

GCRF COMPASS NEWSLETTER

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

October 2019, Issue 6



Contents

| | |
|---|---|
| Welcome Note | 2 |
| Panel on 'Silk Road Knowledge Dialogue', Tbilisi Silk Road Forum, 22-23 October 2019 | 3 |
| Roundtable on OSCE and Central Asia and Caucasus, University of Cambridge, 18 October 2019..... | 3 |
| CESS 2019: Annual Conference, 10-13 October 2019 | 3 |
| 'Belt & Road 2.0' AIG Multinational Conference Vienna, 10 October 2019..... | 3 |
| Conference on 'Raising Political and Legal Awareness for girls and women as a factor in the development of social stability' at TNU, Tajikistan, 9 October 2019 | 4 |
| Minsk Dialogue Policy Forum, Minsk, Belarus, 7-8 October 2019 | 4 |
| Talk by A. Nazaranka on 'Academic mobility opportunities', BSU, 3 October 2019 | 4 |
| Conference on 'The Dawn of the East and the World Political Order' Sochi, Russia, 30 September-3 October 2019 | 4 |
| Summary Meeting, TNU, Tajikistan, 27 September 2019 | 4 |
| Presentation at Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), USA, 12 September 2019 | 5 |
| 4th CAREC Meeting, 'Trading for Shared Prosperity', Xian, China, 27-28 August 2019 | 5 |
| HPAIR 2019 Asia conference in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan, 18 August 2019..... | 5 |
| First Caspian Economic Forum, Avaza, Turkmenistan on 12 August 2019 | 5 |
| Roundtable on Belarus-Uzbekistan relations, Belarus, 31 July 2019 | 6 |
| GRN Workshop: Eurasian Scientific Diplomacy, Rosa Luxemburg Foundation, Moscow, 26 July 2019..... | 6 |
| 11th International Convention of Asia Scholars (ICAS 11), Leiden, 16-19 July . | 6 |
| First GCRF GCDC International Training School for Early Career Researchers, 2-6 July 2019 University of Kent | 6 |
| GCRF <i>Signature</i> Conference, 30 June – 2 July 2019, University of Kent..... | 6 |
| ADA University Advanced Regional Energy Security Symposium – Caucasus, 1-5 July 2019 | 7 |
| GCRF COMPASS@ ESCAS 2019, Exeter University, United Kingdom, 27-29 June 2019..... | 7 |
| Workshop on 'Sustainable Future and Good Governance: Conceptual Approaches', UWED, Uzbekistan, 15 June 2019 | 7 |

| | |
|--|----|
| 5th ADA EU Summer School, Baku, Azerbaijan, 10-21 June 2019 | 7 |
| 4th Annual Tartu Conference on Russian and East European Studies, Tartu, 9-11 June 2019 | 8 |
| Talks and Events..... | 8 |
| Talk by Prof Wei Wei on 'Understanding modern China: where does it come from and where is it going?' in Cambridge, 15 October 2019 | 8 |
| The Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway in Uzbekistan visited to the UWED, Uzbekistan, 11 October 2019 ... | 8 |
| German Bundestag delegation visited UWED, Uzbekistan, 17 September 2019 | 8 |
| Talk by High Representatives of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in UWED, Uzbekistan, 10 October 2019 ... | 8 |
| Student Debating Society, BSU, Belarus, 19 September 2019 | 9 |
| Young researchers from Uzbekistan awarded certificates on internship at BSU, 14 August 2019..... | 9 |
| UWED scholars visited the Tulane University of Louisiana (USA), 20 July 2019 | 9 |
| Talk and Book Launch by M. Honma, Former Head of EBRD, Central Asia, in University of Cambridge, 10 July 2019.. | 9 |
| Conference on 'Innovative approaches for solving global environmental problems: world experience', UWED, 8 July 2019. | 9 |
| UWED visited by senior Azerbaijani diplomat, Uzbekistan, 12 June 2019..... | 9 |
| Scholars from Georgetown University, and National Defense University of National War College visit UWED, Uzbekistan, 7 June 2019..... | 10 |
| Save the Date: Forthcoming Events | 10 |
| International academic conference, 'Picheta Conference 2019', October 23-24, 2019 | 10 |
| XVIII International Scientific Conference, 'Belarus in the Modern World', BSU, Belarus, October 30, 2019 | 10 |
| GCRF COMPASS <i>Signature</i> Conference 'Uzbekistan in the context of regional security and global change' –7-8 November 2019, UWED | 10 |
| GCRF International Training School for Early Career Researchers at ADA University, February 2020..... | 10 |
| GCRF COMPASS Leadership Programme in Solving Global Challenges, Winter Training School in Cambridge, UK, 9-12 December 2019..... | 10 |
| COMPASS Work in Progress Seminars (WiPs) at Kent, 2019-2020 | 10 |
| COMPASS Cambridge Seminar Series, October-November 2019..... | 11 |
| In other news..... | 11 |

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| Policy Impact | 11 |
| Awarded Grants..... | 11 |
| Research Trips..... | 11 |
| Publications:..... | 11 |
| Social Media | 12 |

Welcome Note



It is my hope that this edition of our newsletter will emphasise the position of GCRF COMPASS as an emerging brand name in Eurasian and Central Asian affairs. Our approach of engaging with a wide spectrum of actors and stakeholders, ranging from youth organisations in Tajikistan and Belarus to key decision makers in European, Russian, Japanese and Turkmen high level official meetings, is bearing fruit as a novel gateway for grassroots informed policy architecture. From our invited presentations at premier academic events such as ICAS, Leiden, ESCAS, Exeter and CESS, Washington DC to key policy platforms like Vienna and Tbilisi Silk Road Forums, First Caspian Economic Forum, Avaza Turkmenistan, Minsk Dialogue, Belarus, CAREC Think Tank Conference, Xian, China, it is evident that our presence and contribution to academic and policy capacity building is making impact at the highest and most dynamic levels. Our external recognition is underpinned by events, forums and grounded empirical research we are conducting in our partner countries. Recent forums in Tajikistan, Belarus and the upcoming conference in Tashkent are informed by our field research and community engagement in Azerbaijan, Belarus and Tajikistan. We are soon to embark on extensive field research in Uzbekistan to capture the vibrant reforms underway there. COMPASS is now understood as a capable partner and as a group that adds value to local institutions seeking sustainable solutions as much as an informant and contributor to global policy making for collective good!

