

WELCOME

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I welcome you to the Third Annual Life in Kyrgyzstan Conference in Bishkek! I look forward to engage with you for two days on a large variety of important themes concerning how people work and live in Kyrgyzstan. The many presentations at the conference deal with important topics for Central Asia, like migration, agriculture, rural development, jobs, entrepreneurship, trade, gender and family issues, education, health, and social cohesion, to name a few.



Many of the presenters will make use of a unique source of information about developments in Kyrgyzstan, namely the Life in Kyrgyzstan Study. This project has tracked the behaviour and well-being of over 8,000 Kyrgyz people since 2010. It is an academic study but it has many benefits for Kyrgyz society, to help design better policies and to draw attention to the needs of ordinary Kyrgyz people from across the country. Policy makers, civil servants, NGOs and donors need to know what is happening in families across the country to be able to design and deliver effective assistance to support growth and well-being. With the Life in Kyrgyzstan Study, the Kyrgyz Republic has a comprehensive monitoring system to track progress for achieving the SDGs

It has been a pleasure to lead this important project for so many years now. I am grateful to my many Kyrgyz colleagues, first and foremost Dr Roman Mogilevskii at the University of Central Asia and Dr Damir Esenaliev, for the fruitful collaboration. I appreciate the generosity of the many Kyrgyz citizens who regularly answer our many exhaustive questions. And I look forward to continue the Life in Kyrgyzstan Study into the future.

If you enjoy this conference, please consider participating next year as well. The conference is a platform for discussions on human development in Kyrgyzstan and we welcome presentations and sessions organised by researchers or practitioners. You may also note the date of the Fourth Annual Life in Kyrgyzstan Conference, which will take place on 17 and 18 October 2018 in Bishkek.

Thank you and enjoy the discussions!

Professor Tilman Brück

Principal Investigator
Life in Kyrgyzstan Study

Wi-Fi Network: **Ballroom** ; Password: **56639315**
Webpage: http://lifeinkyrgyzstan.org/?page_id=148
For Conference related Twitter posts, please use **#LIKconf2017**.

ORGANIZERS OF THE CONFERENCE



**STOCKHOLM INTERNATIONAL
PEACE RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) is an independent international institute dedicated to research into conflict, armaments, arms control and disarmament. SIPRI provides data, analysis and recommendations, based on open sources, to policymakers, researchers, media and the public.



Institute of Public Policy and Administration at the University of Central Asia (IPPA UCA) provides in-depth analysis on current and emerging policy issues facing the region, and improves the analytical capacity of governments and civil society to use evidence in decision-making processes through professional development.



ISDC - International Security and Development Center provides evidence-based analysis and policy advice on the interactions of security, conflict, violence and fragility with socio-economic development, growth, employment and poverty alleviation.



International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) is an international agricultural research center with aim to improve the understanding of national agricultural and food policies to promote the adoption of innovations in agriculture. Additionally, IFPRI aims to shed more light on the role of agricultural and rural development in the broader development pathway of a country.



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is an agency of the United Nations. Achieving food security for all is at the heart of FAO's efforts. The three main goals are: the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition; the elimination of poverty and the driving forward of economic and social progress for all; and, the sustainable management and utilization of natural resources.



IGZ - Leibniz Institute of Vegetable and Ornamental Crops carries out research supporting the sustainable production of vegetable and ornamental plants and the rational use of natural resources. It contributes to the success of horticulture in various countries, understanding fundamentals of horticultural and plant science, sustainability in production and use of plants, healthy nutrition and wellbeing of the population.

The Life in Kyrgyzstan Study is a research-based, open access, multi-topic longitudinal survey of households and individuals in Kyrgyzstan. It tracks the same 3,000 households and 8,000 individuals over time in all seven Kyrgyz regions (oblasts) and the two cities of Bishkek and Osh. The surveyed households operate 1500 micro enterprises. The data are representative nationally and at the regional level (East, West, North, South).

The survey interviews all adult household members about household demographics, assets, expenditure, migration, employment, agricultural markets, shocks, social networks, subjective well-being, and many other topics. Some of these topics are addressed in each wave while other topics are only addressed in selected waves. The survey was first conducted in the fall of 2010 and has been repeated four times in 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2016, respectively. All members of the households in 2010 were tracked in each wave and new household members were added to the survey and tracked thereafter.

The 'Life in Kyrgyzstan' Study was established at the German Institute for Economic Research (DIW Berlin) by Professor Tilman Brück as a project funded by the German Volkswagen Foundation from 2010 till 2012. The project included several institutions in Central Asia and Europe with DIW Berlin as the consortium leader. The Life in Kyrgyzstan survey for 2013 was funded by DFID GLM-LIC programme as a part of the Gender and Employment Project. In 2016 the 5th wave of the survey was funded by the consortium of partners including FAO, UCA, IGZ, and IFPRI.

