



CASI Third Annual Conference

*Constructing Authority through Custom
and Tradition*

PARTICIPANTS

27-28 September 2013

Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

In alphabetical order.

Baiza Yahia, Institute of Ismaili Studies, UK

Dr. Yahia Bazia is a research associate at The Institute of Ismaili Studies (IIS), London, United Kingdom (UK). He received his PhD in education, and his master's degree in educational research methodology, from the Department of Education, the University of Oxford, UK. Dr Baiza has conducted research on education, religion, history and modern political developments in Afghanistan. He is the author of numerous articles on Afghanistan, and a recent book, 'Modern Education in Afghanistan: Developments, Influences and Legacies since 1901', by Routledge in London and New York (May 2013). Currently, he is preparing his next book manuscript, entitled 'The Hazara Ismailis of Afghanistan: Their History, Religious Rituals and Practices'. Dr Baiza is also working on a two-year research project, 'The Plurality of Shari'a Interpretations and the Shi'a Ismailis of Afghanistan', for the Central Asian Studies Unit of The IIS, London, UK. Dr Baiza is fluent in many languages, namely Persian, Pashto, Czech/Slovak, German and English. He has also advanced knowledge of Arabic and Russian.

Contact Email: YBaiza@iis.ac.uk

Baker Christopher, Central Asian Studies Institute, AUCA, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Christopher Baker is an Assistant Professor at AUCA in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. A PhD candidate at Indiana University, Bloomington, he is completing a dissertation on late Soviet era Kazakh literature. Mr. Baker's research interests include historical thought, the imagination of Eurasia, and Central Asian literatures. In cooperation with the US Embassy in Kazakhstan, Mr. Baker has also been working to complete a new comprehensive Kazakh-English dictionary.

Contact Email: chrisbak@umail.iu.edu

Bissenova Alima, Nazarbayev University, Kazakhstan

Alima Bissenova is an Assistant Professor at the Nazarbayev University School of Humanities and Social Sciences. She received her PhD in nSocial Anthropology at Cornell University. In her dissertation and current research, she investigates the social implications of economic development fueled by foreign and internal investment through the prism of the changing environment of Kazakhstan's major cities and people's strategies of social mobility within and between the cities. Drawing on her fieldwork and personal engagements, she writes what can be called anthropology of the emergence of a new material environment, as well as new social configurations, value systems and normative framework arising from the new material conditions.

Contact Email: abissenova@nu.edu.kz

Coskun Mustafa, Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Halle, Germany

Mustafa Coskun is a PhD candidate at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology. He received his MA in Social/Cultural Anthropology from Indiana University Bloomington. His current project focuses on socialist and postsocialist projects of modernization regarding their connection with local cultural resources. In particular, he works on Kyrgyz oral poetry performances from a historically informed-anthropological perspective.

Contact Email: coskun@eth.mpg.de

Dubuisson Eva-Marie, Bogazichi University, Turkey

Eva-Marie Dubuisson is an Assistant Professor of Anthropology in the Department of Sociology at Bogazici University, Istanbul Turkey. She received her PhD in Linguistic Anthropology from the University of Michigan (2009), after which she held a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship in Anthropology at the University of California, Berkeley (2009-2011). Dubuisson's doctoral research centered around

the oral tradition 'aitys' in Kazakhstan as a vehicle of cultural expression as well as social and political criticism in performance. Her current writing and research, supported by a Marie Career Integration Grant, has expanded ideas of dialogism and voice to the sphere of ancestral authority: how do ancestors 'speak' in the present? Her broader teaching and research interests include linguistic anthropology, the history and ethnography of Inner Asia, oral expressive cultures, as well as healing practices and discursive ecologies.

Contact Email: emdubuisson@boun.edu.tr

Feaux de la Croix Jeanne, Zentrum Moderner Orient, Germany

Jeanne Féaux de la Croix completed her PhD on moral geographies in Kyrgyzstan at the University of St. Andrews in 2010. She has since held a number of research fellowships at Zentrum Moderner Orient in Berlin, and is pursuing research on concepts of knowledge, age and hydropower in Kyrgyzstan. She is also active in fostering engagements between scholars and the media in Central Asia with the Central Eurasian Scholars and Media Initiative, and currently editing a special volume on everyday experiences of energy and energy policy in Central Asia and the Caucasus.