Yours faithfully,

Siddharth S. Saxena
Co-I GCRF COMPASS
University of Cambridge

Past Events

Panel on 'Silk Road Knowledge Dialogue', Tbilisi Silk Road Forum, 22-23 October 2019



The CAREC Institute has organized the Silk Road Knowledge Dialogue session in the framework of the Tbilisi Silk Road Forum under the patronage of the Prime Minister of Georgia, H.E. Giorgi Gakharia, on 22-23 October 2019 in Tbilisi, Georgia. The panel was opened by Mr. S. Chen (ADB Vice President) and attended by Mr. A. Saghirashvili (Deputy Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development, Georgia), Mr. S. Mirzozoda (First Deputy Minister of Transport, Tajikistan), Dr T. Ziyadov (Director-General, Port of Baku), Dr T. Sulukhia (Director, ISET Policy Institute, Georgia), Dr S.H. Naqvi (Rector of the UCA) and Dr S. Saxena. The high-level panel from Governments, think tanks, private sector, and academia discussed the importance and role of knowledge cooperation; roles of each of the players in making knowledge a valuable commodity; and necessary steps to strengthen regional economic cooperation.

<http://www.tbilisisrf.gov.ge/en/speakers/Silk-Road-Knowledge-Dialogue/>

Roundtable on OSCE and Central Asia and Caucasus, University of Cambridge, 18 October 2019

GCRF COMPASS Cambridge at Centre of Development Studies, University of Cambridge and Cambridge Central Asia Forum, Jesus College have organised a policy oriented roundtable discussion on OSCE and Europe's strategy of engagement with Central Asia, Afghanistan, the Caucasus and Eurasia

GCRF COMPASS

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

to mark Slovakia's Chairmanship of the OSCE this year.



This event was organised in partnership with His Excellency Rehák, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Republic. Mr Varga, Head of Politico-Military Dimension and Conflicts Unit, Department of Political and Security Affairs, Directorate General for the Slovak OSCE Chairmanship and Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs gave a detailed presentation on OSCE activities underway under Slovakia's chairmanship. HE Khalifazoda (Ambassador of Tajikistan), and Mr Tilavov (Counsellor, Embassy of Uzbekistan), Mr Mammdov (Embassy of Azerbaijan) along with HE Jawad (Ambassador of Afghanistan), and HE Baisalov (Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic) participated in the roundtable. The Master of Jesus College, S. Alleyne OBE, Prof Nolan (COMPASS AB Member), Prof Sir Bruce Ponder (Cancer Research UK), Dr Lane, and Dr Chang (Director, Centre of Development Studies) addressed the audience.



Dr Saxena chaired the event. PhD students and COMPASS Affiliates, C. Berman, R. Schivatecheva, J. Csabay, Y. Ji, A. Khudaykulov and A. Mullaev (Visiting scholar from Uzbekistan Academy of Sciences) in the second half of the day. The discussions ranged from a full overview of the Slovak chairmanship with special reference to Central Asia and the Caucasus, and a critical look at the challenges and opportunities that OSCE faces in the Eurasian region. It was an exercise aimed at capacity building by engaging with an important European institution which enjoys traction in Central Asia and the Caucasus and can posit real change in the region through an engaged dialogue.

CESS 2019: Annual Conference, 10-13 October 2019



The mission of CESS is to facilitate communication and interaction among scholars of the Central Eurasia region, and in doing so to promote high-level scholarship about the Central Eurasia region and cooperation between scholars with interest in the region and beyond. This year the COMPASS project was represented at CESS by Dr Kudaibergenova (Cambridge), Dr Khassanov (UWED), Dr Umarov (UWED) and Dr Nurulla-Khodzaeva (TNU).

'Belt & Road 2.0' AIG Multinational Conference Vienna, 10 October 2019



Prof Korosteleva was invited to speak at the 'Belt & Road 2.0' AIG multinational conference 2019 in Vienna on 10 October 2019. The conference was organised in partnership with Chatham House, having attracted 120 attendees including speakers from AIG, Baker McKenzie, Asian Development Bank, Deutsche Bank, ICBC Standard Bank China, Roland Berger, UK Investment Office UBS Wealth Managements and more. The focus was on relaunch BRI 2.0 and its challenges, including 'people-to-people' dimension, on which Prof Korosteleva offered her insights, from the COMPASS project.

Conference on ‘Raising Political and Legal Awareness for girls and women as a factor in the development of social stability’ at TNU, Tajikistan, 9 October 2019

TNU hosted this conference under the leadership of Prof Emomali, Head of the Presidential Administration, Tajikistan. It focused on raising political and educational capacity and activities for women in Tajikistan. This was an important meeting to highlight the challenges and opportunities open for women in Tajikistan in the present day. Prof Shahidi strongly advocated for more attention to gender equality.



