



The 9th Annual Life in Kyrgyzstan Conference 2023

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: AUCA, Mercy Corps, World Bank, UNFPA

Venue: Park Hotel, Bishkek

Date: October 11-12, 2023

PROGRAM (as of 29 Sep 2023)

DAY 1: Wednesday, October 11, 2023

Bishkek time, GMT+6

08:30-09:00 **Registration of Participants**

09:00-09:15 **OPENING REMARKS**

Christopher Gerry, UCA
Christopher Baker, AUCA
Naveed Hassan Naqvi, World Bank
UN/UNFPA Representative
Tilman Brück, HU/IGZ/ISDC

09:15-09:25 **Group Photo**

09:30-11:00 **PARALLEL SESSIONS**

SESSION 1.1 The World Bank Session: Findings from the Recent Research on Kyrgyzstan

Moderator: **Aibek Ashirov**, World Bank

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Findings from the Listening to the Kyrgyz Republic survey

Gohar Gyulumyan, World Bank

Systematic Country Diagnostic Update - From Vulnerability to Resilience

Chiyu Niu, World Bank

Don't be fooled: a few thoughts on development economics and E-commerce

SESSION 1.2 Entrepreneurship Dynamics in Central Asia and Social Impacts of Foreign Investments in Kyrgyzstan

Moderator: tbd

Philipp Schroeder, Nazarbaev University

Entrepreneurship Across Central Asia – A Look Back and Some Early Insights from an Ongoing Research in Applied Economic Anthropology

Marika Miner, University of California (**online**)

Salient Cleavages: The Effect of China's Belt and Road Initiative on Social Cohesion and Institutional Trust in Kyrgyzstan

Pengshan Pan, University of Pittsburgh

Golden Promises and Divided Communities: Evidence from Kyrgyzstan Kumtor Mine

SESSION 1.3 Recent Developments in Afghanistan

Moderator: **Marzhan Akimbaeva**, UCA

Ahmad Barlas, University of Greifswald

Political Change and Poverty among Rural Households in Afghanistan: Evidence from Marmul District, Balkh Province

Atefa Bahr, AUCA (*online*)

The Impact of Women's Education and Employment on Their Experience of Domestic Violence in Afghanistan

Zainab Abid, AUCA (*online*)

The Short-run Effects of Active Labour Market Policies of Germany on the Employment of Syrian and Afghan Refugees

11:00-11:20 **Coffee Break**

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

SESSION 1.4 The State of the Kyrgyz Economy: Expert Panel

Moderator: **Kanat Tilekeyev** (UCA)

Tchoro Seyitov, Ministry of Economy and Commerce

Challenges of sustaining economic growth in Kyrgyzstan

Kanat Tilekeyev, UCA

Macroeconomic effects from the war in Ukraine to Kyrgyzstan and Central Asia

Speaker 3, TBC

Topic3

Stanislav Karpovich, Businessman & Board Member at Keremet Bank

Economic growth and investment environment in dynamic external environment

SESSION 1.5 The Changing Dynamics of Civil Society in Central Asia: How We've Come to Where We Are?

Moderator: **Medet Tiulegenov**, UCA

Aizharkyn Kozhobekova, UCA

Navigating complexity: understanding challenges and trends in Kyrgyzstan's civil society

Nargis Kuchakshoeva, UCA (*online*)

Civil society in Tajikistan: systematic literature review

Medet Tiulegenov, UCA

Searching for tectonic shifts: changing attitudes of Kyrgyzstan's citizens towards citizenship, human rights and civil society

Erkina Ubysheva, Smart Zharan Association

Shrinking civic space and challenges for the Kyrgyzstan 's NGO sector

SESSION 1.6 Green Economy Modeling in Kyrgyzstan

Moderator: **Tatiana Vedeneva**, Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Development

Almaz Azimov, Kyrgyz Japan Center

Debt swap on green initiatives

Darika Sulaimanova, DEKA Group

Reducing the consumption of coal for heating private houses

Sonunbubu Sayakova, National Academy of Sciences

Comparison of electricity generation options

Saikal Esenamanova, Kyrgyz Economic University

Comparison of options to support the transition to green transport (public and private)

12:30-13:30 **Lunch**

13:30-14:40 **EXPERT SESSIONS**

SESSION 1.7 Air Pollution and its Health, Social and Economic Impacts in Bishkek and Kyrgyzstan

Moderator **Jules Hugot**, Asian Development Bank

Katja Lovén, Finnish Meteorological Institute (*online*)

Air Quality in Bishkek: Assessment of emission sources and road map for supporting air quality management

Rufus Edwards, University of California, and **Jay Turner**, Washington University

Health And Social Impacts Of Air Pollution On Women And Children In Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan: Entry-Points for action

Zulaika Esentaeva, IOM

Air Pollution and Its Health Impacts On Internal Migrants In Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan: Assessment Report

