

The 10th Annual Life in Kyrgyzstan Conference 2024

Organizers: University of Central Asia (UCA), Kyrgyz Republic
The Leibniz Institute of Vegetable and Ornamental Crops (IGZ), Germany
International Security and Development Center (ISDC), Germany

Partners: ACTED, AUCA, World Bank, UNFPA

Venue: Orion Hotel, Bishkek and Online on Day 1

Date: October 09-11, 2024

PROGRAM

DAY 1: Wednesday, October 9, 2024

Bishkek time, GMT+6

18:00-19:30 PARALLEL ONLINE SESSIONS

SESSION 1.1

Environmental Change in Central Asia

Room

[Click to join Zoom](#)

Moderator:

Irène Mestre, Geography, French Institute of Research in Central Asia and AgroParisTech

Alina Bychkova, Nottingham Trent University

Climate change narratives in Central Asia: vulnerability concerns and Soviet heritage

Yumi Toboé, Sorbonne Université

«Understand me... we are businessmen»: plastics processing companies in the recycling sector in Bishkek

Asel Murzakulova, UCA; Irène Mestre, Geography, French Institute of Research in Central Asia and AgroParisTech

Environmental change, agriculture and migration in Tajikistan: a systematic critical literature review

Anastasia Protassov, Université de Lille

Environmental peacebuilding in the Fergana valley: a comparative study of development approaches

SESSION 1.2

Food Security, Self-Sufficiency, and Agri-Economic Development in Central Asia: Insights from Case Studies

Room

[Click to join Zoom](#)

Moderator:

Damir Esenaliev, IGZ/ISDC

Kanat Tilekeyev, UCA

Food self-sufficiency study in Central Asia and the Caucasus: the cases of Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan

Salima Bekbolotova, IAMO

Food (in)security dynamics in Kyrgyzstan, 2013-2022

Emil Begimkulov, Promotionskolleg NRW

Do SME food processors in Central Asia with certification perform better than those without certification? Case study

Md Sofiullah, Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences

Socio-economic assessment of existing forest and agroforestry production systems for walnut and apricot production in Kyrgyzstan

SESSION 1.3

Evolving Identities and Power Dynamics in Post-Soviet Kyrgyzstan: From Digital Activism to Decolonial Thought

Room [Click to join Zoom](#)
Moderator: **Bakhytzhan Kurmanov**, UCA
Elvira Isaeva, Ministry of Economy and Commerce KR, Ritsumeikan University
Leader and peer influence: unraveling the impact of ethical and unethical behaviors on civil servants' motivation in the KR
Philipp Zimmermann, Freie Universität Berlin
Decolonization in Kyrgyzstan
Bakhytzhan Kurmanov, UCA
Digital activism and authoritarian legitimation in post-Soviet Central Asia

DAY 2: Thursday, October 10, 2024

Bishkek time, GMT+6; [click the room name to join online](#)

08:00-08:50 **Registration of Participants**

09:00-09:20 **OPENING REMARKS** [KARKYRA](#)

Christopher Gerry, Rector, UCA
Timothy O'Connor, President, AUCA
Hugh Riddell, Country Manager, World Bank
Baktybek Kainazarov, Head of Office, UNFPA
Ari Weiss, ACTED, Impact Initiative Country Coordinator
Tilman Brück, Professor, Humboldt University, IGZ, ISDC

09:20-10:00 **SESSION 2.0** **15 years of the Life in Kyrgyzstan Study: Academic and Educational Impacts**

Room [KARKYRA](#)
Moderator: **Tilman Brück**, Professor, Humboldt University, IGZ, ISDC
Damir Esenaliev, IGZ/ISDC
Life in Kyrgyzstan study: academic and educational impacts in 15 years
Anwar Naseem, UCA
LiK dashboard: making the data accessible

