May, Uni of Warwick, and COMPASS BSU team) on 'Overcoming Geostrategic Asymmetries: Foreign policy hedging by small in-between states (the case of Belarus)'; Dr van Gils on 'The BRI in Azerbaijan and implications for authoritarian regime resilience' (6 June, Kent); and Huawei Zheng (3 July, Kent) on 'Bridging Actorness and International Order: Toward A Theory of Order-Making Actors (OMA)'. For more information please visit here: <https://research.kent.ac.uk/gcrf-compass/compass-research-wips/>.

Talks and Events

Slavs and Tatars Online Studio Visit, 29 June 2020

Dr Kudaibergenova (Uni of Cambridge) attended a virtual event hosted by the Hurford Centre for the Arts and Humanities, Twelve Gates Arts, and the Philadelphia chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations. The virtual visit to the Berlin studio of artist collective Slavs and Tatars included a meeting with the artists behind 'The Contest

of the Fruits' and learned about the origins of the Philadelphia-based project. The inspiration from a fourteenth-century Muslim text, Hurford Centre's The Contest of the Fruits engages Slavs and Tatars in an artist residency that will produce a film, an array of public programs, and a publication that considers cultural heritage and identity. This meeting serves the community engagement work package led by Dr Kudaibergenova in the COMPASS project. More information available here.



'Lobbying and Public Outreach', ADA Uni, 18 June 2020

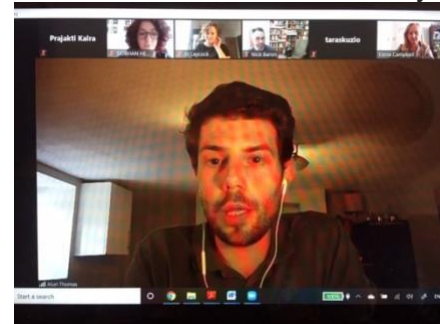


Vice Rector, F. Ismailzade and Dr Valiyev were invited to a video conference on Lobbying and Public Outreach 18 June. The audience was mainly the Azerbaijani Diaspora Youth living in Canada, Latin America and USA.

Peripheral Histories Virtual Roundtable, 16 June 2020

The virtual roundtable Peripheral Histories: Regions, Localities, and Borderlands in Eurasia in Historical Perspective took place on 16 June. 'Peripheral Histories?' is a collaborative digital history project publishing research on Russian,

Soviet and Post-Soviet Provinces, Localities, and Republics. The roundtable panellists were Dr Laycock (Uni of Manchester), Dr Kassymbekova (Liverpool John Moores Uni) and Dr Gibson (Tartu Uni). The roundtable was moderated by A. Thomas and S. Hearne. P. Kalra participated in the Q&A session and had a chance to suggest moving away from 'peripheral histories' for the more geographical term 'Eurasian history'.



'BRI for Eastern Europe, before and after the COVID-19 pandemic: challenges and perspectives', 16 June 2020

On 16 June 2020 Prof Turarbekova, Director of the Centre for Eurasian and European Studies, Faculty of International Relations, BSU, in cooperation with Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, organised a workshop entitled, 'BRI for Eastern Europe, before and after the COVID-19 pandemic: challenges and perspectives'. The workshop included a series of insightful discussions about emerging partnerships between Ukraine; Belarus and China, and their benefits and challenges when moving to the BRI 2.0 phase, in the post-pandemic context. The workshop involved many young and talented speakers from the region, including representatives from the Belarusian State Uni (Dr Rubo & Prof Turarbekova), Belarusian Institute of Strategic Research (Dr Dudarenok), Minsk Dialogue Council (Ms Kulai) – from Belarus; and the Diplomatic Academy MFA (D. Efremov), and Kiev National Uni (Dr Polischuk).

Community Initiative Project on Savitsky Museum in Nukus (Uzbekistan) Webinar, 14 June 2020



On 14 June 2020 GCRF COMPASS PDRA Dr Kudaibergenova attended a webinar on 'Community Initiative Project on Savitsky Museum in Nukus (Uzbekistan)' with its former director M. Babanazarova. The webinar was co-organised by EBRD and British Uzbek Society. Mrs. Babanazarova's talk featured the unique art collection in the heart of Karakalpakstan and on the influence of the Savitsky museum on local community in Nukus.

