

"Central Asia 20 years after the collapse of USSR, the French and European school of Central Asian Studies, a point a view from abroad"

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This paper aims to present the French and European school of Central Asian Studies as it has been developed before and after the collapse of USSR. European academic circles, and particularly the French ones has a deep tradition of commitment in Oriental, Asian, Muslim and Soviet studies as well as a good practice of multidisciplinary and cross-disciplinary approaches. The Central Asian field is located at the crossroad of these categories of knowledge and takes much benefit for 20 years on of the current trend in the academic practice to match various conceptual frames, such as political sciences and economy or ecology, sociology and public health, strategic studies and psychology, architecture and politics, working migrants strategies and anthropology.

The purpose of this presentation is to make a survey of the evolution of the PHD topics defended since the collapse of the Soviet Union and of the increasing number of publications and conferences devoted to Central Asia. It is based on the professional experience of a scholar who has been teaching Central Asian studies for 30 years, with a good number of already defended PHD by French and foreign "aspirant", and who was involved in the European Society of Central Asian studies as secretary, then two terms President, then member of the board.