

# **Fifth Annual Life in Kyrgyzstan Conference 2019**

*Promoting Research and Evidence Based Policy Making  
in Central Asia*



**23-24 October 2019  
Park Hotel  
Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan**

## WELCOME

When the first Life in Kyrgyzstan conference was held in 2015, few thought it would emerge as a major recurring regional research event. The conference has grown beyond expectations: if at the First conference some 20 papers were presented at the Fifth there are over 40.



The University of Central Asia (UCA) expresses its deep appreciation to Professor Tilman Brück whose determined effort resulted in the Life of Kyrgyzstan panel survey, and the launch of conferences. We also thank the research community who's choice of this annual conference as a platform to present the findings of their investigations have made it so successful. Our gratitude also goes to USAID, DIFID-UK, the World Bank, and the Aga Khan Foundation for supporting this conference.

UCA, a young university, has embarked on a long and interesting journey. The Graduate School of Development comprised of the Institute of Public Policy and Administration (IPPA), the Mountain Societies Research Institute (MSRI), and other entities has ambitious plans to advance research and graduate studies. We encourage conference presenters to submit contributions to the IPPA peer-reviewed Working Papers Series that appears in English and Russian as a 'monographic journal' and is making a significant impact. All such papers are available for download from UCA's website.

The socio-economic issues facing Central Asia are analytically complex and there are no simple solutions. More than ever, evidence-based studies are required to inform policies and practice. This conference plays a solid role in this regard and UCA is deeply committed to ensuring that this stimulating forum continues to develop over the years to come.

We hope that you will find the conference a rewarding experience, and look forward to seeing you again next year.

Bohdan Krawchenko  
Dean, Graduate School of Development  
University of Central Asia

Wi-Fi Network: **Ballroom** ; Password: **56639315**

Conference webpage: <https://lifeinkyrgyzstan.org/lik-conference-2019/>.

For Conference related Twitter posts, please use the hashtag **#likconf2019**.  
You may want to refer to the LiK Study twitter account **@LiK\_Study**.

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen! Dear friends of the Life in Kyrgyzstan Study!

Welcome to the 5th Annual Life in Kyrgyzstan Conference!

It my pleasure to co-host, with our valued long-term research partners at the University of Central Asia, this unique forum for exchange among scholars and practitioners about lives and livelihoods in Kyrgyzstan.



The Life in Kyrgyzstan Conference is an opportunity for intellectual exchange. On the one hand, researchers can seek feedback on research conducted in Kyrgyzstan, both from fellow researchers and practitioners. And on the other hand, policy makers, civil servants and representatives from civil society can share their views with researchers and with each other. It is important to review critically and to comment on new insights. Equally important, we should articulate what we do not know. What are our knowledge gaps? What are interesting policy and research topics? These are critical discussions!

Overall, the Life in Kyrgyzstan Conference is an excellent if not unique opportunity to inform evidence-base policy making. It is my strong conviction that better data, better research and better communication can make better policies and thereby better lives for all. Please use this Conference to engage and discuss and to make new connections and plan new projects. I can only speak for the research community but I know that all of my colleagues present here enjoy conducting relevant research which has an impact. I therefore urge representatives from other sectors of society to reach out to us if you have a question or a need for more information.

The foundation of the Life in Kyrgyzstan Conference is the Life in Kyrgyzstan Study. It is a long-term research infrastructure which monitors lives and livelihoods in Kyrgyzstan and has done so since 2010. We are currently conducting the sixth wave of nationally representative data collection, tracking the same 8000 individuals since 2010 across the whole country. We ask them about their jobs, migration, education, income, consumption, housing, agricultural activities, food security, health, child health, youth issues, attitudes, and many, many other topics. By comparing the outcomes across the same set of individuals and households, we learn about how Kyrgyzstan is changing over time - and what drives these changes. In fact, the Life in Kyrgyzstan Study is the only academic-led, long-term panel study in Central Asia and, even, in any successor state of the former Soviet Union, except Russia. With this research infrastructure, which is open to use by any non-profit organisation, much can be learnt about Kyrgyzstan, which in turn can help accelerate socio-economic development and well-being.