10:00-10:40 **PLENARY SESSION**

Moderator: **Christopher Gerry**, UCA
Tchoro Seyitov, First Deputy Ministry of Economy and Commerce of KR
Kyrgyzstan's Development Strategy till 2030

10:40-10:50 **Group Photo**

10:50-11:20 *Coffee Break*

11:20-12:30 **PARALLEL SESSIONS**

SESSION 2.1 **World Bank's Session: Findings from the Recent Research on Kyrgyzstan**

Room [KARKYRA](#)
Moderator: **Aibek Ashirov**, World Bank
Elizaveta Perova, World Bank
Subnational poverty assessment: towards understanding regional development dynamics in the Kyrgyz Republic
Aibek Ashirov, World Bank
Listening to the Kyrgyz Republic findings
Gohar Gyulumyan, World Bank

PARALLEL SESSIONS

SESSION 2.2 **Crafting Resilience, Weaving Communities: Arts, Traditional Crafts, Entrepreneurship and Activism through Women's Stories**

Room [BOSOGO](#)

Moderator: **Anisa Sabiri**, London Film School

Altyn Kapalova, UCA

Woman, life, freedom: the role of art in the struggle for human rights in Central Asia

Elena Kolesova, UCA

Crafting resilience: women-entrepreneurs, aesthetics, and traditional creative practices in Kyrgyzstan.

Bermet Borubaeva

Resilient city: building urban environment defense women communities in Kyrgyzstan

SESSION 2.3 **Health and Societal Impacts in Central Asia: Progress, Challenges, and Policy Insights**

Room [AKSAY](#)

Moderator: **Elina Sakkaravaeva**, "Digital CASA-KR" project

Saule Chalbasova, UCA

Health and the health-related SDGs: progress, problems and prospects for Kyrgyzstan

Buho Hoshino, Rakuno Gakuen University

The impact of COVID-19 on Mongolian nomadic society

Kadyrbek Sultakeev, AUCA

Impact of excise tax on cigarette consumption: evidence from panel data in Kyrgyzstan

12:30-13:30

Lunch

13:30-15:00

PARALLEL SESSIONS

SESSION 2.4 **Sustainable and Healthy Urban Living in Bishkek: The Power of Nature-Based Solutions to Improve Air Quality and Wellbeing**

Room [AKSAY](#)

Moderator: **Ekaterina Perfilyeva**, UNEP

Andrey Podrezov, Researcher at the Central Asian Institute for Geosciences, PhD in Geographical Sciences, Associate Professor

Review: nature-based solutions and their potential to address the air pollution challenge in Bishkek

Jeremie Berlioux, Kyrgyz Association for Conservation of Biodiversity

Bioindicators for assessing Bishkek's ecosystem health, resilience, and human wellbeing

Taalaibek Talantbek uulu, IOM

Enhancing migrants' awareness on air pollution and moving towards a "healthy city vision" in Bishkek

Azat Muradylov, Public Fund "MoveGreen"

Green facades and roofs as climate change adaptation measure in Kyrgyzstan

SESSION 2.5 **UNFPA's Session: Demography and Population Dynamics**

Room [KARKYRA](#)

Moderator: **Asel Turgunova**, UNFPA

Gulhumar Abdullaeva, Rimma Chynybaeva, National Statistics Committee
Analytical book based on the results of the census 2022

Albina Ainidinova, Daniyar Adylbekov, Academy of Public Administration
Left-behind children of labor migrants: problems and state response

Maksat Alibayev, Aliya Tashirova, Academy of Public Administration
NEET youth in Kyrgyzstan

Zhanar Konys, ECARES and CRED
A study of son preference in Kyrgyzstan: Insights from historical and contemporary data

SESSION 2.6 **Session by Mercy Corps and WFP: Findings and Lessons from School Feeding Programs in Kyrgyzstan**

Room **[BOSOGO](#)**

Moderator: **Zalkar Kamalov**, Mercy Corps

Adzhar Doolotova, Mercy Corp; Rakiia Abdurasulova, WFP
Sustainability of school meals programme in the KR