SESSION 1.8 Perceptions and Attitudes on the War in Ukraine on Central Asia

Moderator: **Bakhytzhan Kurmanov**, UCA

Tlegen Kuandykov, Central Asia Barometer

The Russian-Ukrainian War: Perceptions in Kyrgyzstan and Central Asia

Nelli Minasyan, Yerevan State University (*online*)

The Attitude of the Central Asian Republics towards Russia after the Ukrainian War

Rashid Gabdulhakov, University of Groningen (*online*)

'I still trust the Russian media more': Narratives and Perception of Russian Propaganda in Kyrgyzstan

SESSION 1.9 Representation of Women's Art and Women's Stories in Museums of Kyrgyzstan

Moderator: **Elena Kolesova**, UCA

Baktygul Midinova, Osh Regional Museum of Fine Arts

Tobacco Industry of the USSR: the Labor of Nookat Women Represented in the Museum Space

Diana Ukhina, Bishkek School of Contemporary Art/SYNERGY (*online*)

Weaving a Memory: a Curatorial Research of the Fine Art of Kyrgyzstan in the Practices of Women Artists of the XX Century Based on the Collection of the Kyrgyz National Museum of Fine Arts named after G. Aitiev

Aleksandra Filatova, Narkhoz University / MOFA+ **(online)**

A Women at the Museum

Aida Alymova, Kurmanjan Datka Museum of Nomad Civilization

How to Display in the Museums Festive and Everyday Practices Related to Women

Altyn Kapalova, UCA **(online)**

Museums, Women and Social change

14:40-15:00 **Coffee Break**

15:00-16:30 **PARALLEL SESSIONS**

SESSION 1.10 Agricultural Productivity, Food Inflation, Migration

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

Meher Angaiz, UCA **(online)**

The Relationship between Land Size and Agriculture Productivity in Kyrgyzstan

Zainab Muborakshoeva, UCA

Gender-Based Disparities in Agricultural Productivity in Kyrgyzstan: A Crop-Specific Investigation

Nurbek Madmarov, AUCA

Drivers of Local Food Prices Inflation in the Kyrgyz Republic

Zukhriddin Juliev, University at Buffalo **(online)**

Return to Migration Experience in Kyrgyzstan

SESSION 1.11 Human Mobility Feedback Loop: New Evidence from Kyrgyzstan

Moderator: **Christopher Gerry**, UCA

Aksana Ismailbekova, Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient **(online)**

Chalma-grad: mobilization of kinship in the context of migration

Daniel Kashnitsky, Paris Cité University **(online)**,

Jainagul Bayizbekova, Ministry of Health of the Kyrgyz Republic

People living with HIV among labor migrants from Kyrgyzstan - barriers and coping strategies on their way to survival and recognition

Asel Murzakulova, UCA

The Apricot Power: Human Mobility and Agrarian Change in Isfara River Basin

SESSION 1.12 Mitigation and Impacts of Climate Change

Moderator: tba

Aziz Ali, UCA

Impacts of Climate Change on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs) and Food Security of Mountain Communities in the Pamir Region of Tajik- and Afghan-Badakhshans

Darika Vildanova, Dekka Group

Mitigation Measures for Climate Change in Kyrgyzstan

Bernard Musyck, UCA

Climate Change and the Development of Winter Tourism in Central Asia

- 16:40-18:00 **PLENARY SESSION**
Keynote Speech by **Dr Michelle Brock**, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
Correlates of Life Satisfaction: A Human Capital Perspective
Moderator: **Tilman Brück** (Humboldt University, IZG, ISDC)
- 18:00-21:00 ***Reception at Park Hotel***

DAY 2: Thursday, October 12, 2023

08:30-09:00 **Registration of Participants**

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

SESSION 2.1 UNFPA Session: Demography and Population Dynamics

Moderator: **Baktybek Kainazarov**, UNFPA

Larisa Ilibezova, Center for Democratic Research
Gender Equality and Gender Relations in Pilot Communities of the Spotlight Initiative

Rimma Chynybaeva, National Statistics Committee
Preliminary Results of the Population and Housing Census of the Kyrgyz Republic

Fotima Zarchabekova, AUCA
Women's Stories of Childhood Sexual Abuse: Narrative Analyses

Aizada Erkinova, AUCA
The Biopolitics of the Family and Demographic Policies for the 'Ideal' Representation(s) of the National Identity(-ies): The Case of the Kyrgyz Republic

SESSION 2.2 Public Perceptions and Political Behavior

Moderator: **Kemel Toktomushev**, UCA (*tbc*)

Razia Abdieva, Kyrgyz Turkish Manas University
Citizen Perception and Participation in Local Government in Post-Soviet Countries: the Case of Kyrgyzstan

Bakhytzhhan Kurmanov, UCA
Unresponsive Autocrats: Exploring Citizens' Perceptions of Open Government in Tokayev's Kazakhstan

Damir Esenaliev, IGZ/ISDC
Common Knowledge of Social Norms and Political Behavior: Evidence from Kyrgyzstan

Kasiet Ysmanova, Central Asia Barometer
Kalyys Kalaa: Resident's Perception of Bishkek Urban Development