The 'Life in Kyrgyzstan' survey data is publically available. The data can be used by any interested party for non-for-profit research, policy analysis and teaching purposes. The survey questionnaires and interviewer manuals can be downloaded on the project website at www.lifeinkyrgyzstan.org. The data for 2010-2013 can be obtained from the International Data Service Center (IDSC) of the Institute for Labor Economics (<http://idsc.iza.org/lik>).

The last wave, conducted in 2016, has a focus on agriculture. Several new modules – such as social cohesion, aspirations, fragility, and mental health – were added to reflect the multi-topical nature of the survey. The data is planned to be released for public use around Fall 2018.

PROGRAMME

12 October 2017

- 08:30 - 09:00 Registration
- 09:00 – 09:30 Welcome Remarks (**Ball Room**)
- 09:30 - 10:30 Plenary Session 1. Keynote Speech by Prof Tilman Brück (**Ball Room**)
- 10:30 - 11:00 *Coffee Break*
- 11:00 - 12:30 **Parallel sessions**
- Session A. Social Cohesion Research and Programming in Kyrgyzstan (**Ball Room**)
- Session B. Climate Change and Livestock Sector in Kyrgyzstan (**Signature Room**)
- 12:30 – 13:30 *Lunch*
- 13:30 - 15:00 **Parallel sessions**
- Session C. Export Markets and Integration Processes (**Ball Room**)
- Session D. Analyzing and Enhancing the Capacity of Central Asian Mountain Societies to cope with Environmental and Policy Changes (**Signature Room**)
- 15:00-15:30 *Coffee Break*
- 15:30 - 17:00 **Parallel sessions**
- Session E. Household Welfare in Central Asia (**Ball Room**)
- Session F. Pursuing Happiness: Aspirations, Expectations, Reality (**Signature Room**)
- 17:30 – 21:00 *Reception at Park Hotel*

13 October 2017

- 08:30-09:00 Registration
- 09:00 - 10:00 Plenary Session 2. Keynote Speech by Prof Charles Becker (**Ball Room**)
- 10:00 - 10:30 *Coffee Break*
- 10:30 - 12:00 **Parallel sessions**
- Session G. Bride kidnapping and intra-household relations (**Ball Room**)
- Session H. Trends in and Policies for Technological Innovation in Central Asia (**Signature Room**)
- 12:00-13:00 *Lunch*
- 13:00 - 14:30 **Parallel sessions**
- Session I. Policy, evidence, and implementation: regional and local perspectives (**Ball Room**)
- Session J. Migration, shocks, technology (**Signature Room**)
- 14:30 – 15:00 *Coffee Break*
- 15:00 - 16:30 **Parallel sessions**
- Session K. Gender and health (**Ball Room**)
- Session L. Employment in Central Asia (**Signature Room**)
- 16:30 – 17:00 **Closing Session**

PLENARY SESSION 1.

Keynote Speech by Prof. Dr Tilman Brück

The Times They Are a-Changin': The Long-Term Dynamics of Livelihoods and Institutions in Kyrgyzstan

12 October 2017, 09:30 - 10:30 (Ball Room)

In this keynote speech by Prof Dr Tilman Brück summarizes the recent social and economic developments happened in Kyrgyzstan in recent years. The speech summarizes transition processes, and is based on research and data, including information from the Life in Kyrgyzstan Study for years 2010-2013, and 2016.

Moderator

Bohdan Krawchenko, Director General, University of Central Asia

SESSION A. SOCIAL COHESION RESEARCH AND PROGRAMMING IN KYRGYZSTAN

12 October 2017, 11:00 - 12:30 (Ball Room)

Social cohesion has emerged over the last two decades as an important concept of development in both academic and policy discourses. However, there is a great deal of divergence regarding the definition and measurement of social cohesion. This session presents the recent findings of the research and practice in social cohesion in Kyrgyzstan. First, the session launches the national social cohesion index for Kyrgyzstan with the discussion of its methodology, results, and applications. This product was motivated by the ongoing project, which looks at how community driven development (CDD) can foster social cohesion. The second and third presentations feature how the qualitative research can bring more insights and what innovations were made to make the CDD model more targeted to foster social cohesion.

Moderator

Tilman Brück (ISDC and IGZ)

Participants

Damir Esenaliev (SIPRI), Gulzhan Asylbek kyzy (SIPRI), Aida Bolotbekova (UCA)
National Social Cohesion Index for Kyrgyzstan: Importance, Methodology, Results, and Implications.