Contact Email: jeannefeaux@yahoo.co.uk

Ferrando Olivier, French Institute for Central Asian Studies, Kyrgyzstan

Olivier Ferrando is director of the French Institute for Central Asian Studies in Bishkek. He holds a PhD in political science from the Institute of political studies -- Sciences Po Paris, France. His research addressed the issue of ethnic minorities and nation-building in the post-Soviet Ferghana valley (Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan). He now focuses on the relationship between identity and political violence in the region.

Contact Email: olivierferrando@gmail.com

Ismailbekova Aksana, Zentrum Moderner Orient, Germany

Aksana Ismailbekova is a post-doctoral researcher at the Zentrum Moderner Orient in Berlin, and is a member of the competence network Crossroads Asia project 2011–2014. She received her PhD in social anthropology from Martin Luther University Halle--Wittenberg. She has conducted research on conflict, marriage, patronage networks, kinship, democracy and everyday politics in rural Kyrgyzstan.

Contact email: aksana_ismailbekova@yahoo.co.uk

Kalandarov Tohir, Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology, Russia

Tokhir Kalandarov is a senior Researcher at the Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology Russian Academy of Sciences. He received PhD in history at the Institute of Oriental Studies in Moscow. His main research interests include culture of Pamir peoples, in particular their religion – Ismailism, pre-Islamic religious belief systems, cults, and customs; religious syncretism. In the core of T. Kalandarov research interests is the problem of Tajik labour migration to Russia, status and life conditions of Tajik migrants, which became one of the most essential issues of the last decades. Particularly Tokhir focuses on the problems of adaptation of Tajik labour migrants in other ethnic surroundings and their legal status. He studies difficulties that migrants face while finding the job, interacting with migration authorities, police and local population. He also pays significant attention to the activity of Tajik national and cultural unions, ethnic communities and fraternities in Russia.

Contact email: tohir_s70@mail.ru

Kutmanaliev Joldon, European University Institute, Italy

No biographical information received.

Contact email: Joldon.Kutmanaliev@eui.eu

Laczkowski Mateusz, Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Germany

No biographical information received.

Contact email: Laczkowski@eth.mpg.de

Lee Steven, University of California, Berkeley

Steven Lee is an assistant professor in the Department of English at UC Berkeley. His research interests include twentieth-century American literature, comparative ethnic studies, and Soviet and post-Soviet studies. He was among the inaugural group of Fulbright students to be sent to the Central Asian Republics, where he compared Soviet Korean and Korean American literatures and histories. He is currently completing a book manuscript on the interactions between American minority cultures and the Soviet avant-garde.

Contact email: stevenlee@berkeley.edu

McGuire Gabriel, Nazarbayev University, Kazakhstan

Gabriel McGuire is an Assistant Professor in the faculty of World Languages and Literatures at Nazarbayev University. He holds a BA in Anthropology from Whitman College (2002) and an MA (2007) and Ph.D. (2013) from the department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology at Indiana University. His dissertation described the revival of small-holder mobile pastoralism in rural post-Soviet Kazakhstan and the links between folk or rural cultures and the politics of national identity. His current research interests include the oral literatures of Central Asia, depictions of village life in 19th and early 20th century Kazakh literature, and language ideology in Soviet and post-Soviet Central Asia.

Contact email: gmcguire@nu.edu.kz

Morrison Alexander, Department of History, University of Liverpool, UK

Alexander Morrison is Lecturer in Imperial History at the University of Liverpool. From 2000 – 2007 he was a Prize Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford, where he wrote his doctorate on *Russian Rule in Samarkand 1868 – 1910. A Comparison with British India*. This was published under the same title by Oxford University Press in 2008. He is currently writing a history of the Russian Conquest of Central Asia.’

Contact email: A.S.Morrison@liverpool.ac.uk

Murtazashvili Jennifer, University of Pittsburgh, USA

Jennifer Murtazashvili is assistant professor at the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh. She received a PhD in political science and an M.A. in agricultural and applied economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She has conducted several large-scale research projects in Central Asia: fieldwork exploring the relationship between customary authority and the state in rural Afghanistan and survey experiments on electoral reform in Afghanistan. She is currently conducting an impact evaluation using quasi-experimental methods on local governance in Tajikistan. Prior to graduate school she lived in Uzbekistan for five years as a Peace Corps Volunteer and a democracy and governance officer for USAID.

