# Youth in Kazakhstan: Societal Changes, Challenges and Opportunities

**April 21, 2014**

Central Asia Program  
Institute for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies  
The George Washington University  
1957 E Street NW, Washington DC  
Lindner Commons, 6th floor  
RSVP at go.gwu.edu/youth

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>Registration and Breakfast</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:15am</td>
<td>Opening</td>
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<td>Peter Rollberg, Director, IERES, The George Washington University</td>
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<td>Ambassador Kairat Umarov, Kazakhstan Embassy in the United States</td>
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<td>9:30-10:00am</td>
<td>Keynote speaker</td>
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<td>Ambassador Richard Hoagland, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary,</td>
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<td>Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs, US Department of State</td>
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<td>10:00-11:30am</td>
<td>Session 1: Youth Identities. National Trends and the Globalization Process</td>
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<td>Chair: Marlene Laruelle, The George Washington University</td>
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|          | Douglas Blum, Providence University  
|          | *The Social Process of Globalization: A Case Study from Kazakhstan* |
|          | Stefan B. Kirmse, Humboldt University, Berlin  
|          | *Similarities and Differences Between Young People’s lives in Central Asia* |
|          | Azamat Junisbai, Pitzer College  
|          | *Are the Young truly Different? Youth Opinion about Selected Social and Political Issues in Kazakhstan* |
|          | Serik Beysembayev, Sociological Center Strategy, Almaty  
|          | *Political and Ideological Trends among Kazakhstani Youth*          |
| 11:30-11:45am | Coffee Break                                                      |
11:45-1:15pm  Session 2: Youth Subcultures. Questioning Social Norms
Chair: Douglas Blum, Providence University
Megan Rancier, Bowling Green State University
*The 'Spirit of Tengri': Spirituality, Nationalism, and Emerging Trends in Kazakh Ethno-Pop*
Erik Aasland, Süleyman Demirel University
*Betwixt and Between: Kazakhstani Youth Language Ideologies in a Globalized World*
Olена Nikolayenko, Fordham University
*Media Consumption and Perceptions of Electoral Integrity among Youth in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan*

1:15-2:00pm  Lunch

2:00-3:30pm  Session 3. Youth Empowerment Strategies
Chair: Sean Roberts, The George Washington University
Sayasat Nurbek, Director of the Nur Otan Institute of Public Policy
*The Bolashak Scholarship Program: Ripple Effect and Non-Monetary Advantages*
Erlan Karin, Visiting Professor, American University
*A Sociological Portrait of Youth Radical Religious Groups*
Pavel Koktyshev, Kazakhstan’s Young Entrepreneurs Club
*Initiatives and Limits of Youth Entrepreneurship in Kazakhstan*

3:30-3:45pm  Coffee Break

3:45-5:30pm  Session 4. Media as the Sounding Board of Youth
Chair: Peter Rollberg, The George Washington University
Aibek Aldabergenov, Alash Media Group Holding
*The Development of Internet Media in Kazakhstan*
Rauan Kenzhekhanuly, CEO, Bilim Media Group
*Kazakh-speaking Internet and the National Identity Issue*
Oleg Katsiev, Internews, Almaty
*Internews TV and Social Media Projects*
Mr. Nartay Ashim, Deputy Chairman, JCS KazContent
*Working with Youth to develop a Kazakh speaking Internet world*

5:30-6:30pm  Reception

*The Kazakhstan Initiative at GW*
Gratefully funded by the Kazakhstan Embassy in Washington D.C.