I wish you a stimulating and interesting two days at the 5th Annual Life in Kyrgyzstan Conference!

**Professor Tilman Brück**

Principal Investigator, Life in Kyrgyzstan Study

Group Leader, Leibniz Institute for Horticulture, IGZ

Director, ISDC - International Security and Development Center

## ORGANIZERS OF THE CONFERENCE



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL ASIA  
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF DEVELOPMENT  
Institute of Public Policy and Administration

**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. More information can be found at <https://www.ucentralasia.org/Research/ippa>.



**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. More information can be found at <https://www.igzev.de>.



**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. More information can be found at [www.isdc.org](http://www.isdc.org).



**The World Bank** is an international organization dedicated to providing financing, advice and research to developing nations to aid their economic advancement. By giving loans, and offering advice and training in both the private and public sectors, the World Bank aims to eliminate poverty by helping people help themselves.

## DONORS



**United States Agency for International Development (USAID)** leads international development and humanitarian efforts to save lives, reduce poverty, strengthen democratic governance and help people progress beyond assistance. On behalf of the American people, USAID promotes and demonstrates democratic values abroad, and advance a free, peaceful, and prosperous world. In support of America's foreign policy, the U.S. Agency for International Development leads the U.S. Government's international development and disaster assistance through partnerships and investments that save lives, reduce poverty, strengthen democratic governance, and help people emerge from humanitarian crises and progress beyond assistance.



AGA KHAN FOUNDATION  
Kyrgyz Republic

**Aga Khan Foundation (AKF)** is an international, non-denominational, not-for-profit organisation. AKF seeks to improve the quality of life, enhance self-reliance and promote pluralism in poor and marginalised communities of Asia and Africa. Established in 1967, its long-term, community-based approach addresses and benefits people of all faiths and backgrounds, especially women and girls. Its activities enhance agriculture and food security, promote early childhood development and access to quality education, improve health and nutrition, advance economic inclusion, and strengthen civil society. AKF is an agency of the Aga Khan Development Network, a group of development agencies with mandates that include the environment, health, education, architecture, culture, microfinance, rural development, disaster reduction, the promotion of private-sector enterprise and the revitalization of historic cities. For more information, please visit the website at [www.akdn.org](http://www.akdn.org).



**The Department for International Development (DFID)** is the UK Government Department that is responsible for assisting partner countries to promote sustainable development and reduce poverty. DFID works in partnership with governments committed to poverty reduction (the Millennium Development Goals), good governance and human rights. DFID also work with civil society, the private sector and the research community.

## LIFE IN KYRGYZSTAN STUDY



The Life in Kyrgyzstan (LiK) 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 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.

The LiK 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 LiK survey for 2013 was funded by DFID GLM-LIC programme as a part of the research project run by a consortium of several institutions and coordinated by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). In 2016 the 5<sup>th</sup> wave of the survey was funded by a consortium of partners including FAO, UCA, IGZ, and IFPRI. In 2016 the 5<sup>th</sup> wave of the survey was funded by a consortium of partners including FAO, UCA, IGZ, and IFPRI. The 6<sup>th</sup> wave of the LiK Study is being conducted in Fall 2019 by IGZ and UCA and co-funded by USAID and AKF.

The 'Life in Kyrgyzstan' survey data is publicly available. The data can be used by any interested party for non-for-profit research, policy analysis and teaching purposes. The data for 2010-2013 and 2016 can be obtained from the International Data Service Center (IDSC) of the Institute for Labor Economics ([idsc.iza.org/lik](http://idsc.iza.org/lik)). The survey questionnaires and interviewer manuals can be downloaded on the project website at [www.lifeinkyrgyzstan.org](http://www.lifeinkyrgyzstan.org).

