New Challenges in Central Asia.
Changing Societies in a Time of Economic Crisis

Chair: Marlene Laruelle (IERES, GW)

3:00pm. Nargis Kassenova (KIMEP)
Kazakhstan 2016: The Politics of Crisis

Discussion

4:00pm
Kassymkhan Kapparov (Kazakhstan)
Invisible Public Debt: The Case of Kazakhstan

Sabina Insebayeva (Kazakhstan)
A Quest For Status, Legitimacy And Ontological Security: The Image-Conscious Kazakhstan

Discussion

5:00pm.
Arzu Geybullayeva (Azerbaijan)
Azerbaijan’s Suspended Democracy - Time for International Reassessment

Gulzhigit Ermatov (Kyrgyzstan)
Understanding Illiberal Sentiments among Youth in Kyrgyzstan

Dursunjemal Halimova (Turkmenistan)
Economic Smart Power: Utilizing the Untapped Asset of Turkmen Youth

Discussion

6:30pm. Reception

Tuesday, May 24, 2016
3:00-7:00pm
1957 E St, NW
Lindner Commons, Suite 602
Please RSVP at go.gwu.edu/may24
Gulzhigit Ermatov is a Program Officer at the United Nations Children’s Fund in Kyrgyzstan. He has been managing programs on youth and adolescence development, as well as peace-building, for the last five years. His previous professional experience is also with the UN in Kyrgyzstan, in areas of poverty reduction, governance, and conflict prevention. He holds an MA in Political Science from Central European University and his scholarly interests include issues of governance, informal institutions and rule of law in Kyrgyzstan and broader Central Asia.

Arzu Geybullayeva is a journalist from Azerbaijan, who received the 2014 Vaclav Havel Journalism Fellowship with Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty. Previously Ms. Geybullayeva worked for the National Democratic Institute in Baku and the European Stability Initiative, a Berlin based think tank, in Istanbul. Arzu holds an MSc degree in Global Politics from the London School of Economics and a BA degree in International Relations from the Bilkent University (Turkey). She has spent the past few years writing about the on-going crackdown in Azerbaijan, representing some of the cases of political prisoners at international conferences.

Dursunjemal Halimova is a recent Master of Public Administration (MPA) graduate from the School of Public Policy at Central European University. She specializes in Human Security and Sustainable Development. Before joining the Central Asia Fellowship Program, she worked as a TOEFL Advisor at American Councils for International Education in Turkmenistan. She received her Bachelors Degree from the American University in Bulgaria in Political Science and International Relations. There she worked as a Vice President of Incoming Exchange at AIESEC, the largest worldwide student run organization.

Sabina Insebayeva is a doctoral candidate in International and Advanced Japanese Studies at the University of Tsukuba, Japan. She obtained a Master’s degree in International Area Studies (Special Program in Japanese and Eurasian Studies) from University of Tsukuba, and an MA in International Relations as well as a BA with Honors in Politics from KIMEP University, Kazakhstan. She was also an Erasmus Mundus Fellow at Humboldt University, Germany. Her research experience includes projects financed by the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI), JASSO (Japan) and Soros Foundation Public Policy Initiative (Kazakhstan).

Kassymkhan Kapparov is a Director at the National Bureau for Economic Research of Kazakhstan (Almaty, Kazakhstan). He received his MBA from Yokohama National University (Japan) under the IMF Scholarship Program and holds an MA in Economics from Al-Farabi Kazakh National University (Kazakhstan). Mr. Kapparov was a research fellow at the Soros Foundation Kazakhstan Public Policy Initiative in 2014.