Contact email: jmurtaz@pitt.edu

Penkala-Gawęcka Danuta, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland

Danuta Penkala-Gawęcka is Associate Professor at the Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology of Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Poland. She received her Ph.D. and doctor habil. degrees in ethnology and cultural anthropology from Adam Mickiewicz University. She conducted fieldwork in Afghanistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan on medical pluralism, biomedicine and

complementary/alternative medicines, health-seeking strategies, and connections between healing and religion.

Contact email: danagaw@amu.edu.pl

Sana Khan Khurshid, Gender Consultant at the Ministry of Women Affairs, Afghanistan

Dr Khurshid Sana Khan is a gender consultant and an educationist currently supervising 4 National Priority Projects (NPPs) for the Ministry of Women Affairs (the Government of Afghanistan), Kabul and UN Women, Afghanistan. Recently, she has come back from Kabul to continue the consultancy work from London. Her educational background includes an MSc degree (Karachi University, Pakistan), an MBA degree (Adamson University, Manila), an MPhil degree (Cambridge University, UK) and a PhD degree (Edinburgh University, UK). Her PhD thesis entitled ‘Secondary School Choice of the Ismailis from Gilgit Baltistan (GB) in Karachi’ looked at the familial and community ties of the internally migrant Gilgit-Baltistan Ismailis located in their residential areas called colonies, place of worship *Jamat Khana* and other places of socialization to understand their community life as a religious and ethnic minority and to investigate their participation in the surrounding education markets in Karachi. She is presenting a paper entitled ‘Authority, Migration and Education: The Case of the Gilgit-Baltistan Ismailis in Karachi (Pakistan) which draws upon her PhD research and other studies that she has conducted on the Ismailis living in Gilgit-Baltistan area and in Karachi.

Contact email: khurshidinengland@yahoo.com

Schoeberlein John, Nazarbayev University, Astana

John Schoeberlein serves as director of Eurasian Regional Studies at Nazarbayev University and teaches in the anthropology program at the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. Since September 2011, he has been Visiting Professor at the Gumilyov Eurasian National University,

teaching in the departments of Philosophy and Sociology. He is a social anthropologist with nearly three decades of experience researching Central Asia, the Caucasus, and Muslim societies of Eurasia generally.

Prior to coming to Nazarbayev University in 2012, he established and directed the Program on Central Asia and the Caucasus at Harvard University (Cambridge, USA) for nearly two decades. He received his Ph.D. in Social Anthropology from Harvard University in 1994.

He played the leading role in establishing the Central Eurasian Studies Society, holding the position of the first President from 2000 to 2003, and continuing to lead the organization through 2007. He has been involved in a number of initiatives aimed at development of social science and cultural studies scholarship on Central Asia and the former Soviet Union. These include leadership of the Central Asia and Caucasus Research and Training Initiative (CARTI) of the Open Society Foundations, and projects aimed at developing the study of anthropology, religion and particularly Islam among university faculty-level researchers in Eurasia.

Contact email: johnschoeberlein@gmail.com

Toktogulova Mukaram, AUCA, Kyrgyzstan

Toktogulova Mukaram is an Associate Professor of Anthropology Department of American University of Central Asia. She received her Kandidat Nauk degree in Philology at National Academy of Science of Kyrgyz Republic. In her current research she investigates the localization of Transnational Tablighi Jamaat Network in Kyrgyzstan and explores how mobile tablighi preachers (*davatchy*) create “alternate globalities” adapting “global” faith principles of TJ to local conditions and reinterpreting their meaning using historical, cultural and linguistic sources of the local culture.

Contact email: mucaramt@yahoo.com

Tulebaeva Baktygul, University of Tübingen, Germany

Baktygul Tulebaeva is a current PhD student of Social and Cultural Anthropology at the University of Tübingen, Germany. She earned her MSc in Social Anthropology at the University of Edinburgh, UK (2009), and her BA in Cultural Anthropology and Archaeology at the American University of Central Asia, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (2005). Her research interests are on childhood and child health, medical anthropology, development anthropology, rural development, traditional knowledge in health improvement, and educational reforms in Kyrgyzstan.

Contact email: tulebaevab@gmail.com