Rakiia Abdurasulova, WFP
Systems approach for better education results (SABER) study

Izzat Kurmangaliyev, Mercy Corps
Value for Money of School Feeding program in Kyrgyzstan

Aizhan Erisheva, WFP
Assessing the existing nutritional gaps of school children and the role of school feeding in addressing these issues

15:00-15:30 *Coffee Break*

15:30-16:40 **PARALLEL SESSIONS**

SESSION 2.7 **Climate Change and Agricultural Adaptation: Insights from Central Asia's Experience and Data**

Room **[KARKYRA](#)**

Moderator: **Kanat Tilekeyev**, UCA

Nurbek Madmarov, AUCA
The impact of climate change on agricultural development in the Central Asian countries: evidence from panel data analysis

Begaiym Emileva, IAMO (online)
The role of smartphone-based weather information acquisition on climate change perception accuracy: cross country evidence from Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia and Uzbekistan

Kadyrbek Sultakeev, AUCA
Climate change, multiple shocks and household adaptation strategies in Kyrgyzstan

SESSION 2.8 **Transformational Roles of Women in Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Mongolia**

Room **[AKSAY](#)**

Moderator: **Troy Steinberg**, Oxford University

Troy Steinberg, Oxford University
Women in herding societies: directions from Mongolia

Zalina Enikeeva, UCA
Women in independent Kyrgyzstan: from the shuttle trade to digital era

Chieko Hirota, Japan Society for the Promotion of Science

Gender norms and pattern creation in Kazakh society

SESSION 2.9 Author-Critic Forum **Translocality, entrepreneurship, and middle class across Eurasia: Kyrgyzstan's 'first capitalists' since the late Soviet era.'**

Room [BOSOGO](#)

Chair and discussant **Prof Tilman Brueck**, Humboldt University of Berlin, IGZ, ISDC

Discussants

Dr Damir Esenaliev, IGZ/ISDC, **Dr Asel Murzakulova**, UCA

Author

Philipp Shroeder, Nazarbayev University / ISDC

16:40-17:50 **PLENARY SESSION**

Room [KARKYRA](#)

Moderator: **Kanat Tilekeyev**, UCA

Keynote Speech by Prof Martin Petrick, Justus Liebig University Giessen

The Economics of Livestock in Central Asia

18:00-21:00 *Reception at Orion Hotel*

DAY 3: Friday, October 11, 2024

Bishkek time, GMT+6; [click the room name to join online](#)

08:00-08:50 **Registration**

09:00-10:30 **PARALLEL SESSIONS**

SESSION 3.1 **Economic Dynamics and Social Impact in Kyrgyzstan: Trade, Migration, and Policy Perspectives**

Room [KARKYRA](#)

Moderator: **Damir Esenaliev**, IGZ/ISDC

Elvira Kurmanalieva, Independent Researcher

Does intra-industry trade provide conditions for economic growth in Kyrgyzstan

Bakytbek Tynaliev, Independent researcher

Analyzing the impact of tax policy on diverse population groups through a gender lens

Elena Kolesova, UCA

Alternative ways of reading the Russian invasion of Ukraine: narrating Naryn's economic migration to Russia

Yuanhang Wang, Texas A&M University (online)

Remittance, perception of security, and incidence of violence in Kyrgyzstan

SESSION 3.2 **Food Security, Diet Diversity and Gender in Rural Tajikistan**

Room [AKSAY](#)

Moderator: **Isabel Lambrecht**, IFPRI

Bekhzod Egamberdiev, IAMO

Household resilience and coping strategies to food insecurity: an empirical analysis from Tajikistan

Hiroyuki Takeshima, IFPRI (online)

Nutrition-sensitive agriculture diversification and dietary diversity: panel data evidence from Tajikistan