As of September 2019, about 80 universities, institutions and international organizations from 24 countries used the LiK data for research and teaching purposes. The research conducted by using the data from the LiK Study covers various topics. The most researched topics were employment, migration, education, poverty, inequality, community participation, and intra-household dynamics. About 20 scientific academic articles were published in an international high-ranked journals, and the total number of all publications of various formats is about 50. The list of journal articles, working papers, and reports based on the LiK data is listed at the end of this brochure.

## PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

### DAY 1, 23 October 2019

- 08:30 - 09:00 Registration
- 09:00 – 09:20 Opening Remarks (**Ball Room**)
- 09:20 - 10:30 Plenary Session 1: Keynote Speech by Prof. Louise Grogan (**Ball Room**)
- 10:30 - 11:00 *Coffee Break*
- 11:00 - 12:30 **Parallel sessions**
- Session 2. Gender and Employment (**Ball Room**)
- Session 3. Climate and Agriculture (**Signature Room**)
- 12:30 – 13:30 *Lunch*
- 13:30 - 15:00 **Parallel sessions**
- Session 4. Nutrition and Health (**Ball Room**)
- Session 5. Household Norms (**Signature Room**)
- 15:00-15:30 *Coffee Break*
- 15:30 - 17:00 **Parallel sessions**
- Session 6. Labor Markets and Youth Employment (**Ball Room**)
- Session 7. Distributional Effects of Policies and Institutions (**Signature Room**)
- 17:30 – 21:00 *Reception at Park Hotel*

## PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

### DAY 2, 24 October 2019

08:30-09:00	Registration
09:00 - 10:30	Session 8. Coherence Between Social Protection and Agriculture in the Kyrgyz Republic: Diversifying Livelihoods, Supporting Nutrition, Building Resilience ( <b>Ball Room</b> )
	Session 9. Gendered Transformation of Family and Community Norms in the Context of Migration ( <b>Signature Room</b> )
10:30 - 11:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11:00 - 12:30	<b>Parallel sessions</b>
	Session 10. Regional Cross-Border Trade ( <b>Ball Room</b> )
	Session 11. Youth Education and Employment ( <b>Signature Room</b> )
12:30-13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 - 15:00	<b>Parallel sessions</b>
	Session 12. Panel Discussion: Migration and Rural Development: Mutually Exclusive or Complementary Relationships? ( <b>Ball Room</b> )
	Session 13. Entrepreneurship and Institutions ( <b>Signature Room</b> )
15:00 – 15:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>
15:30 - 16:30	<b>Parallel sessions</b>
	Session 14. Social and Economic Impact of Migration ( <b>Ball Room</b> )
	Session 15. Social Capital and Institutions ( <b>Signature Room</b> )
16:30 – 16:40	<b>Closing Remarks</b>



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## **PLENARY SESSION 1.**

**23 October 2019, 09:20 - 10:30 (Ball Room)**

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### **Keynote Speech**

#### **Louise Grogan**

Professor of Economics

University of Guelph, Canada

#### ***The Soviet Union and the status of women in Central Asia***

This presentation employs data from the Demographic and Health Surveys, Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys, and Life In Transition Surveys (LITS) to examine the legacy of the Soviet Union on gender roles in Central Asia. A natural experiment created by pre-Soviet borders in Badakhshan is employed to examine the lasting impacts of Soviet policies. Women who reached adult height before 1991 are found to be about 3.5 centimetres taller on the Tajikistan side of the Panj. They married later, had fewer children, and experienced less child death. Women in the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region of Tajikistan born after 1991 continue to marry later, to work more and to have more schooling and autonomy in the household than those in Badakhshan Province, Afghanistan. Heights of women born after 1991 are shown to have declined importantly in Afghanistan and Tajikistan, but not in Kyrgyzstan. Data from the 2016 LITS is used to show that labour force participation rates of women have remained high relative to incomes.