Minsk Dialogue Policy Forum, Minsk, Belarus, 7-8 October 2019



7-8 October 2019 saw the 2nd year of the Minsk Dialogue Policy Forum, which was organised in partnership with the COMPASS project, the support from BSU and MFA. It attracted over 700 academics, policy-makers and practitioners from 61 countries. This year it focused on “European Security: Stepping back from the Brink”, covering relations with major powers, the role of international organisations, regional conflicts development across Central Eurasia, and relations between competing initiatives from the EU, EAEU and BRI. COMPASS hosted two plenaries, including with Lord Teverson’s participation, one special panel on Central Asia, and concluding reception on Day 2 of the forum, organised in a diplomatic service hall, centre of Minsk. Day 2 of the forum

included a presidential plenary, with President Lukashenko, Baroness Ashton, and Mr Vershbov among others. The new feature of the forum was the **Future Leaders Session**, which brought together 16 young participants from the COMPASS consortium (Kent, Cambridge, BSU, ADA University, TNU and UWED) and European Leadership Network. They presented a joint Declaration at the opening of the Forum, describing major challenges for the regional security and their possible solutions. The session received feedback from the UK, EU and Russian Ambassadors – Their Excellences Jaqueline Perkins, Dirk Schuebel, and Dmitry Mezentsev – and Valery Varanetsky, MP Belarus. The Declaration will be included in the MD forum policy paper, to be disseminated to all major UK, EU and national stakeholders of the forum. For more information please visit these websites: <http://minskdialogue.by/en/media/minsk-dialogue-forum-2019-day-1> <http://minskdialogue.by/en/media/minsk-dialogue-forum-2019-day-2>

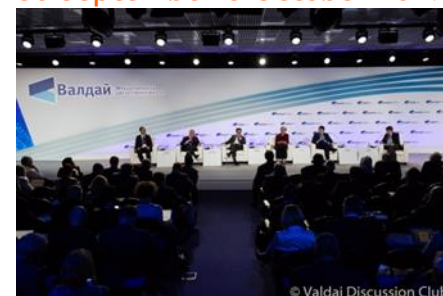


Talk by A. Nazaranka on ‘Academic mobility opportunities’, BSU, 3 October 2019



Belarus COMPASS NTL A. Nazaranka delivered a session on academic mobility opportunities and challenges for students of the BSU.

Conference on ‘The Dawn of the East and the World Political Order’ Sochi, Russia, 30 September-3 October 2019



Dr Khasanov (UWED) participated in the 16th Annual Meeting of the Valdai Discussion Club ‘The Dawn of the East and the World Political Order’ in Sochi, Russia. At the forefront were questions about the influence of the East on the world order, and about a changing world where the role of Asia is growing and non-Western perspectives and political systems are coming to the fore. Dr Khasanov spoke in the panel entitled, ‘Greater Eurasia as a New Form of Geo-Economic Space Organization’. The other panelists included D. Tsogtbaatar, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia; F. Ying, Vice-Chairperson, Foreign Affairs Committee, National People’s Congress, People’s Republic of China; S. Karaganov, Academic Supervisor – Dean, Faculty of World Economics and International Relations, National Research University Higher School of Economics; and A. Nursha, Dean, Public Policy and Law School, Almaty Management University.

Summary Meeting, TNU, Tajikistan, 27 September 2019



TNU hosted a meeting of scholars, academics and students to discuss the outcomes of the COMPASS International Conference on Tajikistan and Cultural Diplomacy in Eurasia on 16-17 September 2019. The meeting focused on the in-depth work and

insightful talks which were given in the meeting with GCRF COMPASS consortium members and high level representatives from Tajikistan, the UK and the EU.

International Signature Conference: Tajikistan and Cultural Diplomacy in Central Asia and Eurasia. 16-17 September 2019, Dushanbe, Tajikistan



On 16-17 September 2019 the Tajik National University (TNU) held its first landmark event as part of the COMPASS project – a two-day international conference with a focus on Tajikistan and the role of cultural diplomacy in the regional revival. With reference to the Tajik National Development Strategy 2030, discussion addressed the issues of local vulnerabilities, including environment and trade/economic concerns, resilience-building and the role of cultural heritage for sustainable development. Apart from the TNU staff, NGO and government representatives, participants also included international scholars from the Universities of Kent, Cambridge and Oxford (UK); ADA University (Azerbaijan), BSU (Belarus), and UWED (Uzbekistan).

The conference also hosted a keynote speech on EU New Strategy to Central Asia from the EU Special Envoy, Ambassador Burian, and HE Marilyn Josefson, Head of EU Delegation to Tajikistan; intervention by Peter Fernandes Cardy, Head of regional DFID, and a plenary session with HM Ambassador Matthew Lawson and Lord Sheikh (UK), which attracted over 70-wide audience, half of which were students from local universities. We record special thanks to the local organisers of the conference – TNU national lead Prof Shahidi, and her team, including the volunteers from the charity organization, 'Peshraft' led by Matlyuba Salikhova, as well as

COMPASS postdoc associates - Diana T. Kudaibergenova, Irina Petrova and Eske van Gils.



Presentation at Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), USA, 12 September 2019

Dr Valiyev presented a paper on 'Azerbaijan through the prism of OBOR: Chinese Interests in the Region' at a conference entitled, 'China's Rise in Eurasia', organized by Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Washington, USA on September 12, 2019. The presentation is available [here](https://www.csis.org/events/chinas-rise-eurasia)

4th CAREC Meeting, 'Trading for Shared Prosperity', Xian, China, 27-28 August 2019

Dr Saxena was invited to the 4th Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Institute meeting organised in Xi'an, Shanxi Province of the People's Republic of China. CAREC is an inter-governmental organization with a mission to enhance the quality and effectiveness of the economic cooperation in the CAREC region (Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, People's Republic of China, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) by providing evidence-based research, capacity building services and networking with research institutions. CAREC program is supported by six development partners that include, Asian Development Bank (ADB), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) International Monetary Fund (IMF), Islamic Development Bank (IDB), United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the World Bank.

