

## 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, 21 Erkindik Ave, Bishkek

**Date:** October 10-11, 2025

### PROGRAM

#### 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**

**Eran Edirisinghe**, Dean of Research, UCA

**Zheng Wu**, Country Director, ADB

**Elizaveta Perova**, Senior Economist, World Bank

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

**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**

Room **KARKYRA**

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

**Damir Esenaliev**, IGZ/ISDC

*Wave 7 of the Life in Kyrgyzstan Study - data collection results*

**Francisca Castro**, ISDC

*Polarization in Kyrgyzstan*

**Stefan Buchmayer**, GIZ

*Findings and work plans for GIZ-PREVECA project in Central Asia*

**Philipp Schroeder**, Nazarbayev University

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

10:30-11:50 **PLENARY SESSION 1.2** **Policy Session: Recent Economic Developments in Kyrgyzstan**

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

**Tchoro Seyitov**, First Deputy Ministry of Economy and Commerce of KR

*Country's Development Strategy till 2040*

**Azat Kozubekov**, Deputy Chairman, NBKR

*Monetary and financial developments in Kyrgyzstan*

**Kanat Tilekeyev**, Associate Director, IPPA, UCA

*Economic and social developments from academic perspective*

11:50-12:00 **Group Photo**

12:00-13:00 **Lunch**

13:00-14:10 **PARALLEL SESSIONS**

**SESSION 1.3** **The World Bank Session: Perspectives on Middle Class, Fiscal Policy, and Public Voices in Kyrgyzstan**

Room **KARKYRA**

Moderator: **Aibek Ashirov**, World Bank

**Elizaveta Perova**, World Bank

*Middle Class study in the Kyrgyz Republic*

**Gohar Gyulumyan**, World Bank

*Findings of the Public Finance Review for the Kyrgyz Republic*

**Aibek Ashirov**, World Bank

*Findings from Listening to the Kyrgyz Republic Survey*

**SESSION 1.4** **Agrarian Transformations and Rural Change in Central Asia**

Room **BOSOGO**

Moderator: **Azamat Azarov**, UCA

**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**

Room **AKSAY**

Moderator: **Saule Chalbasova**, UCA

**Marzhan Aikimbaeva**, UCA

*Exploring Gender Disparities in Civic Life: Evidence from Kyrgyzstan*

**Zalina Enikeeva**, 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*

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

**SESSION 1.6** **Behavioral Preferences Under Institutional and Environmental Constraints in Central Asia**

Room **KARKYRA**

Moderator: **Kadyrbek Sultakeev**, AUCA

**Nodir Djanibekov**, IAMO

*From theory to field: Measuring farmers' risk and time preferences*

**Marlen Tynaliev**, 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 **BOSOGO**

Moderator: **Kanat Tilekeyev, UCA**

**Madina Junussova, UCA**

*Design-driven resilience and participatory urbanism*

**Sarygul Alchynbaev, TOLESFOR (online)**

*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 **AKSAY**

Moderator: **Bakhytzhan Kurmanov, UCA**

**Niginakhon Uralova, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz (online) & Svetlana Dzardanova, Freedom for Eurasia**

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

**Niginakhon Uralova, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz (online)**

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

**Mukaram Toktogulova, 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**                      **Giulio Porelli and Evgenii Shibkov, WFP**

Room **KARKYRA**

Moderator: **Anastasia Iakovleva, WFP**

**Giulio Porelli and Evgenii Shibkov, 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*

**Kanykei Mukambetova, 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 **BOSOGO**

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

**Medet Tulegenov, Ala-Too International University**

*Gender perspectives on norms of a good citizen: evidence from surveys in Kyrgyzstan*

**Bekchoro Aliiaskarov, Ala-Too International University**

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

**Maral Sagynalieva**, 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: **Asel Murzakulova**, UCA

**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 (online)

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

16:50-18:00 **PLENARY SESSION 1.12 Keynote Speech**

Room **KARKYRA**

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

**Dr 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 Rural Economies in Transition: Livestock, Crop Protection, and Climate Adaptation in Central Asia**

Room **Karkyra**

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

**Martin Petrick**, Justus Liebig University Giessen

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

**Jakhongir Babadjanov**, FAO Uzbekistan (online)

*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*

**Tisorn Songsermsawas**, IFAD

*Adoption of climate adaptation practices and livelihoods of pasture herders: Evidence from Mongolia*

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

Room **BOSOGO**

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

**Kairatbek Dzhamangulov**, 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 **(online)**

*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

**Md Sofiullah**, Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences **(online)**

*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 2.4** **Keynote**

Room **KARKYRA**

Moderator: tbc

**Dr Asel Doolotkeldieva**, University of Potsdam

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

12:00-13:15 *Lunch*

13:15-14:30 **PARALLEL SESSIONS**

**SESSION 2.5** **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*

**SESSION 2.6** **Russia's War in Ukraine and Its Regional Impact: Perspectives from Central Asia and Beyond**

Room **BOSOGO**

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

**Aleksey Oschepkov**, Free University 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 **(online)**

*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*

**SESSION 2.7** **Glaciers, Rivers, and Traditional Knowledge: Environmental Transformations in Mountain Societies**

Room **AKSAY**

Moderator: **Maksim Kulikov**, UCA

**Fasih Uddin**, UCA

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

**Asif Khan**, SAS UCA **(online)**

*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*

14:30-15:00 *Coffee Break*

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

**SESSION 2.8** **Adapting to Climate Change: Social, Economic, and Cultural Dimensions**

Room **KARKYRA**

Moderator: **Ablay Dosmaganbetov**, UCA

**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*

**Jules Hugot**, ADB

*Income Diversification to Manage Climate Risk in Kyrgyzstan*

**SESSION 2.9** **Women's Agency, Education, and Participation in Contemporary Kyrgyzstan**

Room **BOSOGO**

Moderator: **Zalina Enikeeva**, UCA

**Chisato Tachibana**, University of Tokyo

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

**Damir Esenaliev**, IGZ/ISDC

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

**Anusha Ashurova**, OSCE Academy

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

**Aizura Batyraliyeva**, M-Vector

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

**SESSION 2.10**                      **Poverty, Risk, and the Shadow Economy: Insights from Kyrgyzstan**

Room                                      **AKSAY**

Moderator:                              **Kanat Tilekeyev**, UCA (tbc)

**Altyn Kapalova**, UCA

*Cultural Aspects of Poverty Perception in Kyrgyz Rural Areas*

**Bermet Talasbek kyzy**, AUCA

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

**Aibek Dushebaev**, Independent Expert in Macroeconomics

*Dynamics of the Shadow Economy in Kyrgyzstan: An Empirical Analysis Based on the MIMIC Model*

16:30	<b>End of LiK conference 2025</b>
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