Talk by R. Sobirov, the founder of Sobirov Law Firm, UWED, 12 June 2020



On June 12, 2020, S. R. Rustamovich, a graduate of UWED, and founder and manager of Sobirov's Law, delivered an online lecture for UWED. The lecture on 'New challenges and opportunities for lawyers in the era of IT and LegalTech' aroused great interest and many questions among students. Doctoral students, staff and faculty of UWED attended the lecture. Mr Sobirov suggested opening a club for studying LegalTech and IT for law students of UWED, as well as conducting a course of lectures on International transport law.

Lecture by Prof Bagci, Middle East Technical Uni in Ankara, UWED, 11 June 2020



Prof Bagci, Middle East Technical Uni in Ankara, gave a talk 'Foreign and security policy: global and regional challenges, expectations and solutions in the global post-pandemic period' on 11 June in UWED. During the meeting, Prof Bagci spoke in detail about the contemporary foreign policy of Turkey and the strategic vision of the republic's role in international relations. In particular, the lecturer clarified the specifics of relations between Turkey and the EU, USA, Russia and China.

Senator Safaev in conversation with students, UWED, 10 June 2020



On June 10, 2020, the First Deputy Chairman of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis Sodik Safaev held an online video conference with professors, doctoral students, researchers and students of UWED. The impact of coronavirus on society and economic development was also discussed at the meeting.

31st Council of the European Greens, 10-13 June 2020

Prof Azmanova, COMPASS affiliate and senior staff at the Brussels School of International studies was invited to speak at the 31st Council of the European Greens, the highest decision-making body of the party, on 10-13 June

2020 (online), to reflect on the precariousness of capitalism, and importance of having a strong European Social Union in times of the Corona crisis, in the situation of growing of social insecurity and the crisis of modern capitalism, as starting point of the discussion. The other panelists are L. Visentini (Secretary General of the European Trade Union Confederation), E. Urtasun (Green MEP), T. Reintke (Green MEP) and R. Wassink (Deputy Mayor of Amsterdam).



E-Conference on 'Radicalization, Terrorism and Deradicalization: Perspective from Azerbaijan', ADA Uni, 8 June 2020

The conference was held within Prevention of Radicalization Network (PRaNet) project and was organised by ADA Uni Centre of Excellence in EU Studies with the aim to bring together academics, researchers, practitioners, and graduates to exchange and share their experiences and research results on all aspects of Deradicalization and Radicalization. The conference was built around panel discussions and presentations made by PRaNet project alumnus.

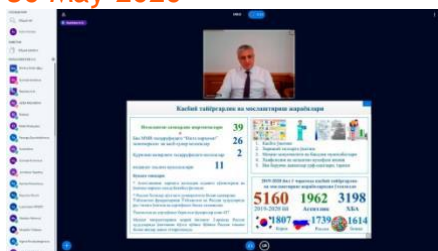


Meeting with Deputy Prosecutor General of the Republic of Uzbekistan S. B. Artykova, UWED, 2 June 2020



UWED participated in a dialogue with the Deputy General Prosecutor of the Republic of Uzbekistan, S. B. Artykova on 'Protection of Human Rights in the New Uzbekistan'. During the dialogue Svetlana Artykova discussed issues of protecting human rights, as well as the fulfilment by Uzbekistan of its obligations to the Human Rights Committee. Being a very interesting interlocutor, Ms Artykova focused on the protection of human rights during the pandemic, as well as the importance of crime prevention. The meeting also considered issues of gender equality and mechanisms for protecting women and children's rights in Uzbekistan.

Meeting on 'External labor migration: new challenges during the pandemic', UWED, 30 May 2020



A meeting was held with the adviser to the Prime Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Prof Kayumovich on 'External labour migration: new challenges in the period of the pandemic.' The online meeting was attended by representatives of the faculties of UWED, doctoral students, masters and students, as well as employees of UWED and the National centre for human rights of the Republic of Uzbekistan. During the meeting,

Prof Rashidov covered the issues of organization of external labor migration in Uzbekistan. In particular, the legal framework for external labour migration, measures to organize the work of citizens abroad, procedures for protecting the rights of migrant workers, and challenges and threats in this area in the context of the pandemic were discussed in detail.