Bakytbek Tokubek uulu (UCA), Philipp Schroeder (Freiburg University)
Qualitative approaches in researching social cohesion

Rakhat Ismanbaeva (Aga Khan Foundation Kyrgyzstan)
In pursuit of enhancing social cohesion: innovations in implementation

SESSION B. CLIMATE CHANGE AND LIVESTOCK SECTOR IN KYRGYZSTAN

12 October 2017, 11:00 - 12:30 (Signature Room)

The session focuses on challenges faced by the livestock sector with regard to climate change in Kyrgyzstan. Three papers looking at the sector's ability to enhance food security while minimizing the detrimental effects of livestock production on climate change will be presented in the session. The first talk focuses on the impact of weather shocks and explores the household's coping mechanisms, while the second work discusses the use of biophysical models to improve livestock strategies in the context of Climate Smart Agriculture. The third work focuses on the sheep value chain in Kyrgyzstan and discusses improvements that could be beneficial for meat production and export enhancement in the presence of climate change.

Moderator

Kamiljon Akramov (IFPRI)

Participants

Nicholas Sitko (FAO)

Enhancing livestock herders' welfare in the context of climate change: An analysis of the 2012 harsh winter in Kyrgyzstan

Felix Teillard, Alessandra Falcucci (both FAO)

The role of livestock in adapting to climate change, reducing GHG emissions and supporting food security in Kyrgyzstan

Roman Mogilevskii (UCA)

Development of Sheep Meat Production in Kyrgyzstan and the Effects of Climate Change

SESSION C. EXPORT MARKETS AND INTEGRATION PROCESSES

12 October 2017, 13:30 - 15:00 (Ball Room)

Integration into world markets has been an important element of development strategies in the countries of Central Asia. This session discusses the integration processes at product, country, and regional levels. A case of kidney beans production and export in Kyrgyzstan is a wonder story not only because of distributional effects, but also because of remarkably well-performing market in near-perfect competing conditions and absence of government regulation. The second paper identifies determinants of export participation of small-scale farmers and quantifies welfare effects from export activity using the first four waves of the Life in Kyrgyzstan survey. Lastly, China's One Belt One Road initiative presents multi-faceted avenues for development and export potential in Central Asia.

Moderator

Nicholas Sitko (FAO)

Participants

Kanat Tilekeyev, **Roman Mogilevskii**, Nazgul Abdrazakova, Shoola Djumaeva (all UCA)

Bean Value Chain and Export Capacity in the Kyrgyz Republic

Isabel Teichmann (DIW Berlin), Damir Esenaliev (SIPRI)

Determinants and Welfare Effects of Smallholder Export Participation in Kyrgyzstan

Zalina Enikeeva (UCA)

EAEU and Silk Road Economic Belt: is it really a "win-win" cooperation? The case of Central Asia

**SESSION D. ANALYZING AND ENHANCING THE CAPACITY OF
CENTRAL ASIAN MOUNTAIN SOCIETIES TO COPE WITH
ENVIRONMENTAL AND POLICY CHANGES**

12 October 2017, 13:30 - 15:00 (Signature Room)

People living in mountains face natural and economic challenges such as resource scarcity, environmental hazards and degradation as well as far distances to services and markets. In the case of Central Asia, these challenges are augmented by the extreme conditions of Central Asian mountain environments and by a history of socioeconomic and political transformations. Vulnerability of mountain societies - which has its roots in the transformations of the past and present - may in future be further accentuated by the impacts of climate change. Research carried out by the Mountain Societies Research Institute of the University of Central Asia is aimed at understanding how mountain societies cope with these challenges and at supporting them in their endeavors. In this session, we present research on the challenges of water management in border locations and in a context of institutional change, and on climate vulnerability and adaptive capacity of mountain societies in Central Asia.

Moderator

Irina Lukashova (Kyrgyz Russian Slavic University)

Participants

Altyn Kapalova (UCA), presented by Lira Sagynbekova (UCA)

Water resources management in Kyrgyz mountain communities: informal institutions and the role of women

Asel Murzakulova (UCA)

From Kolhoz to farmer: contemporary challenges for water management in border communities

Stefanos Xenarios, Sujata Manandhar, Dietrich Schmidt-Vogt (UCA)

Climate vulnerability and adaptive capacity of mountain societies in Central Asia

SESSION E. HOUSEHOLD WELFARE IN CENTRAL ASIA

12 October 2017, 15:30 - 17:00 (Ball Room)

The Central Asian region has seen a great progress in reduction of material poverty, with poorest countries in the region – Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan – moving into the ranks of middle-income economies. This session looks at the developments in distributional welfare outcomes in recent years. The first paper estimates food demand in Kyrgyzstan using micro-level data. Connected to this is a second work that looks at nutritional outcomes in poorest part of population in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. The third paper looks at evolution and main characteristics of poverty mobility in Kyrgyzstan.