HPAIR 2019 Asia conference in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan, 18 August 2019

Dr Kudaibergenova (COMPASS Cambridge) was invited to speak in the

panel on 'The Art of Advocacy through Storytelling' in Kazakhstan. Whether it be film, fiction writing, fashion, food, fine or performing arts, the salience of the arts has long been in its power to tell stories that speak to human experiences, bridge cultural divides, uplift underrepresented and marginalized voices, and promote empathy among disparate social and cultural groups. The need for diverse stories contributes to the growing need for diverse voices and perspectives to tell those stories. How can art be employed as a tool to advocate for pertinent social change? How does one create art that can both teach and touch people? What are the challenges to using art as such a tool - for example, censorship or lack of representation in certain artforms - and how can they be overcome? From storytelling through art, awareness can be raised, unity can be achieved, and action can be inspired.

First Caspian Economic Forum, Avaza, Turkmenistan on 12 August 2019



The President of Academy of Sciences of Turkmenistan, Prof S. Toylyyev invited Dr Saxena to participate in the First Caspian Economic Forum, Avaza, Turkmenistan on 12 August 2019. Dr Saxena was accompanied by C. Berman (Uni of Cambridge) and W. Malikgulyyev. During the first Caspian Economic Forum, the development of trade and economic relations was considered, primarily the creation of conditions for major projects, a discussion on the role of the economy of the Caspian region in a global context, investment attractiveness in the fields of industry, energy, agriculture, trade, tourism and other industrial economies of the Caspian littoral states of mutual interest. Dr Saxena met with Prof E. Aydogdyev, Rector of International University Humanities and development, Ashgabad, Turkmenistan. The meeting was attended by high level

officials and business men from Russia and neighbouring states.

Roundtable on Belarus-Uzbekistan relations, Belarus, 31 July 2019

BSU COMPASS team member Prof Shadurski took part in a round table on Belarus-Uzbekistan relations which was organized by Belarusian Institute for Strategic Studies with the participation of the Institute of Strategic and Interregional Studies under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. More information here.



GRN Workshop: Eurasian Scientific Diplomacy, Rosa Luxemburg Foundation, Moscow, 26 July 2019



The workshop on Eurasian Scientific Diplomacy was a one day workshop designed to bring scientists and social scientists together to study Scientific Diplomacy in Eurasia. Production, trade and development of technology are at the heart of the narrative of Eurasia which needs to be addressed in the context of historical developments to fully understand the place of Scientific Diplomacy and its position in Eurasian Development. The importance of knowledge networks that engineered exchanges in Eurasia through history from ancient Islamic times, under Mongol and Central Asian Khanates, the Tsarist Empire and Soviet Union are key in understanding the future of Eurasia today. Current economic and

political understandings of development in particular do not engage with the unique trajectory of Eurasia. This workshop tried to unravel and bring to light some of these developments and link them with the wider body of knowledge that exists for other parts of the world, for example, Europe. The Global Research Network Project Team is funded by the National Research Foundation of South Korea. It consists of researchers from Plekhanov University of Economics (Russia), Cambridge Central Asia Forum, Jesus College, University of Cambridge (UK), Eurasian Research Institute (Kazakhstan), Korean Research Institute of Science, Technology and Civilization, Chonbuk National University (South Korea), and Asia-Pacific Research Center, Hanyang University (South Korea).

Dr Saxena chaired the session on 'The Science Link and Eurasia in Global Perspective' and P. Kalra introduced the concept of Scientific Diplomacy for Eurasia and spoke in the panel entitled, 'Economic Imaginaries - Eurasia through the Ages'.

11th International Convention of Asia Scholars (ICAS 11), Leiden, 16-19 July



Dr Saxena attended ICAS 11 in Leiden between 16-19 July. He was an invited panelist on the roundtable entitled, 'The History of Industry in Central Asia: Economic Models and Ideas of Progress', organized by Dr Morozova (Uni of Regensburg) and Dr Vogelsang, Deputy Director of IIAS (International Institute for Asian Studies, Leiden University). This roundtable aimed at developing connections and interfaces between academic research on the history, anthropology, and present condition of industrial projects in Central Asia and their practical economic and political implementation and impact. Along with Dr Saxena, C. Laumulin (COMPASS affiliate) spoke about Soviet Scientific Policy and

Development paradigms in the roundtable. ICAS (International Convention of Asia Scholars) attracts participants from over 75 countries to engage in global dialogues on Asia that transcend boundaries between academic disciplines and geographic areas.

More information: <https://eu.eventsccloud.com/ehome/icas11>

First GCRF GCDC International Training School for Early Career Researchers, 2-6 July 2019 University of Kent

The first international Training School for Early Career Researchers organised by the GCRF Global Challenges Doctoral School (University of Kent) took place between 2 and 6 July 2019. The Training School was organised in cooperation with the COMPASS project involving 16 researchers from the consortium. Participants presented their research and received in-depth feedback from peers; and attended four skills training sessions on networking, publishing, and fieldwork funding.



The Training School further provided opportunities for socialising and networking, including a visit to the UK Parliament in London. Presentations were published as GCRF report, and available on COMPASS website: <https://research.kent.ac.uk/gcrf-compass/outputs/research-outputs/>.

GCRF Signature Conference, 30 June - 2 July 2019, University of Kent

COMPASS organised its first international signature conference 'Governance and Resilience in wider Eurasia: Are cooperative orders possible?'. In three panels and two plenary sessions the speakers reflected on recent developments in wider Eurasia, from the angle of cooperation between the region and the EU, EAEU

and the BRI initiative. The conference hosted 60 participants, with an opportunity for knowledge exchange and socialising at the University Gala dinner on 1st July. The speakers of the conference contributed to the conference working proceedings, available on the project website: <https://research.kent.ac.uk/gcrf-compass/outputs/research-outputs/>.



