



The 11th Annual Life in Kyrgyzstan Conference 2025

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: ADB, AUCA, World Bank, UNFPA

Venue: Orion Hotel, Bishkek

Date: October 10-11, 2025

PROGRAM (draft as of 15 Sep 2025)

DAY 1: Friday, October 10, 2025

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

08:00-09:00	Registration of Participants	
09:00-09:20	OPENING REMARKS	KARKYRA
	Christopher Gerry , Rector, UCA ADB Representative (tbc) Hugh Riddell , Country Manager, World Bank Baktybek Kainazarov , Head of Office, UNFPA (tbc) Timothy O'Connor , President, AUCA Tilman Brück , Professor, Humboldt University, IGZ, ISDC	
09:20-10:30	PLENARY SESSION 1.1	Life in Kyrgyzstan Study 2025: Data and Research Agenda KARKYRA Tilman Brück , Professor, Humboldt University, IGZ, ISDC Damir Esenaliev , IGZ/ISDC <i>Wave 7 of the Life in Kyrgyzstan Study - data collection results</i> Wolfgang Stojetz , ISDC <i>Agricultural Household Adaptation to Climate Change: Weather Variability, Land Management and Investment Options</i> Francisca Castro , ISDC <i>Polarization in Kyrgyzstan</i>
10:30-11:50	PLENARY SESSION 1.2	Policy Session: Recent Economic Developments in Kyrgyzstan Damir Esenaliev , IGZ/ISDC Tchoro Seyitov , First Deputy Ministry of Economy and Commerce of KR <i>Country's Development Strategy till 2040?</i> Azat Kozubekov , Deputy Chairman, NBKR <i>Monetary and financial developments?</i> Kanat Tilekeyev , Associate Director, IPPA, UCA <i>Economic and social developments from academic perspective</i>
11:50-12:00	Group Photo	
12:00-13:00	Lunch	
13:00-14:10	PARALLEL SESSIONS	

SESSION 1.3	World Bank Session for Life in Kyrgyzstan Conference 2025
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Room **KARKYRA**
 Moderator: **Aibek Ashirov**, World Bank
Elizaveta Perova, World Bank
Middle Class study in the Kyrgyz Republic
Speaker TBC, World Bank
Fiscal incidence analysis
Aibek Ashirov, World Bank
Findings from Listening to the Kyrgyz Republic Survey

SESSION 1.4	Agrarian Transformations and Rural Change in Central Asia
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Room **BOSOGO**
 Moderator: TBC
Kanat Tilekeyev, UCA
Rural Youth: Developments in Central Asia
Irène Mestre, IFEAC
Contested transitions: exploring the narratives of agri-food systems in Central Asia
Asel Murzakulova, UCA
Agrarian dynamics and migration: comparative analysis of agroecological zones in Kyrgyzstan

SESSION 1.5	Gender Inequality in Civic Engagement, Rural Work, and Land Access
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Room **AKSAY**
 Moderator: TBC
Marzhan Aikimbaeva, UCA
Exploring Gender Disparities in Civic Life: Evidence from Kyrgyzstan
Saule Chalbasova, UCA
Women in Kyrgyzstan 1990 – 2024: Family, Work, and Social Norms
Nagima Shukurbekova, UCA
Rural Youth Perspectives on Land Ownership and Decision-Making Power: A Gendered Analysis from Central Asia

15:20-15:40 **Coffee Break**

14:10-15:20 **PARALLEL SESSIONS**

SESSION 1.6	Behavioral preferences under institutional and environmental constraints in Central Asia
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Room **KARKYRA**
 Moderator: **Kadyrbek Sultakeev**, AUCA
Nodir Djanibekov, IAMO
From theory to field: Measuring farmers' risk and time preferences
Marlen Tynaliyev, IAMO
Under irrigation water scarcity: Exploring the behavioral responses of smallholders in Kyrgyzstan
Abdusame Tadjiev, IAMO
Institutions and preferences: How cotton sector governance shapes farmers' risk and time preferences in Uzbekistan

SESSION 1.7 Urban Resilience in Kyrgyzstan: Legal, Digital, and Design Responses from Naryn

Room **AKSAY**

Moderator: TBC

Madina Junussova, UCA

Design-driven resilience and participatory urbanism

Sarygul Alchynbaev, TOLESFOR

Legal and policy frameworks for climate-informed urban planning

Chynarkan Saparova, UCA

Geospatial data and GIS for decision-making in local governments

SESSION 1.8 Mobilization, Memory, and Media: Perspectives on Central Asian Transformations

Room **BOSOGO**

Moderator: **Bakhytzhon Kurmanov, UCA (tbc)**

Svetlana Dzardanova, Freedom for Eurasia

Framing Femicide: Analyzing News Reporting in Uzbekistan (2014–2024)

Niginakhon Uralova, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz

Negotiating the Soviet Past: How Young People Navigate State and Family Narratives in Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan

Gulzat Alagoz, Esimde Research Platform

Voice of the People - Time of Change: Social-Democratic Movements in Kyrgyzstan in 1985-1991