Tanzila Ergasheva, Tajik Academy of Agricultural Sciences; Mohru Mardonova, IFPRI
Eating from the same plate? Gender and intra-household differences in food consumption behavior from Khatlon province, Tajikistan

Sharanya Rajiv, IFPRI

Double burden or burdenless? The impact of men's migration on women's empowerment in rural Tajikistan

SESSION 3.3 **Capacity Building and Skills Acquisition for Academic Scholars in Central Asia: Experience from International Mentoring Program**

Room **[BOSOGO](#)**

Moderator: **Martin Petrick**, Justus Liebig University Giessen

Johanna Orellana, University of Cuenca, Ecuador

The international women in science mentoring program in Ecuador

Sarah Robinson, Justus Liebig University Giessen

A mentor's experience of the international women in science mentoring program (10min)

Meerim Nurbaeva, Association of International Scientists from Central Asia

Networking in science for a better future: the association of international scientists from Central Asia

Gulnara Dzhunushalieva, UCA

ORCID Community: KG Initiative

Experiences from the SDG nexus network mentorship program in Central Asia

Assemgul Bukutova, Leila Salimova, Olga Romanovich, Azamat Kaliev

Lessons learned from mentees' and mentors' experience (20min)

10:30-11:00 *Coffee Break*

11:00-12:30 **SESSION 3.4** **Livestock Production in Central Asia: from Pastures to Markets**

Room **[KARKYRA](#)**

Moderator: **Gulnara Dzhunushalieva**, UCA

Zhyrgalbek Kozhombardiev, Public Foundation CAMP Alattoo

The state of pastures in Kyrgyzstan under conditions of continuous growth in livestock numbers and climate change

Viktoriya Krylova, Kazakh-German University

Pasture resource management in Kazakhstan in the context of climate change

Sarah Robinson and Martin Petrick, Justus Liebig University Giessen

Land access and feeding strategies in a Kazakhstani rangeland system

Baimat Niiazaliev, UCA (online)

Determinants of milk market participation among small dairy farmers in Kyrgyzstan

SESSION 3.5 **Migration and Local Income Generation**

Room **[AKSAY](#)**

Moderator: **Anwar Naseem**, UCA

Isabel Lambrecht, IFPRI

Income aspirations and migration as an investment: evidence from rural Tajikistan

Hiroyuki Takeshima, IFPRI (online)

Does climate change encourage international labor migration? Evidence from rural Tajikistan

Jovidon Aliev, IFPRI (online)

Does migration drive or impede agricultural productivity? Panel data evidence from Khatlon province in Tajikistan

Safdar Jan, UCA (online)

Remittances and household consumption: evidence from the Life in Kyrgyzstan dataset

SESSION 3.6 **Climate Change and Natural Resources in Central Asia: From Glaciers to Community Solutions**

Room [BOSOGO](#)

Moderator: **Ari Weiss**, Impact Initiative

Nazgul Turdumatova, IMPACT Acted

Applied research on climate change impacts on natural resource management and community-based solutions in the Isfana watershed

Ryskul Usubaliev, Central Asian Institute for Applied Geosciences

Glacier dynamics and environmental change: monitoring glacial retreat in Kyrgyzstan

Bernard Musyck, UCA

Assessing snow cover dynamics in Central Asia: implications for winter tourism development

Ablay Dosmaganbetov, UCA

Decarbonization in Central Asia

12:30-13:30

Lunch

13:30-15:00

PARALLEL SESSIONS

SESSION 3.7 **Violence, Trafficking, Property and Health: Women Rights Issues in Central Asia**

Room [KARKYRA](#)

Moderator: **Aizharkyn Kozhobekova**, UCA

Nazgul Turdubekova, League of Children's Rights Defenders

Women's property rights in the Kyrgyz Republic

Medet Tiulegenov, UCA

Sexualized violence against women with disabilities in Central Asia

Cholponai Saparbekova, Women University EWHA

Countering exploitation: a study of digital approaches to combat human trafficking in the Kyrgyz Republic

