DEPARTMENT OF GEOSCIENCES
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION
IN/ON CENTRAL ASIA
FORMS,
PURPOSES,
PRACTICES

25-26 August 2022
Day 1 - Thursday 25 August

09:00-09:25  Welcome coffee
09:30-09:45  Opening remarks (Christine Bichsel)

Session 1 - Ethics and positionality:

Questions and new directions in the social sciences

09:45-10:15  Keynote: Jeanne Féaux de la Croix (Universität Tübingen, DE): “Lessons in Humility: From an Archive of Experiments in Re-Cognizing Central Asia” (Online)
10:15-10:30  Gulzhanat Gafu (Nazarbaev University, KZ): “Decolonizing Social Science Research Ethics in Central Asia”
10:30-10:45  Verena La Mela, Indira Alibayeva, Bakhytzhan Yakupov (Fribourg, CH/Almaty, KZ): “Working together in the field in Kazakhstan” (Online)
10:45-11:00  Dilafruz Nazarova (Rutgers, USA), Shahnoza Nozimova (George Mason University, USA): “Fieldwork in Tajikistan: Legal Risks and Insiders’ Perspective” (Online)
11:00-11:15  Barbara Meier (University of Jena, DE): “Challenges in Applying an Emancipatory Feminist Approach to Fieldwork in Kyrgyzstan as a Western Perceived Researcher and (Possible) Coping Strategies.”
11:15-11:45  Discussion (Jeanne Féaux de la Croix)
11:45-13:15  Lunch break

Session 2 - In Focus:

Kazakhstan in the global system

13:15-13:30  Theme introduction
13:30-13:45  Kuat B. Akizhanov (Kazakh State Law University, KZ): “The political economy of knowledge creation in Central Asia: Neoliberalisation of knowledge and its production in Kazakhstan”
13:45-14:00  Alexander Ten (Deutsch-Kasachischen Universität, KZ): “On language gifts: Public discourses on Kazakh and Russian in Kazakhstan”
14:00-14:15  Serik Orazgaliyev (Nazarbaev University, KZ): “Spaces and places: can social media platforms substitute public sphere in Kazakhstan?” (Online)
14:15-14:30  Discussion (Matthias Schmidt, University of Augsburg, DE)
15:00-15:20  Coffee break
Session 3 - Complex legacies:
Central Asian geographies

15:20-15:30 Theme introduction
15:30-16:00 Film screening - Gulzat Egemberdieva (Humboldt University, DE): “Neither on the Mountain, nor in the Plain: Kyrgyz Nomadism and Time Compression”
16:00-16:15 Davlatbegim Mamadshoeva (University of Amsterdam, NL): “Soviet Central Asian specialists in Afghanistan, 1970-1991”
16:15-16:30 Zulfiya Tursunova (Guilford University, USA): “Museums as Truth telling Force against State-led Soviet State Repressions in Uzbekistan” (Online)
16:30-16:45 Mariana Peixoto Irby (University of Pennsylvania, USA): “Race, Place, and Space among Tajiks in Urban Russia”
16:45-17:15 Discussion (Botakoz Kassymbekova, TU Berlin, DE) (Online)
17:15-17:30 Closing remarks - Friday outline

Day 2 - Friday 26 August

Session 4 - Environmental knowledge production:
Fieldwork practices and epistemologies

09:00-09:30 Coffee reception and program outline
09:30-09:45 Philippe Forêt (University of Basel): “Climate Reconstruction in Central Asia: Innovation and Sustainability in Fieldwork Practices”
09:45-10:00 Kate Shields (University of Oregon, USA): “Xudo xohlasa bo’ladi” (“God willing it will happen”): The balancing act of conducting research in the Aral Sea region of Uzbekistan” (Online)
10:00-10:15 Nadira Mukhamejan (Glasgow, UK), Irene Sánchez, Zuzana Boháčová, Jan Balaš (Charles University, CZ): “How the World Bank frames human security discourse: the Aral Sea basin case”
10:15-10:45 Discussion (Christine Bichsel, University of Fribourg)
10:45-11:00 Coffee break
## Session 5 - Environmental legacies:

### Adaptations and agency

**11:00-11:15**  
Nina Pimankina (Institute of Geography, KZ): “Stages of studying the cryosphere of the Zailiiskiy Alatau mountains (historical essay)”  
(Online)

**11:15-11:30**  
Tommaso Trevisani (L’Orientale, IT): “Shifting knowledge practices about soil salinization in Central Asia’s irrigated agricultural systems”

**11:30-11:45**  
Baialieva, Gulzat (Universität Tübingen, DE): “Living alongside 80 Tons of Secret Toxicity: environmentalism of the poor in Kyrgyzstan”

**11:45-12:00**  
Tabea Rohner (University of Zurich, CH): “Beyond mastery: alternative forms of knowing the environment in (post)industrial Kazakhstan”

**12:00-12:30**  
Discussion (Michael Spies, HNEE, DE)

**12:30-13:00**  
Closing reflections and remarks (Botakoz Kassymbekova)

**13:00-14:15**  
Lunch

**13:00-13:30**  
Informal CASNiG-meeting

### Afternoon Workshop Program (Pre-registered attendees only)

**14:15-14:30**  
Program introduction

**14:30-16:15**  
I: Ethics and positionality (Jasmin Dall’Agnola, OSCE Academy in Bishkek)

**16:15-16:25**  
Break

**16:30-18:15**  
II: Peer support, networking and outreach (Paulina Simkin, University of Augsburg, DE)

**18:30-22:00**  
Drinks (Pavillon Vert)