ADA University Advanced Regional Energy Security Symposium - Caucasus, 1-5 July 2019



From 1 to 5 July 2019, representatives from the public-private sectors of Azerbaijan, Turkey, and Georgia gathered together to participate in the Advanced Energy Security Symposium held by the Center of Excellence in EU Studies of ADA University, in collaboration with the Naval Postgraduate School, NATO Energy Security Center of Excellence, BP in Azerbaijan and the State Oil Company of the Republic of Azerbaijan. They gathered together to highlight the pressing challenges on energy affairs. The Symposium brought together government officials, representatives of high reputable oil companies, high-ranking officials from Azerbaijan and academicians from USA to discuss energy security and threats to Caspian and Caucasus regions. The symposium was designed to promote regional energy security and resilience by increasing awareness, and also speed up regional and inter-institutional and inter-sectoral cooperation.

The Advanced Energy Security Symposium created an informative learning environment for attendees to reinforce their knowledge on NATO's role in energy security, regional energy politics, also provided a clear framework on the threat to energy systems and protection of energy infrastructure.

GCRF COMPASS@ ESCAS 2019, Exeter University, United Kingdom, 27-29 June 2019



The GCRF COMPASS Consortium was represented by all partners in the European Society for Central Asian Studies (ESCAS) 2019 conference at the University of Exeter, 27-29 June, 2019 which was attended by 224 academics and researchers from across Eurasia and Europe.



The COMPASS panels included: 'Central Asia and Unrigid Geographies of the Silk Road'; 'Community Building and State Imagination'; 'Globalising and Localising Eurasia'; 'Development and the Urban Environment'; 'Domestic and foreign policy reforms in Uzbekistan'; 'Global Insecurities in a wider Eurasia'; 'Industries, economic planning, and development paths in the Central Asian Republics (1970-1990s)'; and 'Fieldwork Lab: Approaching, reflecting and processing research, engagement and ethics in the field'. Prof Korosteleva (Kent), Dr Saxena (Cambridge), Dr Nazaranka (BSU), Prof Khassanov (UWED), Dr Nurulla-Khojaeva (TNU), P. Kalra (Cambridge), Dr Umarov (UWED), S. Zakharkevich

(BSU), Dr Valiyev (ADA University), Dr Waljee (Cambridge Central Asia Forum), C. Berman (Cambridge) and J. Csabay (Cambridge) participated in the conference.

Workshop on 'Sustainable Future and Good Governance: Conceptual Approaches', UWED, Uzbekistan, 15 June 2019



A workshop for young researchers on 'Sustainable Future and Good Governance: Conceptual Approaches' was organised in the University of World Economy and Diplomacy. The Director of the Centre for Analysis and Forecasting under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Ambassador Dr Doniyor Kurbanov, gave the keynote speech on the new foreign policy strategy of the country and its positive influence on the sustainable development. More than 30 young researchers from Cambridge, Sussex universities (UK), Tajik National University (Tajikistan) and UWED participated in the workshop. The papers were presented in the following panels: Conceptual approaches to sustainable development and governance; Development trajectories and stability (case-studies); Sustainable development and cooperation in Central Asia. The participants discussed the theoretical aspects of sustainable development and good governance, models of political and economic reforms of developed and developing countries in Europe, East and Southeast Asia, as well as regional geopolitics in Central Asia and its impact on large-scale reforms in Uzbekistan.

5th ADA EU Summer School, Baku, Azerbaijan, 10-21 June 2019

The 5th ADA-EU Summer School was held between 10-21 June 2019 in partnership with ADA University

Center of Excellence in EU Studies, DAAD (Germany) and University of Bologna (Italy). This year the theme for the Summer School was 'EU Eastern Neighbourhood in the context of the Future of the EU' and was aimed at discussing the main driving forces, current challenges and development trends shaping the Future of the EU today as well as how those processes influence ENP and EaP strategy of EU, and internal perspectives of EaP countries on collaboration with the EU. The focus was the 10th year anniversary of the EaP initiative and what has been achieved during these years.



The Summer School brought together bright students, recent university graduates, experts, young professionals and researchers from Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, Germany, Italy and the UK to broaden their expertise and comprehensive understanding on the functioning of EU institutions, its intricate decision-making process and the role of various actors involved.

4th Annual Tartu Conference on Russian and East European Studies, Tartu, 9-11 June 2019



On 9–11 June 2019, Dr Abushov, Assistant Prof, ADA University attended the 4th Annual Tartu Conference on 'Rethinking Sovereignty and Identity in an Era of Change' within the GCRF COMPASS Project to present a paper entitled, 'Failed balancing despite crude power: explaining alignment behaviour in the post-Soviet space'.

Talks and Events

Talk by Prof Wei Wei on 'Understanding modern China: where does it come from and where is it going?' in Cambridge, 15 October 2019



Prof Nolan (AB Member, COMPASS) hosted Prof Zhang Weiwei, Director of the China Institute at Fudan University, in Jesus College on 15 October 2019. Prof Wei Wei is the former English interpreter for the Chinese Premier, D. Xiaoping. The talk was an overview of China's growth story and its particular development model. The speed and extent of China's rapid transformation is unprecedented, which has had an impact on the rest of the world. Perhaps the greatest change in China is its rapid economic growth. What role has the Communist Party of China (CPC) played in China's economic reforms? How might countries in East Asia and other major powers relate to rapidly rising China? In particular, how does China choose to relate to these countries? Understanding the trajectory of China's relations with these countries is of great importance to the world. These discussions are immensely important in understanding Eurasia in order to build a knowledge base in the UK and Europe. A dialogue between how China views itself and its aims and future can help in capacity building which is a core goal of COMPASS.

The Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway in Uzbekistan visited to the UWED, Uzbekistan, 11 October 2019

HE Mr Burny, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway, visited UWED on 11 October. HE Mr Burny in his

speech described in detail the main directions of EU's foreign policy activity, new trends in world and European regional politics, Norway's foreign policy, and the state and prospects of Uzbek-Norwegian relations.



German Bundestag delegation visited UWED, Uzbekistan, 17 September 2019



The delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany, consisting of the head of the Department for Leading Personnel of the Administration of the German Bundestag, Ms. Daniel Rosenthal, and Prof Bogard, Humboldt University of Berlin visited the UWED. The guests met with the leadership of the University and teachers and students of UWED. During the meeting, the presentation of the IPS Bundestag international scholarship program was held, which aroused great interest among the students.