### **Moderator**

**Bohdan Krawchenko**, Dean of the Graduate School of Development, University of Central Asia

**Bio:** Louise Grogan is Professor of Economics at the University of Guelph, Canada. She received a BSc in Economics from the London School of Economics, an MA from the Université Catholique de Louvain, and a PhD from the Tinbergen Institute Amsterdam.

Much of her research examines labour markets, institutions, and policy initiatives in former communist countries. She has published in journals including Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Human Capital, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, Journal of Comparative Economics, World Development, Economics of Transition, Economic Development and Cultural Change, and the Journal of African Economies.

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## RESEARCH BASED ON THE *LIFE IN KYRGYZSTAN* STUDY

(in chronological order)

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### ACADEMIC JOURNAL ARTICLES

- Anderson, K. H., & Esenaliev, D. (2019). Gender Earnings Inequality and Wage Policy: Teachers, Health Care, and Social Workers in Central Asia. *Comparative Economic Studies*, 1–25.
- Esenaliev, D., & Ferguson, N. T. N. (2019). The Impact of Job Quality on Wellbeing: Evidence from Kyrgyzstan. *Social Indicators Research*, 144(1), 337–378.
- Paulone, S., & Ivlevs, A. (2019). Emigration and alcohol consumption among migrant household members staying behind: Evidence from Kyrgyzstan. *Social Science & Medicine*, 221, 40–48.
- Steiner, S., & Becker, C. M. (2019). How marriages based on bride capture differ: Evidence from Kyrgyzstan. *Demographic Research*, 41, 579–592.
- Brück, T., & Esenaliev, D. (2018). Post-socialist transition and intergenerational educational mobility in Kyrgyzstan. *Economics of Transition*, 26(1), 61–89.
- Landmann, A., Seitz, H., & Steiner, S. (2018). Patrilocal Residence and Female Labor Supply: Evidence From Kyrgyzstan. *Demography*, 55(6), 2181–2203.
- Tertytchnaya, K., De Vries, C. E., Solaz, H., & Doyle, D. (2018). When the Money Stops: Fluctuations in Financial Remittances and Incumbent Approval in Central Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. *American Political Science Review*, 112(04), 758–774.
- Urbaeva, J., Jackson, T., & Park, D. (2018). Is Informal Financial Aid Good for Health? Evidence from Kyrgyzstan, a Low-Income Post-Socialist Nation in Eurasia. *Health & Social Work*, 43(4), 226–234.
- Werner, C., Edling, C., Becker, C., Kim, E., Kleinbach, R., Sartbay, F. E., & Teachout, W. (2018). Bride kidnapping in post-Soviet Eurasia: a roundtable discussion. *Central Asian Survey*, 37(4), 582–601.
- Zhunosova, E., & Herrmann, R. (2018). Development Impacts of International Migration on “Sending” Communities: The Case of Rural Kyrgyzstan. *The European Journal of Development Research*, 30(5), 871–891.
- Becker, C. M., Mirkasimov, B., & Steiner, S. (2017). Forced Marriage and Birth Outcomes. *Demography*, 54(4), 1401–1423.
- Dávalos, J., Karymshakov, K., Sulaimanova, B., & Abdieva, R. (2017). Remittances and labor supply of the left-behind youth: Evidence from Kyrgyzstan. *Asian and Pacific Migration Journal*, 26(3), 352–380.
- Karymshakov, K., Abdieva, R., & Sulaimanova, B. (2016). Determinants of Risk Tolerance: Empirical Evidence from Kyrgyzstan. *Reforma*, 1(69), 54–61.

- Bertram-Hümmer, V., & Baliki, G. (2015). The Role of Visible Wealth for Deprivation. *Social Indicators Research*, 124(3), 765–783.
- Brück, T., Justino, P., Verwimp, P., Avdeenko, A., & Tedesco, A. (2015). Measuring Violent Conflict in Micro-level Surveys: Current Practices and Methodological Challenges. *The World Bank Research Observer*.
- Chakraborty, T., Mirkasimov, B., & Steiner, S. (2015). Transfer behavior in migrant sending communities. *Journal of Comparative Economics*, 43(3), 690–705.
- Brück, T., Esenaliev, D., Kroeger, A., Kudabayeva, A., Mirkasimov, B., & Steiner, S. (2014). Household survey data for research on well-being and behavior in Central Asia. *Journal of Comparative Economics*, 42(3), 819–835.