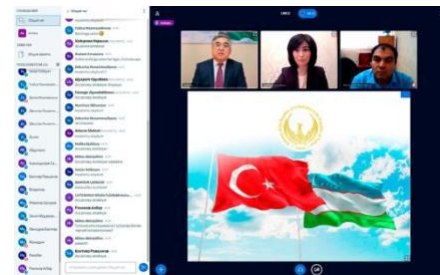
Roundtable on the work of UN International Law Commission, UWED, 28 May 2020

The videoconference was organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in cooperation with UWED. It was attended by more than 40 experts of State bodies and representatives of scientific and academic communities of the country, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UWED, TSUL, Lawyers' Training Centre, International Law Association/Uzbek Branch and others. During the round table, the participants discussed 'Immunity of State officials from foreign criminal jurisdiction' and 'General principles of law', as well as draft articles and conclusions developed by the International Law Commission related to these topics.

Talk by the Head of the department of the Agency for the Development of Public Service, Uzbekistan, 28 May 2020

On 28 May, Prof Khasanov, the Head of the department of the Agency for the Development of Public Service under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, gave an online lecture on the topic 'Efficiency in the civil service' for the students of International Law Faculty. Third year students attended the lecture. The issues of bureaucracy, executive discipline and performance criteria in the civil service were discussed. During the event, students were informed about modern models of public service organization in foreign countries.

Talk by His Excellency Anvarovich, Ambassador of Uzbekistan in the Republic of Turkey on 'New challenges facing diplomats during the pandemic', UWED, 15 May 2020



On 15 May HE Anvarovich gave an online talk for UWED. His talk was on the history of relations between Uzbekistan and Turkey and the establishment of Strategic relationships between the countries. The meeting touched upon the issues of comprehensive development of cooperation in investment, export and other spheres, the study of the exemplary experience of the Republic of Turkey in the field of tourism and construction as well as measures taken to reduce the negative impact of the COVID - 19 pandemic on the economy of our country.

Online meeting with the Deputy of the Legislative Chamber and Chairman of the national movement Yuksalish, B. A. Eshondedaevich, UWED, Uzbekistan, 1 May 2020

On May 1 2020, UWED hosted Deputy Minister Burkhanov A. Eshondedaevich, a public and political figure, Deputy of the Legislative Chamber, Oliy Majlis, of Republic of Uzbekistan and Chairman of the national movement, Yuksalish. During the meeting, A. Burkhanov spoke in detail about the activities of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the context of the pandemic, about his professional activities and about the work of NGOs in the Republic of Uzbekistan. Participants showed keen interest in the topic 'Uzbekistan and the Eurasian

Economic Union (EEU)' and Uzbekistan's accession to the EEU as an observer.

International Academic Conference, 'The Great Patriotic War and the fate of the Belarusian nation', BSU, Belarus, April 23, 2020

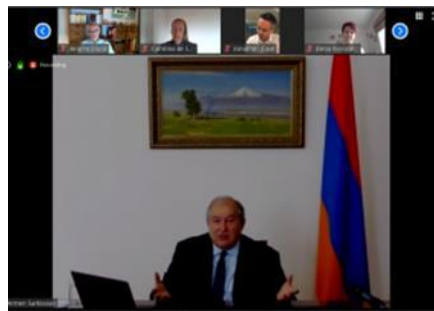
On the eve of the 75th anniversary of the Great Victory, BSU Faculty of History in partnership with the Faculty of History of the Moscow Lomonosov State Uni, Russia and a number of NGOs, memory institutions with the support of GCRF COMPASS project organised an online international conference. The plenary was addressed by the BSU Rector, Prof Karol. Participants included I. Yanushevich, Vice-Rector; Prof Kakhanouski, Dean of the Faculty of History; Prof Khodzin, Head of Source Study Department and other leading researchers and practitioners from Belarus, Russia and other countries. A. Nazaranka, Belarus COMPASS NTL presented on the current social perception of the Great Patriotic War – based on recent focus groups conducted in Belarus. Conference proceedings will be published later in 2020. The programme can be found here.