Guzel Bekenova, Women University EWHA

Maternal mortality in Kyrgyzstan: exploring determinants in the context of the three delays model

SESSION 3.8 **Oral Histories of Twentieth-Century Kyrgyzstan: Methods, Stories, Possibilities**

Room [AKSAY](#)

Moderator: **Daniyar Karabaev**, AUCA

Altyn Kapalova, UCA

Voices beyond the textbooks: oral testimonies of the 1916 Kyrgyz uprising

Baktybek Isakov, Kyrgyz-Turkish Manas University

Echoes of the empire: preserving Kyrgyz elders' narratives in a changing landscape

Tuiumkan Nishanova; Rebekah Ramsay, UCA

Building on Sanzhyra stories, learning from intergenerational narratives

Aizhamal Biigazieva, UCA

Representation of women and women's stories in museum spaces

SESSION 3.9 Gender, Media, and Social Cohesion in Kyrgyzstan: Exploring the Role of Women, Media Narratives, and Conflict Dynamics

Room [BOSOGO](#)

Moderator: **Elnura Kazakbaeva**, Evidence Central Asia

Kanyshai Kasymova, Evidence Central Asia

Social Cohesion: narratives influencing social cohesion in various areas of Kyrgyzstan

Elnura Kazakbaeva, Evidence Central Asia

The role of women in the Kyrgyz Republic and enhancing women's roles at the community level

Sofiyan Ushirova, Evidence Central Asia

Media and conflict

Elnura Kazakbaeva, Evidence Central Asia

Violence against women in politics in Kyrgyzstan: the experience of women candidates in the 2021 local elections

15:00-15:30 *Coffee Break*

15:30-17:00 **PARALLEL SESSIONS**

SESSION 3.10 Gender and Livelihoods in Mountainous Central Asia

Room [KARKYRA](#)

Moderator: **Maksim Kulikov**, UCA

Roy Sidle, Arnaud Caiserman, UCA (online)

Multifaceted challenges facing women farmers in the Pamir: climate dynamics, natural hazards, and social inequities

Aslam Qadamov, UCA

Challenges and strategies for strengthening yak-based livelihoods in Murgab, Tajikistan

Maksim Kulikov, UCA

Climate Change and its Impact on Natural Resources and Rural Livelihoods: Gendered Perspectives from Naryn, Kyrgyzstan

Jannike Van Bruggen, Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences; Gulbara Omorova, Institute of Water Problems and Hydroenergy

Adaptive capacity of apricot farming communities in response to changing water availability in Kyrgyzstan

SESSION 3.11 Old problems, New Challenges: Exploring the Water Governance Research Agenda in Central Asia

Room [AKSAY](#)

Moderator: **Dr Aibek Samakov**, UCA

Iskandar Abdullaev, SNS Solutions Company; Martin Petrick, Justus Liebig University of Gießen

A new policy research agenda for water governance in Central Asia

Martin Petrick, Justus Liebig University of Gießen

Evolving institutions of sustainability: a dynamic model of historical water governance transformations in Central Asia

Asel Murzakulova, UCA

Current dynamics of Central Asian hydro-politics in the context of climate change

SESSION 3.12**Exploring Language, Culture, and Gender in Kyrgyz Media and Literature**

Room

[BOSOGO](#)

Moderator:

Mukaram Toktogulova**Asel Murzakulova**, Eleri Bitekchi, Mukaram Toktogulova, Gulzada Stanalievva*Research report on the challenges and opportunities for developing the Kyrgyz language ecosystem in media***Akylay Baimatova**, Academy of Sciences of the Kyrgyz Republic*Problems of the translation of works of epic poetry***Akira Matsumoto**, Hokkaido University*What is suggested women image? An analysis of female representation in Kyrgyz films in 1960s and post-Soviet era*