## WORKING PAPERS AND REPORTS

- Tilekeyev, K., Tokubek uulu, B., Kirbasheva, D., Niiazaliev, B., & Abdrazakova, N. (2019). *Analysis of Youth Labor Market Trends in Kyrgyzstan*. (UCA Working Paper No. 52). Bishkek
- Becker, C., & Steiner, S. (2018). *How Forced Marriages Differ: Evidence on Assortative Mating in Kyrgyzstani Marriages* (UCA IPPA Working Paper No. 45). Bishkek.
- Brück, T., Hennicke, M., & Schumann, A. (2018). *Ethnic Inequality and Forced Displacement* (ECARES Working Papers No. 2018–27). Brussels.
- Chakraborty, T., & Pandey, M. (2018). *Temporary International Migration and Shocks: Analysis using panel data* (Departmental Working Papers No. 2018–03).
- Kosec, K., Akramov, K., Mirkasimov, B., & Song, J. (2018). *Aspirations and women's empowerment: Evidence from Kyrgyzstan* (IFPRI Discussion Paper No. 1786). Washington, DC.
- Brück, T., Justino, P., & Martin-Shields, C. P. (2017). *Conflict and development: Recent research advances and future agenda* (UNU-WIDER Working Paper No. 178/2017). Helsinki.
- Brück, T., Mahe, C., & Naudé, W. (2017). *Return migration and self-employment dynamics : Empirical evidence from Kyrgyzstan* (IZA Discussion Papers No. 11332). Bonn.
- OECD/ILO. (2017). *How Immigrants Contribute to Kyrgyzstan's Economy*. Geneva/Paris: International Labour Organization.
- Karymshakov, K., & Sulaimanova, B. (2017). *Migration impact on left-behind women's labour participation and time-use: Evidence from Kyrgyzstan* (WIDER Working Paper No. 119). Helsinki.
- Becker, C., Mirkasimov, B., Steiner, S. (2016). *Forced Marriage and Birth Outcomes* (UCA IPPA Working Paper No. 35). Bishkek.
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- Ibraeva, G., & Ablezova, M. (2016). *Kyrgyzstan – extended migration profile 2010-2015*. Bishkek.
- Karymshakov, K., Sulaimanova, B., Sultakeev, K., & Abdieva, R. (2016). *Remittances impact on youth labour supply: evidence from Kyrgyzstan*. Working Papers PMMA. PEP-PMMA.
- Muktarbek kyzy, A. (2016). *Gender Aspects of Households' Saving Behavior in the Kyrgyz Republic* (NBKR Working Paper). Bishkek.
- Barrientos, A., & Kudebayeva, A. (2015). *Social transfers and women's labour supply in Kyrgyzstan* (GDI Working Paper No. 215/2015). Manchester.
- Esenaliev, D., & Kisunko, G. (2015). *Local Budget Transparency and Participation: Evidence from the Kyrgyz Republic* (No. Policy Research Working Paper 7154).
- Guefli, A., & Sattar, S. (2015). *Kyrgyz Republic - Poverty and economic mobility in the Kyrgyz Republic : some insights from the life in Kyrgyzstan survey* (No. 99775). Washington D.C.
- Jenish, N. (2015). *The Effect of Salary Increases on Labour Supply in the Kyrgyz Republic: The Case of Teachers and Medical Workers* (UCA IPPA Working Paper No. 33). Bishkek.
- Muktarbek kyzy, A., Seyitov, T., & Jenish, N. (2016). *Remittances and Expenditure Patterns of Households in the Kyrgyz Republic* (NBKR Working Paper). Bishkek.