Moderator

Damir Esenaliev (SIPRI)

Participants

Burulcha Sulaimanova, Zhunus Ganiev, Damira Baigonushova, Razia Abdieva (all Kyrgyz Turkish Manas University)
Food Demand in Kyrgyzstan

Irina Lukashova, Nikolai Mokrousov (both Kyrgyz Russian Slavic University)
Comparative Analysis of Nutrition Indicators Dynamics in Lower Decile Groups of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Tajikistan

Saida Ismailakhunova (World Bank), Aliya Ismailakhunova (National Academy of Science, Kyrgyzstan)
Poverty, Equity and Mobility in the Kyrgyz Republic: Assessing Trends, Drivers and Challenges

SESSION F. PURSUING HAPPINESS: ASPIRATIONS, EXPECTATIONS, REALITY

12 October 2017, 15:30 – 17:00 (Signature Room)

Countries in Central Asia have undergone tremendous economic, social and political transformations over the past 25 years. Although many of these changes created new opportunities, they also led to new challenges, uncertainties and vulnerabilities. This session reflects on aspirations and expectations of individuals in the region and how these relate to life satisfaction and investments in human capital.

Moderator

Susan Steiner (University of Hannover)

Participants

Kamijon Akramov, Brian Holtemeyer, **Katrina Kosec** (IFPRI), and Kanat Tilekeyev (UCA)

Aspirations, Attitudes, and Investments: Evidence from Kyrgyzstan

Franziska Gassmann, Jennifer Waidler (both Maastricht University)

For Better or Worse: Aspirations and Expectations of Central Asia's Youth

Jennifer Waidler, Franziska Gassmann, Melissa Siegel (all Maastricht University)

In pursuit of happiness: do social assistance and remittances improve subjective well-being?

PLENARY SESSION 2

Keynote Speech by Prof Charles Becker, Duke University

Bride Abduction and Modeling Inter Generational Incentives

13 October 2017, 09:00 - 10:00 (Ball Room)

Kyrgyzstan is a sophisticated country, which nonetheless has major social problems. Some of these have received little attention, but thanks to surveys like Life in Kyrgyzstan Survey it is possible to gain new insights into these issues. This in turn may lead to improved policies that enhance welfare of previously unempowered groups. This lecture focuses on issues in household economics - especially the weak position of many young married women - and on rising wealth inequality due to extraordinary gains in housing wealth by a small segment of the population.

Moderator

Franziska Gassmann (Maastricht University)

SESSION G. BRIDE KIDNAPPING AND INTRA-HOUSEHOLD RELATIONS

13 October 2017, 10:30 - 12:00 (Ball Room)

Strong empirical evidence exists that bride abduction practice is not simply elopement, ritualized courting, or an effort to reduce costly social obligations related to wedding ceremonies. Yet, while abduction is not common at the very top of society, it is also not relegated to those at the bottom of the social pyramid. This fact begs the question as to why kidnapping is socially tolerated. The session also discusses the gender socialization throughout the life course and a decreasing productivity of older women in relation to housework.

Moderator

Altyn Kapalova (UCA)

Participants

Susan Steiner (Hannover University), **Charles Becker** (Duke University)

Bride Kidnapping and Psychological Stress

Charles Becker (Duke University), **Joshua Jacobs** (Duke University), **Susan Steiner** (Hannover University)

Bride Abduction in Kyrgyzstan: Social Rationale and Personal Consequences

Kamila Kolpashnikova (American University Central Asia)

Life Course in Kyrgyzstan: Older Women Do Less Housework

SESSION H. TRENDS IN AND POLICIES FOR TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION IN CENTRAL ASIA

13 October 2017, 10:30 - 12:00 (Signature Room)

With the rapid and sweeping changes brought about by the Digital Revolution, Afghanistan and other Central Asian countries are facing a novel set of development challenges, including the acute need for technological modernization of their outdated or underdeveloped economic infrastructure, for building adequate human capital, and for adopting cutting-edge innovative business models. This session takes stock of the technological development of these countries and proposes measures for intensifying and deepening this process. Specifically, the paper argues that information and communication technologies present Central Asia with a unique opportunity to overcome its geographic isolation and remoteness, and to leapfrog over its dependence on extractive and natural resource industries towards a new knowledge-based, human-centered socio-economic formation.