Talk by High Representatives of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in UWED, Uzbekistan, 10 October 2019



George Konstantinos Sharonis, head of the project on youth rights, and Mr. Richard Komenda, who took over the

duties of the OHCHR ROCA Regional Representative in May 2016 gave a talk on 'Working with and for young people: UN and OHCHR perspectives'. They introduced the Youth 2030 program (UN 2030) - the UN Youth Strategy aimed to expanding and strengthening commitments at the global, regional and national levels in order to meet the needs of the youth and help them realize their rights, and recognize the beneficial contribution of young people for positive change.

Student Debating Society, BSU, Belarus, 19 September 2019

The student Debating Society of the BSU launched a new season with public debate on the role of practical training in higher education. Belarus COMPASS NTL A. Nazaranka moderated the discussion.

Young researchers from Uzbekistan awarded certificates on internship at BSU, 14 August 2019

O. Chupris, Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs and Educational Innovations awarded certificates in an internship programme for students from Uzbekistan. Ten specialists were trained at the faculties of geography and geoinformatics, applied mathematics and computer science, biological, physical, chemical, economic faculties as well as at the department of pedagogy and problems of educational development at BSU. In total, 100 specialists and 26 vice-rectors from the institution of higher education of Uzbekistan came to Belarus. The Vice-rectors studied at the RIVSH BSU, and other interns were enrolled in the Belarusian National Technical University, Belarusian State Pedagogical University. M. Tanka and the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus. The internship is organised to promote the higher education system of Belarus, to increase professional knowledge, and to develop skills in research activities.



UWED scholars visited the Tulane University of Louisiana (USA), 20 July 2019



The trip to Tulane University of Louisiana (New Orleans, Louisiana, USA) took place as a part of the USAID Judicial Reform Program in Uzbekistan with the assistance of the United States Agency for International Cooperation (USAID) and Tetra Tech Company (USA). The delegation of Uzbekistan included representatives of the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Trade, Tashkent State Law University, the Institute for Legislation and Parliamentary Studies under Oliy Majlis, as well as the National Movement, Uksalish. The purpose of the visit was to participate in trainings of an international law development institute organized by the Centre for Public Law of the University of Tulane, USA. UWED was represented by the Vice-Rector of the University, G.S. Ismailova, and the doctoral candidate M.A. Rakhimova.

Talk and Book Launch by M. Honma, Former Head of EBRD, Central Asia, in University of Cambridge, 10 July 2019

Mr Honma gave a talk about his recently released book, 'Banking in Central Asia and Mongolia since 1875', published by Cambridge Scientific Publishers (CUP), edited by P. Kalra in Centre of Development Studies, University of Cambridge. The book traces the history of banking in Central Asia and Mongolia since the last quarter of the nineteenth century. In 1875, the first regional office of the Tsarist Russian State Bank was opened in Tashkent, which was a starting point of colonial banking in the region.



Mr Honma joined the EBRD in August 2002 as Director for Central Asia and

Mongolia, based in London. In May 2016 he was assigned to Director and Chief Representative of the Tokyo Representative Office. He also covered Uzbekistan as head of the Tashkent Resident Office until September 2017. In April 2018 he retired from the EBRD and now works as Senior Visiting Researcher of the Policy Research Institute of the Ministry of Finance, Japan.

Conference on 'Innovative approaches for solving global environmental problems: world experience', UWED, 8 July 2019



On July 8, the Korean University held an international conference on the theme: 'Innovative approaches for solving global environmental problems: world experience (using the example of the Aral Sea)'. The event was attended by scientists and public figures in the field of environmental development in Uzbekistan, Boriy Alikhanov, Chairman of the Ecological Party in Uzbekistan, specialists of the State Committee on Ecology and the Environment, employees of the Interdepartmental Water Coordination Commission. The main problems and directions in improving the state of the Aral Sea were discussed.

UWED visited by senior Azerbaijani diplomat, Uzbekistan, 12 June 2019



A meeting was held at UWED with a well-known diplomat, scientist, deputy foreign minister of Azerbaijan, the first ambassador of Azerbaijan to the United

States (1993-2006), rector of the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy (ADA University), Prof Hafiz Jalal oglu Pashayev. The Rector of UWED, Prof Abduvakhitov, opened the meeting, which was had support of the Embassy of Azerbaijan in Uzbekistan and the Azerbaijan Culture Centre. The event included the presentation of Prof Pashayev's book, 'The manifesto of one ambassador'. The first deputy chairman of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of Uzbekistan, Senator Safoev congratulated Prof Pashayev on the publication of his book and welcomed him to Uzbekistan.

More information available here.

Scholars from Georgetown University, and National Defense University of National War College visit UWED, Uzbekistan, 7 June 2019



On June 7, 2019 a group of American experts, including Prof Kangas, Dean of the Near East South Asia Centre for Strategic Studies (NESA), and Georgetown University, Assistant Prof Todd, Central Asian Studies at NESA, Prof Y. Omelicheva, National Defense University of National War College and US Colonel and Military expert, Dr Wood visited UWED and held a meeting with staff and students. Dr Wood focused on the situation in Afghanistan, peace process and the new role of Uzbekistan in bringing peace in this war-torn country. He also underscored the significance of Uzbekistan's involvement in Afghanistan's economic recovery with railway constructions as well as with other infrastructural projects.

Save the Date: Forthcoming Events

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

An International academic conference entitled, 'Picheta Conference 2019' on the university's historical place in science and education in Belarus in the 20-21st century has been organised on the occasion of the 85th anniversary of the BSU Faculty of History.

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

The XVIII International Scientific Conference on 'Belarus in the Modern World' will take place on 30 October 2019 in BSU. The theme of the conference this year is the 'Search for adequate answers to security challenges in Eurasia'.