MB100 Ask our Experts - Online Conversation #3 'Quantum Leadership in Times of Pandemic' with H.E. President Sarkissian, 13 April 2020

On 13 April 2020 Prof Korosteleva and Dr Petrova were invited to join a Monthly Barometer meeting in conversation with President Sarkissian. President Sarkissian presented his understanding of

change, from a quantum physics perspective (available here); and invited 25 world experts for Q&A. Prof Korosteleva had an opportunity to ask him about complexity as a new reality and the role of local communities in building resilience and managing complexity. The discussion lasted for over an hour. A brief summary is available here.



Online Forum 'The Pandemic Disruptor: COVID-19's implications for East European security', 7 April 2020

The forum was co-organised by Minsk Dialogue Council on International Relations (Belarus), Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (Germany), Eastern Europe Studies Centre (Lithuania), Centre for Eurasian and European Studies at the Faculty of International Relations, Belarusian State Uni (Belarus), and GCRF COMPASS Project (UK). The forum discussed the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic for the security of wider Europe, and possible measures to mitigate them. Prof Korosteleva outlined five specific concerns that may have an impact on the current status quo, including the return of the state; the prospect of economic recession; the return of borders and breakdown of European solidarity; double-edge globalisation effect on developing countries in the region; and the alleged 'death of resilience' requiring more central control. The programme is available here.

Online Round Table on the tenth anniversary of the 7th April Revolution in Kyrgyzstan

The Uni of Exeter Central Asian Network (EXCAS) and the Oxford Society for the Caspian and Central Asia (TOSCCA) organised an online round table and discussion forum on the legacies of the 2010 revolution in Kyrgyzstan, exploring how politics today look different because of the revolution; why has Kyrgyzstan now seen two handovers of power according to its constitution and no further serious political violence?; what were the causes of the ethnic violence of June 2010; what factors other than the revolution mattered?; what has been the legacy of the ethnic violence for Kyrgyzstan? To what extent have Uzbeks become excluded from Kyrgyzstan's economy and society and how may this be addressed? Introductory Remarks were given by R. Otunbayeva (Former President of Kyrgyzstan and Ambassador to the UK) and the panellists were His Excellency Baisalov, Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic in the UK, G. Botoeva (Uni of Roehampton), E. Huskey (Stetson Uni), E. Juraev (OSCE Academy, Bishkek), Dr Lewis (Uni of Exeter) and Dr Megoran (Newcastle Uni). The Chair was Dr Heathershaw (Exeter Uni). P. Kalra and Dr Kudaibergenova attended the meeting.

Delegation from Moscow Financial and Industrial Institute visited UWED, 13 March 2020



A delegation made up of Moscow Financial and Industrial Institute consisting of V. Lobov, President of the Synergy Corporation, R.

Yansukov, President of the AVANTI Association, A. Ragin, Executive Director of the Synergy Business School, E. Omurov, Head of the Office of the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Fund Skolkovo, and A. Abdullayev, coordinator of the Synergy projects in Uzbekistan, met with the UWED management. The issues of broad cooperation in the areas of business education, startups, holding joint forums, conferences, round tables, and exhibitions on the development of entrepreneurship among youth were discussed in detail.

Guest lecture series 'The EU and the World', Uni of Kent, March-April 2020

GCRF COMPASS Uni of Kent supported a Guest lecture Series 'The EU and the World' organised by Prof Korosteleva and Dr Petrova. The lecture series focused on EU relations with global actors including the US, China, Russia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia; and the developing world more broadly. The virtual speakers were Prof Flockhart (Uni of Southern Denmark) on 'The Future of the Transatlantic Relationship amid Growing Westlessness' (12 March 2020); Prof Burnay (Queen Mary Uni of London) on 'China, the European Union, and the Future of the Liberal International Order' (19 March 2020); and Prof Orbie (Ghent Uni) presented his ongoing research, 'The EU as a development actor: A sort of critical perspective' on 2 April 2020 by outlining and suggesting the post-development paradigm as a way forward.