Moderator

Roman Mogilevskii (UCA)

Presentations

Roman Mogilevskii (UCA)

Labor Market Trends and Policies

Nazgul Zhenish (UCA)

Technological Development and Innovations: Trends and Policies

Parviz Khakimov (IFPRI)

Climate Change Adaptation Trends and Policies

SESSION I. POLICY, EVIDENCE, AND IMPLEMENTATION: REGIONAL AND LOCAL PERSPECTIVES

13 October 2017, 13:00 - 14:30 (Ball Room)

This session is devoted to learning what is the state of evidence-informed policy-making at regional, national, and local levels. Partly representing the research carried out by the Mountain Societies Research Institute of the University of Central Asia, this session discusses 1) initiatives to support mountain communities in acquiring data and knowledge for better agricultural decisions; 2) evidence-based policy making and performance evaluation in Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan; and 3) ways to influence local policies, including economically beneficial and sustainable ways of managing natural resources.

Moderator

Asel Murzakulova (UCA)

Participants

Azamat Azarov, **Aline Rosset** (both UCA)

Merging Social-Ecological Research, Development Studies and Citizen Science in Central Asia

Oleksandr Kiliievych (National Academy of Public Administration under the President of Ukraine)

Evidence-based Policy Making and Performance Evaluation: a Comparative Case of Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan

Nazik Imanbekova (UCA)

Empowering Local Communities in the Kyrgyz Mining Sector: the Case of Talas

SESSION J. MIGRATION, SHOCKS, TECHNOLOGY

13 October 2017, 13:00 - 14:30 (Signature Room)

Shocks and income fluctuations are ubiquitous in the developing world, and poor households are usually underinsured against them. When adverse shocks strike, migration as a coping strategy of households is a common choice. How do income shocks affect the employment and migration decisions of agriculture-dependent households? What happens when natural shocks alter the usual life patterns, structures and choices? This session presents two papers researching migration effects of income and natural shocks in Kyrgyzstan using, correspondingly, the Kyrgyz Integrated Household Survey and the Life in Kyrgyzstan Survey. The third paper looks at the use of cell phones by migrants as modern communication technologies and Internet are changing the ways they communicate and remit their income.

Moderator

Damir Esenaliev (SIPRI)

Participants

Brian Holtemeyer, **Katrina Kosec** (both IFPRI)

Migration Responses to Household Income Shocks

Eugenia Chernina (Higher School of Economics, Moscow)

Household's Migration Decision as a Response to Natural Shocks

Vanessa Ruget (Salem State University), **Burul Usmanalieva** (independent researcher)

Mobile Phone Use among Kyrgyzstani Migrants in Russia

SESSION K. GENDER AND HEALTH

13 October 2017, 15:00 - 16:00 (Ball Room)

Large scale reforms and mass livelihood strategies aimed at bringing about economic benefits and welfare improvement, do not come without costs. The land reform conducted in Kyrgyzstan in mid-1990s and labour migration are the examples of such large changes that are believed to result in positive welfare effects, though social and other costs including health outcomes are considered to be significant as well. This session looks at health outcomes as a result of migration and land reform in Kyrgyzstan. The first paper looks at health of women in households where male members migrated, while the second paper presents child health outcomes after the land reform.

Moderator

Kamalbek Karymshakov (Kyrgyz Turkish Manas University)

Participants

Erkina Esenalieva (University of Eichstaett-Ingolstadt)

Male Labour Migration and Health and Socio-Economic Well-Being of Women Left Behind: the Case of Kyrgyz Republic

Katrina Kosec (IFPRI), **Olga Shemyakina** (Georgia Institute of Technology)

Land Reform and Child Health in Kyrgyzstan

SESSION L. EMPLOYMENT IN CENTRAL ASIA

13 October 2017, 15:00 - 16:30 (Signature Room)

Employment generation is a vital part of economic policy in practically any country. This session looks at the effects of migration on entrepreneurship and the education-job mismatch of young workers in job markets in Kyrgyzstan. The first paper emphasizes the role of migrants in the development of their origin country through entrepreneurship; the second paper argues that a mismatch between educational qualification and jobs may have negative effect on employment outcomes.

Moderator

Saida Ismailakhunova (World Bank)

Participants

Tilman Brück (ISDC and IGZ), **Clotilde Mahe** (Maastricht University), Wim Naude (Maastricht University)

Return Migration and Self-Employment Dynamics: Evidence from Kyrgyzstan

Kamalbek Karymshakov, **Burulcha Sulaimanova** (both Kyrgyz Turkish Manas University)

Education–Job Mismatch and Employment Outcomes of Youth in Kyrgyzstan

NOTES