GCRF COMPASS Signature Conference 'Uzbekistan in the context of regional security and global change' - 7-8 November 2019, UWED

On 7 and 8 November 2019 an international conference will take place at the University of World Economy and Diplomacy, titled 'Uzbekistan in the context of regional security and global change'. The two-day conference will unpack the themes of reforms in Uzbekistan, regional security in Central Asia, and the role of Uzbekistan as well as the EU in the region. Scholars from across the COMPASS consortium will present their work, along with academics from external universities and representatives from international organisations including the UN and EU.

GCRF International Training School for Early Career Researchers at ADA University, February 2020

In February 2020 the second international COMPASS Training School for Early Career Researchers will take place at ADA University, Azerbaijan. The training school will welcome postgraduate students and early career researchers from all COMPASS institutions, and will also have a number of spaces reserved for ECRs from external universities. The theme and precise dates for the training school are to be confirmed shortly – do keep an eye on the COMPASS website for more information!

GCRF COMPASS Leadership Programme in Solving Global Challenges, Winter Training School in Cambridge, UK, 9-12 December 2019

The Leadership Programme in Solving Global Challenges is a unique opportunity for students and professionals over the age of 18, to understand challenges facing the global economy, environment, and public health sectors, and to design and implement pathbreaking solutions. The Winter Training School is an intensive ten day workshop for emerging young leaders. A select group of domestic and international participants will engage with research cultures, interdisciplinary research, and methodologies of research while considering the most current concerns globally. Faculty and participants from GCRF COMPASS partners in partnership with BrainGain Academy in India will deliver the training and will ensure its wider impact through public engagement.

COMPASS Work in Progress Seminars (WiPs) at Kent, 2019-2020

Uni of Kent will continue with WiPs following a series of very insightful presentations and good discussions in 2018-2019. The seminars will take place on a three-weekly basis and will form a platform for scholars from the consortium to present their work around the themes of capacity-building and politics in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. The schedule for presentations is available on the COMPASS website:.

COMPASS Cambridge Seminar Series, October-November 2019

COMPASS Cambridge in collaboration with Cambridge Central Asia Forum and Centre of Development Studies will continue to host the Seminar Series on Central Asia and Caucasus. The talks scheduled for this academic term are:

25 October A. Mullaev, The Institute of History, Uzbekistan Academy of Sciences & Visiting COMPASS scholar, 'Cultural networks and dialogues of Central Asian on the New Silk Road'; **1 November** Adham Khudaykulov, Centre of Development Studies, University of Cambridge, 'Regulatory State and Development: Central Asian case studies'; **8 November** Prof A. Maslov, Head of the School of Asian Studies, National Research University – Higher School of Economics, Moscow, 'Russia for Central Asia in China; Struggling for Identity and Milestone for Mutual Misperception'; **15 November** Prof A. Buzgalin, Moscow State University, 'The End of the End of the History: Limits and Future of the Neoliberal Project'; **22 November** Dr D.T. Kudaibergenova, Centre of Development Studies, University of Cambridge, 'Communities Strike back: Findings from Tajikistan and Azerbaijan'; and **29 November** Mr. Xiao, Global Vice Chair, Dentons, Beijing, 'Mergers and Acquisitions by Chinese firms: motivation and its relation with Central Asia'.

In other news

Policy Impact

Work on new strategy for Belarus and Central Asia with the Cabinet Office, UK

Prof Korosteleva worked with the Cabinet Office, UK government, on developing a new strategy towards Belarus and Central Asia, as part of the COMPASS project. In a subsequent policy impact letter, Head of Staff of the Cabinet Office wrote: 'Without your expertise ...we would not be able to deliver such comprehensive advice to the highest levels of decision makers in government. We were also very

GCRF COMPASS

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

interested to hear more about the COMPASS programme, which sounds like a worthwhile and interesting project we would like to remain updated on'.

Meeting with HE Perkins (UK Ambassador to Belarus, 15 July 2019

Prof Korosteleva and Y. Preiherman (BSU COMPASS) were invited to brief the new UK Ambassador to Belarus, HE Jaquiline Perkins at the FCO on 15 July 2019.

Letter of thanks from HM Ambassador to the Kyrgyz Republic Charles Garrett

Dr Saxena received a personal letter of thanks from Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Kyrgyz Republic, Charles Garrett on 11 October 2019. Dr Saxena along with COMPASS Affiliate, R. Schivatcheva, hosted the Kyrgyz Satellite Programme candidates during their study visit to the UK. In the letter, the Ambassador said, "This programme is very dear to the British Embassy in Bishkek as it empowers young women and promotes science. And we look forward to seeing the launch of Kyrgyzstan's first Satellite." Dr Saxena and Ms Schivatcheva spent time with the girls and talked science and discussed the importance of education, inquisitiveness and a sense of wonder and determination to solve global challenges.

Awarded Grants

EUROMIG awards grant for 'Migration Processes in Central and Eastern Europe: History & Contemporary Challenges' to BSU

In July 2019 the Education, Audio-visual and Culture Executive Agency of the European Union awarded grant to support Jean Monnet Project developed by the Belarusian State University (Prof. A. Kakhanouski, A. Nazaranka et al) titled "Migration Processes in Central and Eastern Europe: History & Contemporary Challenges (EUROMIG)".

Creating Enterprise and Business: Startup Journey Azerbaijan/UK

We are pleased to announce that ADA University was successful to win grant from Creative Spark Partnership Fund's Creative Spark: Higher Education Enterprise Programme. This is a five-year initiative to support international university and institutional partnerships to develop enterprise skills and creative

economy across seven countries in Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan), South Caucasus (Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia) and Ukraine through UK support. The programme has been developed in response to an underdeveloped creative sector and a demand for entrepreneurship training in the programme countries, supporting wealth and job creation. The consortium is made up of Uni of Kent, UK, ADA University, Azerbaijan State University of Culture and Arts, Azerbaijan.