SESSION 2.3 Advances in Methods, Data, and Development Indicators

Moderator: **Kanat Tilekeyev**, UCA

Gulnara Djunushalieva, UCA

An Analysis of the Constitution and Strategic Documents to Support the Achievement of SDGs in Kyrgyzstan

Ruslan Nurmatov, University of Cantabria

Assessing the Tourism Efficiency in the Caspian Sea Region: A Meta Frontier Analysis

Alberto Prati, UCL, Univ of Oxford, LSE

How Comparable is Data from Different Surveys? A Comparison of Objective and Subjective Welfare Measures

Dina Mamadjanova, German-Kazakh University

Ethnic Disparities in Conspicuous Consumption in Kyrgyzstan

10:30-11:00 **Coffee Break**

11:00-12:20 **PLENARY SESSION**

Keynote by Dr Arnaud Caiserman (UCA)

Keynote speech2

Moderator: TBC

12:20-13:30 **Lunch**

13:30-15:00 **PARALLEL SESSIONS**

SESSION 2.5 Mercy Corps, WFP, WHO Session: Recent Interventions and Research on Health and Nutrition

Moderator: **Zhyldyz Kuvatova**, Mercy Corps; **Elmira Shishkaraeva**, WFP

Zhyldyz Artykbaeva, Ministry of Healthcare

The findings form the National Integrated Micronutrient and Anthropometric Survey (NIMAS)

Aizhan Erisheva, WFP

Accelerating investments into SDG objectives leveraging schools as platforms

Nazgul Aidralieva, WHO

School Meals and Nutrition of School-Aged Children

SESSION 2.6 Do Political Quotas Work? Women's Political Participation in Kyrgyzstan

Moderator: **Gulfia Abdullaeva**, PIL Research

Gulfia Abdullaeva, PIL Research

What Figures Show: Equal Representation ≠ Equal Power?

Gulnara Ibraeva, PIL Research

Mechanism of Gender Quota as Bricolage in Current Kyrgyz Politics

Gulnara Ibraeva, PIL Research

Myths and Realities of Gender Quotas: Case Study of the Functioning of Quotas in the Saruu Local Kenesh

SESSION 2.7 Impacts of Climate and Ecological Shocks on Living Standards and Human Health

Moderator: tba

Nuraiym Talantbekova, OSCE Academy
Climate Shocks and Energy Poverty in Kyrgyzstan

Inna Brusenskaya, MoveGreen
Air pollution in Winter in the Regions and Major Cities of Kyrgyzstan

Igor Hadjamberdiev, Toxic Action Network Central Asia
Pesticides Pollution and Child Health in Central Asia

15:00-15:30 **Coffee Break**

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

SESSION 2.8 Mountains of Sorrow: the Role of Art in Creating the Historical Narrative of the 1916 Uprising

Moderator: **Baktygöl Kapalova**, Compass College

Gulzada Stanalievna, Kyrgyz Turkish Manas University
Ürkün in the Kyrgyz Literature: Two Periods, Two Interpretations

Nurperi Orunbaeva, Museum of Female Arts
Representation of 1916 Uprising in the Kyrgyz Contemporary Art

Elmira Nogoibaeva, ESIMDE Research Platform
What Do the Ata-Beyit Sculptures Say About Ürkün?

Gulzat Alagöz kyzy, ESIMDE Research Platform
Ürkün Memorial Processions as a Memory Activity

SESSION 2.9 Intra-Household Distribution and Female Well-Being

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

Burulcha Sulaimanova, OSCE Academy
Impacts of Energy Use for Cooking and Heating on Women's Subjective Well-Being and Health in Kyrgyzstan

Zalina Enikeeva, UCA
The Role of Women During COVID-19 in Three Regions of Kyrgyzstan

Aisha Manasova, OSCE Academy
Gendered Nationalism: The Roles And Identities of the Kyrgyz Women in the Private Realm

Begimai Ashyrkulova
Exploring Social Norms and Social Services Affecting Domestic Violence Service-Seeking and Provision in Kyrgyzstan

SESSION 2.10 Digital Transformation of Education in Kyrgyzstan: Distant Reality or Matter of Fact?

Moderator: **Jyldyz Doolbekova**, Taalim-Forum Public Foundation

Jyldyz Doolbekova, Taalim-Forum
Trends in Digital Transformation of Education in Kyrgyzstan: Challenges and Readiness

Marina Glushkova, Gulnara Ibraeva, PIL Research Company

Infrastructural Factors and Models for an Innovative Approach to School Education System in the Kyrgyz Republic

Mehrigiul Ablezova, PIL Research Company

How to Measure the Readiness of the Education System for Digitalization? Adapting, Validating and Implementing a Tool for Measuring the Readiness of School Teachers and Students for Online Teaching Post-Covid-19

Almagul Osmonova, Aigerim Jolchubekova, Taalim-Forum

Teaching in a Digital Learning Environment: Perceptions and Experiences of Distance Education of Teachers in Kyrgyzstan