Fourth Central Asia Fellows’ Seminar

January 26, 2015, 11-2pm
Alumni House
George Washington University
1918 F Street Northwest

11:00am Opening Remarks, Marlene Laruelle (Central Asia Program, IERES, GWU)

11:15am Natalia Zakharchenko (Kyrgyzstan)

Quotes on Quotas: Political Representation of Women in Kyrgyzstan

Discussant: Christina Fink (George Washington University)

11:45am Marina Kayumova (Uzbekistan)

Emigration of “Crème de la crème” in Uzbekistan. Long-term consequences from a gender perspective

Discussant: Daina Eglitis (George Washington University)

12:15pm Rashid Gabdulhakov (Uzbekistan)

Territorial enclaves of the Ferghana Valley: do good fences make good neighbors?

Discussant: David Abramson (State Department)

12:45pm Discussion

13:30pm Lunch
Natalia Zakharchenko (Kyrgyzstan) is an alumni of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek. She is currently working as an analyst for the Norwegian Helsinki Committee. Previously, Natalia worked as a Junior Professional Officer at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic and completed her research fellowship at Norwegian Institute of International Affairs. She has several publications on migration in Kyrgyzstan and water management in Central Asia. At the moment, Natalia is involved into the research on gender quotas and its impact on women’s political empowerment in Kyrgyzstan.

Marina Kayumova (Uzbekistan) has considerable international work experience, during which she was exposed to a variety of projects within public and private sectors. Her previous assignments include work in GSM Association, European Parliament and Patent Office. She has also worked as a strategy consultant for SMEs. Marina holds MPhil degree in Innovation, Strategy and Organisation from the University of Cambridge and BA from the University of Westminster. She also received Masters in International Relations from the European Institute, where she explored EU-Russia and Central Asia relations in the domain of energy cooperation.

Rashid Gabdulhakov (Uzbekistan) is a Political Science instructor at the International University of Central Asia in the Kyrgyz Republic. Rashid has received his BA in International Relations from Whitworth University in Spokane, Washington state, USA. After graduation, he returned to Uzbekistan and worked with UN Volunteers in Tashkent. In 2012, Rashid went on to receive his Masters Degree in Politics and Security from the OSCE Academy in Bishkek. During his studies at the OSCE Academy he continued working with various UN agencies and conducted research on geographical enclaves in post-Soviet Central Asia.

The Central Asia Fellowship Program

Central Asia has a chronic and acute lack of public policy experts and the opportunities for young professionals to hone their analytical skills are few and far between. The lack of a robust pool of public policy experts, compounded by the entrenched ideological divide existing between civil society and academia, has had a detrimental effect on the transparency and vigor of policy debate in Central Asia.

The CAP Central Asia Fellowship Program is intended for young professionals—scholars, government officials, policy experts, human rights and democracy activists—who want to enhance their research and analytical skills and seek to become public policy leaders in their respective
countries. More generally, the fellowship program seeks to provide a platform for the exchange of ideas and build lasting intellectual networks between the Central Asian and the US scholarly and policy communities.

Fellows spend five months in residence at the GW’s Elliott School of International Affairs. They are offered a series of tailor-made programs and introduced to US policy and expert communities in both Washington DC and New York. Fellows are required to attend several seminars, workshops and training sessions, write one policy brief on the predetermined theme and present their research at two public seminars. Throughout their fellowship Fellows are closely mentored and guided by CAP staff.

The Central Asia Fellowship is generously funded by the Open Society Foundation.