

The United States' and Russia's Relationship in Central Asia and its Neighborhood

**Lindner Family Commons
1957 E St NW, Suite 602
Washington, DC
May 2-3, 2017
RSVP: go.gwu.edu/42p**

Tuesday, May 2

- 10:30** **Opening remarks**
Alexander Cooley (Harriman Institute, Columbia University) and
Marlene Laruelle (George Washington University)
- 10:45-12:15** **Panel 1. Central Asia and the 'global order'**
Chair: **Rajan Menon** (City College of New York)
- Panelists:* **Paul Stronski** (Carnegie Endowment for International Peace)
Prospects for Central Asia Policy in the Trump Administration
- Christian Bleuer** (ANU)
*American Allies' Strategic and Economic Interests in Afghanistan and Central
Asia: Navigating Change and Continuity in the US-Russia Relationship*
- Alexander Cooley** (Columbia University)
Central Asia as a Buffer Zone between National Populist Great Powers
- 12:15-1:00** **Lunch**
- 1:00-2:30** **Panel 2. The international community in a changing environment**
Chair: **Alexander Cooley** (Columbia University)
- Panelists:* **Roman Vakulchuk** (NUPI)
Big Powers in Central Asia: Old Rhetoric, New Perception
- Ivan Safranchuk** (MGIMO)
Central Asia – Asset, Burden or Instrument for International Actors?
- George Gavrilis** (Columbia University)
Central Asia's Borders: The Next Twenty-Five Years
- 2:30-3:00** **Coffee break**
- 3:00-4:00** **Panel 3. Russia's presence and influence in Central Asia and
Afghanistan**

Chair: **Nargis Kassenova** (KIMEP)

Panelists: **Yulia Nikitina** (MGIMO)
Russian Strategies of International Status-Seeking in International Institutions and Forums

Ekaterina Stepanova (IMEMO)
Armed Conflict, Insurgency, Terrorism and Peace Process in Afghanistan: A View From Russia

Wednesday, May 3

9:30-11:00 **Panel 4. Is China really changing the given?**

Chair: **George Gavrilis** (Columbia University)

Panelists: **Robert Sutter** (George Washington University)
China's expansion into Central Asia—A Pattern for Its Periphery?

Zhao Huasheng (Fudan University, Shanghai)
The Silk Road Economic Belt and Reshaping of China-Central Asian Relations

Sun Zhuangzhi (CASS, Beijing)
Building Silk-Road Economic Belt and Central Asian Stability and Development

11:00-11:15 **Coffee break**

11:15-12:45 **Panel 5. Central Asia's perspectives on the US-Russia new relationship**

Chair: **Marlene Laruelle** (George Washington University)

Panelists: **Nargis Kassenova** (KIMEP)
US and Russia's Failing 'Pivots to Asia' and Central Asia

Erlan Karin (KISI)
New Perspectives on the US-Russia Relationship and Multivectoralism in Central Asia

Emil Jorojev (American University in Central Asia)
Trump's America Viewed from Bishkek: Sharing Moscow's Hopes or Excited for Own Reasons?

12:45-1:30 **Lunch**