Research Trips

Focus Group meetings in Baku and three regions

In June-August, 2019 ADA University conducted round of focus groups for research for the COMPASS project. Researchers from ADA University led by Dr K. Abushov and Dr Kudaibergenova (Uni of Cambridge) conducted focus group meetings in Baku, and three other cities of Azerbaijan: Lenkoran, Ganja and Shaki. Fieldwork Trips, March-April 2019.

Focus Groups in Tajikistan

TNU with Dr Kudaibergenova conducted focus groups in Tajikistan in October.

Publications:

COMPASS GCRF TS Working Report 'Governance, Resilience and Order: Resilience and beyond, under the pressure of global and regional change', P. Kalra, and E.van Gils (eds.), October 2019; COMPASS Signature Conference Proceedings, 'Governance & Resilience in wider Eurasia: are cooperative orders possible?' P. Kalra and E. van Gils (eds.), September 2019. See <https://research.kent.ac.uk/gcrf-compass/outputs/research-outputs/>

Abushov, K. Russian foreign policy towards the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict: prudent geopolitics, incapacity or identity?, East European Politics Journal (2019) (<https://rsa.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/21599165.2019.1579711>)

Babayev, A. (ADA University), Dr Hans-Joachim Spanger (Peace Research Institute Frankfurt) and Dr B. Schoch (Peace Research Institute Frankfurt), Eds. 'The Nagorno-Karabakh deadlock: Insights from successful conflict settlements'

<https://www.springer.com/gp/book/9783658251987>

Kalra, P. (ed.) (CSP 2019) M. Honma, 'Banking in Central Asia and Mongolia since 1875'

Korosteleva, E. and Flockhart, T. (eds.) 'The EU and Resilience: redefining the role of "the local" and "the person" in a new global governance agenda', Contemporary Security Policy, **Special Issue**. 28 February 2020: advance online publications include:

-Chandler, D. (2019) Security through societal resilience: Contemporary challenges in the Anthropocene. DOI: 10.1080/13523260.2019.1659574

-Korosteleva, E. (2019) Reclaiming resilience back: A local turn in EU external governance. DOI: 10.1080/13523260.2019.1685316

-Petrova, I. & Delcour, L. (2019) From principle to practice? The resilience-local ownership nexus in the EU Eastern Partnership policy. DOI:10.1080/13523260.2019.1678280

-Tocci, N. (2019) Resilience and the role of the European in the world. advance online publication DOI: 10.1080/13523260.2019.1640342

Kudaibergenova, D.T., Compartmentalized ideology and nation-building in non-democratic states. *Communist and Post-Communist Studies*, 52(3) 2019, pp.247-257; The body global and the body traditional: a digital ethnography of Instagram and nationalism in Kazakhstan and Russia. *Central Asian Survey*, 38(3) 2019, pp.363-380; Compartmentalized

Ideology: Presidential Addresses and Legitimation in Kazakhstan. In *Theorizing Central Asian Politics* (pp. 145-166). Palgrave Macmillan, Cham. 2019; "Mankurts" in Laruelle, M. (ed) *The Nazarbayev Generation: Youth in Kazakhstan*. Lexington Books 2019; Greig, A., Kudaibergenova, D.T. and Edström, J. (2019) Masculinities and Transition in Kazakhstan: Country Brief. and Edström, J., Aly, R., Greig, A., Walker, C., Babenko, S., Çağlar, M., Kudaibergenova, D.T. and Müller, C., 2019. *Masculinities and Transition: Enduring Privilege?*

Nurulla-Khodzaeva, N. (2019) "Temptation of Michel Foucault and Sufi's Wanderings of a "Historian", *Questions of Philosophy* [in Russian], Vol. 9, pp. 50-63. DOI: 10.31857/S004287440006318-4

Valiyev, A. (2019) 'Azerbaijan Through the Prism of BRI: China's Mounting Interests and Influence in the Region', Policy paper 621, PONARS Eurasia, October; Valiyev, A. & Lucy Wallwork (2019) Post-Soviet urban renewal and its discontents: gentrification by demolition in Baku, *Urban Geography*, DOI: 10.1080/02723638.2019.1627147 (<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/02723638.2019.1627147>)

Van Gils, Eske (2019) Whose resilience? Resilience and regime strength in EU-Azerbaijan relations. In: Rouet, Gilles and Pascariu, Gabriela, eds. *Resilience and the EU's Eastern Neighbourhood Countries: From Theoretical Concepts to a Normative Agenda*. Palgrave Macmillan.

Shahidi, M. (2019), Europe's Interest in Tajikistan increased after the Speech of the Leader of the Nation in the European Parliament (Russian)

Umarov, A. (2019) How Serious is Religious Radicalization in Turkmenistan? // *European Eye on Radicalization*, June 18, 2019. <https://eeradicalization.com/how-serious-is-religious-radicalization-in-turkmenistan/>; Umarov, A. (2019) Turkey's Religious Outreach in Central Asia. // *European Eye on Radicalization*, September 26, 2019. <https://eeradicalization.com/turkeys-religious-outreach-in-central-asia/>

Social Media

Interview at Central Asian Analytical Network (CAAN) by Dr Valiyev,

China will become a critical player in the South Caucasus. <https://caa-network.org/archives/18096>

Minsk Dialogue, 7-8 October 2019

Prof Korosteleva talks about the GCRF COMPASS project on national news in Belarus. https://www.tvr.by/news/politika/profesor_elena_korosteleva_rasskazala_pochemu_minskiy_dialog_unikalnyy_forum/ <http://www.ctv.by/novosti-minska-i-minskoy-oblasti/situaciya-neopredelennosti-i-otsutstvie-kontrolya-chto-obsuzhdali>

Thank you for your attention!

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