15:20-15:40 *Coffee Break*

15:40-16:50 **PARALLEL SESSIONS**

SESSION 1.9 WFP Session: Food Security and Nutrition

Room **KARKYRA**

Moderator: **Anastasia Iakovleva, WFP**

Giulio Porelli, WFP

Impact of structural stressors and climate shocks on household food security

Aizhan Erisheva, WFP

Social and behaviour change communication and adoption of climate-resilient behaviour by rural communities

Mira Nazarova, WFP

The role of schools as platforms for promoting healthy dietary habits among children and their families

SESSION 1.10 Socio-Economic and Policy Pathways for Sustainable Development in Kyrgyzstan: Gender Equality, Public Health, and Agricultural Transformation

Room **AKSAY**

Moderator: **Maral Sagynaliyeva, Ala-Too International University**

Aizharkyn Kozhobekova, UCA

Advancing Gender Equality: Women's Economic Empowerment and Political Leadership as Catalysts for Sustainable Development in Kyrgyzstan

Bekchoro Aliiaskarov, Ala-Too International University

Modern challenges in prevention of Substance use among youth in Kyrgyzstan: perspectives of criminology

Maral Sagynaliyeva, Ala-Too International University

Opportunities and Barriers for Kyrgyz Farmers in the Transition to Sustainable Agriculture

SESSION 1.11 Women's Agency, Identity, and Well-Being in Central Asia

Room **AKSAY**

Moderator: **Elnura Kazakbaeva, Evidence CA (tbc)**

Altyn Kapalova, UCA

Women's Mental Health Recovery Practices in Traditional Kyrgyz Culture

Damir Esenaliev, IGZ/ISDC

Almash and Beyond: Lived Experiences of Daughters Named in Hope of Sons

Mohru Mardonova, IFPRI

Double burden or newfound freedom? Women's empowerment amid large-scale male labor migration from rural Tajikistan

16:50-18:00 **PLENARY SESSION**

Room **KARKYRA**

Moderator: **Prof Tilman Brück, Humboldt University, IGZ, ISDC**

Keynote Speech by Prof Kathleen Hermans, IAMO

Stay or Go? When Climate Change Reshapes Lives

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

DAY 2: Saturday, October 11, 2025

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

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

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

SESSION 2.1 Improving Air Quality Through Nature-Based Solutions: Insights from Science, Practice, and Policy

Room **KARKYRA**

Moderator: **Ekaterina Perfilyeva, UNEP**

Jeremie Berlioux, Nature Foundation

Urban Biodiversity and Bioindicators for a Healthy Urban Environment in Bishkek

Anna Kirilenko, Environmental expert

Nature-Based Solutions for Urban Wellbeing and Environmental Resilience in Bishkek

Azat Muradyl, MoveGreen

Local Evidence on the Benefits of Vertical Greening in Bishkek

Speaker TBD, Bishkek Mayor's Office

Bishkek's Voluntary Local Review: From Policy to Ecological Action

SESSION 2.2 New Approaches to Industry Assessment: Theory, Practice, and Lessons Learned

Room **BOSOGO**

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

Kairatbek Dzhambangulov, National Academy of Sciences of the Kyrgyz Republic

Youth Economic Development Index – How Will the New Index Contribute to Improving the Lives of Young People?

Zhakshylyk Aitbayev, Evidence Central Asia

Who Is Driving Kyrgyzstan's Creative Industries? – Sector Champions

Elnura Kazakbaeva, Evidence Central Asia

Evaluation of the Social Assistance Program for Low-Income Families in the Kyrgyz Republic – Results of a Comprehensive Study

Kunduz Kydyrova, Evidence Central Asia

Developing a Monitoring and Evaluation System for the Green Economy Program – Insights and Lessons Learned

SESSION 2.3**Socio-Economic and Climate Risks in Kyrgyz Agricultural Systems**

Room

AKSAY

Moderator:

Kanat Tilekeyev, UCA (tbc)

Md Sofiullah, Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences

Socio-economic assessment of existing forest and agroforestry production systems for fruit and nut production in Kyrgyzstan – A field study using Monte-Carlo simulation analysis

Sabina Talantbek kyzy, AUCA

Impact of Multiple Shocks on Agricultural Income in Kyrgyzstan

Salima Bekbolotova, IAMO

Predicting Food Security in Kyrgyzstan: A Machine Learning Approach

Aizhamal Duishonbekova, OSCE Academy

The Impact of Climate Change on Agricultural Output in Kyrgyzstan

10:30-10:50 *Coffee Break*

10:50-12:00 PLENARY SESSION

Room

KARKYRA

Moderator:

Dr Bakhytzhon Kurmanov, UCA (tbc)

Keynote Speech by Dr Asel Doolotkeldieva, Potsdam University

Towards 'vernacular' Central Asian geopolitics: Russia-Kyrgyzstan/Kazakhstan entanglements after 2022

12:00-13:00 *Lunch*

13:00-14:30 PARALLEL SESSIONS**SESSION 2.5****Agriculture and Livestock in Central Asia: Practices, Meanings, and Transformations**

Room

Karkyra

Moderator:

TBC

Martin Petrick, Justus Liebig University Giessen

Livestock value chains in Central Asia: From smallholders to corporate business?