'Innovation potential as a condition for the development of the country's international investment activity', UWED, 14 March 2020

UWED organised a conference entitled, 'Innovation potential as a condition for the development of the country's international investment activity' on 14 March. Specialists

from ministries as well as representatives of international organizations, experts from scientific centres, researchers and university professors participated in the conference. During the conference discussions were held on scientific and methodological approaches aimed at further improving the investment climate in the country, attracting investment in the economy and solving organizational and legal issues when implementing projects to achieve high rates of economic growth.

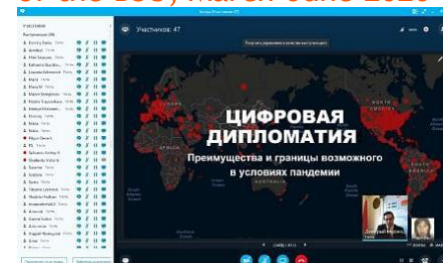
Counsellor to the President of the EBRD visited UWED, 11 March 2020



The Senior Political Counsellor to the President of the EBRD for Russia, Central Asia and Mongolia, Mr. Jonathan Aves visited UWED. He was given an overview of the activities, intellectual potential and prospects of the university. He had a conversation with Dr Umarov (GCRF COMPASS). Mr Ayves took part in a discussion outlining the achievements and main priorities of the government program for socio-economic reform, as well as the implementation of new initiatives of President Mirziyoyev. An exchange of views took place on the prospects of cooperation between our republic and various regional and international integration formats, a new regional policy for cooperation between Uzbekistan and

neighboring countries, the opportunities of the Belt and Road initiative in the infrastructure modernization of Central Asia, and the current situation in Afghanistan.

Series of online events for students and academic staff of the BSU, March-June 2020



BSU Faculty of International relations organised talks in June 2020. The talks were attended by large attendances and included intense QA and discussion sessions. D. Mironchik, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Belarus to the Kingdom of Sweden, gave a talk on 'Digital diplomacy: advantages and limits of the possible in the context of a pandemic', Prof Schultz, Hamline Uni (USA) spoke on 'Presidential elections in the United States and how they affect the country's foreign policy', and His Excellency Altermatt, Ambassador of Switzerland to Belarus held an online lecture for students of BSU on Swiss Neutrality. The Ambassador spoke about the history, domestic and foreign policy of the country, its linguistic and cultural diversity.



Uzbek delegation in the UK, 27 February 2020

Uzbek delegation led by S. Valiev, Deputy Director of the Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, visited the UK. Exchanges with scientists and students of leading British

universities - Cambridge and St. Andrews based on the results of political science and economic research took place. Within the visit, experts had meetings with experts of Chatham House and the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) and senior officials from the UK Foreign Office.

Save the Date: Forthcoming Events

COMPASS SI Work-in-Progress Session (WIPS), 16 July 2020

As a follow up of our 2nd Special Issue workshop in June a Work-in-Progress seminar is scheduled to present conceptual papers on 16 July 2020. There will be two presentations, Prof Chandler 'Becoming Resilient: the 'Right to Opacity' as the Foundation of 'Relations of Community' and - Dr Nurulla-Khodzhaeva 'Bouncing Back: the Value of Global Resilience and Sufi-Hamsoya'.

ADA Signature Conference, June 2021

ADA Uni is planning to organise its signature conference on 3Bs in October 2020. The conference planning is going ahead but due to the pandemic and lockdown measures the format of the conference is still under consideration.

GRN Conference, South Korea, November 2020

COMPASS Cambridge and Hanyang Uni will co-organise a conference in South Korea in November 2020 on Science and Diplomacy in Eurasia: Past, Present and Future. The Global Research Network (GRN) Project Team is funded by the National Research

Foundation of South Korea. It consists of researchers from Plekhanov Uni of Economics (Russia), Cambridge Central Asia Forum, Jesus College, Uni of Cambridge (UK), Eurasian Research Institute (Kazakhstan), Korean Research Institute of Science, Technology and Civilization, Chonbuk National Uni (South Korea), and Asia-Pacific Research Centre, Hanyang Uni (South Korea).

