

## 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

#### 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**, Dean, Graduate School of Development, UCA

**Timothy O'Connor**, President, AUCA

**Naveed Hassan Naqvi**, Country Manager, World Bank

**Baktybek Kainazarov**, Head of Office, UNFPA

**Tilman Brück**, Professor, Humboldt University, 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: **Damir Esenaliev**, IGZ/ISDC

**Philipp Schroeder**, Nazarbayev 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**);

Pengshan Pan (University of Pittsburgh)

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

**Pengshan Pan**, University of Pittsburgh; **Marika Miner**, University of California

*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 (*online*)

*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 Adib**, 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*

**Stanislav Karpovich**, Businessman & Board Member at Keremet Bank

*Economic Growth and Investment Environment in the 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 (*online*)

*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; Aigul Kulmatova - National Academy of Sciences of the Kyrgyz Republic; Tatiana Vedeneva - Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Development

*Debt Swap on Green Initiatives*

**Darika Sulaimanova**, DEKA Group; Tatiana Vedeneva - Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Development; Nurila Ibraeva - Kyrgyz National Agrarian University

*Reducing Coal Consumption for Heating Private Houses*

**Sonunbubu Sayakova**, National Academy of Sciences; Saikal Esenamanova, Kyrgyz Economic University; Elmira Djaparova - National Academy of Sciences; Tatiana Vedeneva - Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Development

*Comparison of Electricity Generation Options*

**Saikal Esenamanova**, Kyrgyz Economic University; Azyk Orozonova - Kyrgyz National University; Tatiana Vedeneva - Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Development

*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**, International Organisation for Migration

*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

**Kasiet Ysmanova & 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*)

*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: **Anwar Naseem**, UCA

**Meher Angaiz**, UCA (**online**); Safdar Jan - UCA; Anwar Naseem - UCA

*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; Talantbek Asan uulu; Bermet Talasbek kyzy; Fatema Qambary - all 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 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*

- 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: **Bakhytzhhan Kurmanov**, UCA

**Razia Abdieva**, Damira Baigonushova, Sezer Bozkuş Kahyaoğlu - all 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; Anselm Hager - Humboldt University Berlin; Lukas Hensel - Peking University; Elnura Kazakbaeva - Evidence Central Asia

*Common Knowledge of Social Norms and Political Behavior: Evidence from Kyrgyzstan*

**Kasiet Ysmanova**, Central Asia Barometer; Daria Gavriushchenko - Friedrich Ebert Foundation

*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; Ramona Teuber, Justus Liebig University Giessen  
*Navigating the Path to Sustainable Development: a Case Study of the Kyrgyz Republic*

**Alberto Prati**, University College London; Thomas Beuchot, Ecole Normale Supérieure  
*The Survey Fingerprint Puzzle of Life Satisfaction*

**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): Food Security in Mountains of Central Asia: Down to Upstream Challenges**  
*Food Security in Mountains of Central Asia: Down to Upstream Challenges*

Moderator: **Kanat Tilkeyev**, UCA

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: **Elmira Shishkaraeva**, WFP

**Zhyldyz Artykbaeva**, Ministry of Healthcare  
*The findings from 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 Impacts of Climate and Ecological Shocks on Living Standards and Human Health**

Moderator: **Maksim Kulikov**, UCA

**Nuraiym Talantbekova**; Burulcha Sulaimanova; Aisha Manasova - all OSCE Academy in Bishkek  
*Climate Shocks and Energy Poverty in Kyrgyzstan*

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

**Igor Hadjamberdiev**; Mohammed Nasimi; Ibragimjon Damulojanov - Toxic Action Network Central Asia  
*Pesticides Pollution and Child Health in Central Asia*

**SESSION 2.7 Intra-Household Distribution and Female Well-Being**

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

**Burulcha Sulaimanova**, Zhibek Kasymova, Meerim Abdykalykova - OSCE Academy in Bishkek  
*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*

**Asel Myrzabekova**, FHI 360  
*Exploring Social Norms and Social Services Affecting Domestic Violence Service-Seeking and Provision in Kyrgyzstan*

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: **Baktygül Kapalova**, Compass College  
*Language of the session is Kyrgyz*

**Gulzada Stanalieva**, 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 Mitigation and Impacts of Climate Change**

Moderator: **Bernard Musyck**, UCA

**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**, Deka Group  
*Mitigation Measures for Climate Change in Kyrgyzstan*

**Bernard Musyck**, UCA  
*Climate Change and the Development of Winter Tourism in Central Asia*

**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*