Jakhongir Babadjanov, FAO Uzbekistan

Understanding farmers' decisions to adopt biological crop protection approaches in Uzbekistan

Kadyrbek Sultakeev, AUCA / Justus Liebig University Giessen

The role of livestock as wealth, identity and honor: economic and anthropological analysis of livestock in Kyrgyz society

SESSION 2.6**Perspectives on Kyrgyz Youth: Gender, Well-being, and Migration Intentions**

Room

Bosogo

Moderator:

Zalina Enikeeva, UCA (tbc)

Philipp Schroeder, Nazarbayev University

Understanding Youth Perspectives through Event-Based and Applied Qualitative Research: Insights from the GIZ-PREVECA Project in Kyrgyzstan

Anusha Ashurova, OSCE Academy

Exploring Gender Disparities in Migration Intentions among Kyrgyz Youth: Evidence from the Life in Kyrgyzstan Data 2019

Kumushai Mamatbai Kyzy, Kookmin University

Migration intentions of the Kyrgyz adolescents: the role of life satisfaction and social network

SESSION 2.7**Russia's War in Ukraine and Its Regional Impact: Perspectives from Central Asia and Beyond**

Room

Aksay

Moderator:

Tilman Brück, Humboldt University, IGZ, ISDC (tbc)

Aleksey Oschepkov, Freie Universität Berlin

The impact of immigration on the native population: Learning from the influx of Ukrainian refugees to Russia in 2014

Ulukbek Beishekeev, University of Hamburg

Russian Attitudes to the War in Ukraine — a Case Study of Kyrgyzstan

Bakhytzhan Kurmanov, UCA

Finding Space for Activism: Understanding Youth Activists in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan in the Wake of Russia's War against Ukraine

14:30-14:50 *Coffee Break*

14:50-16:00 **PARALLEL SESSIONS**

SESSION 2.8**Weather, Energy, and Trust: Social Dimensions of Climate Challenges in Kyrgyzstan**

Room

KARKYRA

Moderator:

Ablay Dosmaganbetov, UCA (tbc)

Zhandos Tursumbekov, CERGE-EI

Weather Shocks and Informal Social Networks: Evidence from Kyrgyzstan

Soltobek Sarymsakov, Justus Liebig University Giessen

The social and cultural barriers to the use of renewable energy sources in Kyrgyzstan

James T. Bang, Bard College

Trust, Risk, and Attitudes toward Climate Change: Evidence from Kyrgyzstan

SESSION 2.9**Glaciers, Rivers, and Traditional Knowledge: Environmental Transformations in Mountain Societies**

Room

BOSOGO

Moderator:

TBC

Fasih Uddin, SAS UCA

Glacial Recession processes and Glacial Lake inventories in High Mountain Asian Communities

Asif Khan, SAS UCA

Nature's Living Legacy: Ethnobotanical Wisdom and Indigenous Plant Use in Gulmit, Hunza

Aslam Qadamov, UCA

Climate-Induced Shifts in Seasonal Runoff of the Gunt River: Implications for Agriculture and Hydropower in the Pamirs

SESSION 2.10 **From Labor to Politics: Women's Changing Roles in Kyrgyz Society**

Room

AKSAY

Moderator:

Marzhan Aikimbaeva, UCA (tbc)

Chisato Tachibana, University of Tokyo

Does Domestic Violence Law Shift Gender Attitudes and Female Labor Force Participation in Kyrgyzstan?

Damir Esenaliev, ISDC

Female Empowerment and Non-Electoral Political Participation: Experimental Evidence from Kyrgyzstan

Aniruddha Mitra, Bard College

Gender and Political Participation in Kyrgyzstan: A Tale of Trust, Efficacy, and Interest

16:00-17:00 **PARALLEL SESSIONS**

SESSION 2.11 **Socioeconomic Realities in Kyrgyzstan: Risk, Poverty, and Life Quality**

Room

KARKYRA

Moderator:

Damir Esenaliev, IGZ/ISDC

Bermet Talasbek kyzy, AUCA

Impact of risk aversion on net worth of households: Survey study in Kyrgyzstan

Altyn Kapalova, UCA

Cultural Aspects of Poverty Perception in Kyrgyz Rural Areas

SESSION 2.12 **Women, Education, and Cultural Practices in Kyrgyzstan**

Room

BOSOGO

Moderator:

Zalina Enikeeva, UCA (tbc)

Aizura Batyrallyeva, M-Vector

Education Without Borders: The Portrait of a Kyrgyz Woman in Online Learning

Zhanar Konys, ECARES / Brussels School Economics & Management

Tradition or transaction? Groom perspectives and cultural transmission of bride kidnapping in Kyrgyzstan