The 4th Cambridge Conference on One Belt One Road, Jesus College, Uni of Cambridge, 6-13 September 2020

Dr Saxena has been invited to give a talk at 'The New Silk Road One Belt One Road promoting trade, justice, stability and integrity along the road' conference hosted by UK Sichuan Business Association and the China International Law, Finance, Investment Network (CILFIN). This is the fourth conference in the Cambridge International Symposium on Economic Crime on 'Economic Crime - who pays and who should pay?'. The programme can be found here.

In other news

Advisory Board News

Launch of a new journal

David Chandler, Editor in Chief, launched a new journal, Anthropocenes, Human, Inhuman, Posthuman.

<https://www.anthropocenes.net/about/submissions/>

BSU News

BSU Electronic Library preserves leadership in Europe among university repositories

According to the data for April, BSU repository (<http://elib.bsu.by>) closes the top three in the world

ranking of university libraries 'Transparent Ranking: Institutional Repositories by Google Scholar (#5 in the Institutional Ranking), losing to the Federal Uni of Rio Grande do Sul (Brazil) and the Uni of Kyoto (Japan). The open access repository rating is an initiative of the Cybermetrics Lab, which is known for its webometric rating of universities.

BSU in global QS ranking

BSU takes 317 place having improved its performance by 34 positions among 1002 ranked universities. This is the best result in the history of participation in this rating, which brings the Belarusian Uni closer to the prestigious 1% of the best universities in the world. In 2019, BSU was placed in 351 positions, in 2018 – 354, 2017-334. Among other COMPASS partner universities, represented in QS, Uni of Cambridge is ranked #7, Uni of Kent #368. There are about 30,000 universities in the world.

Prof Douhan appointed Special Rapporteur to UNHRC

Prof Douhan, BSU International Relations Faculty, is the Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of the unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights of the UN Human Rights Council. Candidates for this position go through a competitive, multi-stage and rigorous selection process, which is based on criteria of professional experience and competence in the field of law. There are currently 44 thematic special procedures under the UNHRC, with special rapporteurs responsible for their implementation. They are authorized to inform and advise the UNHRC on specific issues or situations, prepare case studies, reports and recommendations on them. Prof Douhan's appointment ceremony took place during the 43rd session of the UNHRC.

NTL

A. Nazaranka served as Jury member for Belarus National Competition in History for School graduates, held in Borisov (Minsk oblast) in May, 2020. 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.

Call for Article Submissions

Journal of International Law and International Relations (ISSN 2072-0513 print version, ISSN 2072-0521 online version) published Evolution NGO and BSU currently accepts submissions for an issue on migration, refugees, statelessness, intercultural relations. For more info you can contact Belarus NTL A. Nazaranka.

ECR Capacity Building Initiative

Dr van Gils and P. Kalra have developed the Early Career Researchers Initiative as part of a capacity building initiative. Young researchers from Azerbaijan, Belarus and Uzbekistan have been identified from the COMPASS training schools to help research capacity in COMPASS partner countries. These researchers are A. Babayev (ADA Uni), G. Madadli (ADA Uni), M. Nurmetova (UWED) and I. Dekola (BSU). They are working on topics ranging from youth inclusiveness policies, ethno-nationalism and autonomous regions and the impact of information space on cultural values. The researchers are planning to present their work to the COMPASS consortium in fall 2020.

Funding Bids

BSU

A grant for the project 'Participation of the North Caucasus Highlanders in the partisan movement in Belarus', led on Belarusian side by A. Maksimchyk, involving A. Nazaranka, A. Burachonak and I. Charniauski; partner institution –

Karachay-Cherkess State Uni named after UD Aliyev was awarded within the call: Joint Fundamental Research Projects of the Belarusian Republican Foundation for Fundamental Research and the Russian Foundation for Fundamental Research. The project is for the period between May 2020–March 2022.

Uni of Cambridge

GCRF Cambridge has made three GCRF funding applications: TARANA: Trade and Adaptive Resilience Networks in Central Asia (TARANA) and Resilience, Adaptivity and Sustainability in Mountainous regions of Central Asia under the GCRF Conflict Intersections bid. Applications on 'Quantum Materials for Energy Sustainability Initiative' under the Royal Society and GCRF international collaboration scheme, and 'Search for chiral superconductivity in quasi- two-dimensional ferromagnets' under EPSRC New Horizons Scheme were also made.

Uni of Kent

Several funding applications involving GCRF partners have been prepared by Prof Korosteleva and Dr Petrova, including to Volkswagen Foundation, EUROPAID, and GCRF Conflict Intersections.

Policy Impact

Prof Korosteleva and Dr Petrova launched a COMPASS Crisis Reflections page - <https://research.kent.ac.uk/gcrf-compass/outputs/crisis-reflections/> - to reflect on the impact of CV19 around the world and the region in particular. Thus far, it has enjoyed over 50 submissions, including from our Advisory Board members and many COMPASS affiliates.

Prof. Korosteleva and Dr Buscaneanu (Kings College) received a high-level accolade from the High Representative for EU Foreign Affairs & Security Policy

Josep B. Fontelles, delivered by R. Darski, Acting Head of EaP Division EEAS, for their policy input in the development of the new EaP strategy towards the region. More information is available here: <https://research.kent.ac.uk/gcrf-compass/wp-content/uploads/sites/169/2020/04/The-more-for-more-principle-Buscaneanu-Korosteleva-final-24-02-20.pdf>.

Uni of Cambridge News

Appointments

P. Kalra was appointed Affiliated Lecturer for the course on 'The Development of Central Asia and Caucasus' in the Centre of Development Studies, Department of Politics and international Studies.

GCRF COMPASS PDRA Dr Kudaibergenova became an editorial board member for the Journal of Communist and Post-communist Studies.

Dr Saxena has been appointed to the Education Committee of British Kazakhstan Society. The Education Committee was launched on 2 April, 2020 with D. Hardy as Chair. The committee has the objective of facilitating communication and networking for members and interested parties in the post-secondary school education system in Kazakhstan and the UK. As the Education Committee develops, its networks may be used to partner UK university expertise with that in Kazakhstan. The Committee is composed of individuals representing: UK and Kazakh science, research and education; UK and Kazakh government and policy areas; UK and Kazakh business. More information available here.

UWED News

UWED appointment to the Board of the Central Bank, Uzbekistan

A decree of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan stated that Prof Sirajiddinov, UWED was appointed

as an independent member of the Board of the Central Bank.

7th International conference on Eurasian Politics and Society

Dr Umarov and two UWED PhD students have been invited to participate in the 7th International conference on Eurasian Politics and Society on 24-25 September 2020 in Lisbon, Portugal.

Publications

ADA University Caspian Centre for Energy and Environment Policy Brief: Bi-weekly overview of key global and regional developments in the field of energy and the environment.

<http://ccee.ada.edu.az/ccee-bi-weekly-review-no-29/>

Ismailzade, F. and B. Babayev, Policy Brief: Azerbaijan's contribution to the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). <https://research.kent.ac.uk/gcrf-compass/wp-content/uploads/sites/169/2020/05/COMPASS-ADA-Paper-on-BRI-Fariz-final.pdf>

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Valiyev, A. 'Azerbaijan-EU Relations: More Opportunities on the Horizon' in Azerbaijan's

Geopolitical Landscape CONTEMPORARY ISSUES, 1991–2018, F. Shafiyev (ed.). University of Chicago Press Books <https://press.uchicago.edu/ucp/books/book/distributed/A/bo51154022.html>

Zoom Cafes

A new initiative of 'COMPASS Cafes' was successfully launched following lockdown in the UK, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. The virtual Cafes are regular informal gatherings of the COMPASS consortium bringing together all teams for a friendly chat, exchange of news and ideas. In these challenging times of the pandemic, COMPASS Cafes served as an important tool of community-building and keeping spirits up.

Social Media

'The Pandemic Disruptor: COVID-19's implications for East European security,' 7 April 2020

Prof Korosteleva participated in a forum organised by the Minsk Dialogue.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZXbg-jjb3TiGSxZnWkJzbw>

Thank you for your attention!

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

